

MEDIA RELEASE

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL AWARDS EUR40,000 TO 55 BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEES

County Clare, IRELAND, Dec 1st 2006 – Clare County Council last night (Thursday 30th Nov) presented funding under the Burial Ground Priming Grants Scheme at an awards ceremony in The Old Ground Hotel, Ennis.

Fifty-five burial ground committees from all over Clare have benefited from a priming grant fund of EUR40,000, which was established by the Local Authority in recognition of the work and voluntary effort by community groups in maintaining their local burial grounds. The funding enabled the groups to carry out general maintenance and improvement works such as landscaping, wall building and grass cutting.

Over 150 people attended last night's awards ceremony during which six groups were selected for receipt of further funding under the "*Best Kept Burial Ground Initiative*". They included Ballyvaughan Area Cemetery Group, Clonlohan Cemetery Group, Knocknahilla Graveyard Committee, Whitegate Community Council, Quin Development Committee and Broadford Graveyard Committee.

Addressing those in attendance Councillor Flan Garvey, Mayor of Clare County Council said, "This evening is about recognising the wonderful work that you, the people undertake within your communities and in particular the respect shown to those that have gone before us. Graveyards are sacred places with a very special function that sets them apart from the everyday things in life and by your work, you continue to promote this value. We are delighted to be involved with all of you through this and other schemes promoted by the Council".

Clare County Council established the Burial Ground Priming Grants Scheme seven years ago. All groups that submitted valid applications this year received funding.

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Note to Editor:

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Mark Dunphy of Dunphy Public Relations on 086-8534900 or email media@dunphypr.com