

Participation in the Planning Process - Your Opportunities

16th April - 8.00pm - Community Centre Crusheen

Ciaran Lynch from Tipperary Institute will give a talk on Wednesday 16th of April entitled - '**Participation in the Planning Process - Your Opportunities.**' Ciaran is the Director of Rural Development at Tipperary Institute, is a town planner by profession and is a member of the Institute's Integrated Area Planning Team.

Tipperary Institute is a third-level institute that runs a variety of full-time and part-time degrees and certificates including those that address issues of social, environmental and sustainable development. It also works with communities, voluntary organisations state bodies and enterprises to assist them in promoting the sustainable development of their areas.

The Institute is committed to the concept of collaborative planning which is a model of planning and decision-making that uses discussion, facilitation and networking as methods for reaching decisions on complex issues. Collaborative planning seeks to develop consensus and understanding rather than the conflict and division that can arise in more adversarial models. It can be particularly helpful in facilitating local statutory planning processes and in integrating social, economic and environmental considerations into decision-making.

The Institute believes that this approach is particularly suitable in smaller rural communities in Ireland and works with Local Authorities, local development agencies and community groups to promote the adoption of this approach. At present the Institute is working with organisations and communities in County Offaly to carry out and research a collaborative approach to community planning in that county. This project has been funded by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation and is being co-ordinated by Catherine Corcoran a Tipperary Institute Specialist in the field.

Crusheen/Ballinruan is especially important to the Institute as it was in these communities that the collaborative model was first used by the Institute. It learned much from that process including the impact that a community can have on the Local Area Plan when it works together in a positive way.

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You can find out more about Tipperary Institute and its activities at **www.tippinst.ie**