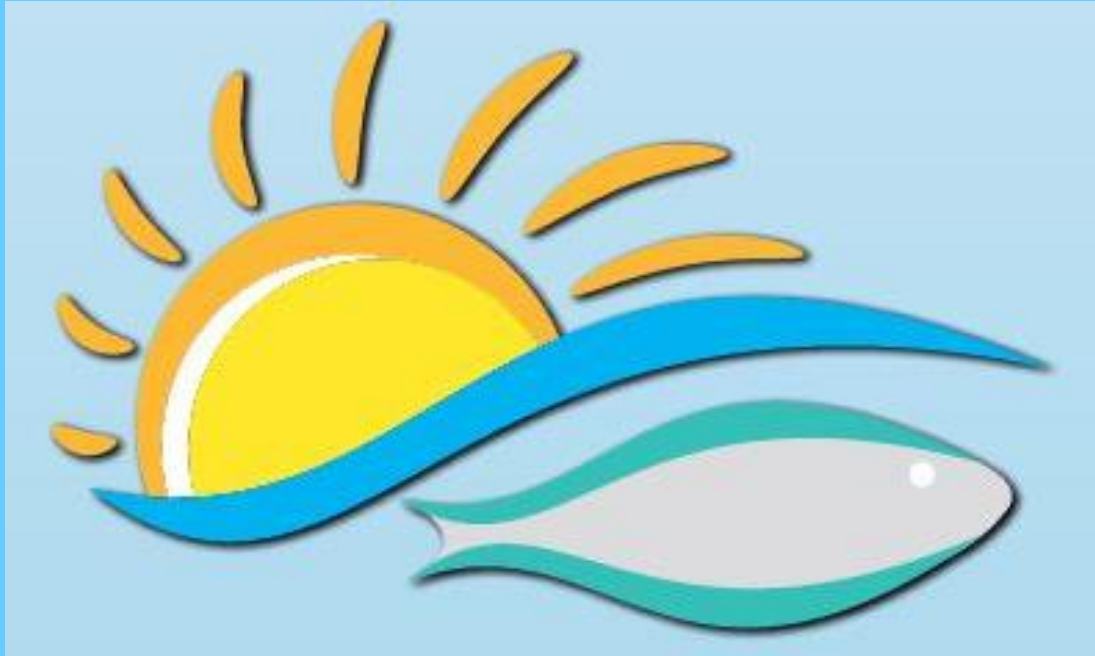


Courtmacsherry Community Shop Co-operative Society Ltd.



Est. 2016

“By the community, for the community”

Introduction & Background

For centuries, Courtmacsherry has had a rich tradition in commerce. However, our last remaining convenience shop closed in August 2015.



This left a deep void in the community. The village and hinterland has a population of over 600 people that doubles in the summer months and the nearest shop was 5 Km away.

This was not an acceptable scenario for us, so to help combat the decline in services in our community and also to combat the even bigger problem of **rural isolation**, our Community Shop was born.

Public Consultation & Survey

A public meeting was organised and the community came together in September 2015 with the intention of assessing the feasibility of starting a community owned and operated shop.



Taking advice from groups such as the WCDP and the Plunkett Foundation and ICOS, a **survey of all residential homes** within approx. 2 Km of Courtmacsherry village was undertaken. This led to a positive decision to start a **Community Shop Cooperative**.

Funding

The start up of the Shop was initially funded by the sale of shares to the community totalling €34K and further supported by €9.4K Grant Aid from FLAG.



We have 274 share-holders, mostly local and semi locals but also quite a few from around the Globe who were inspired by our project and wanted to be a part of it.



St. Patrick's Day Sea Parade



The Strand Races

Operations

Shop wholly staffed by a panel of 30 volunteers

- **Convenience Store** – Grocery Best Buys and Must Haves + Parcel Pick up.
- **Local Produce** – Selling locally produce artisan foods.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Selling locally produced items from our many talented artists.
- **Tourist Office** - main point of contact for what's on in Courtmacsherry Bay Area
- **Exhibition Room** – (in progress), For Various local exhibitions and Permanent home for exhibitions such as the *Lusitania Centenary Commemoration Story*.
- **Book Store**– Customised room where we sell 2nd hand books for €1 or €2.



Supporting Local Business

The Shop has become the central hub of the village. It provides a much needed service to sustain the growing market of coastal hill walking, marine life enthusiasts, water sports, Sea Angling and general day trippers.

Since the establishment of the shop, local businesses such as Hotel, Bars, Restaurants, B&B's, Self Catering Accommodation, Marine activity providers have all seen a growth in their numbers.

We have also seen new Marine Adventure businesses, Bars and Restaurants open or re-open over the last 2 years.



Supporting Local Projects / Events

The share-holders agreed that any profits from the shop would be put back into the Community. We now support local projects and events such as:

- Sea Food Festival
- National School Play ground
- Macra Na Feirme
- Máire Ní Síthigh – Autumn School
- Foróige Youth Club
- The Strand Races
- Lusitania Model Project
- Courtmacsherry Rowing Club
- Special Olympics Clonakilty
- Tidy Towns Committee
- St. Patrick's Day Land & Sea Parade
- Barryroe Agri Show
- Annual Harbour Festival
- Development Association
- Courtmacsherry Sailing Club
- Seven Heads Tourism
- Wild Atlantic Way Marathon Walk
- Courtmacsherry RNLI
- Barryroe Senior Citizens