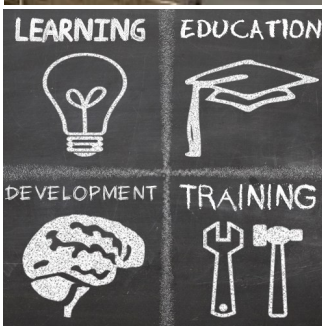


# **Meath Travellers Workshops Strategic Plan Summary Document 2018 — 2021**

## Our 9 main areas of work - a short guide



1) Heritage

2) Employment & Enterprise

3) Developing Community Capacity

4) Advocacy & Lobbying

5) Accommodation

6) Health

7) Education & training

8) Child & Youth

9) Governance





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## **Introduction**

Navan Travellers Workshops CLG trading as Meath Travellers Workshops (MTW) have developed a strategic plan for the year 2017 – 2020. We felt that it would be useful to have a summarised copy available too.

A plan is needed to help us to achieve our goals, make changes and together working with Travellers and the statutory and voluntary organisations we hope to have a positive impact on the lives of Travellers in Co. Meath and everywhere.

## **Mission Statement**

Meath Travellers Workshops prides itself on being a trusted and respected Traveller led Community Development Organisation. We are approachable, accessible and engage with Travellers and the wider community, in promoting Traveller Ethnicity and Equality for All.

## **Purpose**

MTW works as a partnership of Travellers and Settled people working together to improve and enhance the social and economic situation of the Travelling Community in County Meath and beyond.



Our values are community development principles as follows:-

**Democratic:** All voices are heard

**Inclusive:** All community members have a right to be heard and participate in processes that affect their lives.

**Non-authoritarian:** All participants are equally important and have equal input.

**Community self determination:** Community members discuss and arrive at their own conclusions and make their own decisions that are right for them.

**Community Ownership:** Communities thrive when they have their say but also when they "own" their problems and issues.

**Enhance natural capacities and networks:** Individuals with skills and talents will be encouraged to have training to improve self confidence to become leaders in their own community

**Social justice and equity:** This is fundamental to community development.

**Universality:** Services are available to everyone

**Service Integration:** Information about other services will be shared to get the help you need



## **History**

MTW was established in 1965 as result of the Commission on Itinerancy Report of 1963. The main motivation was the deplorable living conditions that Travellers lived in and the issues that arose from these conditions such as Health, Education and Life expectancy. In the late 1970s, the Committee's philosophy changed to one of Community Development.

The focus today is on Traveller heritage, ethnicity, culture and identity, educating Travellers and the wider community about Traveller culture, history and language. This includes educating and facilitating Travellers to get more involved and participate in their own self-determination. We continually link in with other local, regional, national and international organisations raising awareness of Travellers heritage and culture and working with others to address issues for both the Travelling community and the wider community.

## **Future**

The challenge for MTW is to encourage Travellers to value their identity, tradition and culture and to develop their self confidence to articulate their own needs and reduce their dependency on others. With the State recognition of Travellers as an Ethnic Minority on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, we anticipate a change in attitude towards Travellers and cultural wishes to be considered when developing socio-economic plans.



MTW as an organisation will be challenged with a need to increase its expertise to support community social enterprise through the development of the lands at Carnaross, for the benefit of the Traveller and wider communities.

### **Summary of Research**

The research used to inform the Strategic Plan, aims, objectives and desired outcomes came from the following sources:-

- *Census 2016*
- *Health Community Framework* Scottish Community Development Centre - <http://www.scdc.org.uk/who/what-is-community-development/>
- *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland*, Economic and Social Research Institute (ERSI), 2017 <https://www.esri.ie/pubs/RS56.pdf>
- *All Ireland Traveller Health Study*, Our Geels, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, University College Dublin and Health Service Executive (HSE), 2010, <http://www.paveepoint.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/AITHS-Summary-of-Findings.pdf>
- *Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee LTACC Dec 2016 DATA REPORT ON TAP 4*; Meath County Council
- *Feasibility Study for the development of lands in Carnaross Co. Meath 2012*
- *Local Traveller input was also included by research carried out with the support of MTW in 2016/2017:- Questionnaire Navan and Trim, Survey Monkey, Traveller Forum and the Analysis of Family Support records*

It was established during this process that further research is required consolidating the identified needs of Travellers today in order to support lobbying for additional Traveller supports and to assist in planning for the future.





## Financial Statement

Company law requires the Directors to prepare Financial Statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company for that year.

The income of the Organisation has decreased over the past 10 years. In 2008 the Companies income was €834,076 Euro, of which income from State Agencies was €807,446. In 2016 the Companies income was €555,237 of which income from State Agencies was €501,839. This shows an overall decrease in income of €278,839; which represents 33.4% decrease. The decrease in funding from the State Agencies represents a 37.8% decrease.

MTW works in partnership with other organisations and has also become more enterprising in order to maintain staff members and provide programmes. The Meath Traveller Enterprise Initiative (MTEI) Job Coach is now employed through Job Matters and the Youth Work Co-ordinator and Youth Worker are now employed through Involve. The Community Development Health Worker post through HSE was made redundant. The Primary Health Care Project is directly provided by HSE and promotes the health of Travellers.

*The projected Income and Expenditure for 2017 predicts that the organisation will continue to be sustainable. (See main Strategic Plan 2017-2020 Document Appendix 7 )*





Today our main funders are the following agencies:

- *Department of Social Protection and SOLAS*
- *Department of Environment through Meath County Council*
- *TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency (Previously HSE Child and Family Services)*
- *Department of Child and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and POBAL (CCS ECCE CETS Childcare funding)*
- *Department of Justice and Equality. (Previously Department of the Environment Community and Local Government)*
- *St Stephens Green Trust*
- *Irish Prison Service IPS*
- *Lottery Funding (distributed by HSE)*
- *Louth Meath Education and Training Board(LMETB)*

*We work with other organisations which support our governance i.e.; Involve, Crann Support Services, Job Matters and Health Service Executive (HSE).*

Our Heritage programme, including the development of the lands of Carnaross, is our priority for development over the next 5 to 10 years. We need to move our focus to both community development and social business enterprise. It is essential to gain expertise on the Board of Directors to facilitate this to happen. A consultation day was held in May 2017 with National Traveller Organisations and Local Community Organisations facilitated by Meath Partnership.

*Four projects were supported by all:*

*National Traveller Heritage Park, Traveller Horse (Equine) Project*

*Traveller Youth and Community Farm and Snail Farm*

## Areas of Work and the Aims and Objectives of the Organisation under the 9 main areas of work

### 1. Heritage



To promote respect for Traveller ethnicity culture and heritage within the Traveller and wider community.

*Traveller living history exhibition, culture awareness training, student information and TV documentaries. Development of National Traveller heritage centre and park*

### 2. Employment and Enterprise



To develop and support an economic base for the Traveller community.

*Community employment programme for 19, Meath Travellers Employment Initiative job coach. Sustainable employment for Travellers in Carnaross*

### 3. Developing Community Capacity



To support a safe and balanced community.

*Traveller prison links programme, personal development, family support, mediation, exploring Roma needs and explore the potential of a Return to Community project in Carnaross*

## 4. Advocacy and Lobbying



- To provide representation at relevant discussions to raise awareness of issues impacting on Travellers.
- To provide family support services linking Traveller families with appropriate statutory or voluntary organisations for their needs.

## 5. Accommodation



To advocate for culturally appropriate accommodation that meets the needs of Travellers of all ages.

*Raise awareness of Traveller accommodation needs and to investigate a development plan for sustainable housing on the land in Carnaross with Cena—(Traveller housing project)*

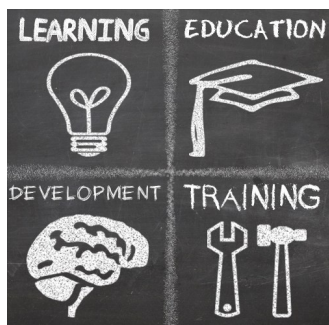
## 6. Health



To promote health equality for the Traveller community; addressing alcohol and drugs misuse, suicide prevention and encouraging health and wellbeing

*To work with Meath Primary Healthcare Project, Healthy Ireland, healthy eating and physically active. To secure funding for a Traveller Health support worker to support Traveller families in crisis and to identify health needs for local Travellers.*

## 7. Education and Training



To facilitate the engagement of Travellers through the education and training cycle; Preschool, Afterschool and Adult training.

*Establish the number of Travellers in schools in Co. Meath. To support the parents with access and attendance issues. Participate in education committees to ensure Traveller supports in education to Third level*

## 8. Child and Youth



Parents and the extended family are supported to promote an inclusive happy childhood.

*To provide PreSchool Afterschool and Youth activities that promote and celebrate cultural diversity. Traveller led services providing positive role models. Supporting parents in getting involved in activities in their own and the wider community*

## 9. Governance



To develop and implement professional governance structures and systems.

*Implement the Governance Code, strengthen the governance of the development of Carnaross and update all policies and procedures.*

