

**Independent People with Disabilities Ltd.**  
**Westmeath ● Longford ● Roscommon**

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**We Are Here to Help You !**

New Website: <http://www.independentpwd.ie>

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

**Company Registration Number:**

**C524496**

**Charitable Status Number:**

**20251**

**Business Advice:**

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## Current Company Board of Directors

- **Mr. Mark Ahern.**
- **Mr. Michael Mulvey.**
- **Ms. Carol Harrington.**
- **Mrs. Mary Meares.**
- **Mr. Larry Quain.**
- **Mr. Noel Mulvihill.**
- **Mr. John Duignan.**
- **Mrs. Carmel Donovan.**
- **Mr. Dermot Hope.**
- **Mr. Seán Kane.**
- **Mr. Joe Faherty.**
- **Ms. Emma Mc Manus.**

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Dear Member,

It is that time of year again when we the Board of Directors must inform you as members about our activities in the year just gone by.

Independent People with Disabilities held a total of five meetings in 2018 including our Annual General Meeting which was held in the Bloomfield House Hotel, Tullamore Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

We have been very much involved in campaigning for access issues to be addressed in Mullingar and in Athlone.

The one-way system is now in operation in Athlone and proving to be very successful for pedestrians but is causing a few issues for cars, hopefully they can be overcome in time to come.

Mark Ahern, our chairperson reported last year about an exciting accessibility project in Mullingar and presently work is ongoing to improve footpaths in Mullingar town for people with mobility issues. Only time will tell if it's going to prove to be successful.

We continue to make representations on issues relating to accessibility on trains with the management of Iarnród Éireann as had been requested by people with disabilities locally and we have liaised with management in Iarnród Éireann in relation to new signage at train stations all over Ireland and will be done in the near future.

The office is running smoothly, we have a steady flow of people coming in looking for their entitlements to be re-instated; people also come in looking for information on different disabilities.

### **Annual General Meeting 2018**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 Independent People with Disabilities held their A.G.M. in the Bloomfield House Hotel, Tullamore Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 Councillor John Dolan (Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council) was in attendance and he opened our meeting and offered his support to us whenever we needed it.

Mark Ahern gave the Chairperson's Address. He alluded to the fact that this was the first meeting we had in Mullingar and stressed that it was important to hold the A.G.M. of the organization outside its natural Stronghold of Athlone. He spoke briefly about the various committees which Independent People with Disabilities are currently involved with through participation by our Vice-chairperson Mr. Michael Mulvey and our appreciation goes out to him for all his work completed to date.

He spoke of the two events we were fortunate to be involved with namely the "Disability Services & Information Showcase day" and our own celebration of European Day for Disability with the theme "Independence for People with Disabilities and the Older Person". Both were a great success.

### **Disabilities Showcase Day 2018 & European Day for Disability 2018**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Westmeath Community Development in conjunction with Independent People with Disabilities organised its Annual Services and Information day in the Mullingar Park Hotel.

The event was an outstanding success with testimonials from members of the public and service providers through the evaluations citing the event as excellent and very good.

40 different service providers attended the event which was the largest yet and over 200 people came along to the Mullingar Park Hotel.

Westmeath Community Development would sincerely like to thank the speakers such as Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council John Dolan, Mark Ahern from Independent People with Disabilities, Ciara Staunton Wheelchair Rugby, Rosemary Rice Disabled Riding, Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, Frank Murtagh Chief Executive Officer of Westmeath Community Development.

In addition, we would like to thank Olive Kennedy who gave us an exercise demonstration which will be very useful to help us all with wellness.

The event was funded by Westmeath Community Development through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Program, Independent People with Disabilities and Westmeath County Council through the community action grant scheme.

### **Representation**

The organization continues to have representation in the various committees such as:

- ✓ Westmeath Public Partnership Network
- ✓ Westmeath Local Community Development Committee,
- ✓ Disability Subgroup of Westmeath Community Development Ltd
- ✓ Community Health Forum
- ✓ Westmeath Youth Forum
- ✓ Westmeath Older Peoples Forum

This gives the organization significant influence in the community.

### **Collections 2017**

Independent People with Disabilities wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses who supported us in our fundraising efforts in 2018 and also the people who gave so generously of their time to help us with Churchgate Collections and Flag Days at the various locations in Athlone, Moate and Mullingar.

### **We would also like to thank: -**

- ✓ Westmeath County Council,
- ✓ Disability Subgroup of Westmeath Community Development Ltd.,
- ✓ Health Service Executive, Dublin Mid-Leinster,
- ✓ Mullingar Credit Union,
- ✓ The Lyons Club of Athlone
- ✓ Shannonside Radio
- And
- ✓ The Tesco Community Fund

for their continued support to the organisation.

### **In Conclusion**

Michael Mulvey (Company Secretary) would like to thank all of his fellow Directors on the Board for their continued support in fundraising activities which Independent People with Disabilities was involved in throughout the year and he looks forward to working with all of them into the future.

**Ends.**