

PRESS RELEASE

Planning for the future of sport in Donegal – Have your say!

Sports has always played a major part in the lives of people from County Donegal with an average of 15% of the population volunteering through sports, 32% of the adult population who are members of a sports clubs and 17% of the population regularly attending live sports events. In the current climate the intervention of sport whether supporting or participating can provide a welcome distraction away from the doom and gloom of bank bail outs and cut backs.

Supporting the sporting fabric in the County has been the Donegal Sports Partnership who for the past ten years have coordinated and supported the development of sport and physical activity including prioritising actions around increasing participation in sport and physical activity, providing training and education programmes and promoting the raising of standards in best practice in sport. In reality the Donegal Sports Partnership through its many programmes have provided many opportunities to groups and individuals to participate in sport, some of whom include, children, women, disability groups and traveller groups and have also worked on cross border development within the border areas using the Active Donegal as its brand name.

Embarking on their next decade the Donegal Sports Partnership hope to sustain their efforts in increasing participation in sport among communities in the county and to continue to provide quality sports related training to sports volunteers, teachers, parents and students all across the county to promote the 'sport for all' message.

The development of their strategic plan for the years 2011 – 2014 will be an essential tool to guide them through the next phase in what are more challenging times for sport given the reductions in budgets over the last number of years. However given the positive partnerships established over the last ten years and the standard of programmes being delivered they are confident that they can continue to build on the successes of the past and continue to support sport in Donegal.

They are therefore offering Donegal's sporting public an opportunity to be part of this planning process. By either completing the online survey (available on the Donegal Sports Partnership website www.activedonegal.com) or by attending the consultation workshop you can influence the development of sport in this County.

The workshops will be held in Buncrana Youth & Community Development Centre (Monday 16th May), Station House Hotel, Letterkenny (Wednesday 18th May), Donegal Education Centre, Donegal Town (Monday 23rd May) and Rosses Community School, Dungloe (Wednesday 25th May). These sessions will be facilitated by staff of the Donegal Sports Partnership team in partnership with Copius Consulting and will run from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and are open to anyone who an interest in the development of sport in Donegal.

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