Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Link Modules

Case Study 2016

GLENOR COMMUNITY PROJECT

Glenor is a small picturesque town of approximately two thousand inhabitants. It is located 80km from a large city and approximately 30km from three larger towns. Glenor's Development Committee is a very active and progressive organisation and has been involved in community development for many years. All stakeholders work tirelessly on issues that matter to them. More recently, due to increased optimism in the local economy, the committee has tried to focus on more innovative ways to increase the town's prosperity.

Ratlow Forest Park is nearby, set in the scenic foot hills of Glenor and covers approximately 1,200 hectares. In recent years Glenor's Development Committee has been busy developing this wonderful park which now includes 20km of looped walking trails of varying degrees of difficulty. A modern children's playground and a picnic area are in close proximity to the park. The Cuan River stretches the full length of the park and is used for angling and offers the possibility of being used for water sports. The committee believes Glenor's natural resources can be used to the area's advantage.

Glenor's Development Committee has successfully completed a town improvement project including replacing old inefficient street lighting with new ornate poles incorporating high efficiency light bulbs. Also, new hanging baskets and large richly planted flower pots have been added to enhance the ambiance of the town. This improvement work has helped to transform the town in many ways resulting in it being a recent winner of a National Tidy Towns Award.

The upsurge of general goodwill in recent years has resulted in considerable financial gains as is evident from the increased income generated from tourism. However, there is still scope to improve this further. Presently, members of the committee are developing a website and a smart phone app for the town. Both the website and app will contain all the information that a visitor may require about Glenor. These developments will be of huge benefit to visitors and residents alike.

Glenor's Development Committee plans to maximise the use of the area's vast natural resources. Recently, a meeting of all interested stakeholders was held and from the discussions both a short and long-term project were identified. The 'Glenor Active Challenge 2016' was decided on as an achievable short-term project. This will be open to walkers and runners alike and will involve tracks ranging from easy to highly challenging, thus allowing for the full use of Rathlow Park. The committee can apply for grant aid which will provide funding to purchase necessary safety equipment and undertake marketing and promotional campaigns. Negotiations are still underway as to whether mobile catering should be allowed in the park during this event. Effective forward planning and consultation, with communities who have overseen similar projects, is fundamental. It is hoped that large numbers of people will be attracted to the town and, if successful, it is envisaged that it could become an annual event.

Having spoken to groups in other regions experienced in community development, local residents and businesses, the committee realises that the future success of the area lies in the appropriate development of local amenities and natural resources. Consequently, after much enthusiastic debate a "Tree Top Adventure Walk" was agreed as a potential long-term project. This will involve doing a SWOT analysis, a feasibility study and long-term planning. All stakeholders will be involved in the planning and delivery of this new initiative. Both visitors and residents are looking forward to experiencing the rural environment in this new and innovative manner. The Development Committee realise that the future prosperity of the town is contingent on its ability to attract and manage investment while continuing to develop the town as a competitive tourist and recreational destination.