

Meeting Report - **Economic Working Group** - 2 April 2001

Attendance: Michael Hanly, Toss Hayes, John Higgins, Eileen Horgan, Donal Mullane
Mary O'Halloran, Caroline O'Reilly (for Robert Grealis), John Quinn
Phil Shanahan, Brian Sheerin

Apologies: Len Bell, Niall Dennehy, Tim Shanahan

Summary:

The meeting discussed the outcome of the economic sector consultation to date. In identifying what difference the Economic Working Group wants to add to the economy, three main themes emerged.

1. Image
2. Access
3. Matchmaking

These three areas are the changes that the group has identified as having a strong potential to adding value to the economy of the county.

1. Tourism:

In addition to the summary from the tourism sector consultation, Mary outlined the vision of the Regional Tourism and the County Tourism organisations for the development of tourism in the county. Clustering of amenities and developing the rural village as a concept for tourism are key ideas. Other strong themes include a tourism product that; is economically sustainable; environmentally sound; has high standards, quality and customer care; develops more tourism accommodation; attracts high yield visitors, extends the tourism season, supports the rural economy, develops the river system, improves entertainment facilities and improves disabled access at all accommodation, service and entertainment venues. Mary also identified a number of small joint north/south Tipperary ventures in promotion and marketing.

2. Enterprise Ireland

Discussion on this paper identified the need for a specific picture for the county i.e. identify each company and the jobs they provide.