

MAKE THE FIRST STEP IN CREATING A FRIENDLIER COMMUNITY

EAT

Celebrate the beginning of summer by organising your very own Street Feast. There's no better way to meet neighbours, make new friends and build a more welcoming community than sharing food over the first BBQ of the year. Most of all, it's a great excuse to either reintroduce yourselves, catch-up, eat good food and have a bit of fun!

WALK

Whether you walk, run or jog around the neighbourhood, group-exercise is a great way to get to know the people living around you. Why not arrange a fun run, where people of all ages can get involved? Who knows, you might just discover families with children of a similar age, or couples who have pets like yours?

YOU DECIDE!

According to Minister Michael Ring, "In a world where many people have less time in their local community with longer working and travel times, it is important to find new ways to connect people and focus on the importance of neighbours. We're challenging everyone to get involved, by organising an event, or attending one in your local community. The community decides on the events that suits best, and that could be anything from sharing a cuppa to taking part in a sports day. You decide!"

SING & DANCE

Why not sing and dance to your own kind of music by organising a community talent show? It's the ideal way to bring to life new sides and talents of your neighbours that no one gets to see. This is the perfect opportunity to reveal your inner Sinatra to those who live next to you!

GAMES

To build a sense of community spirit, why not arrange a sports day filled with all the classic outdoor games for children of all ages? From egg & spoon races to five-a-side footy - teaming up and running around the community is guaranteed to bring out the child in everyone while also benefiting from a healthy and active day out with family and friends.

SHARE YOUR WEEKEND WITH US

#THEBIGHELLO   

THE BIG HELLO!

NATIONAL COMMUNITY WEEKEND

May Bank Holiday 2019

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BIG WEEKEND

To everyone, for everyone

The event is being organised by the Minister's Department in partnership with representatives of Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Companies, Volunteer Ireland, Young Social Innovators, Macra na Feirme, Street Feast, An tOireachtas and Change X.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

PLANNING YOUR WEEKEND

THE BIG HELLO!

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND 2019

The Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) is proud to launch The Big Hello!, the inaugural National Community Weekend. The Big Hello! aims to welcome you and your neighbours into the National Community Weekend with open arms. It is the first thing you say when you first meet someone, it starts the conversation and helps you make real connections. We want the 2019 May Bank Holiday to be a big hello to everyone and for everyone.

In a world where people are spending less time in their communities and more time at work, it is important to find new ways to connect people and focus on the importance of neighbours. In our busy lives we rarely make time for each other outside of our network of family, friends and social media contacts. As a result, many people living among us are experiencing social isolation and loneliness. "The Big Hello" supports communities to host events in their local area in order to strengthen community ties and help tackle this problem head-on. The ambition of this initiative is to help people to connect or re-connect with their neighbours and communities.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are welcome from community and voluntary groups, organisations and residents' committees within each local authority area.

WHO CAN'T APPLY?

Applications from individuals, commercial organisations and for-profit organisations, national organisations or applications from community organisations based outside the county.

FUNDING

Funding towards events is available for community groups through their Local Community Development Committee. It is intended that small grants of about €100-€300 per event may be available from LCDCs, but this is a matter locally.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please visit www.thebighello.ie
or The Big Hello! Facebook page.

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#THEBIGHELLO