Press Release Thursday, June 23rd 2016

**Limerick companies ready to ‘plough ahead’ in September**

***€645,000 worth of sales generated by small businesses at the ploughing championships last year, with the help of the Local Enterprise Offices***

Local Enterprise OfficeLimerick and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O’ Connor T.D., have unveiled plans for the ‘Local Enterprise Village’, which will be home to 84 small businesses from around the country for the three days of the National Ploughing Championships.

Managed and funded by the Local Enterprise Offices, the Local Enterprise **Village** opens its doors from September 20th to 22nd at Screggan in Tullamore, offering Irish start-ups and small businesses a launch-pad for new products and services, giving them the chance to impress the 280,000 visitors expected at European’s largest outdoor event.

Last year, small businesses inside the Local Enterprise Village generated sales and orders worth €645,000\* to the Irish economy, according to figures from the Local Enterprise Offices.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office Limerick local companies that are showcasing their products and services at this year’s Local Enterprise Village include: Mc Adare, Adare, Co. Limerick who specialise in industrial insulation & ducting and Lubdub Foods, Castletroy, Limerick offers different types of snack bars marketed under N2N-Near to Nature brand for athletes and health conscious consumers. The plans for the 2016 Local Enterprise Village include a new product launch and demonstration area, where small businesses and start-ups can invite visitors to preview and sample new Irish brands. A new award scheme, the Local Enterprise Village Awards, is also being introduced for the first time, to highlight ‘up-and-coming’ brands and companies.

The Minister unveiled the plans at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Dublin with the help of the Local Enterprise Offices, the National Ploughing Association, Local Authorities Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and some of the small businesses that will be re-locating to the Local Enterprise Village in September.

Announcing the plans for the Local Enterprise Village, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mitchell O’ Connor said:  *"The National Ploughing Championships is a wonderful event which attracted 281,000 visitors last year and it continues to grow in scale and importance, especially for small businesses looking to launch new products and services to a mass audience. The Local Enterprise Village is another important initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices in partnership with local authorities, as it enables small businesses to grow sales and expand, creating more jobs across every county. Creating jobs across the country is a key priority for me as only a strong economy supporting people at work can pay for the services needed to create a fair society.”*

The Local Enterprise Offices in the local authority network want the Local Enterprise Village to become a “must visit” destination for anyone travelling to the Tullamore site in September. Eamon Ryan of Local Enterprise Office Limerick said: *“We want to welcome as many visitors as possible through the doors of the Local Enterprise Village, to support the local businesses that will be launching new products and services there. With fashion, food, craft, homeware and gifts from all over the country under the one roof, we’re expecting record crowds this year.”*

The National Ploughing Association Chairman, PJ Lynam, said: “There is no doubt that the entrepreneurial spark is alive and well in Ireland with an unprecedented number of diverse and exciting businesses, exhibiting at the “Local Enterprise Village”, at this year’s Ploughing Championships. This is a unique opportunity for these small businesses, *with 281,000 visitors in attendance last year,* to showcase their products to the large number of visitors that Ploughing attracts.”

The entrepreneurs that met with Minister Mitchell O’ Connor at this week’s announcement included the founders behind ‘Toby Wagons’ in Wicklow, ‘Celtic Gent’ in Fingal, ‘De Mad Food Company’ in Offaly, ‘Melanie Hand Design Jewellery’ in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, ‘Tumbledown Media’ in Carlow and ‘Scotts Irish Cider’ in Cavan.

More details around the Local Enterprise Village are available through [www.localenterprise](http://www.localenterprise) and by searching #localenterprise on social media. The 85th Annual National Ploughing Championships runs from September 20th to 22nd 2016 at Screggan in Tullamore in County Offaly with tickets on sale from August through [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie).

**ENDS**

For all media information, please contact your Local Enterprise Office.

**Notes to Editor:**

**\*Source:** Local Enterprise Offices' research, 2015

Research conducted by the Local Enterprise Offices in 2015, shows that collectively, the small businesses within the Local Enterprise Village generated sales and orders worth €645,000 as a direct result of their participation in the National Ploughing Championships in September 2015.

**List of all small businesses taking part in Local Enterprise Village 2016**

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| **Local Enterprise Office/Local Authority Area** | **Business Name** | **Website Address** |
| Carlow  | Tumbledown Media  | [www.freddybuttons.com](http://www.freddybuttons.com/) |
| Carlow  | IAS Laboratories | [www.iaslabs.ie](http://www.iaslabs.ie/) |
| Cavan  | Scotts Irish Cider | [www.scottsirishcider.com](http://www.scottsirishcider.com/) |
| Cavan  | Stop & Stare Designs Co  | [www.stopandstare.com](http://www.stopandstare.com/) |
| Clare  | Fun Affordable Gifts  | [www.funaffordablegifts.com](http://www.funaffordablegifts.com/) |
| Clare  | Western Herd Brewing Co | [www.westernherd.com](http://www.westernherd.com/) |
| Cork City | Rebel Chilli | [www.rebelchilli.com](http://www.rebelchilli.com/) |
| Cork City | Elbow Lane Brew House | [www.elbowlane.ie](http://www.elbowlane.ie/) |
| Cork North and West | Ocean Bloom | [www.oceanbloom.ie](http://www.oceanbloom.ie/) |
| Cork North and West | Chart Datum | [www.chartdatum.ie](http://www.chartdatum.ie/) |
| Cork South | Barbara Hall Creations | [www.barbarahallcreations.ie](http://www.barbarahallcreations.ie/) |
| Cork South | Lifekitchen.ie | [www.lifekitchen.ie](http://www.lifekitchen.ie/) |
| Donegal  | North Atlantic Seaweed Products  | [www.salviesea.ie](http://www.salviesea.ie/) |
| Donegal  | Lanky Yanky Studio |   |
| Dublin City | Delish Melish  | [www.delishmelish.com](http://www.delishmelish.com/) |
| Fingal | Periwinkle Design |   |
| Fingal | Giftcentre | [www.giftcentre.ie](http://www.giftcentre.ie/) |
| Fingal | 65 Hurls | [www.65hurls.com](http://www.65hurls.com/) |
| Fingal | Celtic Gent | [www.celticgent.com](http://www.celticgent.com/) |
| Dublin South | Greenvalu  | [www.greenvalu.ie](http://www.greenvalu.ie/) |
| Dublin South | Access Education Ltd |   |
| Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown | Dalkey Handmade Soaps | [www.dalkeyhandmadesoaps.ie](http://www.dalkeyhandmadesoaps.ie/) |
| Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown | Melanie Hand Designer Jewellery | [www.melaniehand.com](http://www.melaniehand.com/) |
| Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown | The Irish Workshop/ TIW Ltd | www.theirishworkshop.com |
| Galway  | Local Galway |   |
| Galway  | Collerans Butchers |   |
| Galway  | Connemara Kettle Corn | [www.connemarakattlecorn](http://www.connemarakattlecorn/) |
| Galway  | The Galway Food Company | [www.thegalwayfoodcompany.com](http://www.thegalwayfoodcompany.com/) |
| Galway  | Green Earth Organics |   |
| Galway  | Sabanero Artisan Cheese | [www.sabanerocheese.com](http://www.sabanerocheese.com/) |
| Kerry  | Kerry Signature Furniture | [www.kerrysignaturefurniture.ie](http://www.kerrysignaturefurniture.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Taste Kerry | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | O'Donnell`s Bakery | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Skellig Pantry (Smoked Trout) | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Lorge Chocolatier | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Rolf's Fine Food | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Camo`s Bistro | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Oilean Chocolates (Chocolate Pops) | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Killarney Toffee | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kerry  | Ring of Kerry Apple Farm (Apple Juice) | [www.tastekerry.ie](http://www.tastekerry.ie/) |
| Kildare  | HACI Ltd, Hose & Coupling Ireland | [www.hcirl.com](http://www.hcirl.com/) |
| Kildare  | Nadicom | [www.geneticdetection.ie](http://www.geneticdetection.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | #tastekilkenny Stand |   |
| Kilkenny  | Mooncoin Homegrown Beetroot | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | Bernie's Farmhouse Desserts | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | Goatsbridge Trout Farm | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | Highbank Orchards | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | Kilkenny Rosé Veal | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Kilkenny  | Shellumsrath Free Range | [www.tastekilkenny.ie](http://www.tastekilkenny.ie/) |
| Laois  | Flavour Sarfai |   |
| Laois  | Rose & Alice Handcrafted Soaps | [www.roseandalice.com](http://www.roseandalice.com/) |
| Leitrim  | Chef Sham Sauces | [www.cottagerestaurant.ie](http://www.cottagerestaurant.ie/) |
| Leitrim  | Artwood | [www.artwood.ie](http://www.artwood.ie/) |
| Limerick  | McAdare  | [www.mcadare.ie](http://www.mcadare.ie/) |
| Limerick  | Lubdub Foods  | [www.lubdubfoods.com](http://www.lubdubfoods.com/) |
| Longford  | Kaber Performance | [www.kaberperformance.com](http://www.kaberperformance.com/) |
| Longford  | Go Oats |   |
| Louth  | Duinn Designs | [www.duinndesigns.com](http://www.duinndesigns.com/) |
| Louth  | Finca Skin Organics | [www.rosacea.ie](http://www.rosacea.ie/)  |
| Mayo  | Cuinneog Artisan Dairy |  www.cuinneog.com |
| Mayo  | Monaghan Bros Bar Furniture Manufacturers  | [www.barfurniture.net](http://www.barfurniture.net/) |
| Meath  | E. Finnegan & Sons | [www.finnegansfarm.ie](http://www.finnegansfarm.ie/) |
| Meath  | Cara Mara Seaweed | [www.caramara.ie](http://www.caramara.ie/) |
| Monaghan  | Pollock's Pickles & Preserves | [www.pollockspickles.com](http://www.pollockspickles.com/) |
| Monaghan  | Shanks Engineering Ltd - Farmhitch | [www.farmhitch.com](http://www.farmhitch.com/) |
| Offaly  | De Mad Food Company |  www.demadfoodco.com |
| Offaly  | Deanery Furniture | [www.deaneryfurniture.com](http://www.deaneryfurniture.com/) |
| Roscommon  | Projects 5 creations | [www.beltlock.ie](http://www.beltlock.ie/) |
| Roscommon  | Derrycashel Crafts | [www.woodenclocksroscommon.ie](http://www.woodenclocksroscommon.ie/) |
| Sligo  | Clo's Chocolates | [www.closchocolates.ie](http://www.closchocolates.ie/) |
| Sligo  | SUIP Manufacturing | [www.suipco.ie](http://www.suipco.ie/) |
| Tipperary  | Emerald Oils | [www.emeraldoils.ie](http://www.emeraldoils.ie/) |
| Tipperary  | Tactile Text |   |
| Tipperary  | Premium Fire Products  |   |
| Waterford  | Embermats  | [www.embermats.com](http://www.embermats.com/) |
| Waterford  | The Tipperary Kitchen |   |
| Waterford  | Coffee House Lane | [www.coffeewarehouse.ie](http://www.coffeewarehouse.ie/) |
| Westmeath  | DBee Press |   |
| Westmeath  | SoulSnacks | [www.soulsnacks.ie](http://www.soulsnacks.ie/) |
| Wexford  | Wexford Food Family  | [www.wexfordfoodfamily.com](http://www.wexfordfoodfamily.com/) |
| Wexford  | Naturally Cordial | www.wexfordfoodfamily.com |
| Wexford  | Wexford Home Preserves | www.wexfordfoodfamily.com |
| Wexford  | O’ Neill’s Dry Cure Bacon | www.wexfordfoodfamily.com |
| Wicklow  | Pacefeeder | [www.pacefeeder.ie](http://www.pacefeeder.ie/) |
| Wicklow  | Toby Wagons | [www.tobywagons.com](http://www.tobywagons.com/) |