

Athboy Development Forum and the Convent Community Centre Launches 'A-TECH' Athboy's first Digital Hub

Athboy Development Forum (ADF) held an official launch of 'A-Tech' Athboy's first Digital Hub – on Saturday, 13th November by An Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Sean Drew at the Convent Community Centre (CCC), Athboy.

Keith Mulvey, Chairman of the CCC Committee and Director with ADF, welcomed An Cathaoirleach - Councillor Sean Drew, Jackie Maguire - Chief Executive of Meath County Council, local Councillors David Gilroy and Cathaoirleach/Chairperson Kells Municipal District Cllr. Mike Bray, Local Community Groups and Clubs to the launch.

An Cathaoirleach congratulated the committees of Athboy Development Forum in delivering this Digital Community Hub project and for ADF's extensive work and support for the community in Athboy over the years. He acknowledged the support provided by Meath County Council working with ADF building a positive relationship to help with these projects. Councillor Mike Bray also congratulated the committees for bringing a vital service to the community of Athboy and for their previous projects providing valuable facilities to the people of Athboy.

Mr. Mulvey stated; "Our objective to maintain access to our facilities in the Convent Community Centre and St. James Hall, where over 70,000 people cross through the front doors each year. We provide the community with a base and outlet for engagement, encouragement, inclusion, happiness or fun, training and community development ideas.

Following a long period of closure due to Covid restrictions, from today we are delighted to provide access to a remote desk base for entrepreneurs, remote employees or students. You can now work or study from here with access to high speed fibre broadband, audio visual and printing facilities. A-Tech, Athboy Digital Hub is fully accessible to all in the community and has dedicated additional needs facilities including our Changing Places room and adequate canteen or lunch facilities.

This will provide new opportunities for local entrepreneurs and for those commuting massive journey times within the Dublin commuter belt. With employers of many Dublin or Meath based companies seeking more efficient means of working and work life balance considerations for their employees, A-Tech will provide a more cost effective option for some employers by providing the opportunity for their rural employees to work remotely over existing office based costs.

We will initially provide up to seven individual affordable office desk spaces available to rent on a short, medium or long-term basis. Desks will be available initially from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm on Saturday. An introductory price of just €10 per desk per day will apply to stimulate interest. Our project here is community focused however we will register with the national Connected Hubs Network and this will compliment other established Digital Spaces in Meath such as Kells Tech, Dunshaughlin and Navan. So persons travelling through the town or staying local could avail of a base for the day. This

will contribute to the local economy with businesses and hoteliers. The room here will also be available to hire by community groups for meetings, presentations or training in the evenings when available if required.”

Mr. Mulvey noted; “This project received funding through the Meath Local Community Development Committee as the Local Action Group (LAG) for the delivery of the LEADER Programme in County Meath for the programme period 2014 - 2020. I would like to thank Colin Ludlow from Meath Partnership for his assistance administering the various processes and to local Councillor David Gilroy and Councillor Mike Bray for their support also. And of course Meath County Council who enabled us occupy this wonderful facility and grow our services to the community.

An Cathaoirleach unveiled a plaque to officially launch A-Tech.

Online bookings will be available soon and in the meantime to enquire about renting a desk please send an email to athboyccc@gmail.com

Launch photos



A-Tech Digital Hub Room



Above pictured at the launch from L-R

An Cathaoirleach/Chairperson Meath County Council, Cllr. Sean Drew; Gerry Cooke, Chairman (ADF); Keith Mulvey, Chairperson (CCC) and Treasurer (ADF); Cathaoirleach/Chairperson Kells Municipal District Cllr. Mike Bray; Cllr David Gilroy, member of Boyne Valley Tourism & Chairperson of Meath Climate Action Forum .

Photo courtesy of Joe Conlon



Above from L-R

Some of Athboy Development Forum CLG Board members / Directors:

Gerry Cooke (Chairperson), Cllr David Gilroy (Director), Keith Mulvey (ADF Treasurer, CCC Chairperson), Assumpta Kelly (CCC Secretary / ADF Director), Fiona Mullen (Digital Marketing - ADF), Jackie Leavy (CCC Treasurer / ADF Director), Nicky Bowman Doherty, (ADF Secretary / Director). *Photo courtesy of Joe Conlon*

A-Tech Logo

