



December 2021

Ardrahan Community Calf Rearing Scheme

Dear Parishioner,

We are writing in relation to a Community calf rearing fundraising scheme to support the on-going development works at the Ardrahan GAA Centre. Any one that has visited our facility in recent times can only be impressed with the fine complex that our parish has on its doorstep. Our facility now has a 1.3km walkway (fully lit up during winter months), a state of the art Astro-Turf pitch with Wall Ball, and 2 full size GAA fields.

The dry stone wall around our complex was recently described as one of the finest stone walls in Co. Galway. We are now entering the next phase of our development plan, focusing on the surfacing of the current car park. The cost associated with this work is a significant one.

A group of people from Ardrahan parish have come together with the idea of a community calf rearing scheme as a further means of fundraising for the proposed works. The general workings of this novel idea are as follows;

- The Scheme will run from Spring 2022 – Autumn 2022.
- A male or female animal of any breed or age can be used to participate in the Scheme.
- During Spring 2022, animals for the Scheme will be valued by mutual agreement between the farmers and the organisers, ie. purchase price of the animal if it was bought in at that time **or** the *agreed valuation* of the farmers own nominated animal.
- During Autumn 2022, the farmer will sell their nominated animal. We will arrange a sale night at local mart. The farmer will then donate to the Scheme the balance between the final sale price and the *agreed valuation*.

We are a farming community in the main and this community calf rearing scheme will provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to become involved in our community's fundraising efforts. We acknowledge that there will be many people who will not be in a position to rear an animal but would like to contribute to the scheme. As a guideline, we estimate the cost to the farmer of rearing a calf from Spring to Autumn is in the region of €200. People who are not in a position to rear a calf themselves can make a donation to assist with these costs. Alternatively they can purchase a calf and a local farmer will rear to animal. An account at **Gort Post Office** is open under the name **Ardrahan Community Calf Rearing Scheme**. We also have an "iDonate" function, details of which are on our website www.ardrahanga.ie and our club's social media platforms.

If you would like to participate in the scheme, please indicate your choice in the box below,

- I wish to rear an animal
- I wish to make a monetary contribution
- I wish to sponsor a calf for rearing

Please let your local scheme organiser know how you wish to make your contribution. All contributions will be issued with a receipt.

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Following this a plan will be put in place for your participation.

We are looking forward to a positive response from the community to this novel idea, which should create a good buzz around the parish.

Yours sincerely,

William Thompson, Patrick Whelan, Darragh Healy, Aonghusa Fahy, Eanna Callanan

Ardrahan Community Calf Rearing Scheme Organisers.