

# Manual and Directory for Community Councils of Muintir Na Tire

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MANUAL AND DIRECTORY FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS 'RESULES FROM A MOTION SUBMITTED BY WEXFORD COUNTY FEDERATION OF MUINTIR NA TIRE AND PASSED BY CONGRESS AT GAEWAY IN 1976.

THE MAIN AIM OF THE PUBLICATION IS TO PROVIDE :

COMMUNITY COUNCILS OF MUINTIR NA TIRE WITH USEFUL INFORMATION RELATING BOTH TO THEIR FUNCTION AS COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

WHILST EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO ENSURE ACCURACY IT IS INEVITABLE THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION INCLUDED WILL HAVE BECOME AT LEAST PARTIALLY OUT OF DATE ALMOST AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED. FOR THIS DEFICIENCY AND FOR ANY OMISSION RESULEING FROM THE NECESSITY FOR SELECTION, WE APOLOGISE.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE ENORMOUS ASSISTANCE OF THE I.P.A. ADMINISTRATIVE YEARBOOK, OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS' INFORMATION BULLETINS, IN PREPARING THIS PUBLICATION.

I WISH TO THANK PARTICULARLY OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOIHENT OFFICER. CHRIS TALLON, WHO COMPILED THIS WORK.

Thomas Roseingrave

National Director

October 1977

## **Muintir Na Tire - Brief History**

Muintir na Tire was founded by Canon John Hayes in 1937. Initially, it was a rural community movement. For its philosophy and inspiration Canon Hayes turned to two political movements the Land League and Sinn Fein. He attached great importance to these because of their emphasis on the sacredness of the land and on self-help. As well as that, he saw his new movement being motivated by Christian Social principles. When it was first founded the basic unit was the ecclesiastic parish. Within the parish the main units of organisation were:

- a) The Guild which comprised the members of the parish who were sympathetic to the aims and ideals of Muintir na Tire without distinction of class or creed.
- b) The Parish Council which was elected annually along sectional or vocational lines whose primary duty was a planning and co-ordination committee and initiator of parish action which would involve as many of the guild members as possible.

The major characteristic of the early period of the movement was its insistence on local communities to develop an independence of action. While doing this it was aware of course of the importance of allying outside technical knowledge and skills to local resources when required.

It was only in 1958 twelve months after the death of the Founder that the term "Community Development" became associated with Muintir na Tire. It was an important discovery for it confirmed the soundness of Canon Hayes's intuition that there is in the local community a potential for development and social progress. Long before the concept of Community Development existed at an international level, Muintir na Tire had a philosophy and life-style similar to it, and without any outside expertise managed to instil in many Irish parishes the idea of self-help and self-reliance.

Since then Muintir na Tire has become well acquainted with Community Development and has made extensive studies of the process.

