

playfit ® recreation parks opened in Cavan and Blacklion (Ireland)



An Roinn Gnóthas Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
 Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Cavan County Council Press Release: 29th May, 2009

Minister Brendan Smith T.D. opens Two new Innovative Outdoor Gyms in Co. Cavan this afternoon (Friday, 29th May, 2009)

A NEW ERA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY AND RECREATION FACILITIES in Co. Cavan takes place this afternoon— with the official opening of two new Outdoor Gyms and Recreational areas at the Con Smith Park, Cavan Town and the Lough McNear Park in Blacklion, Co. Cavan.

These are the first integrated play and recreation facilities for adults, older people and young children in Ireland. This concept is unique to Co. Cavan. Under Cavan County Development Board's strategy 2002-2012, the provision of play and recreation opportunities for young children was identified as a major priority. In the intervening years, Cavan County Council has completed twenty six new playgrounds.

In 2007, Cavan County Council became acutely aware of the need to provide new play and recreational opportunities for adults & older people. Following extensive research, it was obvious that outdoor physical activity areas were not very common in Ireland, United Kingdom or in the European Union.

As part of a new national pilot initiative under the auspices of the RAPID Programme, Cavan County Council and the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs agreed to jointly co-fund a development at the Con Smith Park in Cavan Town.

Cavan County Council in conjunction with Fermanagh District Council also secured funding from the EU Special Programmes Body under the Peace 11 Programme to develop a second project in a rural area; Lough McNear Amenity Park, West Cavan.

Both of these new developments have been designed and manufactured by Playfit GmbH, Hamburg, Germany. Playfit specialises in the provision of outdoor play fitness parks in Germany and Europe for Adults and Older People. For further information see www.playfit.eu. Or email m.nader@playfit.eu



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In a personal communication to Cavan County Council: **Eamon O'Cuiv, T.D, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs** stated:

" I am delighted that my Department is co-funding this innovative pilot project to develop a recreation area for older people based here in Cavan Town RAPID Area. This pilot is based on models existing in China, Germany & Scandanavia. We know many older people visit existing playgrounds for children as parents and grand parents and this

initiative aims to provide facilities to encourage them to engage in outdoor activity and physical exercise. I am delighted to see this facility open and congratulate all concerned in its development".

Speaking at the launch of the two facilities in Co. Cavan this afternoon – **Mr. Joe. McLoughlin, Director of Community & Enterprise, Cavan County Council** said "These new developments underpin the Local Authority's progress of developing play and recreational opportunities for people in Cavan in an integrated fashion for all ages".

Mr. Jack Keyes, County Manager, Cavan County Council, stated that " Cavan County Council was delighted to deliver these two new innovative projects for the enjoyment and benefit of the people and thanked the project funders for their involvement in same"

Minister Brendan Smith said that it was a huge privilege for him to be opening two such fine outdoor gyms and recreational areas on the one day. " Cavan County Council, along with support from other agencies has overseen tremendous progress in the last few years with the provision of new playgrounds and recreation areas. Such facilities are marvellous additions to the cohesion of local communities as they integrate facilities for people of all ages. I am delighted to be associated with two further state of the art facilities in Blacklion and Cavan Town", he said.

