**Community Development** is when local people come together to identify the main problems in their area and develop a plan to solve the problems.

Importance of Community Development

* Creates Employment
* Spin-off Effects
* Inspires Others
* Increase in Government Revenue
* Prosperity in the Area
* Reduces Emigration

Organisations have been established to encourage community development and to help the local people set up their own businesses in their area;

1. **Area Partnership Companies (APC’s)**

Provides Grants - provide grants to help set up a business

Organises Workshops - to train/upskill local people. Offers advice and support for the day to day running of the business

Provides Premises - “Enterprise Incubation Units”

Provides Mentors - an experienced businessperson will give practical advice and suggest improvements

1. **Local Enterprise Offices**

Advice and Information - provide entrepreneurs with all information required to access all government supports

Financial Support - for businesses to start up, develop and expand. Feasibility grants and capital grants

Organises Courses - train/upskill people with skills needed to run a successful business

Provides Mentors - an experienced businessperson will give practical advice and suggest improvements

1. **Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

This is an EU and Irish government funded scheme to help business development in rural areas. The aim of the LEADER programme is to reduce poverty and promote social and economic development in rural areas.

Funding is provided for:

a. Rural tourism

b. Bringing broadband to rural areas

c. Small food projects

d. Development of renewable energy

Rural entrepreneurs are supported by;

a. Advice about their idea and its feasibility

b. Provides grants