**CE workers support a thriving village**

The contribution of its five Community Employment (CE) Scheme workers to the village has been immeasurable, according to Chairperson of Ballinahown Community Development, Helen Conneely.

From day-to-day maintenance of the village, maintaining green spaces, planting, weeding and painting, the CE participants ensure the village is always looking its best.

“We are very fortunate to have five hard-working CE participants working in the village at present,” explained Helen. “Their support is immeasurable. They can always be relied upon to carry out whatever tasks are necessary and, even more so this year, in what is a very important year for Ballinahown.”

The CE workers are drawn from St Mary’s Community Employment Programme, which has been in operation since 2001. The Community Employment Programme was established in 1994 with the aim of helping long-term unemployed people get back into full-time employment by offering part-time work in local communities. It also offers participants opportunities to learn new skills or upskill existing ones.

“We have always been fortunate with our CE participants in Ballinahown and our current workers, and all those who came before them, have made a considerable contribution to our village down through the years. We are extremely grateful to them for their involvement,” concluded Helen.

ENDS