

Applications open for Enterprise Centre Extension

Since 2005, the Carlow Community Enterprise Centre better known as Enterprise House on the O'Brien Road has been providing incubation space for new and emerging businesses in the County Carlow area.



Are you looking for a new location for your business?

Are you considering starting or expanding your business in 2010 and require office space and support?
For an application form email enterprise@carlow-ceb.com or call 059 913 0880

With an annual footfall of currently approx 16,000 people, the centre has become a hub for enterprise activity in County Carlow fostering and developing large to medium enterprises , providing much needed employment in these changing economic times. Over 50 people currently work from Enterprise House on a weekly basis and the centre is soon to open the doors of its 11,000 square foot extension. The centre also has a training centre which hosts over 100 events per year with everything from Childcare type supports provided by Carlow Childcare Committee to Start Your Own Business Courses provided by Carlow County Enterprise Board. The centre is unique to County Carlow in that it provides a one stop shop for people considering starting and developing their enterprise and this role is assisted by the Centres Anchor Tenant , Carlow County Enterprise Board. Since 1st January 2010 , over 200 people have visited to meet with the team of business advisors and currently over 100 of them are engaging in Start Your Own Business Programmes in the Centre to see if their business idea is viable.

“The Centre has never been busier in terms of people considering starting a business , Carlow people have turned to self employment in these changing economic times creating their own job , which is a testament to Carlow’s Entrepreneurial Spirit” said Kieran Comerford , Assistant CEO of Carlow CEB & Director of Enterprise House.

Enterprise House is a community led initiative involving a partnership between the local communities and state bodies. The development has been made possible by funding from a number of sources.

In late 2009, the first sod was turned on the Centres extension which is due for completion during May 2010. This extension will expand the Enterprise Space to over 17,000 square feet. The extension designed by Barry Lynch is being constructed by Carlow Company Blackstairs Development . The centre will contain in total over 22 units ranging from 1-10 person offices suitable for a variety of needs. This week the centre signed up its first tenant for the new premises and demand for the space is expected to be high given the networking and support opportunities which the centre provides.

The Centre also has a high specification in terms of ICT infrastructure which is being installed by local companies Seamus Byrne Electrical , Deycom & ICL meaning that users will have use of shared services such as Broadband , Interactive Training Rooms , Video-Conferencing at subsidized rates. “It has been acknowledged that keeping costs at a minimum at the start up and development stage are essential to the potential success of any enterprise. Enterprise House provides a professional, supported enterprise facility to start up and development companies and is attractive”, said Michael Kelly, CEO of Carlow County Enterprise Board, “the centre also provides virtual offices & supported hot desks and indeed will soon be announcing applications for a programme heavily subsidized called “Fresh Start” which will enable 12 would be enterprises test their idea while being provided with weekly training over a 15 week period”.

For anyone looking for further information or indeed looking for an application form for any of the services, call 059/9130880 or e-mail enterprise@carlow-ceb.com