

## LEARNING OUTCOMES IN FOCUS

### Students should be able to:

- 1.1 discuss what it means to be human and live in a community with rights and responsibilities.
- 2.2 consider a variety of definitions of development and devise their own definition of sustainable development.
- 2.7 discuss, with evidence, positive and negative effects of development in their local area.
- 2.12 reflect on what has been learned in this strand.

## NAME OF CBA

*Center Parcs – an investigation on its impact on local development in Ballymahon.*

## TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTEXT

In the lead up to this CBA the class revisited previous learning about rights and responsibilities in the community and discussed the rights and responsibilities that might affect the community when a development like *Center Parcs* opens in the locality.

Students considered the concept of development. They discussed different types of development, what it means to have sustainable development and came up with their own definition of sustainable development.

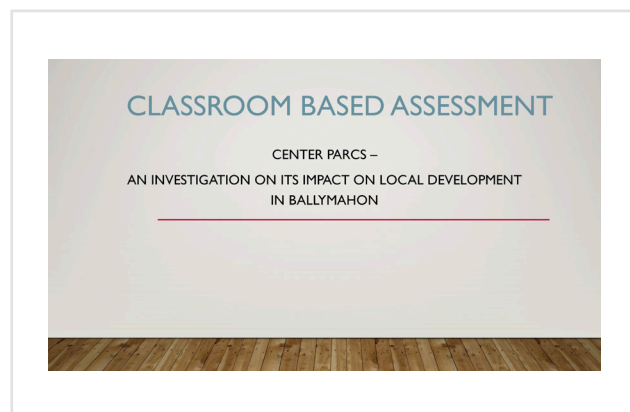
Based on a good knowledge of what development and sustainable development mean the students brainstormed potential positive and negative effects of a development like *Center Parcs* on the area.

Then the students were set the task and split into groups of two/three for the purpose of completing the CBA. They discussed the directions they might take the project, the roles of each group member and how they would present their Individual Action Record.

A useful resource for teaching about local/global development:

[Grassroots to Government: Financial Justice \(section 2 pp.16-26\)](#)

## STUDENT CITIZENSHIP ACTION RECORD



# CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENT

CENTER PARCS –  
AN INVESTIGATION ON ITS IMPACT ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN BALLYMAHON

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# WHAT IS CENTER PARCS?

- Center Parcs is a European network of holidays villages that was founded in the Netherlands in 1968 and is currently operated by Pierre + Vacances and owned by Blackstone Group
- There are 24 Center Parcs all around Europe, including five locations across the UK and one in the Longford, Ireland.

## **WHY WE CHOSE CENTER PARCS**

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- Center Parcs is located in the Longford forest Ireland. It opened July 2019 and brought many different positive and negative affects to the local area.
- We chose to do Center Parcs as it is a big development in the local area. We are also very interested looking at the positive and negative effects to our local area and we wanted to examine if it is an example of sustainable development.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – OUR DEFINITION

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- **Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.

## WHAT WE HOPED TO ACHIEVE:

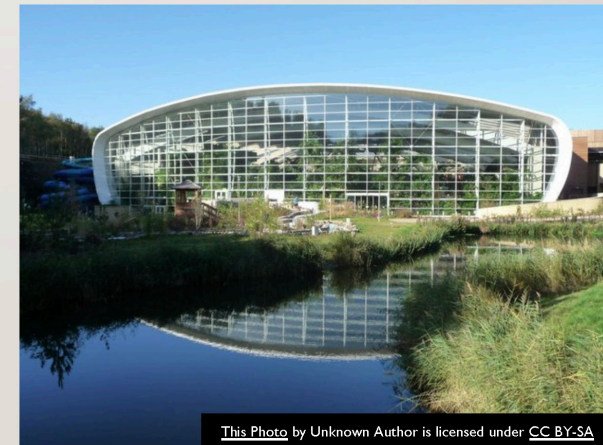
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- We hoped to have a better understanding of the negative and positive effects of a local development in our area.
- We also hoped that many other people would be able to know the effects it has on people in the local area and the local area itself.
- We hoped to achieve a great PowerPoint outlining all of the key facts.

## **WHAT WE LEARNED:** **POSITIVE EFFECTS OF CENTER PARCS**

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- Biggest investment in the history of Ireland
- 8 million on food sourced locally
- Mattresses sourced locally in Mullingar
- 75% added to local bus company business
- Egg sourced locally in O'Hallerans family farm Keenagh
- Although they cut down trees they planted twice as much trees to replace
- Creates employment for local workers 1000 people applied for jobs
- Gives Longford a good reputation



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## **WHAT WE LEARNED:** **NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CENTER PARCS**

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- Residents claim that their 'peaceful rural area' will be disrupted by the arrival of 2,500 guests each week.
- Price of renting or buying houses may rise due to the extra demand.
- Center Parcs may attract customers away from local businesses.
- The community may rely too much on one organisation and be devastated if the organisation lays off workers.
- May pollute the local environment (noise, waste, traffic).



## OUR INVESTIGATION: IN RELATION TO A NEW UPCOMING ROAD.

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- As part of the action we researched the upcoming road that will be coming from Athlone to Ballymahon.
- It was first announced in 2017 shortly after Center Parcs was announced. From then on there were many meetings held informing the local people about how they will be affected by the new road.
- In July 2018 there were 4 possible routes of the road that were told to the public. Then they had the chance to inform the Council of their reasons how this road would affect them, their houses and land.
- In September 2019 the families were contacted if the road was going to affect them directly.
- Many people were angry but from then on there was nothing they could do.
- We interviewed some local people who the road will be affecting.

## WHY WE FOCUSED ON THE NEW ROAD

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- As Center Parcs is affecting local businesses it is also affecting many normal families.
- We decided to research the new road that is going to be built in the upcoming years.
- I interviewed one man whose land was going to be affected by this new road.
- This helped us have a better understanding of the effect it has on local people.
- This man told us a lot about this road and we then realised that there are many people affected by this road and many who are lucky enough not to be.

## INTERVIEW:

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I interviewed a man whose land was going to be disturbed by this road.

He claimed that 'this road may not happen for a couple of years but even then it will still affect me and my farm'. He also told us that 'my farming days will become more hardship as I will have my farm split in two by a very busy road with many cars speeding through it every day'.

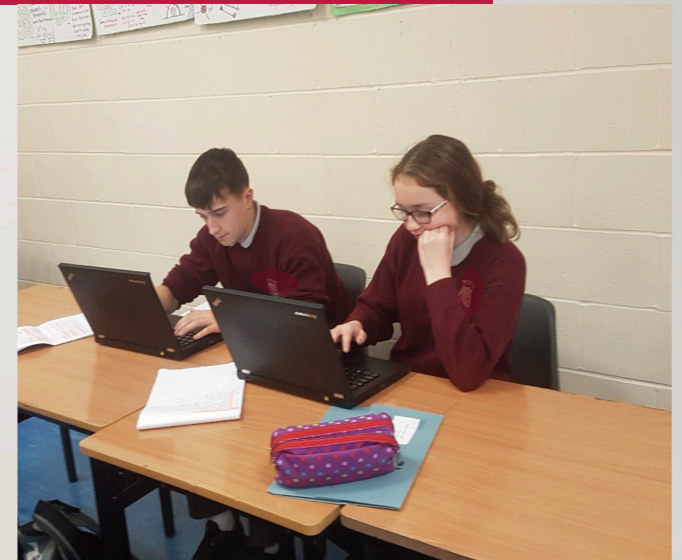
'Although this is splitting my farm in two it could be way worse' he added. 'When we received the letter with 5 possible routes we were more worried then. Three out of a possible five routes were going to affect us and out of the three the one chosen has suited us. Although we hoped for either of the other two routes to be chosen there is nothing we can do now only hope for it to be a good, safe road'.

There was also many other people who the road is affecting and many grateful people that are very lucky that the route affecting them has not been chosen.

## HOW WE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ACTION.

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- As a team we both worked really well together.
- We both helped each other out whenever was needed.
- We both did an equal amount of work. This meant that we both had a good understanding of this topic and knew exactly what we were talking about.
- We both researched, typed and put together the slideshow.
- Overall, we both had an equal amount of workload and worked really well together.



## WHAT WE LEARNED:

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- This topic is very interesting to both of us as Center Parcs is a very big development in our local area.
- It helped us have a better understanding of the effects it has on the environment around it, whether they are positive or negative effects.
- We learned a lot about the positive and negative effects it has on the local area and local people.
- We also learned about different types of development, rights and responsibilities and what it means to be human living in a community.

## WHAT SKILLS WE DEVELOPED:

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- During this project both of us picked up many different skills.
- One skill we learned was to work well as a team, listen to each other's opinions and communicate well, this helped to get the project done more smoother, quicker and get the best out of the project.
- We also learned how to manage our time correctly to make sure we got it done on time. This meant that we were not rushing and had plenty of time to look over it and make sure it was to our full potential.
- We also learned many presentation skills like how to phrase words and sentences, how to present, where to add in examples and how to have accurate points.
- Overall this project helped us to learn many new skills and put them into practise.

## HAS OUR OPINIONS ON CENTER PARCS CHANGED:

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- Yes our opinions on Center Parcs has changed.
- Our opinion has changed as before this project we could see some positive effects of Center Parcs and now we have more of a clear view of both the positives.
- We also now see that there is more to it than just positives and that there are some negative effects also where Center Parcs has located. We have realised that there are negatives as well as positives to the local area when development projects happen.

# CONCLUSION

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- Over all Center Parcs locating in the Longford Forest has brought both positive and negative effects to the local area.
- We think that the Center Parcs team have done all in their power to overrule the negative effects with positives.
- In conclusion we believe that Center Parcs is a positive development to our local area and look forward to watching it progress in the future.

**'Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.'



## OVERALL REFLECTION:

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- Looking back on this, our overall thought on this is that choosing Center Parcs as a project has benefited us greatly.
- We think this because it is located in our local area and has opened our eyes to see the positive and negative effects it has on the people and the area. We also believe that we have learned so much about Center Parcs.
- We also have learned so many skills and these skills will help us in the future.
- Overall we have really enjoyed the project and feel we have greatly benefited from it.

## FEATURES OF QUALITY

### Exceptional

- The action record shows how the student fully and effectively engaged in meaningful action.
- The student's personal reflections on their learning are of excellent quality.
- The record is presented in a comprehensive, creative and highly effective manner.

### Above expectations

- The action record provides evidence of how the student engaged in meaningful action.
- The student's personal reflections on their learning are of good quality.
- The record is presented in an organised, creative and effective manner.

### In line with expectations

- The action record provides evidence of the student's engagement in the action.
- There is some evidence of personal reflection on their learning.
- The action record is presented in an organised manner with some creativity.

### Yet to meet expectations

- There is limited evidence of personal engagement in the action taken.
- There is very limited evidence of student reflection on learning.
- The action record provides a very basic summary of information although it may lack detail and creativity.

The annotations capture observations by the student's teacher, using the Features of Quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance Group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate, the State Examinations Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers Support Service.

## TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

This action record illustrates meaningful action as it is clear that the action undertaken was meaningful to the students and arose from genuine interest in a local development project within their community. The combination of desk research and going out into the community to interview people is commendable and shows the student's engagement in the action.

The action was an investigation and as such it was well executed. The action could have been more meaningful and effective if the research and data gathered was used to raise awareness - as this was one of the goals set out at the start.

The record could also be enhanced by showing evidence of seeking out different perspectives (e.g. from the interview process) expressing both the potential benefits and downsides of development.

There is evidence of personal reflection on the learning, particularly showing an awareness of a range of skills developed - research, team work, time management, etc. While the record demonstrates that the student gained some knowledge and awareness through undertaking the action, the record could be enhanced if it included reflections on how the learning relates to the concept of 'sustainable development' and if the reflections gave more detail on how the learning has impacted on the student and any new understanding or personal insights gained.

The mode chosen for presenting the action record (PowerPoint presentation) is in an organised manner and visually attractive. It might have been improved by the use of further images and visual evidence.

## LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Best fit on balance judgement =

In line with expectations



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