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All headings and paragraph text is Times New Roman, Size 12

All headings have a paragraph border, are in bold and centered.

## Summary Report

### Title

Class visit to Cloughjordan Eco-Village in Tipperary as part of Link Modules programme to gain an insight into community enterprise and see a small business in operation.

### Author

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### Aims

- I hope to learn and see how a business is run.
- I hope I learn about how the different ways the business uses its renewable sources of energy
- We hope to learn how to interact and work better as a team while also personally improving my own communication skills.
- I hope to write a summary report on our visit out for our Link Modules Portfolio.

### Pre-Visit

- As a class we researched Cloughjordan on [www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie) to find out more information on the business as we were visiting and also to ensure that the Eco-Village would be beneficial to us as part of our Link Modules course.
- We have to ask the principal Mr O'Connor for permission to go to Cloughjordan Eco-Village.
- I emailed Cloughjordan Village on behalf of the class to get a suitable date for the visit, I also took it upon myself to organise a bus and the money was collected prior to leaving.
- We informed teachers of our absence from school on that particular date.
- We prepared a list of questions on the Eco-Village.

### Arrival at the Eco-Village

- We departed from our school on the 5<sup>th</sup> March at 8am.
- We arrive at Cloughjordan Eco-Village at 11.30am approximately where we were greeted by Mr Pa Finucan at Django's Hostel.
- After a quick introduction we were brought into a nice sitting room area where we were given some drinks and light refreshments.
- On arrival we were told the entire hostel was powered by renewable resources and we were very impressed by this.

### Talk on Cloughjordan Eco-Village

- We were given a talk by Mr. Pa Finucane at pm which lasted no more than an hour.
- We found out that the village was set up on a 67 acre site in 2005 and now has over 50 eco-friendly houses on site.
- Main aim of the Eco-Village was to cut down on our carbon footprint.

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Bullet points are aligned throughout the entire document

- Permaculture as a concept was explained to us as the integration of green buildings, woodlands and renewable energy for use within the community.
- 50 houses currently work the farm where they grow organic vegetables, there were 4 Poly-tunnels in the village with Kerry Cows providing the milk! This organic produce was then sold in the local markets.
- The mind-set of those in Cloughjordan was refreshing and inspirational.

### **Tour of Eco-Village**

- We were given a tour of the village by a woman called Lucy at about 2.30pm, she waked us through the grounds showing us the eco villages and what they were made of, all of recyclable materials.
- We were also shown the poly tunnels where the village grows most of their own resources.
- Many of the houses had solar panels. The village tour was very enlightening. Eco friendly houses being built for around €70,000.

### **Question and Answer Session with Pa and Lucy**

- At the end of the day we were given the chance to ask the questions we had prepared previous to the visit.
- My question was from a personal perspective as my father is an auctioneer – With reference to house prices and site cost. Those prices seemed so reasonable in this age and were environmentally responsible.
- Conclusion:
- My aims were most certainly met during this visit. We saw how a business was run ethically and responsibly by reducing their carbon footprint.
- I got to see how the business uses its renewable sources of energy in the hostel through heating by wood chip burner for example, roofing using recyclable materials and many more methodologies.
- I certainly feel I developed my ability to communicate and interact with people through this visit out and its organisation. I asked questions, engaged in the talks and we were able to organise the visit from start to finish ourselves, showing we did work well as a team and thoroughly enjoyed our experience.
- Throughout this activity I was able to fulfil my aim of being able to complete my summary report for my Link Modules portfolio.

### **Recommendations**

- I thought the overall tour was very informative and enjoyable. However, for future class visits I would recommend that the tour would be longer than one hour as I feel there is a lot of information to be taken in and also to be shown inside the poly-tunnels as we only saw the external features.
- I would definitely recommend this as a visit out from a social perspective it created awareness amongst our own age group as to how important environmental issues are and how they need addressing.
- I would also recommend that all students take notes as the amount of information here is intense and should be taken down for retention purposes.