

## **Workshop 3B Surviving as a Community Owned Company operating in a Commercial Environment by Bruce Hamilton.**

Set up Social Enterprise in Westport.

There was no mechanism within the community to purchase the plant at the time.

Commercial Business owned by the community that is where they come from (followed a Scottish (SDA) model).

Kept business separate from what they did with the profits.

Support from CED unit of Department of Labor.

Survived because they have assets and equity.

Banks relate better to company structures than charitable trusts.

Issues:

- How do you find the right people who know how to run a business?
- Start up funds.

Identify similar operations around the country i.e. community owned companies could they support those looking to do similar ideas.