



Street Feast Calls on Neighbours to get Together on 23rd June

64% of people wouldn't welcome a new neighbour to the area

Thursday 2nd May: Today launches the 3rd annual Street Feast at a rooftop lunch at Dublin's Urban Farm. Street Feast, in partnership with Centra, are calling on people nationwide to come together at 12noon on Sunday, 23rd June to enjoy a bite to eat with their neighbours for a simple and fun way of reconnecting with those that live near them.

In years gone by, it was likely you knew all your neighbours, not just your next door neighbours. They were people you spoke to regularly, helped you when you needed support and likewise you lent a hand in times of need. Knowing your neighbours was a sign of healthier and happier communities.

Today that seems to have all changed. In a survey carried out by Centra to mark the launch of Street Feast 2013, less than half of those surveyed, just 47%, said they "knew their neighbours to say hello to but that was it". Remarkably almost a quarter of people said they didn't know their neighbours at all.

Back in 2010 Street Feast was started by a group of volunteers who were passionate about bringing people together through food, to rediscover neighbourliness as the launch pad for lasting improvements within communities. Almost 200 Street Feasts have been held across the country to date and this year Street Feast, with a lending hand from Centra, are planning to substantially increase the number of events held on Sunday 23rd June.

Organisers say there are lots of good reasons to have a Street Feast, but it's really just a great excuse to eat good food, celebrate your local community and meet new people who live in your neighbourhood. It can even be as simple as gathering a few neighbours for a picnic in the area.

From the results of this latest survey, it seems that we really do need to get out and show a bit of community spirit. When asked when the last time they had spoken to their neighbours - 30% said they hadn't spoken to their neighbours in the past six months, with 8% saying they had never spoken to their neighbours at all. 64% of people said



they wouldn't bother to go and welcome a new neighbour into their neighbourhood, though almost the same percentage of people (62%) said that they would like to be welcomed if they moved into a new area. A staggering 72% of people said they have no involvement in their local residents association or Group. When it comes to what celebrity neighbours they would like to live beside, Brian O'Driscoll and Amy Huberman are clearly the nations favourite claiming 34% of the poll – with Bono surprisingly one of the lesser chosen favourites at just 7%.

Hosting a Street feast couldn't be easier. People can register their Street Feast online at www.streetfeast.ie, where you'll receive a free party pack which will be posted direct to your home. This pack provides a handy guide to help make your feast a success, as well as posters, invitations, balloons, party hats and bunting to get the party started!

Co-founder & coordinator of Street Feast Samuel Bishop said, "We are thrilled to be bringing Street Feast back for its 3rd year and calling on communities nationwide to get involved on 23rd June. People can spend as little or as much as they like and hold one anywhere from their street, front garden, a field or even their balcony! Street Feast gives us an excuse to get out there, share food and conversation, and help build stronger relations within the local community."

Speaking about the initiative, Martin Kelleher, Managing Director, Centra commented, "Centra, with 460 stores nationwide, is at the heart of local communities throughout Ireland. We are the local retailer and are the hub of and meeting point in many communities across Ireland. This initiative is a great way for people to get involved and reconnect within their local neighbours and the community around them. Sparkling local connections is what Centra is all about and we are delighted to be a part of this initiative - getting together over something to eat is a great way to celebrate, strengthen community and make new friends."

Clare Mulvany, a previous Street Feast host in Rialto said, "Hosting a Street Feast was such an easy way to make friends in my community. I now feel safer and happier here, knowing there are people I can call upon if I ever need to".

Find out more and register to receive your free Street Feast party pack on www.streetfeast.ie or www.centra.ie. Street Feast is encouraging everyone to sit down with their neighbours at 12pm on 23rd June.



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Press Photos Available here: [FLICK PRESS PAGE](#)

Website: www.streetfeast.ie

Twitter: [@streetfeast](#)

Hashtag: [#streetfeast2013](#)

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Notes to Editor:

Survey

Brand Army fielded this online survey on behalf of Centra from 22 – 26 April 2013, in a nationally representative, nationwide survey among 500 respondents, of the employed adult population aged 18+. The gender breakdown for this survey was 247 females and 253 males.