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Limerick community co-operative to open twice a week from 2014

by Nick Rabbitts 25 Dec 2013

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Speaking at a special Christmas open day, the Limerick Community Grocery - which opened in October after more than a year in the planning - Bill Kelly said the venture has proven to be such a success they will double their opening times on site.

The grocery is unique in that it employs a flat structure, with all members of the company enjoying an equal say in how it is run.

They source organic, locally grown fruit and vegetables, bread, and cakes.

Since opening at the former Esso garage in Mulgrave Street, the grocery's membership - based on similar projects in Spain and Manchester - has grown seven-fold to 115 members.

Friday's event gave interested members of the public the opportunity to taste some goods the grocery has to offer.

"Our target is to hit 300 members before Easter, so we are well on plan for this," said Mr Kelly.

When the grocery was set up, people had to order goods online, or in store, and they would be delivered.

However, the firm has grown, and it now operates as an open shop.

“This is an opportunity to grow a sustainable business here in the city: Anybody can become a member. You join, and have a vote like anyone else - it is a flat structure. We are debt free and are growing,” Mr Kelly added.

As part of Limerick’s City of Culture year, the group will be screening films focused on co-operative businesses from across the world.

For more information, and to join the community grocery, telephone 087-6474230.

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