**The Library of Things – pilot in Dublin**

The Library of Things is a community-based initiative which was trialled in Dublin in 2018. It was funded by Back to Basics, VOICE -Voice of Irish concern for the environment, Go Car Ireland and the Dublin Food Co-op. Space was provided at Newmarket.

The idea is that members can borrow items which they only need on an occasional basis, or that are too bulky or costly to own. Sharing these items supports sustainability, reduces waste, and allows people to free up space in their homes. It also affords the opportunity to try new hobbies without the need to buy supplies and/or equipment.

During this trial, items were lent to those who signed up to become members and loans were for 7 days. The loans were free but deposits, depending on the value of the items, were taken.

The items in this pilot were dependant on donations and included sewing machines, kitchen appliances, DIY tools, craft materials and sports equipment.

Opening hours were one evening per week and weekends.

The venture was dependant on volunteers, donations and the availability of community space. It has not developed since this pilot.

**Belfast Tool Library**

Just like a library for books, you can borrow tools. Membership is generally £25 but members can offer to pay more if they can afford to. For those who cannot afford £25 this is not a barrier and they can join for less. The service is totally dependent on volunteers and is open one evening per week and on a Saturday morning. The tools are generally donations, and some arrive needing to be fixed or serviced.

This is a non-profit making organisations and still operating.

The concept behind both projects is re-use, cutting down on waste, sustainability and access for all.