



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Chief Executive Monthly Management Report

August 2026



www.leitrim.ie

Prepared in accordance with
Section 136 (2) of the Local
Government Act, 2001 as inserted
by Section 51 of the Local
Government Act 2014

CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

1. Evaluation of Carrick Tree & Hedgerow Management RFQ returns. VEON Ltd are most economically advantageous (4 August 2026)
2. Contribution to LGMA submission on national consultation on Bioeconomy (6 August 2026)
3. Climate Action participated in The Dock organised tour of the WaterLANDS project on Sliabh an Iarainn (15 August 2026)
4. Projects identified for Decarbonising Zone Demonstrator Fund with €56,000 available for actions that align with actions in the Leitrim Climate Action Plan
5. Staff Lunch & Learn no. 9 with Jan Alexander, *Searching for the Heart of the Matter* (27 August 2026)
6. Follow up meeting with CARO on Fleet transition to 2030 targets (28 August 2026)
7. Progression of projects under the DZ Demonstrator fund (€56,000 available, minimum of €8,000 for community projects)
8. Ongoing drive for delivery of Climate Course for over 55s, to run Sept - Dec

Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) Fund

Preparation of end of Programme Report for CCAP, Phase 1 ongoing in August

Biodiversity

Number of Biodiversity Events for Heritage Week (15–23 August 2026)

- a. Bat walk in Ballinamore (19 August 2026)
- b. Garadice Woodland Walk (20 August 2026)
- c. Forest Therapy, Derrycarne Wood, Dromod (23 August 2026)

COMMUNITY AND INTERGATION

Local Enhancement Programme 2026

Groups are submitting a significant amount of change requests which are processed with the Dept. This is due to a near 40% increase in the number of groups participating in 2026 resulting in diluted grant payments to groups.

Age Friendly Programme

Age Friendly Ireland have nearly completed the nursing home project in Leitrim and Roscommon. Evaluation meeting to provide feedback to AFI scheduled took place in August. AFI have submitted a funding request to the Department to extend the programme by another two years and expand it into a third county.

Work continues with internal and external stakeholders to progress a Climate Action Course for over 55's in Leitrim. 27 people have so far registered to attend the course in Mohill library.

Healthy Ireland

A change request has been submitted to Pobal. The proposed new outcome focuses on reducing the normalisation and uptake of smoking, vaping and nicotine products among children and young people. Proposed revised outcome and 1-year delivery plan will be presented to LCDC for consideration on 16th September.

Fit Farmers event took place on 27th August. 38 people attended the event with promotion of the App on-going. Due to high demand communities will be invited to submit EOIs for 2027 Fit Farmers programmes.

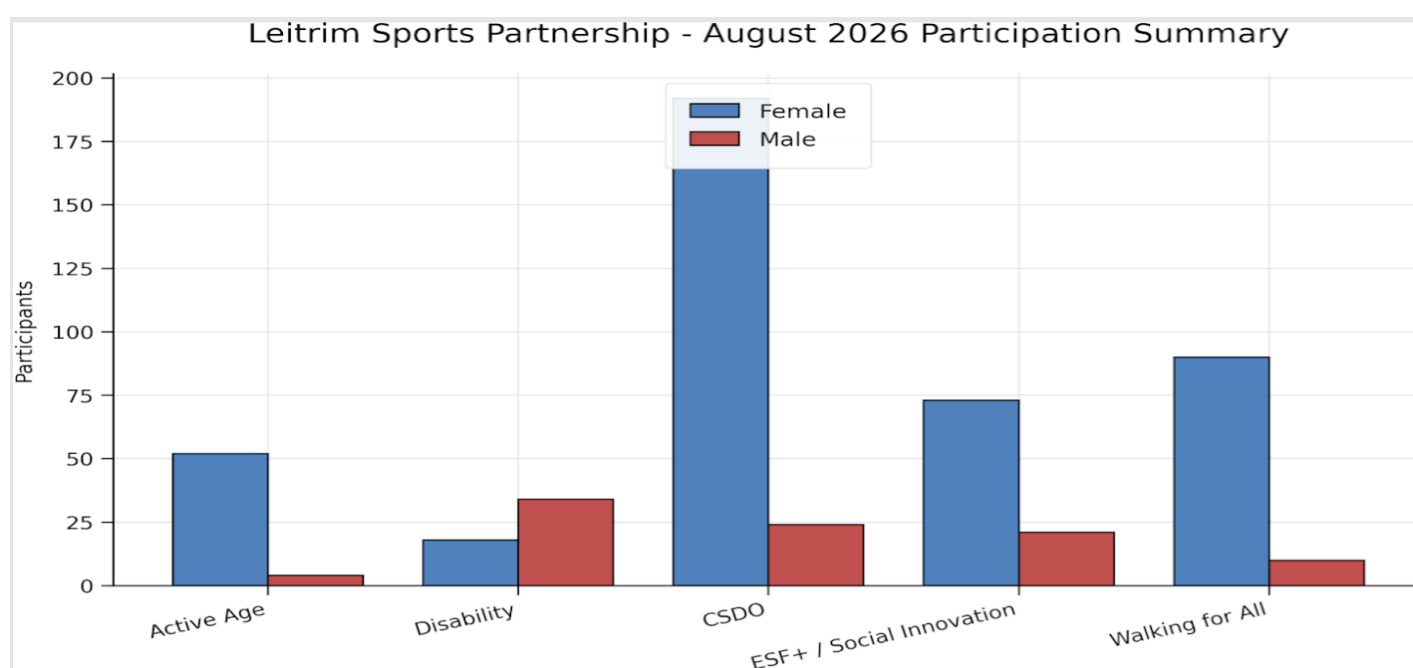
Period Dignity

2026 funding will support three initiatives: Girls in sport workshops, coach education and period support gift bags containing period products and information resources.

FAI: Deliver workshops to female players through FAI clubs in late 2026, with period support tote bags provided to participants and link to existing FAI coach education.

GAA Programme: Deliver coach education to GAA coaches in late 2026, followed by workshops and tote bag distribution to girls' teams in early 2027, aligned with the playing season.

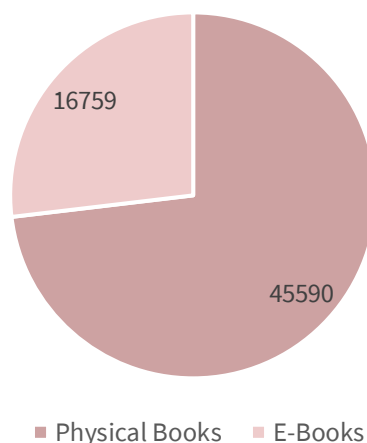
LEITRIM SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



Key Figures for August

- **Total Participants: 518**
- **Female Participants: 425 (82%)**
- **Male Participants: 93 (18%)**

Total Borrowed Library Books Year to Date 2026



There were 44 queries to the Local Studies department, as well as 21 in-person visits.

Over the month of August all libraries were busy with the usual events such as sensory sessions, reading groups, English and Irish language classes, art & craft sessions, breastfeeding support group meets, games afternoons/evenings, and bridge club.

In addition, Mohill Library had a busy month hosting meetings including the Dementia Group, the Country Market Group, the Down Syndrome Parents Group, the Scouts, Tai Chi, and the Fleadh. Mohill Library also facilitated the launch of the Fit Farmer mobile app. Dromahair Library hosted two meetings by the Dromahair Welcomes You group.

Heritage Week

Ballinamore Library hosted Alanna Moore's talk "Legendary Leitrim: an exploration of ritual sites, megalithic monuments and fairy haunts" whose book of the same name was launched last year. Alanna explored the less trodden backways through rural backwaters where ancient history shimmers close to the surface, and introduced participants to almost forgotten locations and helped them understand the invisible dimensions of the landscape.

Dromahair Library facilitated the Leitrim Fieldnames Workshop where volunteers learned how to record the unique field names found in the county that offer insight into times past and the heritage of the county. The workshop was delivered by Abarta Heritage on behalf of Leitrim Heritage and Leitrim County Council.

Drumshanbo Library also hosted a talk by Archaeologist Alva MacGowan and Historian John Cronin which detailed the results of a recent county-wide field survey of Leitrim's Holy Wells, and explored the origins, names, associated rituals, healing and folklore associated with these culturally important sites.

Summer Stars

970 children in total registered for the Summer Stars reading campaign which ran from June to September. During the month of August, Library branches continued to host story times, drama, arts and crafts, poetry workshops and traddler sessions for children throughout the county.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION, SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Carrick on Shannon Business Campus (Enterprise Hub)

Meetings with BABLE GmbH and the working group continued in relation to the priming phase of the proposed Enterprise Hub at the Carrick-on-Shannon Business Campus.

Leitrim's Diaspora Strategy 2026-2030

The official launch event for the strategy took place at Margaret's Cottage, Carrigallen on 5th August 2026, which was well attended and received very good press coverage. The event was live streamed on the council's Facebook page.

Leitrim Economic Forum

Work continues on the Development of the Economic and Skills strategy for Leitrim and on the planning of the Leitrim Ambassadors Summit, two initiatives of the Forum. The summit is scheduled for 24th and 25th September 2026.

Shaping Leitrim- A Place led Economic and Skills Strategy for Leitrim 2026-2035.

The Strategy has now been finalised. Design and print work is now underway with the launch and publication expected later this month.

Global Business Network

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 8th September 2026.

"Most Definitely Leitrim" Remote Working/Croí Cónaithe Social Media Campaign

The campaign's success continued throughout August and is being received positively. It is set to run until mid-September. Responses to the remote working survey have been encouraging to date.

DRCDG Funded Schemes

An evaluation of Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) M1 and Project Development projects took place during August, and three Project Development Measure projects and six Measure 1 projects have been selected for onward submission to the Department.

TOURISM

Marketing Campaign

Preparations for the Autumn Marketing Campaign are progressing well. This year's campaign will feature a strong multi-channel approach, including TV advertising on RTÉ One, national radio, and an expanded digital media schedule. The digital component will include targeted social advertising, video on demand content, and retargeting campaigns designed to reach both domestic and international audiences interested in slow tourism, outdoor activities, and heritage experiences.

The Tourism team have also prepared editorial content for Spirit of Ireland magazine, which has substantial readership across the United States. This feature will highlight Leitrim's landscapes, food culture, and visitor experiences, offering valuable exposure in a key international market and supporting our long-term goal of increasing overseas visitation.

Social Media

Social media activity remained consistent and impactful throughout August. Content focused on promoting festivals and events, sharing local stories, and showcasing Leitrim's diverse tourism offering. Posts highlighted walking trails, water-based activities, artisan food producers, cultural venues, and family friendly experiences.

Influencer Collaboration: Sari Croakley (Irish on the Run)

We were delighted to host Sari Croakley, known as Irish on the Run, through a collaboration with Drumhierny Woodland Hideaway and Lough Rynn Castle Hotel, as part of our strategy to work with high engagement influencers who reflect Leitrim's values of wellness, nature, and authentic experiences. Throughout her stay, Sari shared her journey with her 224,000 Instagram followers, producing highly engaging posts and videos that showcased key Leitrim experiences including Glencar Waterfall, Mass Rock on Sliabh an Iarainn, stand up paddling on Acres Lake, dining at Jinny's Tearooms, the Landmark Hotel, The Oarsman, and Lough Rynn Castle, as well as an electric boat trip on the River Shannon. Her coverage provided an authentic and visually compelling portrayal of Leitrim's natural beauty, food culture, hospitality, and sustainable tourism, significantly boosting the county's visibility online and reinforcing its position as a must-visit destination for domestic and international travellers.

Angling Product Development

In partnership with Fáilte Ireland, and alongside county partners Roscommon, Longford, and Cavan, we continue to advance the development of a regional Angling Product. This initiative aims to strengthen the angling offering across the region, improve infrastructure, and enhance the visitor experience for both coarse and game anglers.

A series of detailed surveys were conducted with the angling community, gathering insights on preferred locations, service needs, accessibility, and expectations. These findings will inform future development plans, including potential improvements to access points, signage, amenities, and marketing materials. The project represents a significant opportunity to grow a niche tourism segment with strong potential for year-round activity.

Publicity

In August, we promoted the upcoming Organic Centre Apple Day, scheduled for September. This event attracted national, regional, and international publicity, with notable coverage in food and lifestyle magazines. The publicity emphasised Leitrim's commitment to sustainability, organic food production, and community led events, helping to position the county as a leader in eco-tourism and green living experiences.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

Training, Mentoring & Export

Demand for one-to-one mentoring continues to remain high. Assistance is also available on Export related issues and can be booked online free of charge to discuss any issues facing businesses or identifying and managing opportunities available for exporting.

All In A Days Work Programmes & Associated Financial Supports

The "All In A Days Work" campaign continues to be rolled out on the areas of Lean, Green and Digital supports. There is significant growth in demand for all three supports, in particular the Energy Efficiency Grant (EEG) and Grow Digital (GD) Voucher. The EEG, with up to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum

grant of €10,000 can be supported following the completion of a Green for Business, Green Start or a SEAI Energy Audit. The GD voucher is a grant covering 50% of eligible costs (minimum grant of €500 up to a maximum grant of €5,000) limited to new software subscriptions for a period of 12 and training and configuration of the software.

PEACE Plus – DS3 Project

Workshops and clinics with the Mobile Fab Lab are ongoing under the DS3 Project under PEACE Plus (Smart Towns & Villages). The project will run until July 2028 and offers free digital mentoring, skills development and community-focused digital inclusion activities. This programme is offered to SMEs, micro businesses, community/voluntary groups and individuals located in rural towns and villages. Schools can also avail of workshops with the mobile labs.

Creative Heartlands

The programme ‘Creative Heartlands on Screen’ continues with training and mentoring for the screen sector in Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon with funding from Screen Ireland. A comprehensive mentorship programme has been established. Partnership with Creative Skillsnet continues and is entering its third year.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Active Travel Scheme commenced construction by direct labour:

1. Carrigallen Permeability Active Travel Link	2. Castlecara Pedestrian Crossing
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Currently at Detailed Design Stage with consultants

1. Drumshanbo – Town Junction upgrade	2. Carrick on Shannon – Attifinlay Roundabout to Summerhill Active Travel Scheme
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Design and Part 8/Section 38 Planning are required for the following:

1. Ballynamony R280 AT Scheme	2. Manorhamilton – Park Road Upgrade	3. Ballinamore Junction Upgrade
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Safe Route to Schools

Safe Route to Schools Scheme currently under construction by Contractor:

1. Mohill Community College	2. Drumshanbo VS
3. St. Clare’s NS, Manorhamilton	4. Drumeela National School - Construction to commence by Contractor in Q4/2026.

Delivery Plan received and Design and Part 8 necessary for the following when resources allow:

1. SRTS Rd 3 – Ballinamore Scoil Chlann Naofa

Draft Delivery Plan received for the following from An Taisce:

1. SRTS Rd 4 – Scoil Mhuire Naofa (Carrigallen NS)
2. SRTS Rd 4 – St. Patrick’s NS, Drumshanbo

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Currently at construction by Contractor: Kinlough

Currently at Section 38 stage: Ballinamore – 1 no. Bus Shelters and 1 no. Bus stop.

Bus Shelters identified for progression in 2026 at following locations when resources allow: Mohill, Leitrim Village and Acres Lake, Drumshanbo

HOUSING, PLANNING, CORPORATE SERVICES AND TRANSFORMATION DIRECTORATE

HOUSING

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

- Target over 5 years 20 units of accommodation
- As of 31st August 2026, there was 8 No. Outputs achieved.
- This represents a 40% completion of the overall 5-year target.

Social Housing Applications & Allocations to date in 2026

- **109** – Applications received for Social Housing Support
- **523** – Social Housing Waitlist
- **64** – New Tenancies

Housing Maintenance

Private Rented Inspection Programme 2026

As part of its ongoing regulatory responsibilities, the Housing Department conducts annual inspections of private rented accommodation to ensure compliance with prescribed minimum standards. For the year 2026, the Department has set a target of **313**.

2026 Target for Inspection	No. of Dwelling inspections completed on 31 st August 2026	% Complete on 31 st August 2026 out of the overall target
313	312	99.68%

Stock Condition Surveys on Local Authority Houses 2026

The Housing Department have an annual target to inspect 20% of the Local Authority Housing Stock. (*The indicative target for the number of inspections in 2026 is **250** and this may be subject to change at a later date).

2026 Target for Surveys	No. of surveys completed on 31 st August 2026	% Complete on 31 st August 2026 out of the overall target.
250	142	56.8%

Energy Efficiency

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Scheme is ongoing. In 2026, Leitrim County Council has set a target of 16 units and progress is ongoing in achieving that target by the end of Q4 2026.

Housing Grants Summary 2026 (YTD)

- **97 grants** have been paid to date with a total value of **€602,078.75**.
- **69 grants** have been recouped, generating **€251,906.83**.
- A further **20 recoupment claims valued at €124,683** have been submitted to the DHLGH and are awaiting payment.

- **264 approved grants** remain in the pipeline with a value of **€1.243 million**.
- Total committed expenditure for 2026 is **€1.845 million**.

Activity under the Disabled Persons Grant Works on Local Authority Dwellings

For 2026, Leitrim County Council submitted a funding request to the Department for DPG works to 31 properties, consisting of adaptations to 30 no. properties and an extension to 1 no. property. Our funding request amounted to €284,670.

In response, the Department provided Leitrim County Council with a funding allocation of €183,266 – a shortfall of €101,404 from what was requested. Therefore, Leitrim County Council have reduced our DPG programme for 2026 to now include adaptation works to 29 no. properties.

To date in 2026, works have been completed on DPG adaptations in 20 no. properties.

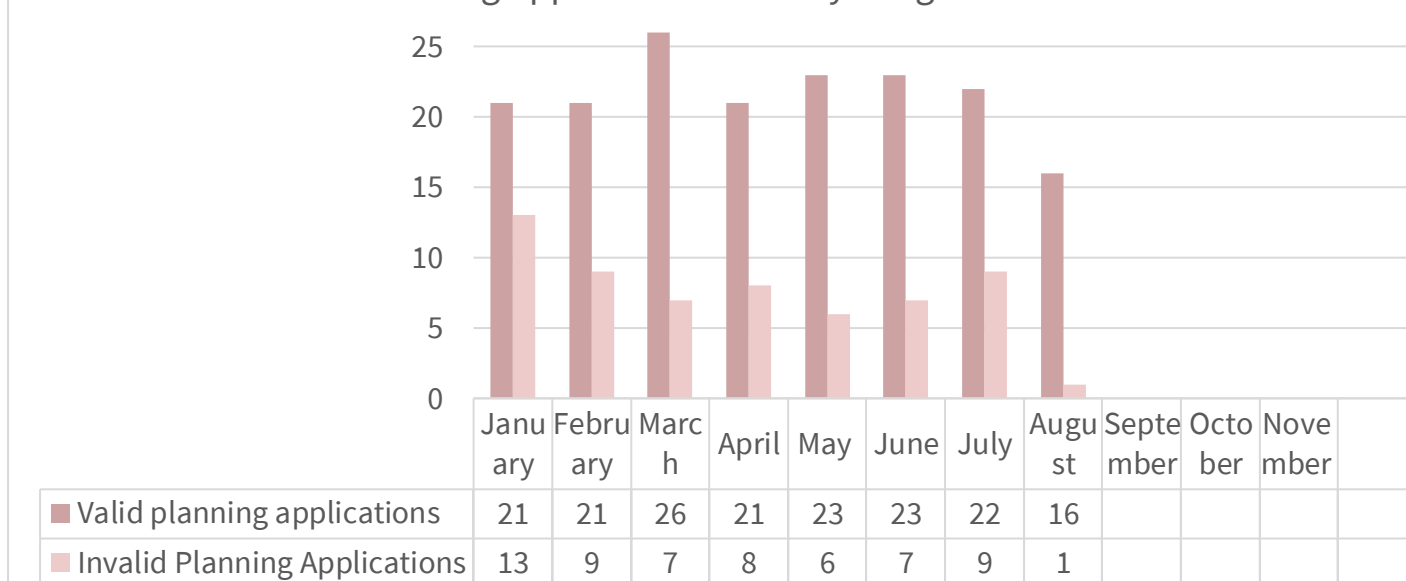
Housing Capital

The Housing Capital Team continue to progress the delivery of the annual targets under ‘*Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025 – 2030*’. Details on the social housing (new housing construction dwellings pipelined for delivery) are as outlined in the table below:

2026 Pipeline Delivery Projects		
Project (Number of Houses)	Delivery Mechanism	Status
Newtowngore (7)	Direct Build	Q2
Sean McDermott Street (4)	Direct Build	Q3
Dromahair (2)	Turnkey	Q3
Drumkeerin (3)	Turnkey	Q4
Kinlough (2)	Turnkey	Q3
Drumshanbo (1)	Part V	Q4
Kinlough (1)	Part V	Q3
Dromod – Fairways (2)	Part V	Q2
Dromod (2)	Turnkey	Q4
Total No. of Units projected for delivery in 2026	28	

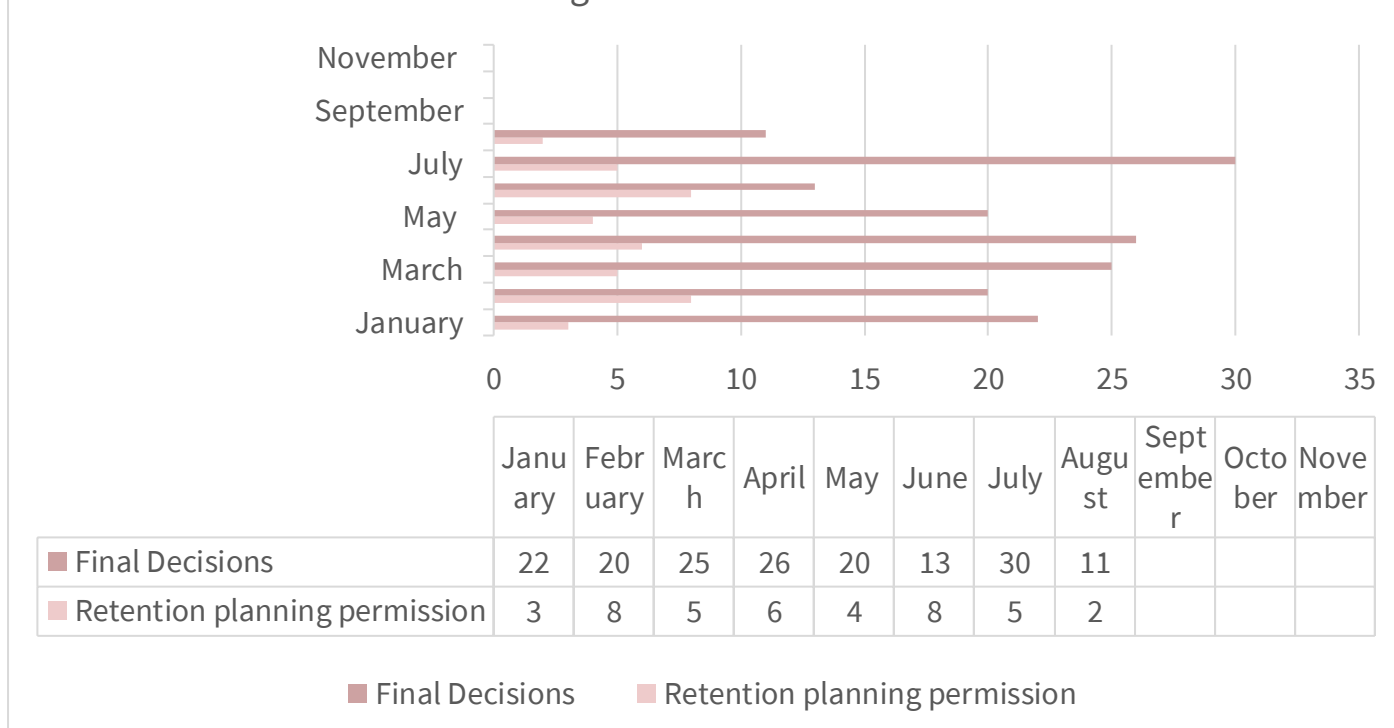
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Applications January - August 2026



The Part 8 Public Consultation processes for 1 no. project were underway in August. A proposed electric vehicle charging infrastructure project in Ballinamore was placed on public display on 24th July with submissions to be received no later than 10th September.

Breakdown of Planning Decisions To Date 2026



Forward Planning

Variation to County Development Plan 2023-2029

A series of modifications to the proposed Variation were approved by the members to be placed on public display and subject to screening for SEA and AA under their respective EU Directives. The modifications

were deemed to be material in nature and were placed on public display on Wednesday 5th August, and will be on public display until the 2nd of September.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Draft RZLT maps were published on Friday 30th January and public consultation ran until April 1st. 2 no. submissions were received requesting lands to be dezoned or rezoned. One of which relates to a site zoned residential use in Kinlough and the other of which is zoned residential in Drumshanbo. It is proposed to amend the zoning of both sites in the proposed Variation to the County Development Plan and the decision on each submission reflects same.

Heritage

- Heritage Week took place from 15th to 23rd August with 28 no. events having taken place across Co. Leitrim. All heritage events across the county were co-ordinated and promoted. Several events were commissioned by the Heritage Officer including a Leitrim Fieldnames Project Workshop; an open day and basket weaving demonstration at Glenview Folk Museum; a talk at St. Hugh's Well, Ballinagleragh on Folk Medicine and Modernity; a talk on Holy Wells in Leitrim followed by a guided walk; and an exhibition showcasing participants work from the Stories in Stitches project.
- The cross-border Shared Island funded *Mummers Join* project is progressing. School workshops and a Harvest Meitheal have been planned for September.
- The *Leitrim Community Holy Wells* project is progressing, with volunteers carrying out and submitting their research to the project.
- The *Leitrim Community Fieldnames* project is progressing. Workshops have taken place to directly engage farmers and volunteers are being coordinated.
- The Creative Ireland 'Stories in Striches' *Traditional Aran Knitting* project is progressing. Workshops for both beginners and advanced knitters have been completed, and participants knitting pieces are on display in The Dock. A short film is being developed which will celebrate the knitting traditions in Leitrim.
- The *Community Monument Fund 2026* projects continue to be managed for both the Old Church of Ireland, Manorhamilton conservation works and the Manorhamilton Castle Conservation Management Plan.
- A further two *Connecting Through Heritage* podcast episodes have been recorded which will focus on the Leitrim Fieldnames Project and the Leitrim Holy Wells Project.
- The Leitrim Heritage Plan 2026 – 2031 has been finalised and will be submitted for approval at the September Council meeting.

SIGNED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Signed: 
Joseph Gilhooly Chief Executive

Date: 14th September 2026