

PRESS RELEASE

15th June 2026

Leitrim County Council Launches Major Community Fund to Support Tidy Towns and Local Environmental Action

IPB Insurance & Leitrim County Council Launch €100,000 Local Fund to Support “Communities Working Together for Climate”

The largest-ever coordinated community fund of its kind in Ireland has been launched locally today by **Leitrim County Council**, as part of a nationwide €3m+ initiative supporting Tidy Towns groups, residents’ associations and community organisations engaged in environmental action.

The IPB Insurance & Local Government Ireland Community Fund, also known as the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF), is a national partnership between IPB Insurance and all 31 local authorities. For **Leitrim County Council**, this will see approximately €100,000 in funding being made available to local Tidy Towns, Residents’ Associations and groups undertaking similar activities that support community-led projects focused on environmental enhancement, biodiversity and climate action.

The initiative forms part of IPB Insurance’s centenary year, marking 100 years of partnering with local authorities in protecting and supporting communities across Ireland. In partnership with Local Government Ireland, representing all 31 local authorities, the Fund represents a shared commitment to empower communities to take practical action to improve their local environment. The Fund will support Tidy Towns committees, Residents’ Associations and voluntary community groups registered with the Public Participation Network (PPN), and encourages collaboration with schools, sports clubs and local organisations under the theme “Communities Working Together for Climate.”

Funding in **Leitrim County Council** will be delivered through a matched funding model, combining IPB Insurance contributions with existing local authority supports and environmental funding programmes. **Mary Quinn, Deputy** Chief Executive of **Leitrim County Council**, said:

“This funding represents a real opportunity for communities across Leitrim to turn local ambition into meaningful action. Whether it’s enhancing green spaces, supporting biodiversity or encouraging more sustainable practices, we know the ideas and energy already exist within our towns and villages. Through this initiative, we are helping to grow that potential and support communities in creating lasting environmental improvements that will benefit future generations. This initiative also highlights the power of partnership between local government and IPB Insurance, delivering meaningful investment directly to our communities.”

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paddy Farrell said “Leitrim has a strong tradition of community spirit, and this fund recognises the dedication of the volunteers who work tirelessly to improve their local areas. It is encouraging to see investment that not only supports practical projects but also brings people together around a shared goal of protecting our environment and enhancing our local communities. I would encourage all eligible groups to take part and make the most of this valuable opportunity.”

John Hogan, Chair of IPB Insurance, highlighted the Fund's importance within IPB's Centenary Year saying, *“As Ireland’s local government mutual insurer, IPB Insurance exists to protect our Members who, every day, serve the public and their communities. Our mutual ethos goes beyond insurance, it’s about giving back and supporting initiatives that strengthen communities and enhance places. In our Centenary Year, this Fund represents a meaningful investment in the future of towns and communities across Ireland, delivered in partnership with the local authorities who founded IPB. I am particularly delighted to see the fund launching here today in Leitrim.*

The IPB Insurance and Local Government Ireland LEAF initiative builds on the strength and legacy of the Tidy Towns movement and community volunteers nationwide, whose contributions play a key role in enhancing quality of life and supporting Ireland’s climate and biodiversity goals. It also marks the first anniversary of the Tidy Towns Insurance Scheme partnership, which has removed insurance barriers for eligible groups.

About the Fund

The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) is designed to:

- Support environmental enhancement, biodiversity and climate action projects
- Empower Tidy Towns committees and voluntary groups
- Encourage collaboration between community organisations and local stakeholders
- Deliver visible, practical improvements in local areas

Local authorities administer the Fund within their areas, aligning national objectives with local priorities.

Further Information

Guidance Documentation and Application Forms are available on the Community Development page of Leitrim County Council’s Website:

www.leitrim.ie/council/services/community-development/funding/local-environmental-action-fund

For more information, please contact:

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Deadline for applications is 13th July 2026

About IPB Insurance

IPB Insurance is Ireland’s only indigenous mutual insurer, founded by local authorities 100 years ago. Owned by its Members, IPB supports the public, community and voluntary sectors by protecting public assets and reinvesting in communities.

About the CCMA

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) represent the Chief Executives of all county and city councils and plays a central role in advancing local government policy and collaboration.