

# LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

## 2026



**Celebrating Community Excellence in Leitrim**

*An initiative by Leitrim County Council  
and Leitrim Public Participation Network*



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council



Public  
Participation  
Network **Leitrim**

## What are the Love Where You Live Awards?

The Love Where You Live Awards celebrate the spirit, dedication, and creativity of the people of County Leitrim. These awards recognise the contributions made by community groups, schools, and individuals who work every day to make Leitrim a better place for everyone.

Jointly organised by Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Public Participation Network, the awards offer a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on local projects and initiatives that help create an ambitious, thriving, vibrant, sustainable, and connected Leitrim.

Entries for the 2026 Love Where You Live Awards open on 9<sup>th</sup> April and the closing date for submissions is 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Following judging in June and July, all entries will be invited to a Gala Awards event on the 1<sup>st</sup> October where the winners will be announced and all of the efforts and achievements of communities across Leitrim will be recognised.

Enter online by completing the Entry Form on the Leitrim County Council website.

## Award Categories

For 2026, there are 7 award categories. Primary Schools, Green Community, Green Estate, Social Inclusion, Community Achievement, Age Friendly and new to 2026, the Gen Z Impact Award.



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## Primary Schools Competition

The Love Where You Live Primary Schools Competition is an annual competition to recognise and celebrate the work of our schools, pupils and teachers. For the school year 2025/2026, Leitrim County Council invites Primary Schools throughout County Leitrim to enter a Climate Action themed project. This could be an existing project that you are already working on within the school or it could be a new project. All primary schools in County Leitrim have been notified of the competition and invited to enter. Participating Primary Schools will be visited and judged in May and the winning schools will be presented with their prizes in June at their school.

*One winner and one runner up will be selected for each Municipal District.*

## Green Community

This award celebrates the outstanding work of Community and Voluntary Groups who are helping to improve, revitalise, and protect their local environment. It recognises groups who create pride of place, foster inclusivity, and make their area a more attractive, welcoming, and enjoyable place to live.

Examples of eligible projects include planting to support biodiversity, heritage or conservation initiatives, recycling programmes, litter control, waterways protection, and other environmental actions that strengthen local communities.

*One winner in each Municipal District and one overall highly commended.*

## Green Estate

This award celebrates the positive contributions made by housing estates, residential areas, and apartment complexes to improve, revitalise, and protect their local environment. It recognises the achievements of residents who foster pride, inclusivity, and community spirit, helping to make where they live a more attractive, welcoming, and enjoyable place to live.

Examples of eligible projects include planting to promote biodiversity, heritage or conservation initiatives, recycling efforts, litter control, and activities that encourage social inclusion.

*One winner in each Municipal District and one overall highly commended.*



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## Age Friendly Community

This award celebrates Age Friendly initiatives that empower older people to take the lead in shaping community life.

It recognises projects driven by older people where their voices, skills, experience, and passions guide the work being done. These projects strengthen confidence, encourage independence, and support older people to stay active, connected, and central to community life.

Examples include projects led by older people, Active Age groups, and local Women's or Men's Groups, any initiative where older adults are actively shaping and contributing to a vibrant community.

*One winner in each Municipal District and one overall highly commended.*

## Social Inclusion

To enter this PPN-sponsored award, your group must be registered with Leitrim PPN.

It celebrates groups that open their doors wide, ensuring that activities, supports, and community life are welcoming, accessible, and meaningful for all. These groups play an essential role in building a more connected, inclusive Leitrim by empowering people of all backgrounds, abilities, and identities to get involved, contribute, and feel a genuine sense of belonging. Whether through social activities, advocacy, education, wellbeing programmes, or community projects, these initiatives help people thrive and participate fully in local life.

Examples of eligible groups include: Groups working with older people, Disability and accessibility groups, Ethnic minority and migrant support groups, Travelling Community initiatives, LGBTQ+ and Pride community groups, Homeless support groups, Men's and Hen's Sheds - Any community group that strives to make participation open to all.

*One winner in each Municipal District and one overall highly commended.*



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## Community Achievement

To enter this PPN-sponsored award, your group must be registered with Leitrim PPN.

This award honours groups and organisations that provide essential, valued services within their local community, those who work every day to ensure a high quality of life for everyone. It shines a light on the achievements, dedication, and contributions of groups that make a real difference, strengthening community wellbeing, connection, and resilience.

Examples of eligible groups include: Community Centres, Community Alert groups, Children and Youth Services, Family Resource Centres, Defibrillator / First Responder groups, Heritage and culture groups, Community Development Associations, Community Councils or any organisation providing a meaningful service that enhances life in the local community

*One winner in each Municipal District and one overall highly commended.*

## Gen Z Impact Award

### **New for 2026!**

Open to individual young people aged 13–23, this award celebrates the creativity, kindness, and leadership that Gen Z brings to their communities. It shines a spotlight on young people who are taking action, big or small, to make life better for those around them. Nominees may be involved in anything from volunteering to initiatives that promote inclusion, belonging, or support for others. What matters most is the positive difference they make and their commitment to empowering others to love where they live.

Impact comes in many forms. It might be a young person who checks in on a neighbour, someone who always steps up to help when needed, or young person leading an ambitious community project.



Entries are welcome from individuals only (groups cannot apply). Nominations can be made by the young people themselves or by someone who knows them. If you are nominating someone else, please make sure to let them know in advance.

Examples include: Volunteering and community service, Supporting people in need, Local community initiatives, School or youth-led projects.

*One overall winner who will receive a trophy on award night*

***The Gen Z Impact Award is supported by Peace Plus***



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# Marking Criteria

## Primary Schools Competition

*Judging involves visiting schools who have entered the competition and engaging with the pupils*

Criteria	Marks
Research and Awareness	30
Link with Local Community	20
Practical Actions	20
Ongoing Participation of pupils	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Green Community

*Judging involves visiting the area and meeting with the volunteers*

Criteria	Marks
Voluntary Community Effort	25
Nature and Biodiversity	20
Sustainability	20
Litter Control	15
Improvement	15
Overall Impression	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



## Green Estate

*Judging involves visiting the estate and meeting with the volunteers*

Criteria	Marks
Voluntary Community Effort	25
Nature and Biodiversity	20
Sustainability	20
Litter Control	15
Improvement	15
Overall Impression	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Age Friendly Community

*Judging involves visiting the groups and meeting with volunteers*

Criteria	Marks
Responsive/Flexible	20
Overcoming Challenges	20
Collaboration	20
Innovation	20
Improvement	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Social Inclusion

*Judging involves visiting the groups and meeting with volunteers*

Criteria	Marks
Voluntary involvement and Participation	20
Support Socially Excluded Groups	30
Achievements and Initiatives	30
Endeavour (Improvement)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



## Community Achievement

*Judging involves visiting the groups and meeting with volunteers*

Criteria	Marks
Voluntary involvement and Participation	20
Overcoming Challenges	20
Vision and Purpose	20
Innovation/Flexibility	20
Endeavour (Improvement)	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## Gen Z Impact Award

*Judging involves an online meeting where the young person will have the opportunity to share more about the work they do. Leitrim County Council are committed to ensuring that all needs are fully supported throughout the process. Nominees will receive clear communication regarding the meeting and all supports will be made available to them.*

Criteria	Marks
Vision and Purpose	40
Impact	40
Overcoming Challenges	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

