VOLUME 3
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PEACEPLUS LEITRIM

Comhairle Chontae Liatroma | Leitrim County Council

PEACEPLUS Northern Ireland - Ireland
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NEWSLETTER



PEACEPLUS– QQI Level 7 Participants at NUI Maynooth Residental Weekend

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Building Peaceful, Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Across Leitrim and the Border Region.

Over the past year, communities across County Leitrim have been actively engaging in a wide range of PEACEPLUS-funded activities aimed at strengthening community relations, promoting inclusion, supporting environmental awareness, developing leadership skills and enhancing wellbeing.

This edition highlights the achievements of participants, community groups and delivery partners who continue to contribute to the success of the Leitrim PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Members of the community have engaged across multiple strands of delivery, the programme is creating meaningful opportunities for learning, collaboration and positive change throughout the county. Enclosed is a snap shot of what has been happening throughout 2026.



PEACEPLUS– QQI Level 7 Participants at NUI Maynooth Residental Weekend



The PEACEPLUS team is also looking forward to supporting participants as they move forward with the development and delivery of their community-based projects, putting their learning into practice and creating positive change within their communities. We look forward to sharing more details on these exciting initiatives in the coming months.



The Level 7 Community Work in a Changing Ireland programme recently concluded, marking the end of a rewarding learning journey for participants. On 19th June, students gathered for their closing residential, where they delivered their final group presentations, demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and critical understanding they had developed throughout the programme.

The group came together once more in mid-July for an online review meeting, providing an opportunity to reflect on their learning, achievements, and the impact the programme had on their personal and professional development. The quality of work produced was outstanding and reflected a strong commitment to community development, social justice, and positive change.

We are delighted to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the 23 students who successfully completed the programme. We now look forward to joining them as they celebrate their graduation on 6th November. Congratulations to all involved on this significant achievement from the PEACEPLUS Team and all here in Leitrim County Council.





PEACEPLUS Environmental Awareness and Biodiversity Programme

Regular Steering Committee meetings have been held since the project commenced in December 2025, bringing together representatives from Leitrim and Fermanagh across farming, environmental, community and local authority organisations. The Steering Committee has helped guide the development of the project, identify key environmental priorities and support the development and delivery of the farm and community elements of tthe programme. The most recent meeting was held on the 8th of September 2026 and provided an update on progress across all projects.

Membership on the steering committee includes representatives from Leitrim County Council, the Biodiversity Office, Community Development, Leitrim Sustainable Agriculture Group, Department of Agriculture, ACRES Breifne, IFA, Ulster Wildlife, LAWPRO, and the West Fermanagh Farmers Cluster.

HABITAT FOR KNOWLEDGE





The Cross Community Biodiversity Project brings together community groups from locations across County Leitrim, including; Ballinamore, Drumkeeran, Drumshanbo, Kinlough, Leitrim Village, Carrigallen, Mohill, Carrick on Shannon, Drumreilly.

The objectives are to bring communities together to work in collaboration to develop and deliver biodiversity projects that address local environmental priorities. Habitat for Knowledge, a local agency appointed by PEACEPLUS in June 2026, is supporting participating groups through biodiversity training, awareness events, and practical project development. Planned initiatives include biodiversity sensory gardens, biodiversity action plans, pollinator-friendly planting, and community biodiversity enhancement projects designed to build local knowledge, capacity, and environmental stewardship. Yosef from Habitat for Knowledge can be contacted directly on yosef@habitatforknowledge.ie for information on events in your area.



Cross-Border Farm & Biodiversity Awareness Programme

Delivered by Philip Farrelly & Co. on behalf of Leitrim County Council, this programme aims to increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity and sustainable land management practices among farmers and rural communities. Through a series of demonstration farms, training workshops, educational events, and cross-border learning opportunities, participants gain practical knowledge on enhancing biodiversity, improving environmental sustainability, and adopting nature-friendly farming practices. The programme also encourages collaboration and knowledge exchange between farming communities across the border, supporting a shared commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

An information evening was held in Belcoo in April, attended by 30 farmers, followed by an Expression of Interest process which received 18 applications. Four demonstration farms were selected across Leitrim and Fermanagh. Farm visits were completed by Phillip Farrelly & Co. between June and August and individual Biodiversity Action Plans have now been developed, with practical measures including hedgerow restoration and planting, native tree planting, pond creation and habitat enhancement. The biodiversity works are due to begin once contractors are in place. Wider farmer awareness is also being supported through cross-border knowledge-sharing activities, the first field trip took place at the WaterLANDS peatland restoration site at Bencroy, Co. Leitrim on the 22nd of September. The morning began at Ballinaglera Hall (N41 A2N8) with a short presentation followed by a visit to Bencroy Moutain to see the restoration works first-hand. The group found the trip extremely interesting and informative.

Lough Melvin & Lough MacNean Biodiversity Project

This project promotes biodiversity and community engagement in the Lough McNean and Lough Melvin catchment.

The community project application process was launched in April 2026, with three applications received and all three groups selected to take part in the programme in May. The selected groups are Belcoo Community Centre Youth Club, Garrison Youth Club and Glenfarne Community Development Trust.

The projects will focus on the development of an outdoor biodiversity and youth green space in Belcoo, biodiversity and environmental awareness along the Glenfarne Greenway, and water quality awareness with Garrison Youth Club.

Following the summer break, engagement with the groups resumed in September, with the next stage focusing on developing the projects with the groups, establishing partnerships and planning cross-border learning and field trips.

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PEACEPLUS Traveller Programme

The PEACEPLUS Traveller Heritage and Culture Event, held on 4 September in the Market Yard and The Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, was a tremendous success, bringing together members of the Traveller and settled communities for a vibrant celebration of culture, heritage, and community spirit. The afternoon event showcased the richness of Traveller heritage through music, storytelling, conversation, and cultural displays, while the evening concluded with lively entertainment, music, and dancing.

The PEACEPLUS Traveller Project continues to make strong progress, with a range of upcoming activities focused on creativity, capacity building, and community engagement.
On 28 September, poetry and creative writing workshops will begin. The sessions will be facilitated by an artist, with illustration work scheduled for October and early November.

On 30 September, eight participants will commence a Train the Trainer programme, helping to build skills and capacity within the project team. A cross-border women's capacity-building event will take place on 5 October at Lusty Beg Island, Fermanagh, bringing together participants from Leitrim and Fermanagh and Omagh Traveller groups. Fifteen women will attend a day of discussion, learning, and activities.

The project will also host a private screening of their Short Story Film and post-production celebration on 23 October, providing an opportunity for ten children and four staff members to come together with families to celebrate the completion of their work and the achievements of the project to date.

With a strong programme of activities planned over the coming weeks, the PEACEPLUS Traveller Project is continuing to build confidence, skills, creativity, and cross-border connections. The positive engagement from participants reflects the project's growing impact, and the team looks forward to supporting further opportunities for learning, collaboration, and community development as the project progresses.



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Capital Project Updates

Community & Youth Arts Space, Carrick-on-Shannon

The community space Main Street, Carrick-on-Shannon is nearing completion and will be ready shortly for community bookings. Suggestions as to what to call the building have been sought from the community and we will update on this once this has been finalised.

For more details on when it will be ready for use, visit www.leitrimcoco.ie





The Kinlough Solar Power Project continues to advance, supporting the delivery of sustainable energy solutions for local community facilities. Together, these investments are helping to create vibrant, inclusive and sustainable community spaces that will benefit residents across County Leitrim for years to come.





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Capital Project Updates

Play & Art Therapy Centre, Drumkeeran

The construction phase is complete and furniture has now been ordered with the intention that the facility will be ready for use over the coming weeks. (October 26)





The **Lurganboy Community Space project** has secured a contractor and works will be commencing shortly to create a welcoming space to be used by community groups.





The **MUGA in Ballinamore** (multi use games area) is on schedule to be completed by year end. The contractor has been appointed, construction works have commenced in September with an estimated 8-week programme deadline. The multi use games area will be ready to be enjoyed by the community by year end for many years to come.





PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS programme represents a funding partnership between the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.
It is a project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

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More information on the Leitrim PEACEPLUS Action Plan

For further details on our Action Plan please visit our website at www.leitrim.ie or if you want to sign up for our e-newsletter
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