



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

DRAFT

Litter Management Plan

2026-2028





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1. INTRODUCTION

Leitrim, often referred to as “*Lovely Leitrim*”, is renowned for its unspoilt, natural beauty and healthy environment. This unique landscape is central to the well-being of its people and is a vital asset for key local industries, particularly tourism and agri-food, both of which rely heavily on maintaining a clean, pristine setting.

In recent years, there has been significant investment in the **Shannon–Erne Waterway** and in advancing **Blueway/Greenway** projects. These developments are designed to enhance public access to natural amenities, while promoting biodiversity and sustainable tourism.



Ballinamore Greenway

Leitrim County Council plays a critical role in managing and protecting the local environment. One of the most visible and persistent environmental challenges is **littering**. Litter not only detracts from the visual appeal of the county, but also harms wildlife, damages ecosystems, pollutes waterways, and diminishes community pride and visitor experience.

A core objective of the Council’s **Corporate Plan 2026-2028** is to make Leitrim the best possible place to live, work, and visit. To achieve this, the environment must be placed at the centre of all policy and decision-making processes. This requires the integration of environmental, economic, and social goals in a balanced and sustainable manner.



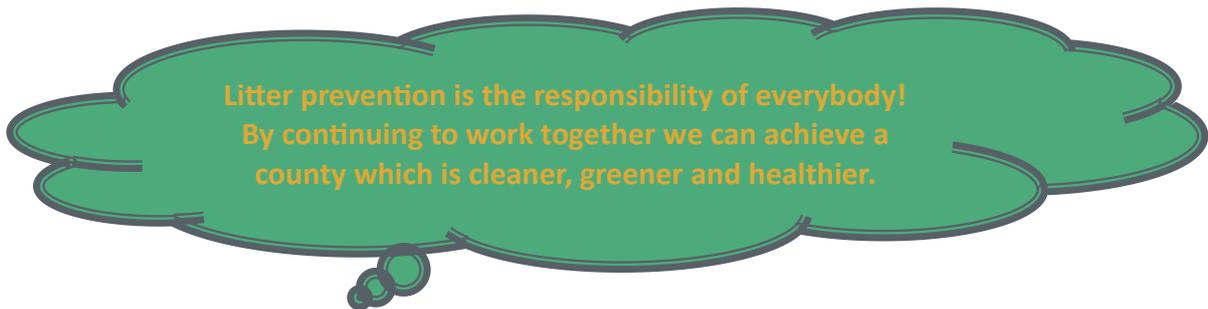
DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2028

The following Plan has been developed in alignment with the other local and national plans detailed below, having regard to environmental protection:

- Leitrim County Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2029
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029
- Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Leitrim County Council's County Development Plan 2023-2029
- National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024–2030
- County Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

However, protecting and enhancing Leitrim's environment is not the responsibility of the Council alone!

It is a shared responsibility - one that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, businesses, and all sectors of society!



Together, through collective action and shared stewardship, we can ensure that Leitrim remains a clean, vibrant, and sustainable county for generations to come.



Dromod Tidy Towns in action with tractor & trailer



2. STATUTORY OBLIGATION



In accordance with Section 10 of the ***Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended)***, Leitrim County Council is required to adopt a Litter Management Plan.

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended) serves as the principal legislation aimed at addressing littering across Ireland. It mandates that each local authority create, implement and review a Litter Management Plan for their area every three years. The purpose of this plan is not only to tackle the ongoing issue of litter pollution but also to enhance public awareness, improve preventative measures, and enforce anti-littering policies.

The Litter Management Plan is a Reserved Function of the Elected Members of the local authority, meaning that the responsibility for its creation and implementation lies directly with local government. Each local authority is tasked with enforcing the litter legislation in their jurisdiction and is granted the authority to take necessary enforcement actions against individuals or entities who violate these regulations.



Litter remains a significant and growing issue in Leitrim. The persistence of litter pollution has been highlighted as one of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the county and the country as a whole.

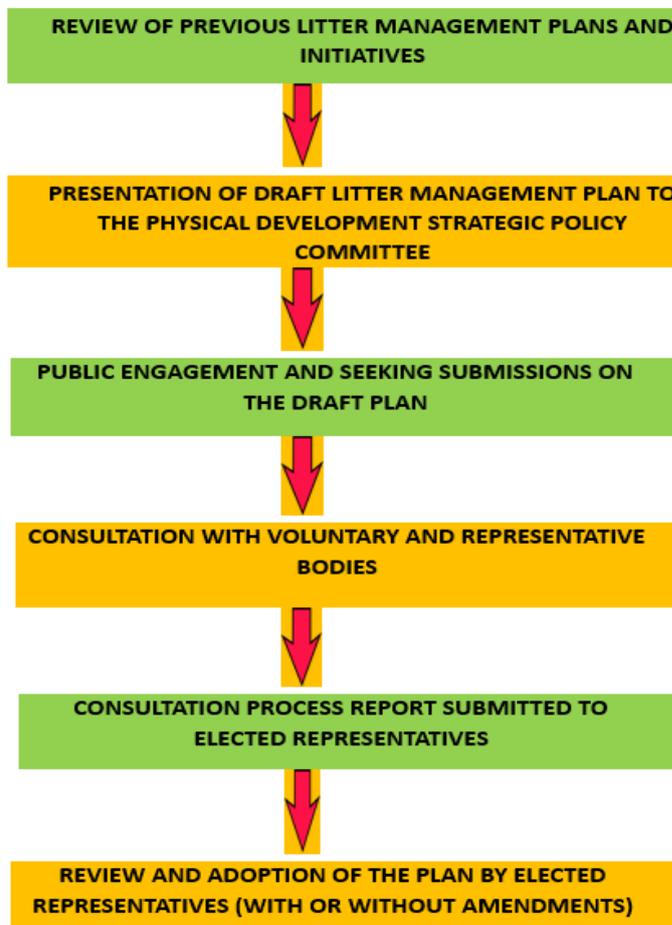
While Leitrim County Council has made strides in addressing this issue, the reality remains that litter pollution is a pervasive problem that requires ongoing effort and commitment from all sectors of society. The adoption of a comprehensive Litter Management Plan will be an important step in the battle against litter pollution, improving the county's environment and ensuring a cleaner, safer place for both residents and visitors.



3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Members of the Physical Environment Strategic Policy Committee	
LCC elected Member	Cllr. Eddie Mitchell (Chairperson)
LCC elected Member	Cllr. James Gilmartin
LCC elected Member	Cllr. Mary Bohan
LCC elected Member	Cllr. Irene Guckian Rabbitte
LCC elected Member	Cllr. Róisín Kenny
LCC elected Member	Cllr. Ita Reynolds Flynn
Agriculture / Farming – IFA	James Gallagher
PPN – Environment Conservation	Trevor Seery
PPN - Community/Voluntary	Brian Smyth
PPN - Community/Voluntary	To be nominated

The following consultation process is required to prepare this plan under the Litter Management Act 1997 (as amended). The feedback received through the Public Consultation Process contributed to the objectives and actions of this plan.





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Your opinion matters!

Our aim is to inform, engage and promote participation across communities in identifying and delivering place-based solutions to achieve their ambitions.



Drumshanbo Bring Bank Centre Following Clean Up 2025



4. DEFINITION OF LITTER

Definition of Litter as per the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended):

“Litter” means a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the [Waste Management Act, 1996](#), which is properly consigned for disposal) that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, deleterious, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other such substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit”.

The definition of **litter** under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended), is indeed quite broad and covers a wide range of activities and items that could contribute to environmental pollution.

To break it down:

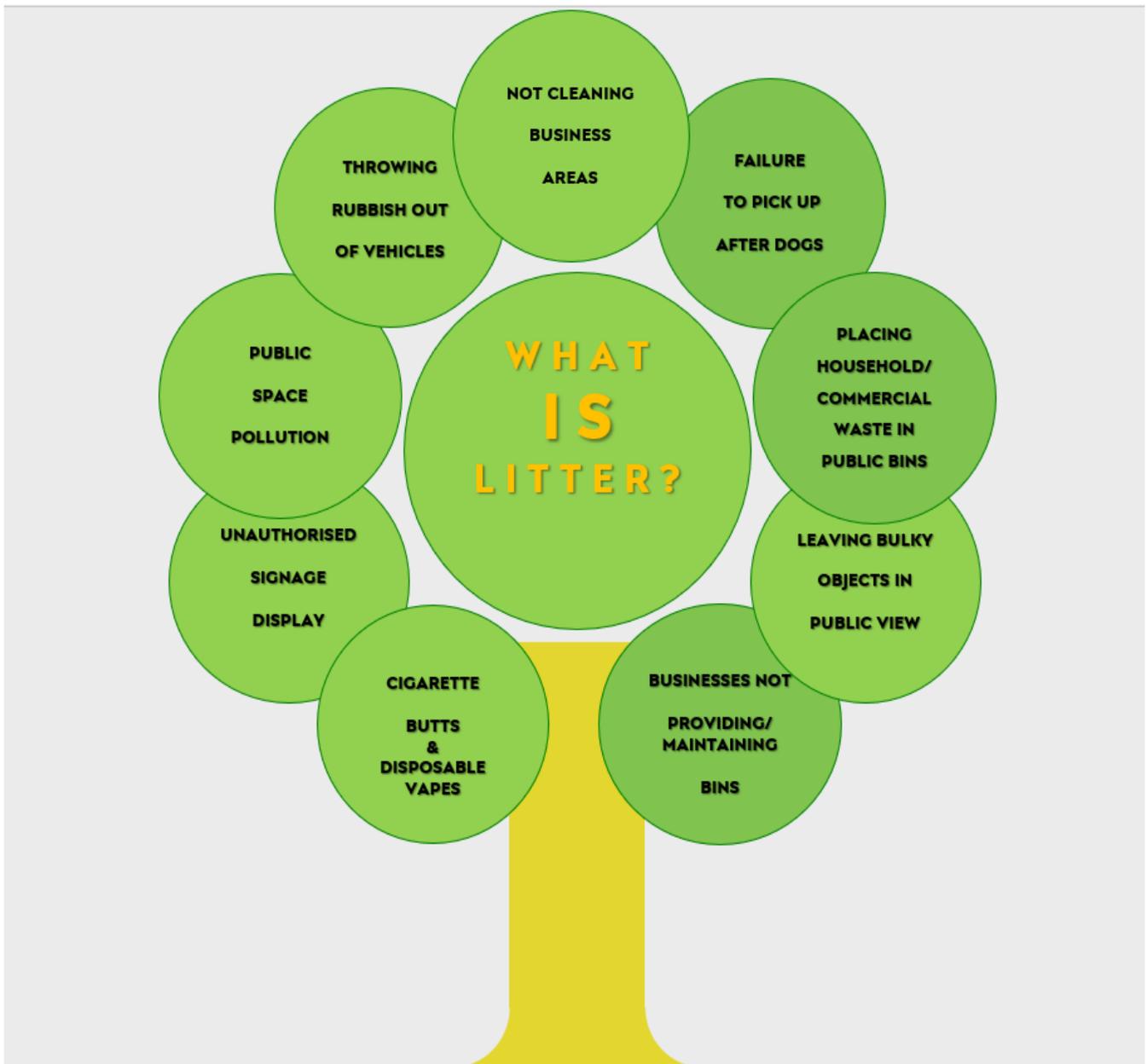
- (i) **Graffiti:** Unauthorised markings on surfaces, typically walls or public property, are considered litter because they degrade the appearance of an area.
- (ii) **Fly-tipping:** This refers to the illegal dumping of waste, in public or private spaces without permission.
- (iii) **Domestic Refuse in Litter Bins:** Even though litter bins are meant for waste disposal, placing domestic refuse (household waste) that doesn't belong there is considered littering.
- (iv) **Casual Littering:** This includes common waste materials like:
 - Papers
 - Cigarette Butts
 - Chewing Gum
 - Disposable Vaping Devices
 - Coffee/Teacups
- (v) **Unauthorised Advertising:** Posting flyers, posters, or signs without permission, which often leads to unwanted visual clutter on public spaces, is also considered a form of litter.
- (vi) **Dog Fouling:** The failure to clean up after dogs, leaving waste in public spaces, is seen as a form of litter.
- (vii) **Anything Likely to Become Unsightly:** This is a broad catch-all provision, covering items or waste that might not seem problematic initially but could lead to environmental degradation or visual pollution over time.

This wide-ranging definition helps address various types of pollution and improper waste management that affect public spaces, and it aims to keep communities clean and pleasant for residents and visitors alike.



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The Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) defines littering as an **offence** and assigns responsibility for litter control to producers, retailers and business owners, to facilitate the enforcement of litter offences, to define local authority responsibilities with respect to litter management planning, supervision, prevention and control.





5. SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The **Litter Management Plan 2026 – 2028** will serve as the framework for anti-litter initiatives undertaken by Leitrim County Council during the lifetime of the plan.

Its primary objective is the **continuous reduction of litter pollution levels across the county**. Progress on the implementation of the plan will be **monitored annually** to ensure effectiveness and accountability.

The programme of measures, subject to available resources, will include:

- **Education and Awareness initiatives**
- **Partnership and Community Support**
- **Litter Prevention and Control measures**
- **Enforcement and Regulation measures**



Through education, compliance measures and collaboration with stakeholders, the plan will contribute to a cleaner, greener and healthier county for citizens and visitors alike.

The **Litter Management Plan** will be available to view at Leitrim County Council's offices and on our website www.leitrim.ie.



6. ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

Leitrim County Council has adopted Bylaws to prevent the creation of and the control litter within the County. The Byelaws are designed to work alongside and build upon the existing enforcement framework of the [Litter Pollution Act 1997, \(as amended\)](#).

BYELAWS

- (i) Promoters/Organisers of major events are required to submit a Litter Management Plan to the Local Authority for approval not less than three weeks before the event and this Litter Management Plan shall provide for:
- Ongoing management of litter during the event:
 - Cleaning of public area after the event
 - Disposal of litter in an appropriate manner



- (ii) Local community events shall be deemed to have complied with this byelaw, provided that satisfactory consultation takes place with the relevant District Engineer, prior to the event.
- (iii) The Occupier of any premises selling sweets, confectionery or other items likely to generate litter shall:
- Provide a litter bin(s) immediately outside their business premises, of suitable design and size, with specifications to be approved in advance by the Local Authority
 - Service this bin(s) and ensure its availability for use during business opening hours
 - Provide suitable signage encouraging the use of said bins.



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- (iv) The Occupier of fast-food / takeaway food premises shall:
- Provide packaging/wrapping indicating the business trade name.
 - Discontinue to use tinfoil as a wrapping.
 - Provide a litter bin(s) immediately outside their business premises of suitable design and size, with specifications to be approved in advance by the Local Authority.
 - Service said bin(s) and ensure its availability for use during business opening hours.
 - Provide suitable signage encouraging the use of said bin(s).
 - Ensure the ongoing cleanup of litter within a radius of 50m of the business premises.
- (v) The Occupier of any shop / restaurant / licenced premises, shall:
- Keep the pavement adjoining their business premises free from litter on an ongoing basis during business opening hours.
 - Power wash pavement adjoining their business premises on a regular basis where the nature of business operations results in the pavement becoming unduly dirty.
- (vi) Where the patrons of any premises produce cigarette litter the Occupier of such premises shall:
- Provide and service a suitable receptacle for such cigarette waste generated at their premises and ensure its availability for use during business hours.
 - Ensure the removal of all cigarette waste on the pavement adjoining the business premises and the roadway adjoining said pavement on an ongoing basis, but in any event not later than 9.00am in all cases.



Image courtesy of Leitrim Tourism - Carrick on Shannon Tidy Towns Project



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Householders and business owners are legally required to ensure that waste is disposed of responsibly. Waste must be segregated into separate fractions to facilitate the collection of dry recyclables, organic waste, and general waste.

It is an offence to use any service other than an authorised waste collection provider for the disposal of waste.



Leitrim County Council's Household Waste Presentation Byelaws 2013 place a legal obligation on householders, business proprietors, and commercial entities to either:

- Use the services of an authorised waste collection provider, or
- Arrange for waste to be delivered directly to an authorised waste disposal facility.



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PENALTIES FOR LITTERING

Local authority litter wardens and Gardaí can issue fines for littering. These can include:

- €150 on-the-spot
- Up to €3,000 if convicted in the District Court
- Up to €600 for every day an offence occurs after a conviction in the district court.
- Up to €130,000 for causing environmental pollution and €10,000 per day for continuing offences after conviction on indictment

If you are convicted for littering in the District Court, you may have to pay the local authority's legal costs.



Number of Litter Fines (Fixed Penalty Notices) issued:	
Year	Details:
2020	61 (a large volume of these were issued as a result of CCTV)
2021	21
2022	28
2023	22
2024	15 (Numbers dropped due to reduced numbers of wardens and new wardens being employed)
2025	20

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Leitrim County Council investigates all reports of abandoned vehicles. Where possible, a letter will be issued to the registered owner.

If the vehicle is not removed within the specified period, Leitrim County Council may proceed with its removal. The registered owner will be held liable for all costs associated with removal and disposal.



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DOG FOULING

Failure to clean up and dispose of dog fouling is an offence that can be subject to an on-the-spot fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €3,000 on conviction in the Circuit Court.

Under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended), it is the responsibility of dog owners to remove their pet's waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. The health risks that dog fouling present are very serious and the fact that young children are particularly vulnerable to these risks needs to be fully appreciated by all, particularly dog owners.



'Mutt Mitt Bag' dispensers, and Dog Fouling signage has been erected at many popular dog walking locations across the County.

The **Leitrim Dog Warden Service** is provided by Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Animal Welfare. They are responsible for collecting stray dogs, seizing dogs under legislation and ensuring compliance with dog ownership laws.



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The **Community Wardens** routinely patrol various locations in order to try and ensure that children and members of the public are not exposed to the health risks that dog fouling presents. Mutt Mitt dispensers and bins are located in the following locations across North and South Leitrim, as detailed in **Appendix 3**.

Total Number of Dispensers Serviced by Leitrim County Council: 18



Drumshanbo Boardwalk



7. COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

TIDY TOWNS



Leitrim County Council is proud to support the work of the Tidy Towns committees/groups in County Leitrim and are working closely with them on an ongoing basis.

Tidy Towns committees/groups are volunteers enhancing and improving our towns and villages around the county. They carry out regular litter cleanups, but there is so much more than this involved - from drawing up plans to making bird nestboxes and painting old buildings. Leitrim County Council supports our **Tidy Towns** committees/groups by providing equipment, funding for projects, and involving them in decision-making through Public Participation Networks (PPNs), which also keep groups informed of opportunities and resources.

The SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development and sponsored by SuperValu.

In 2025, 929 towns competed for the prestigious awards demonstrating the continuing huge national interest in the **SuperValu Tidy Towns** competition.

Carrick-on-Shannon was named as Ireland's Tidiest Town as well as Ireland's Tidiest Small Town. This award is not just a recognition of hard work, but a shining example of what can happen when communities come together with the shared purpose of making their towns and villages better places to live, work, and play.



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NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

National Spring Clean in Ireland takes place throughout the month of April and is now in its 25th year. The campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter, by conducting clean ups in their own local environment. The initiative is run by An Taisce in partnership with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. Leitrim County Council supports interested groups or individuals to get involved and will provide bags, litter pickers and collection of the rubbish post clean up. To get involved, please email environment@leitrimcoco.ie.



Clean up 2025 - Cloone

This is our opportunity to participate meaningfully in areas which impact on our lives! By continuing to work together we can achieve a county which is cleaner, greener and healthier.



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ADOPT A ROAD

Leitrim County Council is reaching out to groups throughout Leitrim to get involved in the Adopt a Road Programme and adopt the roads in their own area. The Scheme involves adopting a designated stretch of road, for the purpose of removing litter from the roadside verges.

The participating group agrees in advance a Litter Maintenance Programme with Leitrim County Council. This would involve arranging for a number of people to collect litter from the roadside verges along the designated stretch of road at an agreed number of times per year, for example four times per year, every 3 months.

Leitrim County Council will provide Litter Pickers Gloves and Hi-vis vests and will arrange for the disposal of the collected material.

Please email environment@leitrimcoco.ie to get involved.

ADOPT A BRING BANK

Leitrim County Council is reaching out to groups throughout Leitrim to engage in this scheme. The Adopt a Bring Bank Programme has been in operation over the past number of years and is a system whereby a group(s) in communities where a Bring Bank Centre is located can get together and monitor the litter levels at these facilities.

The group carry out low level maintenance and inform the Environment Section of Leitrim County Council when the receptacles require maintenance. Subject to available funding, groups can apply to Leitrim County Council for any expenses involved.

Please email environment@leitrimcoco.ie to get involved.





8. FUNDING STREAMS



An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment

Leitrim County Council will endeavour to maximise the potential of all available funding streams.

The Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) is a scheme whereby the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment provide funding to local authorities with the aim of reducing the number of incidents of illegal dumping nationally. The initiative is co-ordinated through the WERLAs (Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities).

Illegal dumping is particularly problematic for Leitrim County Council due to its rural landscape. In 2025 the ADI funding enabled Leitrim County Council to carry out a number of cleanups, at sites, which were the focus of ongoing dumping. In addition, projects which aim to eliminate the potential for dumping, such as the bulky waste and mattress amnesties were held.

- Two Bulky Waste & Mattress Collection Events – One in North Leitrim and one in South Leitrim.
- **250** mattresses were collected in Manorhamilton for recycling and **55.56 tonnes** of Bulky Waste was collected by Donegal Waste for disposal.
- **497** mattresses were collected in Mohill for recycling and **86.48 tonnes** of waste was collected by Barna Waste for disposal.
- Clean up of large-scale illegal dumping in 3 No. sites in the County.
- Also, in 2025 our 39 Bring Bank infrastructure was upgraded. The project involved washing each Bring Bank, updating signage and a clearance of briars and undergrowth to improve accessibility.



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BULKY WASTE AMNESTY 2025





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CLEAN UP OF LARGE SCALE ILLEGAL DUMPING 2025



Before & after clean up at Greaghnaslieve, Drumkeeran

Leitrim County Council continues to work with communities to tackle over consumption and build knowledge and awareness around reducing, recycling, conserving and repairing where possible and sustainable sectoral practices.

ANTI-LITTER & ANTI GRAFFITI GRANT

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment provide a grant to co-fund local public education and awareness initiatives in relation to litter and graffiti during 2025. Fortunately, graffiti isn't a problem in the County at present.

The maximum grant allocated per project may be up to 70% of the overall cost, with the balance being met by way of local contribution. Leitrim County Council uses this funding to increase awareness of responsible dog ownership in relation to dog fouling issues. Leitrim County Council also liaises with Leitrim Animal Welfare who provide Mutt Mitt bags, dispensers and bins throughout the county.



9. LITTER MONITORING

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL)

IBAL undertakes litter surveys annually across the country. Established in 1996, IBAL is an alliance of companies sharing a belief that continued economic prosperity – notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment – is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment. Each year An Taisce assesses litter levels in Ireland’s largest towns and cities against European norms. Carrick-on-Shannon is the only town in Leitrim that is assessed. At the end of 2023, Carrick-on-Shannon was ranked ‘cleaner than European norms’ and the ninth cleanest town in the country. It will be judged again in 2026/27 and aims to improve on this placing.

Litter Survey Results 2024

In order to manage the litter problem in Co. Leitrim, litter must be measured. The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, developed by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and TOBIN Engineers, enable local authorities to measure and therefore manage the litter pollution in a structured manner.

Litter Pollution Surveys are carried out by Leitrim County Council and the results analysed giving an overview of the nature of the problem in County Leitrim. The main categories of litter on local and national level have been featured in **Appendix 1**.





10. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Litter Management Plan 2026-2028 aims to exceed the standards of litter management and cleanliness achieved in previous plans. It highlights the critical role to be played by the various sectors of the community in achieving this and acknowledges their contribution.

Littering and illegal dumping are ongoing in the county due to Leitrim's rural landscape and many mountains. Litter enforcement actions are taken through Community Wardens and the Waste Enforcement Team who carry out various duties under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) and Waste Management Act 1996. Two Community Wardens were recruited in mid-2024, bringing the total number to 3.

Leitrim County Council uses a variety of approaches to promote its environmental message – this includes local media to advertise initiatives like the National Spring Clean. The Council also maintains an online presence on both social media and the Council's website to promote sustainable initiatives and "how to" information concerning the environment and litter.

An essential part of developing the new plan involved analysing what was working well and improving on same.

The following campaigns were successful previously and will be continued throughout the new plan:

GREEN SCHOOLS

The education of our youth is key to tackling the litter problem throughout the count. Green Schools is a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community. There are over 40 schools in the region and Leitrim County Council promotes a suite of approaches to amplify the anti-littering message.

All Primary and Post Primary Schools in Leitrim can register on the Green Schools Programme. Green Schools is about whole-school action for the environment, with the focus in the initial phase being on litter and waste.

Schools follow a seven-step programme on each theme to achieve their Green Flag, which is in effect an environmental management system for their school. Leitrim County Council supports all participating Green Schools by providing them with clean up materials and information, where required. The Council's Environmental Awareness Section liaises with schools on an on-going basis, gives talks to students and assists them in getting the Green Schools programme started.



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THE GUM LITTER TASK FORCE (GLT)

Chewing Gum on footpaths and walking areas is a huge problem in every town in the county. Under the urban and rural regeneration works, Leitrim County Council completed streetscaping in many of our towns to improve the town's public spaces, making them more pedestrian-friendly and aesthetically appealing, thereby boosting local economic activity and community well-being. Where GLT is responsible for developing and implementing an awareness campaign to reduce used gum in the most sustainable way.

Leitrim County Council works with the GLT to address the impacts of chewing gum litter. The GLT is charged with developing and implementing an action plan to tackle gum litter by influencing disposal behaviour the root cause of the issue and by encouraging the public to dispose of their gum responsibly in a bin. Incorrectly disposing of chewing gum is littering! The Gum Litter Campaign contributes to changing people's attitudes towards gum litter.



RUBBISH FILM FESTIVAL

The Rubbish Film Festival is an initiative that empowers young people to create impactful short films that address environmental challenges and promote sustainability.

Since its inception in 2016, it has encouraged students to explore pressing issues through creative storytelling, blending digital media skills with environmental education. The festival aims to inspire the next generation of climate champions and has garnered recognition for its role in fostering responsible consumption and climate action.



Regional Winner

"The Thirst of A.I."
Lough Allen College





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NATIONAL LITTER CAMPAIGNS

Leitrim County Council has actively participated in a range of national anti-litter campaigns such as:



What Food Waste can I recycle?

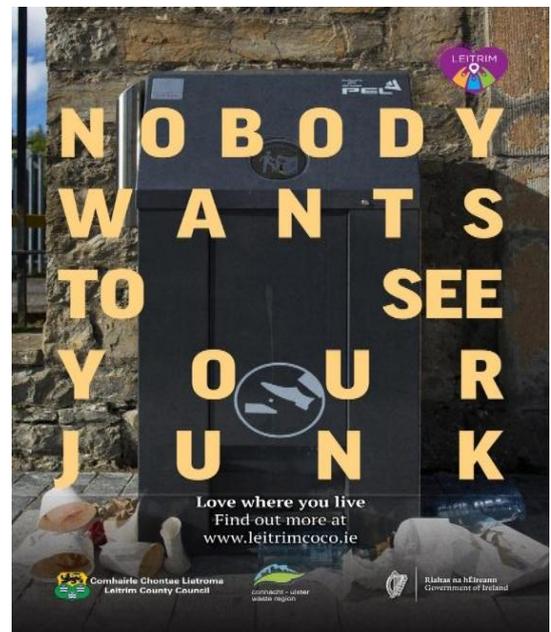
- Raw and cooked food
- Meat, poultry, fish and bones
- Leftover food and plate scrapings
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Gone off fruit & vegetables
- Tea bags, coffee grounds and paper filters
- Bread, cakes, biscuits
- Rice, pasta and cereals
- Dairy products such as cheese, butter and yogurts
- Soups and sauces
- Eggs and eggshells
- Soiled paper napkins and kitchen roll
- Small amounts of newspapers, if used to wrap food in
- Any out-of-date foods – remember to remove the packaging

Some waste collectors accept grass clippings and small amounts of garden waste. Contact your waste collector to find out if you can add these items to your food waste recycling bin.

What cannot be placed in your food waste bin?

- Plastic – bags, bottles, tubs and trays
- Glass bottles & jars
- Tin cans
- Nappies
- Soils & stones
- Cardboard
- Ashes, coal or cinders
- Pet faeces and Litter

mywaste
For more information, visit Ireland's Official Guide to Waste Management www.mywaste.ie



Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

Recycle your electrical waste, for free!





11. SERVICES & FACILITIES

TEXTILES

The clothing banks were reinstated in the county in September 2025, and they are operated by Textile Recycling Ltd. The operation will be subject to six-monthly reviews so the Council can assess performance.

At each review point, it is hoped that as the market recovers, Textile Recycling Ltd. can contribute financially to the Council.

STREET CLEANING

A street cleaning programme is operated in the larger towns and villages in the county. The cost of the street cleaning service throughout the county in any year is considerable. Leitrim County Council reviews its Street Cleaning Programme regularly, and **in October 2024** invested in a mini sweeper. The machine is ideal for cleaning footpaths, lanes, walkways, and other areas that the large street sweeping machine cannot navigate.

SOUTH LEITRIM

- **Carrick on Shannon** - Bins are emptied every Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat. In summer bins checked every day and emptied as required.
- Sweeping takes place every morning in normal working hours, i.e. 8am to 4:30pm Mon to Fri., 7am start on Fridays, 7am start on Sundays and 6am start on Mondays.
- **Drumsna** - Bins are emptied every Mon, Wed, Fri. In summer bins checked every day and emptied as required.
- Sweeping takes place, once-twice a month normally, unless requested for extra work.
- **Jamestown** - Bins are emptied every Mon, Wed and Fri if required. In summer bins are checked every day and emptied as required.
- **Leitrim** - No Bins.

NORTH LEITRIM

- **Manorhamilton** - Sweeper weekly/bins weekly.
- **Dromahaire** - Sweeper fortnightly/weekly during Autumn/bins as required.
- **Drumkeeran** - Sweeper monthly/bins as required.
- **Glenfarne/Kiltyclogher** - Sweeper monthly/bins as required.
- **Kinlough/ Tullaghan** - Sweeper monthly/ bins as required.

Summer season (from Easter to September)

The above will be carried out in partnership with local community groups and in conjunction with festival and other community events.



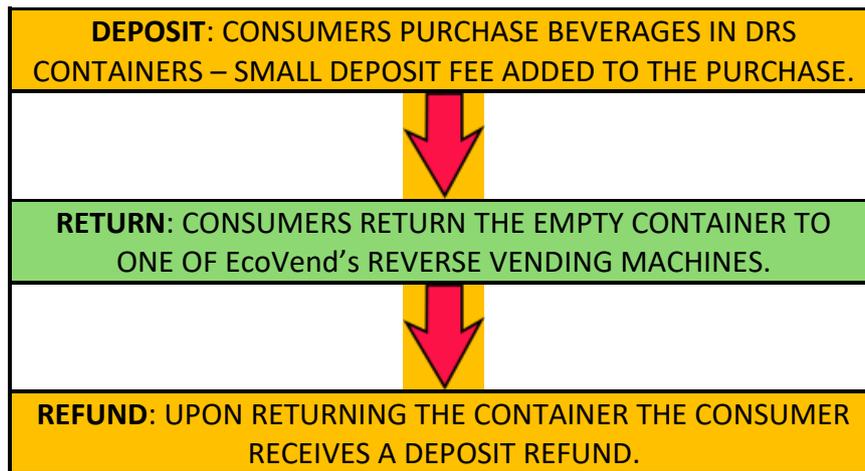
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LITTER BINS

Balancing the demand and supply of litter bins poses an ongoing challenge in the quest for a litter-free environment. Strategically placed and well-maintained bins are essential in encouraging proper waste disposal. In many towns the bins are being abused and used for the disposal of household waste. This places financial burden on the council and area office to maintain bins. Leitrim County Council is committed to assessing the distribution and adequacy of litter bins, ensuring that they meet the needs of the community and contribute to cleaner public spaces.

DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), known as Re-turn was launched on 1st of February 2024, to incentivise recycling and environmental consciousness. The recycling rate for plastic bottles and aluminium and steel cans has jumped from 49% to 91% since the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme in February 2024.





12. OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

Objective 1 – Education & Awareness

Leitrim County Council recognises that, in the long term, education remains one of the most effective tools in tackling litter pollution. A key aim of our Litter Management Plan is to inform and educate the public about best practices in litter prevention and management within their communities. The Environmental Awareness Officer liaises with various Tidy Towns Committees, Schools, Businesses and Community Groups to raise awareness regarding all matters of an environmental nature.

ACTIONS:

- Promote the ‘Love Where You Live Awards’ – A joint initiative of Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN) and Leitrim County Council, acknowledging the positive contributions of communities, volunteers, and schools in areas such as biodiversity, heritage/conservation, recycling, waterways protection, litter control, and more.
- Lead by Example – Leitrim County Council is committed to preventing litter from our own operations. Green Procurement remains a priority, aligning with national goals for Ireland to transition towards a circular economy.
- Promote Recycling Awareness – Educating the public on proper waste segregation, ensuring materials are placed in the correct bins.
- Householder & Business Responsibility – Develop awareness campaigns highlighting obligations to prevent and control litter.
- Targeted Dog Fouling Campaigns – Remind dog owners of their legal duty to clean up after their pets. Leitrim County Council provides dog fouling bags, and signage at popular walking routes and amenity areas.
- Targeted Cigarette Litter Campaigns – Tackle cigarette butt disposal, identified as one of the most common forms of litter in surveys.
- Targeted Gum Litter Campaigns – Work with the Gum Litter Task Force to address chewing gum litter, including initiatives like the Gum Litter Roadshow.
- Use of social media – Engage all age groups with regular campaigns and educational content across Leitrim County Council platforms.
- Schools Engagement – Continue collaboration with An Taisce’s Green Schools Programme, promoting sustainability and reducing schools’ carbon footprints.
- Civic Amenity Sites – Promote the use of Leitrim County Council’s two civic amenity sites for responsible waste disposal.
- Bring Banks – Encourage proper use of the county’s 39 bring bank facilities, ensuring their sustainability as a free service for glass bottles, jars, and cans.
- Collaboration with Connaught Ulster Waste Management Office – Share best practice approaches to litter management and identify funding opportunities.
- Support for Community Groups – Provide materials and services for initiatives such as National Spring Clean and Tidy Towns, including litter pickers, gloves, bin bags, information resources, and collection services.
- Support for Community Wardens – Ensure our three community wardens are fully resourced with PPE, admin support, and training to effectively engage with the public.



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- Estate Management – Liaise with the Tenant Liaison Officer to ensure new tenants in council estates are signed up to waste disposal services and are fully informed of their waste responsibilities around the disposal of their domestic waste
- Public Participation – Promote opportunities for public engagement through the PPN.



Objective 2 – Litter Prevention & Control

Leitrim County Council has 3 Community Wardens who are our boots on the ground in relation to litter and waste disposal, abandoned vehicles and parking offences, they monitor our bring banks centres and amenity areas and carry out regular playground inspections and litter patrols. A Waste Enforcement Team is also employed to prosecute offenders.

ACTIONS:

- Enforce the use of the brown bin for food waste.
- Encourage the ethos of reporting incidents of littering and dumping.
- Ensure all complaints are recorded on EMIS (our current environmental complaints system) and ensure prompt investigation of all littering related complaints.
- Conduct litter surveys in accordance with the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme to assess and address pollution levels.
- Reach out to the Municipal Districts in relation to Adopt a Bring Bank & Adopt a Road programmes.
- Connect with Public Participation Network - PPN to ensure all sectors of society have a say.
- Liaise with the local area offices in relation to street/bin cleaning.
- Liaise with Tidy Towns Committees.
- Liaise with the Towns Regeneration Team and the Climate Action Team to integrate litter and waste management into sustainable community plans.



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- Promote the correct use of our thirty-nine Bring Banks and two Civic Amenity Sites.
- Pursue illegal waste collection activities and take action to stop any activities found.
- Continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána, other local authorities, agencies and landowners to bring offenders to justice.
- Utilise new technology e.g. drones in all areas of environmental control to detect offenders and ensure staff are trained to use them.
- Review and update our byelaws to prevent the creation of and control of litter within the county.
- Liaise with community groups and the planning department in relation to major town events.
- Provide sufficient litter facilities - ensure there is adequate litter bin provision in our towns and villages.
- Provide adequate resources in annual budget to cater for street cleaning and the provision and maintenance of litter bins.
- Develop and implement targeted enforcement campaigns to address specific littering issues such as Bulky Waste, WEEE Recycling, farm plastics and Christmas tree recycling.
- Provide high visibility countywide litter warden service.
- Harness the knowledge of our elected members and members of the public in relation to litter blackspots.
- Maintain a visible presence in towns and villages through the Community Wardens network to help deter littering and to promote awareness of the implications, in terms of litter fines and other enforcement actions, of littering.
- Develop and implement targeted enforcement campaigns to address specific littering issues.





Objective 3 – Partnership with Communities & Business

Leitrim County Council has a hands-on involvement with waste and litter management. As litter affects everyone in the community it is important to involve the community in the clean ups, to instil a sense of pride in where one lives.

ACTIONS:

- Continue to support initiatives such as National Spring Clean Week.
- Encourage and support community projects, which benefit those living in the County and improve the attractiveness of local areas.
- Provide PPE i.e. bags, gloves and litter pickers for approved clean-up projects. Leitrim County Council’s Environment Department arrange the collection and safe disposal of litter and waste materials collected by community volunteers.
- Residents Associations and other community groups are expected to be responsible with regard to the clean-up activities that are organised. Where Leitrim County Council is collecting and disposing of material the organisers of clean-ups may be required to demonstrate that the litter that is to be disposed of was collected as part of an organised clean-up of a public area.
- Continue to operate a scheme of Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grants, subject to funding. The Scheme provides funding for projects that promote greater public awareness and education in relation to the impacts of litter pollution.
- Arrange the collection of bulky household items which are often disposed of unlawfully along remote, roadside locations. LCC will also facilitate, promote or work in partnership towards the disposal of other types of waste that could potentially be hazardous or particularly damaging to the environment. To the greatest degree possible, opportunities for the disposal of waste described will be presented at a variety of locations across the county. Advertising campaigns will be conducted in advance of such collections being scheduled to promote the responsible disposal of all waste types.
- Support Area Offices on litter control in towns and surrounding area.
- Support the efforts of the Housing Section to engage residents’ associations in management of litter on their estates.
- Liaise with the Department of Social Protection in relation to the Community Employment Schemes to enhance the environment.
- Continue to promote litter awareness and prevention through initiatives such as the Green Schools and Tidy Towns programme.
- Continue to work with businesses and traders on their requirements under Leitrim County Council Litter Bye Laws to provide bins outside their business .
- Harness local knowledge from the elected members with regard to litter black spots
- Encourage community-led initiatives and events that bring people together, fostering collaboration to enhance their surroundings while providing opportunities to showcase and share their talents.
- Liaise with Tullaghan Beach Clean Up Volunteers in the collection of waste collected.
- Public Participation – Promote opportunities for public engagement through the PPN.



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Ballinamore

Objective 4 – Enforcement & Regulation Measures

The issue of enforcement of litter legislation is instrumental in the management of litter pollution. Currently, there are 3 No. Community Wardens and two members on the Waste Enforcement Team. It is the responsibility of the council to enforce the law and apply the necessary penalties to offenders identified under relevant litter legislation.

ACTIONS:

- The governance structures in local authorities have been strengthened for the implementation and enforcement of the Waste Framework Directives through the establishment of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA) leading towards a more consistent and coordinated approach to regulation and enforcement. By working together local authorities will be in a better position to bring the full weight of the state's resources to bear on the most pressing environmental problems.
- Littering is illegal. Ensure all complaints are recorded and investigated to capture those who flout the laws.
- Ensure Environmental staff receive up to date training and the necessary PPE.
- Large-scale illegal dumping will be prosecuted under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended). Penalties on conviction or indictment include fines of up to €15 million and/or a 10-year prison term.
- Liaise with WERLA in the supervision of Household Waste Collectors. Householders will be required to prove that they use an authorised waste collection service or that they manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner. This approach



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aims to combat illegal fly-tipping, littering, and backyard burning of litter by a minority of households.

- Maintain a strong community warden presence in towns and villages. The Wardens will deter littering and promote awareness of the financial and legal implications of littering.
- Deploy CCTV monitoring where a legal basis exists, to detect and prevent waste offences.
- Education, Communication, and Development – raise public awareness of responsibilities and penalties.
- Skills and Training – ensure wardens and waste enforcement personnel are well-trained and suitably equipped.
- Delivering Change – continuously improve waste management practices through innovation and monitoring.
- Brown Bin Service – Enforce the proper use of organic waste bins to reduce illegal disposal and support sustainability.
- To report illegal dumping, contact the EPA using their “See it, Say it” mobile phone app or contact the National Environmental Complaints Line on a 24-hour basis at 1850 365 121.



Glenade Lake



13. CONCLUSION

Leitrim is a county of choice for people to live, work and reside in. Our environment is an asset which, if planned for in the same ways as other forms of infrastructure, can provide long term benefits.

The Litter Management Plan 2026-2028 sets out the objectives and actions to be carried out over the lifetime of the Plan to eliminate litter, promote a cleaner environment and raise public awareness.

However, the responsibility for addressing environmental issues is not just the duty of the Council, it is a shared responsibility with every member of society. Individual behaviours must change if a more sustainable style of living is to be achieved which is essential to meet the environmental challenges of today in particular the blight of littering throughout the county.





14. APPENDICES

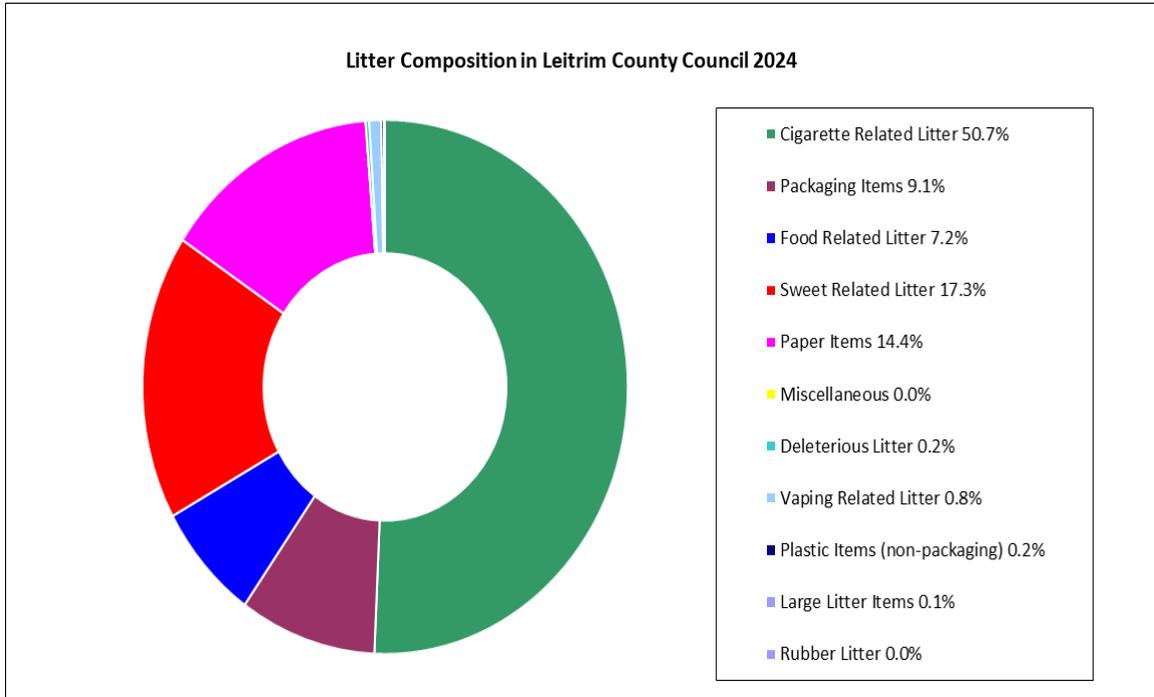
- 1. LITTER SURVEYS**
- 2. BRING BANKS**
- 3. CIVIC AMENITY SITES**
- 4. MUTT MITT DISPENSERS AND BINS**
- 5. CONTACT US**
- 6. USEFUL LINKS**



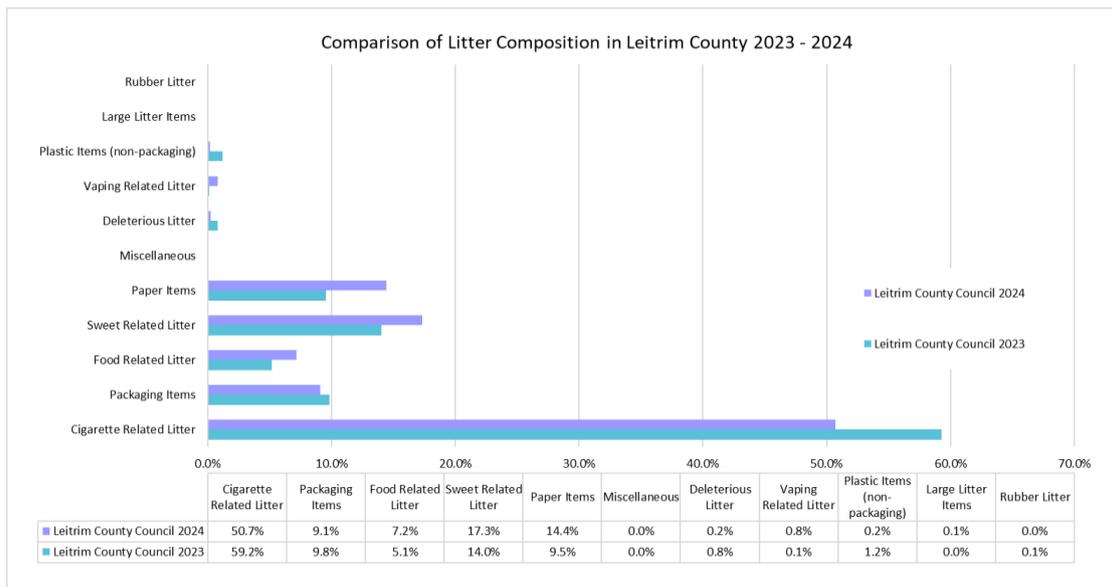
DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2028

APPENDIX 1: LITTER SURVEYS - GRAPHS

The results of Litter Quantification Surveys submitted to the Litter Monitoring Body by Leitrim County Council are summarised in this report. Results from a total of 24 surveys have been used to compile this section of the report.



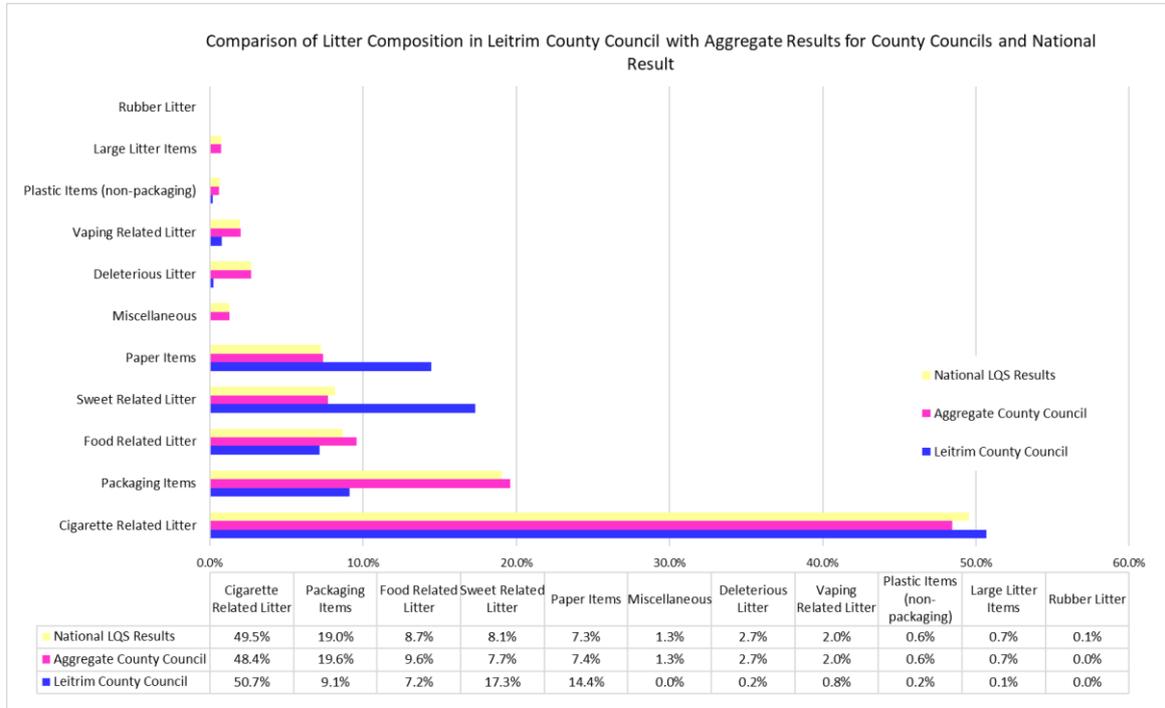
COMPARISON OF LITTER COMPOSITION LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL 2023 – 2024





DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2028

COMPARISON OF CAUSATIVE FACTORS OF LITTER POLLUTION, LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL 2023 & 2024





APPENDIX 2: BRING BANKS

Bring Bank Facilities remain open across the county. Leitrim County Council ask the public to please be mindful not to leave recyclables in bags or boxes on the ground in front of the bring banks for collection. This is considered littering and will be treated as such. Please consider using another bring centre or simply return on another occasion when the banks have been serviced.

BRING BANK LOCATIONS IN COUNTY LEITRIM	
Aghacashel Bring Bank	Fire Station Carpark Carrick-on-Shannon
Askill Bring Bank	Glenade Bring Bank
Aughavas Bring Bank	Glencar Bring Bank
Aughawillan Bring Bank	Glenfarne Bring Bank
Ballinaglera Bring Bank	Gortletteragh Bring Bank
Ballinamore Bring Bank	Gorvagh Bring Bank
Bornacoola Bring Bank	Jamestown Bring Bank
Carrigallen Bring Bank	Keshcarrigan Bring Bank
Cloone Bring Bank	Killargue Bring Bank
Corraleehan Bring Bank	Kiltyclogher Bring Bank
Dristernan Bring Bank, Drumshanbo	Kinlough Bring Bank
Dromahaire Bring Bank	Leitrim Village Bring Bank
Dromod Bring Bank	Manorhamilton Bring Bank
Drumcong Bring Bank	Mohill Bring Bank
Drumkeeran Bring Bank	Newtowngore Bring Bank
Drumlea Bring Bank, Dromod	Newtownmanor Bring Bank
Drumshanbo Bring Bank	Rossinver Bring Bank
Drumsna Bring Bank	Tarmon Bring Bank
Eslin Bring Bank	Tullaghan Bring Bank
Fenagh Bring Bank	



APPENDIX 3: LEITRIM CIVIC AMENITY SITES – INFORMATION

Location of Civic Amenity Sites	
MOHILL	Former Landfill Site at Tullybarden, Mohill Phone: (071) 9632974
MANORHAMILTON	Next to the Sewerage Treatment Plant, Sligo Road, Manorhamilton, F91 YN24 Phone: (071) 9820888

APPENDIX 4 - Mutt Mitt Dispensers and Bins

NORTH LEITRIM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tullaghan Beach: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Kinlough Eco Park: 2 bins, no dispensers (removed due to vandalism) • Dromahair: 4 bins, 4 dispensers • Drumkeeran: 1 bin, 1 dispenser 	
SOUTH LEITRIM	
Drumshanbo: 4 bins, 4 dispensers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnny Wynnes Bay: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Outdoor Exercise Gym: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Carrick-On-Shannon Road: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Acres Lake: 1 bin, 1 dispenser
Leitrim Village Area: 1 bin, 1 dispenser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battlebridge Canal Walk to Drumshanbo: 1 bin, 1 dispenser
Carrick-On-Shannon: 4 bins, 3 dispensers	<p><i>(Carrick Tidy Towns has up to four additional dispensers they service themselves; LCC supply the bags)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lis Cara: 1 bin, no dispenser • Entrance to Carrick-On-Shannon Boat Club: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Across from Landmark Hotel: 1 bin, 1 dispenser • Castlecara Road: 1 bin, no dispenser • Attyrory Road: 1 bin, 1 dispenser
Dromod: 1 bin, 1 dispenser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dromod Harbour: 1 bin, 1 dispenser
Mohill: 2 Bins, 2 Dispensers	<p>R202 Road: 2 bins, 2 dispensers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin 1: Near C & D Medical Hall Limited (corner entering town from R202) • Bin 2: Further up R202, along walkway path before turn for Keshcarrigan (Fenagh/Ballinamore direction)
Ballinamore: 2 Bins, 1 Dispenser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bin 1 (No Dispenser): Kiltymoodan Road, entrance to canal bank walkway towards Ballinamore WWTP Sewage Treatment Plant • Bin 2 (1 Dispenser): Kildorragh walkway



APPENDIX 5: CONTACT US

LETRIM COUNTY COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS:	
Address:	Environment Department Leitrim County Council Park Lane House Carrick on Shannon Co. Leitrim, N41 RX53
Email:	environment@leitrimcoco.ie environmentalcomplaints@leitrimcoco.ie illegaldumping@leitrimcoco.ie
Phone:	(071) 9620005 ext 713 and 605 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) HOTLINE: 1800 205205 (OUT OF HOURS)

APPENDIX 6: USEFUL LINKS

USEFUL LINKS:	
My Waste	www.mywaste.ie
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	www.epa.ie
WEEE Ireland	www.weeireland.ie
End of life vehicles compliance scheme (ELVES)	www.elves.ie
Irish Farm Film Producers Group CLG (IFFPG)	www.farmplastics.ie
Stop Food Waste	www.stopfoodwaste.ie

KEEPING LEITIM LOVELY...