



LEADER in **County Roscommon**









LEADER

CEO'S Foreword



As we celebrate 35 years of the LEADER Programme, this booklet showcases just a selection of the many inspiring projects that have helped shape our communities across County Roscommon.

Since its launch in 1991, the European Union's LEADER Programme has demonstrated how European investment, backed by central government and local match funding from communities, businesses and project promoters, can deliver lasting, meaningful change by placing local communities at the heart of rural development. Through its distinctive bottom-up approach, LEADER has empowered local people to identify priorities, develop innovative solutions and invest in projects that reflect the needs and ambitions of their own communities.

Through Local Development Companies bringing together businesses, voluntary organisations, farmers, social partners, community leaders, state agencies and local authorities through Local Action Groups, LEADER has fostered collaboration, strengthened community capacity and created partnerships that continue to deliver benefits long after individual projects have been completed.

The projects featured in this booklet reflect the diversity, innovation and resilience of communities throughout County Roscommon. From enhancing community facilities and preserving our rich heritage to supporting enterprise, tourism and social inclusion, these case studies demonstrate the transformative impact of European funding and the enduring value of the LEADER Programme over the past three and a half decades.

We are delighted to welcome Dara Calleary TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and Minister for Social Protection, as we mark this significant milestone and celebrate the achievements of the LEADER Programme in County Roscommon.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the many volunteer Board members who have guided the programme over the years. Their leadership, local knowledge and unwavering belief in the potential of their communities have been instrumental in ensuring that funding decisions reflected local priorities and delivered real impact. Their contribution, alongside the efforts of staff, project promoters and community volunteers, has helped build a stronger, more vibrant County Roscommon.

While the stories featured in this booklet represent only a small selection of the hundreds of projects supported across the county over the past 35 years, together they demonstrate what can be achieved when communities are empowered to shape their own future. They stand as a lasting testament to the vision, commitment and resilience of local people, the strength of partnership working, and the sustained investment that has helped rural communities across Roscommon to thrive.

We hope this booklet provides an inspiring insight into the programme's remarkable legacy, showcasing the lasting impact it has had and the opportunities it has created—and continues to create—for the people, businesses, voluntary organisations and communities of County Roscommon.

Martina Earley
Chief Executive Officer
Roscommon LEADER Partnership

Introduction

The LEADER Programme (Liaisons Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale - Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy) has been supporting rural development across County Roscommon, Ireland and Europe since it was first introduced in 1991. Established by the European Commission, LEADER uses a Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach, empowering local communities and enterprises to identify their own needs and shape their own future.

Built on seven core principles, LEADER has become a cornerstone of rural development, supporting innovative projects that strengthen communities socially, economically, culturally and environmentally. This booklet highlights the scope and impact of LEADER-funded projects, showcasing how local investment continues to create vibrant, resilient and sustainable rural communities.



#LEADERis35

This year, we celebrate 35 years of LEADER and the lasting legacy the programmes has made in County Roscommon, across Ireland and throughout Europe. Over the past three and a half decades, LEADER has empowered communities, businesses, social enterprises and voluntary organisations to transform local ideas into meaningful action through investment, innovation and partnership.

This booklet marks that milestone by showcasing a selection of projects that reflect the diversity and success of the current and successive LEADER programmes. Together, they demonstrate how community-led development continues to deliver practical solutions, support enterprise and enhance the quality of life in rural areas.

As we mark this significant anniversary, we also recognise the people and partnerships that have been at the heart of LEADER's success in County Roscommon. The dedication of project promoters, has helped create stronger, more resilient rural areas and has delivered lasting benefits for generations. The projects featured in this booklet are a testament to what can be achieved when local people are empowered to shape the future of their own communities, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire rural development for years to come.



LEADER in County Roscommon: **35 Year Timeline**

1991-1994	**LEADER Pilot**	Arigna LEADER*	LEADER Pilot Programme	
1995-2000	**LEADER II**	Arigna LEADER* Mid-South Roscommon LEADER	LEADER extended to cover all of Ireland except city areas.	
2001-2008	**LEADER+ and National Rural Development Programme**	Arigna LEADER* Mid-South Roscommon LEADER		
2008-2009	**Cohesion**	Cohesion Process	Brought together Arigna LEADER*, Mid-South Roscommon LEADER and Roscommon Partnership to form Roscommon LEADER Partnership	
2009-2013	**LEADER 2009-2013**	Roscommon LEADER Partnership		
2014-2022	**LEADER 2014-2022**	Roscommon LCDC (LAG) Roscommon LEADER Partnership (IP) Roscommon County Council (FP)	Introduction of LCDC-led Local Action Groups	Introduction of LEADER Transitional Programme and EURI to address Brexit and Covid-19 Pandemic
2023-2027	**LEADER 2023-2027**	Roscommon LCDC (LAG) Roscommon LEADER Partnership (IP) Roscommon County Council (FP)	Celebration of 35 Anniversary of LEADER (2026) #LEADER is 35	

**Relates to the area of County Roscommon administered by Arigna LEADER.*

LEADER Approach Explained

LEADER is a bottom-up approach to rural development that puts local communities at the heart of decision-making. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all solution, LEADER enables people living and working in rural areas to identify their own challenges, develop ideas and create solutions that respond to local needs.

The programme is delivered through Local Action Groups (LAGs), partnerships made up of local stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors. LAGs bring together local knowledge, expertise and experience to design and implement Local Development Strategies that reflect the priorities and ambitions of their rural areas.



The LEADER approach is built on partnership, collaboration and innovation. By empowering local people to take an active role in shaping their communities, LEADER supports projects that strengthen rural economies, enhance social connections, protect local heritage and improve quality of life.

At its core, LEADER is about tailoring practical solutions to meet local needs - supported by strong partnerships and investment that help rural communities remain vibrant.

A Snapshot of LEADER's Impact
in County Roscommon

1991 – 2026...



All County Roscommon

STRONGER RURAL COMMUNITIES

From West to East and North to South,
LEADER impact is everywhere in Roscommon

€40+ MILLION

INVESTED IN CO. ROSCOMMON

Leveraging local potential and long-term impact



1200+

JOBS SUPPORTED

Creating and sustaining employment in rural Ireland



450+

LOCAL PROJECTS FUNDED

Investing in what matters most in our communities

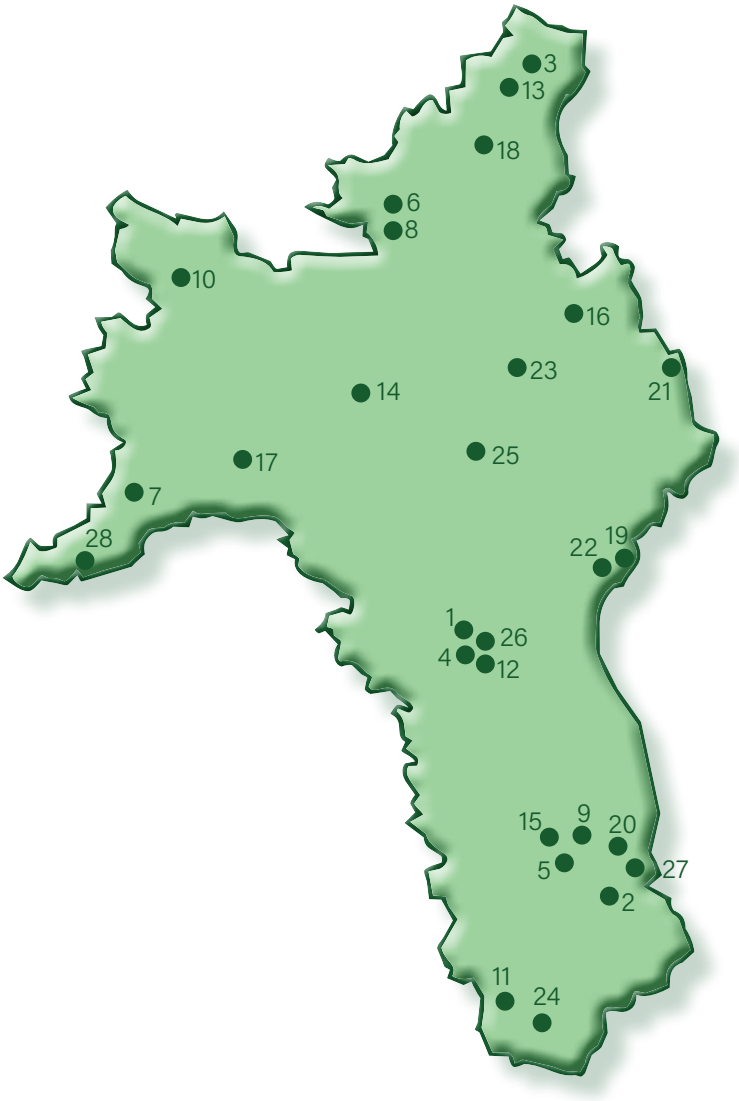


380+

COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORTED

Empowering people to come together
and make things happen

ROSCOMMON



A Collection of Case Studies

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Lidan Innovations Ltd.

t/a Lidan Design



Enterprise

Lidan provide a turnkey building solution from design, manufacture and installation. Lidan buildings are modular but yet permanent having in >60 Year Lifespan. The Promoter received funding support towards the construction of a purpose-built Timber Frame Factory, enabling the continued growth and expansion of their innovative business. Prior to this investment, the company operated from a rented unit on the Lanesboro Road, Roscommon Town, where it successfully developed its operations and experienced strong business growth driven by innovation, market demand, and increasing customer requirements.

The funding enabled the Promoter to establish a dedicated manufacturing facility, increase production capacity, enhance operational efficiency, and create the infrastructure required to support the continued sustainable growth of the business.

Location:
Racecourse Road,
Roscommon Town.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *It is made from timber of a specialised nature and will be fully sustainable and environmentally friendly. As a business we are now in a position to further expand our services to a much larger market.*
>
> *Dan O'Brien,*
> *Lidan Innovations Ltd.*
> *T/A Lidan Design*





Bikram Yoga Ltd.



Enterprise

Bikram Yoga Athlone is a dedicated, purpose-built Bikram Yoga studio owned and run by Tricia Fleming and centrally located in Monksland Retail Park, Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

In 2011, LEADER funded Tricia for the capital fit out of the Bikram Yoga Studio including the purchase of equipment and marketing materials.

The main studio is capable of accommodating up to 50 clients and features a unique heating system which is specifically designed to keep the temperature at the 38-40°C, the appropriate level for Bikram Yoga.



Location:
Monksland,
Co. Roscommon

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2009-2013

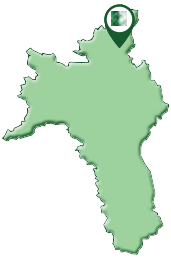
I have been teaching Bikram Yoga throughout Ireland and as far afield as Thailand and South Africa since 2003.

Practiced correctly, Bikram Yoga is proven to have a profound healing power on the body and is known to considerably reduce the possibility of injury and illness due to its systematic working of the body, inside and out.

The activity is for everyone regardless of age, ability or fitness level

Trisha Fleming,
Bikram Yoga Ltd.

Arigna Energy Valley Company CLG



Tourism

Arigna Mining Experience, a flagship and award winning tourism project, first opened in 2003.

Utilising the decommissioned Derreenavoggy Mine, the mining experience brings visitors through the exhausting and often hazardous work of a miner with working conditions that were very harsh and cramped.

The experience is presented in story format from the unique perspective of ex-miners.

Visitors first visit an exhibition/background setting area prior to embarking on the highlight of the visit, the opportunity to go underground into a mine.

Support from successive LEADER programmes has helped bring the Arigna Mining Experience from concept to fruition, providing a unique tourism experience in County Roscommon.

Location:
Arigna,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

> *LEADER 2014-2022 funding has allowed us to expand and enhance our facilities to cater for increased numbers visiting the Centre.*
>
> *Joe Rynn,*
> *Arigna Energy Valley Company CLG*



Molloy's Abbeytown Ltd.



Food

Located on the western side of Roscommon Town, Molloy's Abbeytown Ltd. (know as Molloy's Bakery) a family-owned business which has been in existence for over 100 years. They produce breads and confectionery to the local community on a daily basis.

In 2005, they applied for LEADER funding to upgrade their Rack Oven in order to develop a wider range of products with the introduction of the new machine, particularly the steam generator.

The new equipment enabled the promoters to increase production, improve quality, reduce costs and increase space in the bakery.

Molloy's produce a wide range of traditional and artisan breads, cakes and confectionery.

Location:
Abbeytown,
Roscommon Town.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008

> *The LEADER programme made our project possible. It provided the financial backing we needed, allowing us to focus on our business rather than just worrying about the costs.*
>
> *Declan Molloy, Molloy's Abbeytown Ltd.*



Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum



Tourism

Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum, owned and operated by the Finneran Family, received LEADER funding to upgrade its facilities and support the ongoing operation of the museum.

The funding was used to install electric roller doors and canopies, updated signage and purchase a laptop for the day-to-day operation and administration of the museum.

These improvements have strengthened the museum's ability to preserve local heritage, enhance visitor experience and support its continued development as a community tourism attraction.

The investment has helped ensure the museum remains a welcoming, secure and sustainable facility for visitors and the wider community.

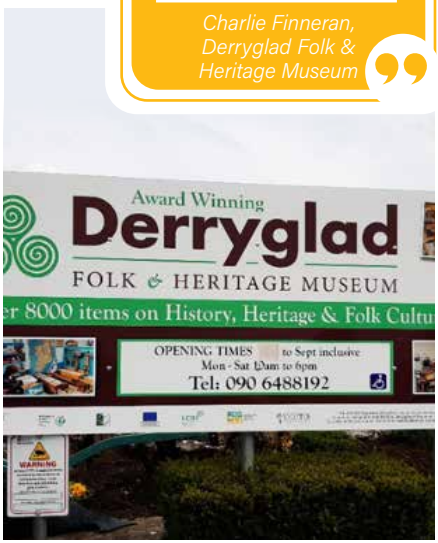
Location:
Derryglad,
Curraghboy, Athlone,
Co. Roscommon

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

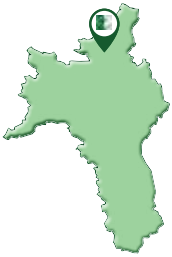
The new roller doors are easily managed and much better looking to visitors than the previous plastic curtains that were used. They are also much more secure which is essential.

Charlie Finneran, Derryglad Folk & Heritage Museum





ProCloud Horizon Ltd.



Enterprise

ProCloud received LEADER funding support towards the internal fit-out of derelict buildings at The Crescent, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, creating a modern office and operations centre to support the company's continued growth.

Established in 2016, ProCloud provides innovative cloud, managed, and IT services to clients across Ireland and internationally.

The company had outgrown its rented premises in the Enterprise Centre in Boyle and required a larger facility to support expansion and future employment growth.

The investment enabled the creation of a state-of-the-art workspace including workshop area, kitchen, reception area, meeting rooms, board room, offices and an open office space.

The project brought vacant buildings back into productive use, and strengthened ProCloud's ability to expand, innovate and deliver services from a rural location.

Location:
The Crescent, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

Job Creation:
18 FTE
2 PTE

Existing Jobs Sustained:
17 FTE
2 PTE

As a company we are delighted with our new offices, it has allowed us to expand our customer base also.

Niall O'Donohoe, ProCloud Horizon Ltd.





Ballinlough Development Association CLG



Town & Village Enhancement

A flagship project under LEADER 2014-2022, the Lake O'Flynn Amenity & Harbour Project has transformed the lakeshore.

Providing:

- Floating jetty with 24 berths;
- An accessible fishing stand;
- A well-equipped children's playground;
- Parking for cars;
- Toilet and storage facilities.

The new facility replaced the old marina, in place since the in 1960s, with a state of the art floating jetty, providing a greater user experience and a safer environment for all.

The project aims to stimulate the tourism economy in Ballinlough by providing a facility that caters for fishing, boating and water sports, as well as a children's playground.

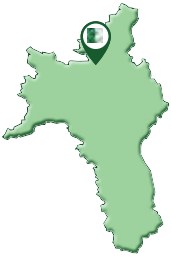
Location:
The Crescent, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *As a committee we are hugely proud of all the support and hard work it has taken to complete this project. This project would not have happened without the dedication of the committee, contractors, LEADER staff and board.*
>
> *Michael Daly, Chair BDA*



Feelystone Boyle Ltd.



Enterprise

Feelystone Boyle Ltd., a leading stone manufacturer and supplier with over 240 years of history, received LEADER funding support towards the purchase, delivery and commissioning of an Edge Polishing Machine.

The computer-operated machine enabled the company to complete the contours, smooths and/or polishes the edge of stone products, allowing the promoters to produce finished stone in house rather than purchase finished stone from abroad. This gives the stone/marble product a particularly fine finish.

The investment enhanced production efficiency, expanded the company's capabilities, and supported continued growth in the markets.

Location:
Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

Job Creation:
2 FTE

Jobs Sustained:
18 FTE
4 PTE

The commission of machine has allowed us to take on more contracts, expanding our range of products and finishes. It has also streamlined work flow.

Ann Green, Feelystone Boyle Ltd.





Matthew Mannion & Sons Ltd.



Enterprise

Matthew Mannion & Sons Ltd. was set up in 1984 and the promoter has been involved in the woodworking industry for most of his life.

The company manufacture custom made furniture from solid timber for private and commercial purposes and much of this work involves the use of highly specialised wood turned products. The company also designs and installs bespoke kitchens.

The promoter received LEADER funding over 2 LEADER programming periods:

- 1995-2000 - Equipment for Joinery Business
- 2001-2008 - Purchase of a CNC Lathe.

Location:
Curraghboy,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008

Job Creation:
1 FTE

Job Sustained:
1.5 FTE

LEADER has helped us to keep up with technological advances and meet customer needs.

Matt Mannion



Foróige
– The National Youth Development Organisation



Youth

Foróige applied for LEADER funding for the refurbishment of the Phoenix Youth and Community Centre, Ballaghaderreen, which services the needs of rural and urban Ballaghaderreen who are struggling to access opportunities due to broadband deficiencies and lack of technical resources and skilled personnel.

The refurbishment works have produced a high quality, fully accessible safe and inclusive space for the youth of Ballaghaderreen and surrounding areas.

The new training space will allow for bespoke training courses to be delivered, specifically targeting the needs of the youth in Ballaghaderreen.

Location:
Ballaghaderreen,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

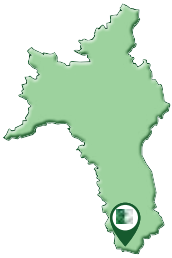
> *We have experienced huge changes in the past 3 years where a lot of social exclusion has unavoidably occurred for a huge cohort of marginalised groups including Youth. It is brilliant to have this facility available for all concerned to avail of and use on a daily basis.*
>
> *Noreen O'Callaghan, Foróige*







Greene's Forge Ltd.



Enterprise

Initially operating as a traditional forge and general engineering facility, servicing the local agricultural sector, Greene's Forge Ltd. has developed over time into a more complex engineering business offering products and services to the construction, quarrying, energy and pharmaceutical sectors.

LEADER funding was secured in 2019 for a modernisation and expansion project, including the expansion of the workshop, new office/ reception building with canteen and toilet facilities and the purchase of new equipment for the business.

The project has resulted in a state-of-the-art modern business premises, allowing the business to create large scale, bespoke metalwork to a high standard.

Location:
Earlspark, Ballydangan, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2014-2022

Job Creation:
2 FTE

Jobs Sustained:
5 FTE
1 PTE

We are getting on grand here in our new offices and workshop, we don't know ourselves. Thanks again to LEADER staff for all your help with grant application and delivery.

Padraig Greene, MD





Roscommon Christmas Lights Committee



Community

Roscommon Christmas Lights Committee applied for LEADER funding to purchase an Eco-friendly sustainable Artificial Cone Christmas Tree and 2 large storage containers.

In 2022, the promoters started to implement a plan to reduce energy costs by retrofitting the Roscommon Town Christmas Lighting system, bringing it up to NEC standards.

They have continued that plan with this project through the purchase of LED lights for the Christmas Tree.

The new Christmas Tree is also easier and safer to install as it is assembled in sections.

Roscommon Christmas Lights Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers who annually give their time free for the enhancement of Roscommon Town during the Christmas Period.

The annual turning on of the Christmas Tree Lights is a highlight of the winter season in Roscommon Town, with large crowds turning out each year.

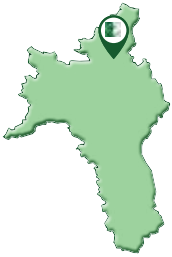
Location:
Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2023-2027





Keadue Development Association



Community

Keadue Development Association is an award winning community group with a very good track record in terms of community and rural development work.

The village of Keadue is recognised nationally for its community spirit and for its significant achievements in winning Tidy Town awards and for its successful O'Carolan Harp Festival.

Under LEADER 2014-2022 they were approved funding towards the refurbishment of O'Carolan Heritage Park, including improving accessibility within the park.

O'Carolan Heritage Park is a focal point in Keadue Village, providing locals with a safe space to gather, space for kids to play and gives older people a quiet spot to relax.

Location:
Keadue,
Co. Roscommon

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

> *This project will continue the work that has already taken place in and around the area. It shows the importance of community co-operation.*
>
> *Paraic Noone, Keadue Development Association*





RLP - Introduction to Biodiversity Training



Training

In 2019, Groups from 15 communities across Co. Roscommon completed the Roscommon LEADER Partnership-organised 'Biodiversity for Communities Project.' The project provided biodiversity training for members of local groups from towns and villages in Co. Roscommon, identifying potential biodiversity enhancement projects in their localities.

The aim of the training was for participants to pursue projects which would improve their localities for wildlife and residents alike. Potential project ideas include habitat maintenance and creation, walkway construction and further biodiversity themed workshops for communities. With biodiversity loss and the extinction crisis very much in the public consciousness, this LEADER project has successfully brought biodiversity awareness to the fore across County Roscommon.

Location:
County Roscommon

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022





Michael Waldron Meats Ltd.



Food

Michael Waldron Meats Ltd. previously received LEADER funding towards the purchase and installation of three automated production machines: a thermoformer, tray sealing machine, and automatic labeller. This investment increased production efficiency through automation, improved product presentation with enhanced packaging, strengthened production capacity, supported business growth, and helped maintain employment.

Building on the success of this investment, the company subsequently received LEADER funding for the introduction of a modular digital software platform and ancillary equipment to replace manual systems, optimise operational efficiency, and reduce waste and energy consumption.

Together, these investments have strengthened the company's productivity, sustainability, and long-term competitiveness.



Location:
Curry, Brideswell,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2014-2022
LEADER 2023-2027

Job Creation:
2 FTE

Jobs Sustained:
15 FTE
2 PTE

This has worked very well for us in totality as the purchase of the new machines has allowed us to increase productivity which in turn has increased our revenue intake.

Michael Waldron

Waldron Family
Handmade in the West of Ireland | estd. 1969

Kilmore GAA Club



Community

Kilmore GAA Club received funding to develop a 1km walking and activity track with lighting around the perimeter of the GAA grounds to provide a safe, accessible facility for the whole community.

The funding supported the construction of a 2.25m smooth finish walking surface, drainage works, fencing, ball-proof nets, solar lighting bollards and the installation of benches, along with associated engineering costs.

The project was designed to address rural isolation, encourage physical activity and improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages within the local community and surrounding areas.

Location:
Feeragh, Hillstreet, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *The community and local area of Kilmore/ Aughrim/ Hillstreet is now serviced by a very high-quality walking track at Kilmore GAA Club grounds. The project has been met with very favourable reaction from the local community and is used by high numbers on a regular basis.*
>
> *Michael McGuire, Kilmore GAA Club*





Castlerea Community Arts Group Ltd.



Community

Castlerea Community Arts Group Ltd. was formed to initiate the refurbishment of Trinity Church, Castlerea as a community facility. A protected structure, this heritage building has been conserved and restored over the past 20 years.

Trinity Arts Castlerea is a community performance space, serving as a local hub for arts, culture, and heritage. The universally accessible building features modern facilities and hosts a variety of events, such as local theatre, film screenings, and youth summer camps.

LEADER 2014-2022 provided funding towards repairs to external walls, structural repairs to the church tower, upgrade to heating system and fit-out and refurbishment of the balcony area.



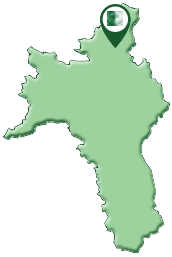
Location:
Castlerea,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

> *We are delighted to have been able to complete this project with the support of the community and LEADER Grant Aid, as without them it would not have been possible.*
>
> *Maureen Claffey, Castlerea Community Arts Group Ltd.*

ARTS
CULTURE
HERITAGE

Riverhaven Self Catering Cottages



Tourism

This project was developed by John Burke and his son, Martin. John and his family have been rural tourism product providers in North Roscommon since 1967 including bed & breakfast, self-catering and fishing holidays.

Riverhaven is an eco-tourism development situated on the North Eastern shore of Lough Key consisting of a cluster of four self-catering log houses built from Scandinavian pine and ancillary facilities. All materials used in the construction are natural-based products.

The construction of the four eco-friendly self-catering log houses took place on the shores of Lough Key between 2006 and 2009. In 2010 LEADER provided funding for groundwork, landscaping and nature trail, bird watching facilities, picnic tables and barbecue, playgrounds and football pitch equipment and production of brochures.



Location:
Knockvicar, Boyle,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

John Burke, RIP

2026 brought great sadness to Roscommon LEADER Partnership with the sudden passing of our dear friend, John Burke, former Vice Chairperson of Arigna LEADER, Chairperson of Úna Bhán Tourism Co-operative and LEADER project promoter. We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to John's family, friends and all who knew and loved him. John fulfilled his many roles with integrity, wisdom, kindness, efficiency and good humour. His advice was always thoughtful, measured and practical, and his commitment to his community and to the work of LEADER was unwavering. We were truly fortunate to have John among us. His contribution, friendship and gentle presence will be remembered with gratitude, and he will be greatly missed.

Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam dílis.

Lough Ree Access for All CLG



Tourism

A highly innovative project which provides a Virtual Reality (VR) experience tour of Inchcleraun Island (aka Quaker Island) on Lough Ree.

Combining cutting-edge VR technology with accessibility features, the project involved the development of a 10-minute immersive experience via 30 VR headsets. This allows visitors to explore the monastic ruins and ancient stories of Inchcleraun, St Diarmaid and Queen Meave, all from the safety and comfort of the LRAFA boats irrespective of any physical impairments.

The project builds on 2 previous LEADER 2014-2022 projects:

- Angling Centre Plan
  – basis for all subsequent capital project.
- Lough Ree Access for All boat.

Location:
Ballyleague,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022
LEADER 2023-2027





Kiltoom Community Development CLG



Community

The promoters sought LEADER funding towards the development of an enhanced environment and useable amenity area including additional parking provision at Ballybay, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

Initially a heavily overgrown site of scrub, bushes and weeds, the project comprised the creation of a Sensory Garden with access and parking adjacent to the existing community facilities, adding also to the visual amenity of the area.

The facility has given locals and visitors to the area a visually and sensually attractive area which will stimulate the senses and will be of benefit the entire community, particularly those with autism and the elderly.

Location:
Ballybay, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *Local communities can achieve significant improvement to their villages and environs through working with LEADER. Problems that may seem insurmountable at the outset can be resolved through the armoury of strategic solutions within the expertise of LEADER personnel.*
>
> *John Tiernan, Kiltoom Community Development CLG*



Rooskey Development & Social Inclusion Group CLG



Community

Rooskey Development & Social Inclusion CLG identified that the Community Centre in Rooskey was in need of refurbishment and extension to provide a much needed new multipurpose centre. Main works included insulation of the building, replacement of windows and doors, upgrading of heating system and a new kitchen.

The refurbishment of the community centre in Rooskey has ensured that local groups can use the facility year-round. Approximately 2,500 people use the building on an annual basis.

Energy-saving measures at the community centre has resulted in lower utility bills, created warmer and more comfortable spaces, and has helped reduce harmful carbon emissions.

Location:
Rooskey,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *The support of the LEADER Project Officer was crucial to the realisation of the project*
>
> *Delores Neary, RDSG*



Irish Pallet Systems Ltd.



Enterprise

This project entailed the surfacing of 7,100m^2 of the yard in asphalt with associated drainage, kerbing and fencing/signage.

This addressed a number of issues starting with the production process and workflow so that it could be streamlined as efficiently as possible, which supports a lean production system.

A larger storage area for finished goods was also developed, ensuring that the higher spec clean pallets are maintained appropriately.

The business is now much better positioned to bid for new "clean pallet" clients, such as clients from the pharma, medical devices, food & drinks sectors, all of which continue to grow.

Also, this new storage layout proves invaluable for efficient stock rotation.

Location:
Ballyleague,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

Job Creation:
3 FTE

Securing these 'clean pallet' clients resulted in increased turnover and profit margin and in increased employment. The clean pallet does command a higher margin.

Pat Vesey,
Irish Pallet Systems Ltd.





Elphin Area Community Enterprise CLG



Environment

In 2018, an Elphin-based local community enterprise group set about transforming the idea of a new community woodland into reality. With the support and advice of a local forester, DAFM and Teagasc, the Palace NeighbourWood Park was born.

Located on a 6-acre site adjacent to the restored 18th century windmill, initial planting was of approx. 5,000 trees, mainly native species including Oak, Scots Pine, Birch, Alder, Hazel, Rowan, Lime and Holly.

In 2020, the group secured LEADER funding for a second phase of planting, including an additional 5,000 trees as well as approx. 500 pollinator plants such as Honeysuckle, Crab Apple, Dog Rose, Whitethorn and a range of fruit trees with wild meadow flowers sown along the pathways.

An outstanding feature of the Palace NeighbourWood Park is the opportunity it presents local schools for their young students to learn about nature and the environment in their own community woodland on their doorstep.

With the new Palace NeighbourWood Park have come visitors of all ages from near and far, to experience the young growing woodland environment, a myriad of environmental features and a space for time and tranquillity.

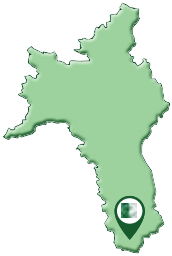
Location:
Elphin,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022

> *Research was critical as it informed our approach to the development and provided us with a greater understanding and enhanced knowledge regarding best practice in establishing a biodiversity park.*
>
> *Brendan Fox,*
> *Elphin Area Community Enterprise CLG*



Moore Community Council



Community

First formed in 1974, Moore Community Council is a long established and very successful community organisation, with a wealth of experience garnered over the years.

In 2020 they were successful in securing LEADER funding to carry out significant improvement works to Moore Hall, a focal point in the locality.

The project has resulted in a provision of a community facility that is light, bright and fully meets the everyday needs of the local community.

The LEADER project was a key to Moore Community Council securing additional funding from a number of sources to carry out additional works and improvements at the community centre. These included EU Just Transition and Arts Council Funding.

Location:
Moore,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 1995-2000
LEADER 2001-2008
LEADER 2014-2022

> *We are hugely grateful for the LEADER funds received and it has allowed us to refurbish a much-loved community facility that will stand the test of time over the coming decades.*
>
> *Carmel Scott, Moore Community Council*



Roscommon Rapid Response



Community

This project involved the purchase of 75 defibrillators for distribution to local community groups across County Roscommon.

To identify areas requiring new or replacement defibrillators, the promoter consulted with community groups throughout the county. Each defibrillator is housed in a secure cabinet equipped with a monitoring chip, helping to ensure it remains operational and ready for use.

This project builds on the previous project funded under the LEADER 2014-2022 Programme: the EMCall app, which allows users to easily locate the nearest defibrillator, notify responders, and access valuable resources

Location:
County Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022
LEADER 2023-2027

> *The project highlights the dedication of local defibrillator groups and the vital importance of having reliable, accessible units to support community safety.*
>
> *Sandra Kenny, Roscommon Rapid Response*



Roscommon Town Team CLG



Tourism

The promoters received funding towards the running of the Roscommon Christmas Festival and Market 2024 including fireworks display, street entertainment, hire of chalets, advertising, a new Christmas Lights Bow Banner for street display and voluntary labour.

The 2024 Christmas Festival built on the success of the previous year's event, also funded by LEADER, which had attracted an additional 5,000 visitors to Roscommon Town in early December.

The festival enhanced the quality of the market, increased visitor numbers, supported local businesses, and contributed to creating a more sustainable and vibrant community event.

Location:
Tourist Office,
Harrison Hall,
Main Street,
Co. Roscommon

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2014-2022
LEADER 2023-2027

Number of visitors after LEADER Funding: 6,000

The 2024 Roscommon Festival and Christmas Market was a great success, building on the progress made in previous years.

Helen McGinty, Roscommon Town Team CLG





Athlone Baysports Ltd.



Tourism

Athlone Baysports is Ireland's largest inflatable waterpark which attracts up to 40,000 visitors to Hodson Bay in south Roscommon every year.

A unique outdoor adventure destination, Baysports caters for the school tours, corporate team building, wellness experiences, water-based activities tourism sectors. Baysports have been the recipients of multiple LEADER grants, including the initial purchase of the waterpark equipment and the purchase of marquees which are used to provide changing viewing facilities for clients and visitors to the area.

The business creates employment locally and attracts huge footfall to the Hodson Bay area of Co. Roscommon, which has economic benefits for other local businesses.

Location:
Hodson Bay,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

Jobs Created:
3 Full Time
35 Part Time

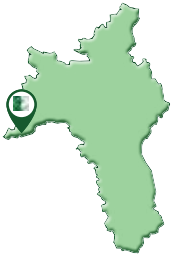
As a result of this project the visitor experience has been significantly enhanced thereby increasing the attractiveness of Baysports as a tourism and leisure destination.

Richie O'Hara,
Athlone Baysports Ltd.





Cloonfad Scenic Walks



Tourism

Cloonfad Scenic Walks was formed in 2001, where an elevated and unspoilt landscape was transformed over the years into a hugely popular walking and recreational amenity.

Ancient footpaths and walkways were upgraded and resurfaced to provide seven interlinking circular walking routes, including a wheelchair accessible trail.

A new Walks Resource Centre was developed in 2005. The facilities on offer include a Café, kitchen facilities, toilet and shower facilties, car parking and a picnic area.

In 2020, they applied for LEADER funding to implement a Water Resources project – water feature enhancement works at 2 locations along the Walks – Waterfall at Derrylahan and picnic area at Clogher Upper.

Location:
Cloonfad,
Co. Roscommon.

LEADER Programme:
LEADER 2009-2013
LEADER 2014-2022

> *This LEADER project has provided a significant boost to a popular walking amenity. The Wheelchair route is a standout feature.*
>
> *Sean Corcoran, Cloonfad Scenic Walks*





















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