

BALLINAMORE AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLG NEWSLETTER 2024



Ballinamore Area Community Council Clg was founded in 1975, covering Aughawillan, Aughnasheelin, Ballinamore, Corraleeahan and Drumreilly. The aims of the Council are the social, cultural and economic welfare of the whole community. We represent the community in dealing with statutory bodies and others agencies in seeking technical or other assistance. We also assist, where feasible, the Local Authority in the exercise of its office in the locality. We are a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status and a Social Enterprise. We work closely with Leitrim County Council, Leitrim Development Company, Leitrim Enterprise Office, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board and Fermanagh/Omagh District Council. Our motto is **to make Ballinamore a better place to live, work and play in.**

OUR FACILITIES

- Sports Complex built in 1999;
- Enterprise Units built in the 1990s and rented out to five small businesses at very low rents, to encourage business start-ups and create employment in the area;
- Community Den, built in 2015 and home to the 1st Leitrim Scouts and Better Together Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme;
- Children's playground, soon to be expanded and made more accessible;
- The grounds of Poll an Easa waterfall;
- Soon we will take ownership of St. Felim's Pitch;
- Coming soon: MUGA - Multi Use Games Area.

BETTER TOGETHER NÍOS FEARR LE CHÉILE

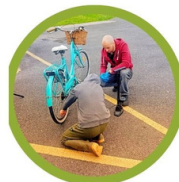
One of our key pieces of work is the Better Together Níos Fearr Le Chéile International Fund for Ireland (IFI) funded Peace Impact Programme. Following successful programmes from 2019 - 2024, we have secured further funding of €194,000 now extended to March 2026. This Project has gone from strength to strength and continues to build relationships cross border and cross community.

The main themes of our most recent Peace Impact Programme include:

- A new Community Services Hub in Ballinamore & cross-border Capacity Development Training;
- Cross-border, cross-community Schools Programme & Digital Wellness through Sport in rural border counties;
- Exploring the Past and Looking to the Future – with a focus on the future.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HUB

In 2024 we started the Community Services Hub which runs every second Tuesday in the Community Den and includes information and sign posting; swap shops of clothes, toys, plants, books; sewing & bicycle repairs. A free space, open to all locals and new residents, to drop in see what is on offer, have a cuppa and a chat. Thanks to all our volunteers, without whom we could not run this free service and congratulate them on winning the Outstanding Group Award – Environment, Diversity, Sustainability at the 2024 Leitrim Volunteer Awards.



ABOUT OUR TEAM

Ballinamore Area Community Council Clg is headed by a voluntary Board and no one on the Board receives a salary. Our overheads are very high, especially our insurance and running costs, but through fundraising, grant applications and rental of our facilities, we are able to continue our work for the betterment of the community. We employ two staff on our Peace Project whose salaries are paid for by the International Fund for Ireland. We have two RSS workers who undertake caretaker duties, as well as our amazing cleaning lady. We recently engaged with social welfare who provided us with an Administrator on a Work Placement Experience Programme for six months. We also have a number of volunteers. We would like to thank all these people who make up our team, as well as all the groups, businesses and individuals who rent our facilities and support us financially. There are lots of ways to get involved, for more information email: ballinamoreareacc@gmail.com.

GRANTS

A huge part of our work revolves around grant writing and fundraising for our facilities as well as for the further development of the town. 2024 has been a very successful year for us in terms of securing funding.

- Community Recognition Fund - €357,877, thanks to Leitrim County Council and the Department for Rural and Community Development. This fund will help us realise our exciting plans to upgrade the Sports Complex for the benefit of the entire community. Works will take place in early 2025.
- Peace Plus Programme - €225,000, thanks to Thanks to Leitrim County Council, Leitrim Development Company & Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). This fund is for a Multi Use Games Area, which will be next to the Children's Playground. Works will commence in the first quarter of 2025. Ballinamore's close proximity to the border has led to the development of cross border/cross community relationships through our 'Better Together – Níos Fearr Le Chéile' Peace Impact Programme. Animation of the MUGA space will look to build on these relationships and the formation of new ones.
- International Fund for Ireland - €193, 771 - 'Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile' Peace Impact Programme to extend the programme and include new elements such as the Multi-Sports Exchange/Digital Awareness Programme, Community Services Hub, and more. The programme will now run until March 2026.
- Community Centre Investment Fund - €22,482, thanks to Pobal. This will be used to install wall & ceiling insulation, to improve the energy efficiency of the Community Den and make it a warmer, more comfortable space.
- Clár - €36,557, thanks to Leitrim County Council and the Department for Rural and Community Development. This fund is to extend the children's playground, which is situated on land owned by Ballinamore Area Community Council. The extension will include a disability access swing and sensory items, and works will be completed early next year. This will ensure inclusivity for all, which is one of our aims.
- Community Climate Action Programme (Strand 1A) €25,555 to install solar panels and an electric vehicle charge point for Ballinamore and €16,550 for our cross border/cross community group in Fermanagh. Thanks to Leitrim County Council and the Department for Environment, Climate & Communications.
- LEADER Rural Development Programme Training Grant - €10,000, thanks to Leitrim Local Community Development Committee. This will be for Community Training Programmes and will benefit many in our community.
- Community Integration Fund - €5,000, thanks to the Department for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. This will fund our Community Services Hub as well as integration activities with new communities in our town.
- Transforming Local Leadership - €5,000, thanks to The International Fund for Ireland. We will carry out a 3-Year Business Plan to ensure our Community Council is moving forward with succession planning in mind, whilst providing additional services within our community.
- Local Enhancement Programme Fund - €886, thanks to Leitrim Council Council and the Department for Rural and Community Development. For the purchase of safety mats for the Sports Complex and Community Den.
- SICAP - €500, thanks to Leitrim Development Company. This will be used for our Social Enterprise initiatives.

MUGA - COMING SOON



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As a voluntary board we have achieved a great deal in 2024 and look forward to seeing many of our plans reaching fruition in 2025.

To book the Community Den or Sports Complex, contact: 0873835513 / ballinamoreareacc@gmail.com