

Laois County Council

In partnership with

Laois Public Participation Network

and our long-term Corporate Sponsor

People First Credit Union



**Laois Community
and Voluntary
Awards**

**Gradaim Phobail
agus Dheonacha
Laoise**

2026 Nomination Form

LEINSTER EXPRESS www.leinsterexpress.ie

***This form should be used to nominate a Group/Club/Organisation Only.
Groups/Clubs/Organisations can nominate themselves. Only one nomination permitted per group/organisation.
Groups cannot enter in multiple categories.***

N.B. Before completing this form, please read the accompanying terms & conditions and judging criteria

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. To ensure judging is fair and impartial, Judges will be selected from outside of County Laois.
2. The nominated group/club/organisation must be well established.
3. Previous category winners are not permitted to enter the same category in the following year's awards.
4. The nominated group/club/organisation **must be registered with Laois Public Participation Network** prior to nominations.
5. The nominator may or may not be a member of the nominated group.
6. The nominated group should not be in receipt of regular State funding, e.g., regular grant aid. Should the nominated group have received a once-off grant for a particular item/project, this should be disclosed and will be judged accordingly.
7. The nominated group must have set out what they are about, highlighting their current/recent activities and achievements and the impact that all of their activities have on the local and wider community including, if appropriate, their level of participation locally and their level of volunteerism.
8. The nominated group must have set out what their plans are for the future, based on their commitment to making a difference in the community.
9. A minimum of **two digital photographs** must accompany the application form. Photographs should be of good quality and may be used for publication.
10. Groups can only be nominated in one category. Groups cannot be nominated multiple times across multiple categories.
11. If groups are nominated multiple times, the FIRST nomination received will be the one sent for judging. Again, only one application per group will be allowable with groups only being permitted to be entered in one category.
12. Nomination forms which don't have all the required consents from all individuals/groups involved will be deemed invalid.
13. Canvassing may lead to your application being disqualified.
14. Nominated groups will receive an allocation of two tickets only, with the nominator receiving one. Multiple applications will not increase a groups ticket allocation.
15. **Please note that photography and videography will be taken at this event.**
16. Minimum wording as set out beside each field must be adhered to. Forms that have not achieved the required word count will be deemed ineligible.

CONSENT AGREEMENT:

Please Note:

The nomination cannot proceed without your stated consent to the below information as it is required for the processing of the nomination before, during and after the event.

- I have the **Consent** of the **Nominated Group/Club/Organisation** being nominated to furnish this application and to share their personal data with Laois Co. Co. for this purpose.
- I am sharing copies of photos and/or accompanying documentation, as part of the nominated application by email or post as originals may not be returned.
- I have the **Consent** of the **Nominated Group/Club/Organisation** to be contacted by Laois County Councils staff members and other parties involved in the Community and Voluntary Award 2026

I have obtained the **Consent** of the **Nominated Group/Club/Organisation** so that photographs may be used by Laois County Council in advertisements and publications about the Awards Ceremony, be posted on Social Media sites, be used in the Ceremony production and be included in Council publications, to include but not limited to the Annual Report, Council Newsletter and Management Reports.

***If you wish to withdraw consent to any of the above, please email awards@laoiscoco.ie

Consent Confirmation: Sign here _____

JUDGING CRITERIA

Groups will be judged by the Adjudication Panel based on the following criteria:

- Contribution of the group/club/organisation to the community;
- How representative the group/club/organisation is of the community;
- Level of voluntary involvement and participation;
- How well a group/club/organisation services and/or activities are planned and delivered, and the use of innovative approaches;
- Positive impact of the work of the group/club/organisation on the local and wider community;
- Positive impact the work has had on the target category, i.e., arts, community services & support, climate change, sports & recreation, etc;
- Use of inclusive working methods, e.g., reaching out to ensure that those who most need to actually get involved/benefit from inclusion;
- Future benefits to the community.

Completed application should be sent by email to awards@laoiscoco.ie or posted to Community Awards Section, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois and marked:

“Community & Voluntary Awards 2026 Nomination”.

Closing Date is by 4 pm, Friday 4th September 2026

For further assistance and queries, please contact (057) 8664236 or email awards@laoiscoco.ie

Nomination Form

Under which Category do you wish to nominate a Group/Club/Organisation:

Please tick ONE only. Only one nomination per group allowed across all categories.

Multiple entries are not permitted.

Arts, Culture & Heritage Award

☐

This award recognises Clubs/Groups/Organisations who enhance their local areas, by conserving, protecting and promoting the Arts, Culture and Heritage of their local community through collective creative activities.

Examples include Drama, Music, Literature, Arts, Festivals, Conservation, and Heritage.

Sports Award

☐

This award is to recognise and celebrate group in our local communities from clubs, and community organisations that go above and beyond in their efforts to promote community sport and physical activity opportunities. This award aims to acknowledge groups or organisations that provide a leading role in their communities to help to improve the quality of life and reduce barriers to participation through physical activity or sports.

Climate Action Award

☐

Award recognises communities carrying out awareness initiatives and/or actions that make a positive contribution against climate change. Climate actions can encourage your community to improve the impact of their everyday choices, support local communities and foster a sustainable approach to protecting the environment.

Best Kept Residential Estate Award

☐

This award recognises the hard work and dedication shown in Residential Estates throughout Laois, recognises the great pride people have in their own communities, recognise the value of our biodiversity and continued to put in a huge effort, on behalf of the places where they live. *Please note that Tidy Towns groups are not eligible to be nominated under this category.*

Social Inclusion Award

☐

This award recognises Clubs/Groups/Organisations that actively work in a supportive role in their communities and whose aim is to minimise social exclusion and/or help to improve the quality of life for socially excluded groups. Examples include Working with the elderly, People with Disabilities, Ethnic Minority, Travelling Community, Young people in transition, LGBTI+ and the Homeless.

Health & Well Being Award

☐

This award recognises community health and wellbeing groups i.e., mental health, sexual health, awareness raising & promotion around medical conditions, disorders and disabilities, increased meaningful daily activities, developing confidence and providing a sense of purpose & positive self-worth for citizens in the community. This award acknowledges Community groups, Organisations and Clubs that promote physical and mental health and wellbeing, focusing on prevention and keeping people healthier for longer. including opportunities for social connections. Example: Drama Groups, Youth Activities, Mental Health Support Groups, Healthy Eating Programmes, Sexual health, Social Network groups, Scouts and people with differing abilities.

NOMINATOR: *(The nominator is the person or group making the nomination – please ensure you read the terms & conditions regarding this section!)*

Your Name (either an individual or a group)	
Your Address	
Phone No. (daytime contact)	
Email Address for Contact	
How Did You Hear About These Awards:	

I wish to nominate the following Group/Club/Organisation for a Community & Voluntary Award:

Name of Group/Club/ Organisation/	
Address	
Contact Person	
Phone No. (daytime contact)	
Email Address for Contact	
Website/Social Media Link	
Background of Members, Focus/ Target Group	
General kind of Activities	

Is the Group/Organisation registered as a member of Laois PPN? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

If no, please arrange to register with Laois PPN in order to be eligible for an award.

Further details are available at <https://www.laoisppn.ie/register-a-group/> or call 057-8665661

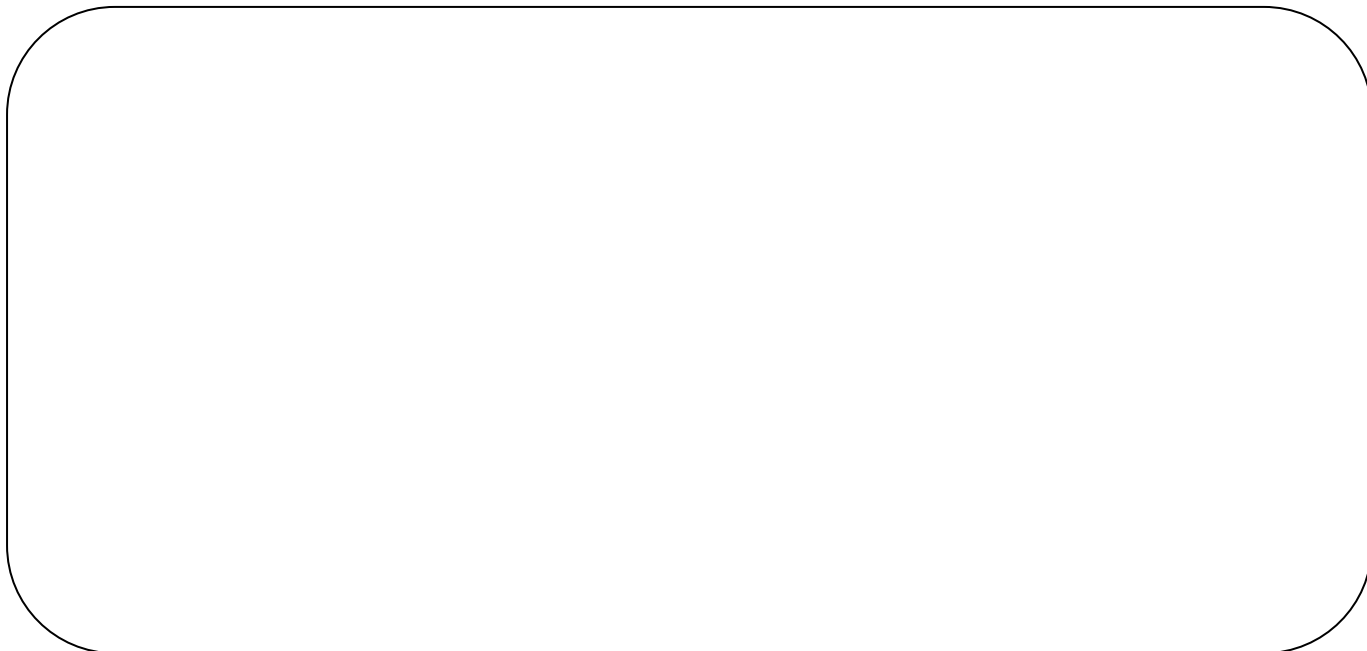
- 1) No. of Voluntary Workers No. of Paid Workers
- 2) What Year Was Your Group/Club/Organisation Founded? _____
- 3) How Is the Group Funded? _____
- _____

State the reasons why the Group/Club/Organisation deserve the Award? (Minimum 75 Words)

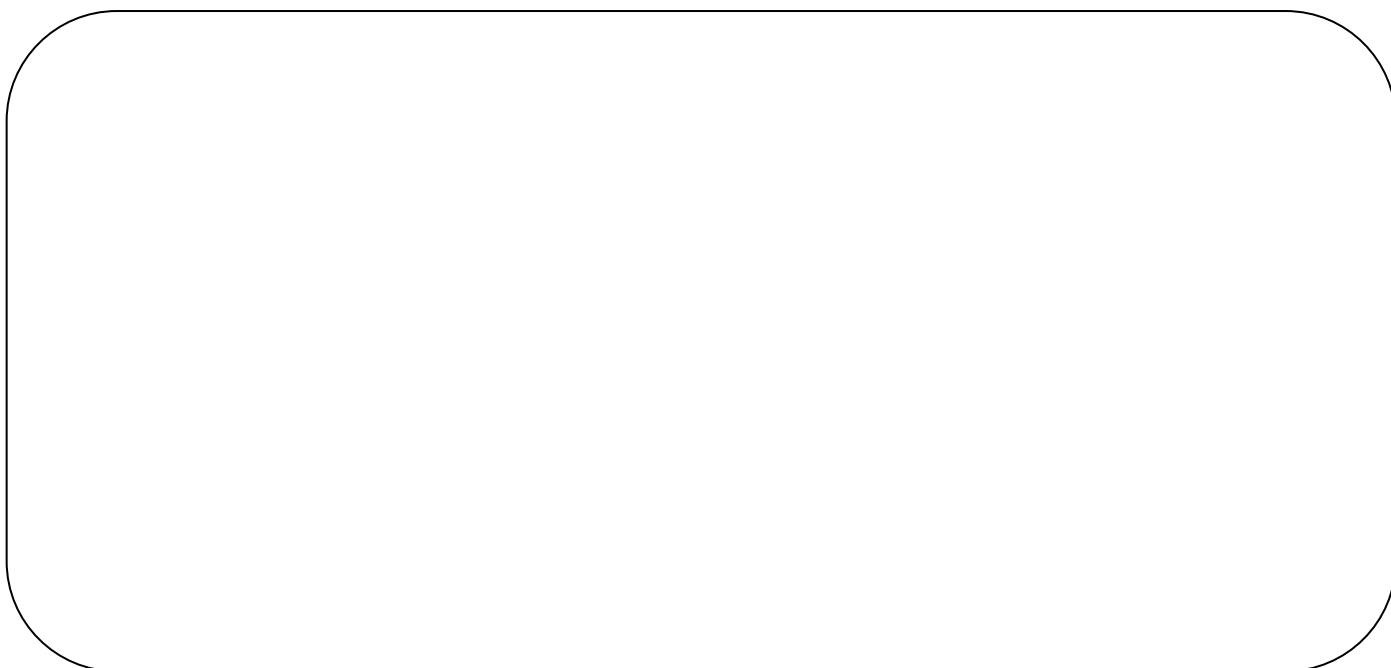
Please highlight the current/recent activities and achievements of the nominated Group/Club/ Organisation?
(Use Photos/Videos And/or Separate Pages to Illustrate These If You wish) (Minimum 50 Words)

How does the Group/Club/ Organisation benefit the community? (Minimum 75 Words)

What are the future plans of the group/club/organisation? (Minimum 50 Words)



Please provide a brief summary that highlights this volunteer group's contribution, which can be read during the ceremony to inform others of their accomplishments. (Minimum 100 Words)



- By completing and submitting this form, I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the terms and conditions, judging criteria and the data protection requirements.
- In addition to the aforementioned, I hereby confirm that I have the Consent of the nominated group to share their personal data, relevant for the administration of Laois Community and Voluntary Awards, 2026.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

Community and Voluntary awards privacy statement / data protection statement can be found by clicking the [below links.](#)

[Community and Voluntary Awards privacy statement](#)