



# Community Benefit Funds

# County Donegal

We are here to answer your queries. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Queries in relation to the Community Benefit Funds

Email: **[CommunityFundIreland@sse.com](mailto:CommunityFundIreland@sse.com)**

or visit **[SSERenewables.com/MeentycatFund](https://SSERenewables.com/MeentycatFund)**

**[SSERenewables.com/LenaleaFund](https://SSERenewables.com/LenaleaFund)**

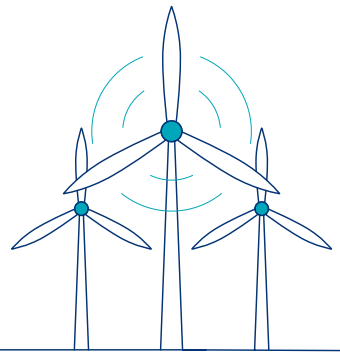
Queries in relation to our wind farms

Email: **[CLO@sse.com](mailto:CLO@sse.com)** or visit

**[SSERenewables.com/onshore-wind/ireland](https://SSERenewables.com/onshore-wind/ireland)**



# SSE Renewables' Wind Farms



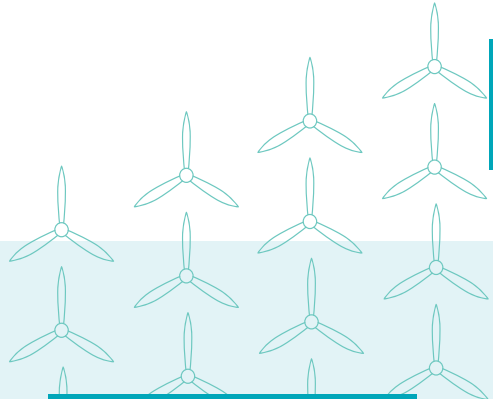
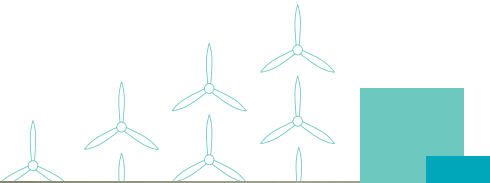
**SSE has a long-standing presence in County Donegal through its cluster of wind farms, located 13 km south-west of Letterkenny.**

**Culliagh Wind Farm's 18 turbines have been operational since 2000, providing 11.9MW of clean, green energy. It was also the first wind farm in Ireland to be fully funded by the private sector.**

Meentycat Wind Farm was Ireland's largest wind farm when it became operational in 2004. Further extensions in 2009, brought its number of turbines to 45 with an installed generation capacity of 88.5MW.

More recently, our wind farm cluster has seen the addition of Lenalea Wind Farm in late 2023. Co-developed with FuturEnergy Ireland, it has 30MW of installed capacity from its 7 turbines.

In late 2025, we announced further progress on our co-development portfolio with FuturEnergy Ireland as Drumnahough Wind Farm started pre-construction works. The 12 turbine, 58MW wind farm will also deliver a positive impact to the region through a substantial community benefit fund, building on funding provided to date through our existing wind farms.



## Existing Funds

Through our various funds, we make annual contributions to community groups in the vicinity of our wind farms. Since 2007, SSE Renewables has paid over €1.7 million in funding to community groups in Donegal.

### Vision

To empower local communities to create sustainable, impactful projects that contributes to the social, environmental and economic well-being of local communities, and enhance the quality of life for all community members for decades to come.

### Mission

To provide financial support to community groups developing projects that reflect local needs, align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and uphold the principles of transparency, empowerment, and inclusion. As a source of private funding, SSE Renewables' voluntary funds can be used

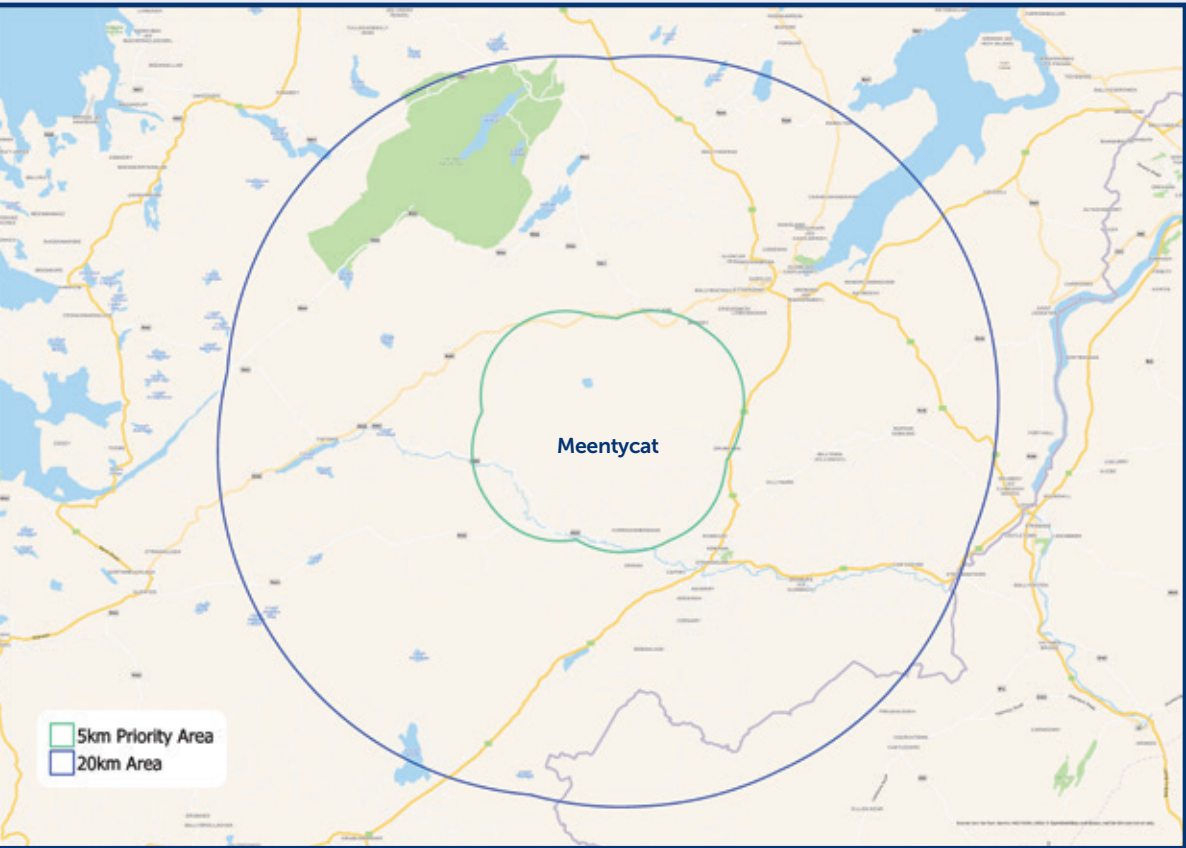
to meet match funding requirement for public funding programmes, helping make applications eligible and enhancing the overall impact and viability of proposed projects.

### Who can apply for funding?

The SSE Renewables Community Benefit Funds are designed to support charities and voluntary not-for-profit organisations that provide meaningful, long-term benefit to communities located within the Area of Benefit, with priority given to projects and organisations based within a 5km radius.

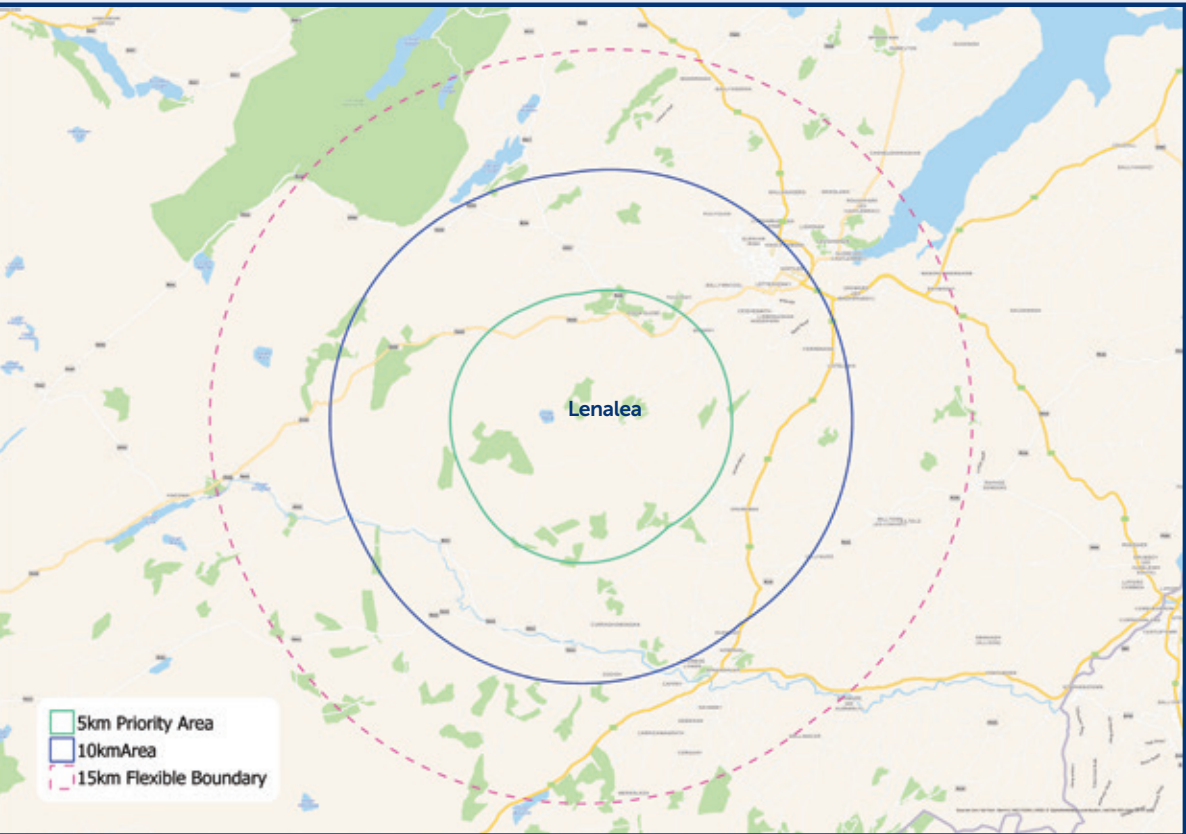
## Area of Benefit - Meentycat & Culliagh

The below map outlines the Area of Benefit for the Community Fund with priority given to groups within 5 km, followed by groups within 10 km and then out to 20 km from the centre of the wind farm.



## Area of Benefit - Lenalea

The below map outlines the Area of Benefit for the Community Fund with priority given to groups within 5 km, up to 10 km. Groups based outside the 10km radius up to 15km, may also be considered where they deliver measurable impact to communities within the Area of Benefit.





# What can be funded?

The funds considers applications for both capital and revenue funding.

## Capital funding

For expenditure on new assets or the enhancement of existing assets. These should deliver clear and lasting benefit to the wider community and are expected to have a useful lifespan of at least 5 years.

## SSE Renewables' Strategic Objectives

Projects must contribute to one or more of SSE Renewables' strategic objectives:

■ **Empowering Communities for a Green Transition:** Supporting community-led efforts that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, promote circular economy practices, and enhance local biodiversity.

■ **Sustainable Communities - Resilience, Equity and Learning:** Building community resilience through inclusive infrastructure, accessible education and skills development, social enterprise, and initiatives that support health and well-being.

Our fund's strategic objectives are aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), reflecting our shared commitment to creating lasting, and positive impact in the communities that host our renewable energy projects.

## Revenue funding

For project-related operational costs such as the delivery of training, workshops, community events or professional fees.



**SDG4: Quality Education**  
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



**SDG7: Affordable & Clean**  
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



**SDG11: Sustainable Cities & Communities**  
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



**SDG13: Climate Action**  
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

## Lenalea Community Benefit Fund Strategic Themes

### SDG 4: Quality Education



Educational Supports for All Ages.

### SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing



Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Community.

### SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy



Transition to Renewable Energy.

### SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic growth



Sustainable Local Community Tourism Development.

### SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities



Enabling Local Community Development.

### SDG 13: Climate Action



Community Climate Action - Protect and Promote.

By investing in local initiatives, we seek to promote social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and community well-being, ensuring that the benefits of renewable energy extend beyond clean power to support strong, resilient, and thriving local communities.

## Meentycat & Culliagh review

2007/26



**1,757,300**  
total investment locally



**857** grants awarded

## Lenalea review

2025/26



**30,418** invested  
in local communities



**14** community groups supported





# Community Transport & Clean Energy Transition

Ballybofey & Stranorlar Integrated Company Ltd (BASICC) €34,000



**Community benefit funding plays a vital role in supporting local organisations to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, and foster more sustainable and connected communities.**

With support from the SSE Renewables Meentycat Community Fund, Ballybofey & Stranorlar Integrated Company Ltd (BASICC) has successfully transitioned from a traditional fossil-fuelled vehicle to a fully electric van, marking a major milestone in the group's ongoing sustainability journey.

Previously, the organisation's diesel van—used daily to transport community employment scheme workers and tools across town—averaged 5,000 km annually, with fuel costs of approximately €3,000 per year. The switch to an electric vehicle (EV) now allows these same essential community services to continue with zero exhaust emissions, reducing carbon output by an estimated 900 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and significantly lowering running costs.

The EV has also become a shared community resource, used by the Chamber of Commerce, BASICC, and local volunteer groups for events such as Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and summer festivals—eliminating the need for costly vehicle rentals. In one example, a local group borrowed the van for a weekend, saving approximately €400 in rental and fuel costs.

Alongside the EV initiative, BASICC has implemented a range of energy efficiency upgrades, including the installation of solar panels, insulation, heating controls and zoning, and lighting and safety improvements, further cutting energy use and emissions.

This project demonstrates how targeted community investment and local collaboration can accelerate the transition to clean transport, reduce carbon emissions, and deliver long-term social, environmental, and economic benefits—helping to build a more sustainable and resilient community in Ballybofey and Stranorlar.

# Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Drumkeen United AFC €71,500



**Community benefit funds are essential in enabling local clubs to embrace clean energy solutions and improve efficiency. These investments help reduce costs, emissions, and environmental impact while supporting thriving community sport.**

With over €1,200 support from the newly established Lenalea Community Fund, Drumkeen United Football Club was able to replace goal netting to prevent footballs from causing damage to the surrounding area.

Since 2007, the club has also received over €70,000 support from the Meentycat and Cullinagh Community Fund, enabling a series of impactful upgrades that have enhanced both sustainability and the overall sporting experience.

Major energy efficiency works included attic and cavity wall insulation and the installation of new doors and windows, reducing heat loss, energy use, and running costs.

The club also installed modern, energy-efficient floodlighting, improving visibility and safety for players and spectators while lowering energy demand.

Further equipment and facility improvements have enhanced comfort and accessibility for all users, ensuring the grounds remain a valued gathering place year-round.

The club has also proudly taken part in other SSE Renewables fundraising activities, symbolising its alignment with the renewable energy sources that power the region's sustainability journey.

These actions highlight how community funding and local commitment can deliver lasting benefits—helping small clubs lead the way in energy efficiency, climate responsibility, and community resilience.



Members of Donegal Mountain Rescue performing a rescue demonstration at Meentycat Wind Farm.



# Powering Safety and Resilience

Donegal Mountain Rescue €24,864

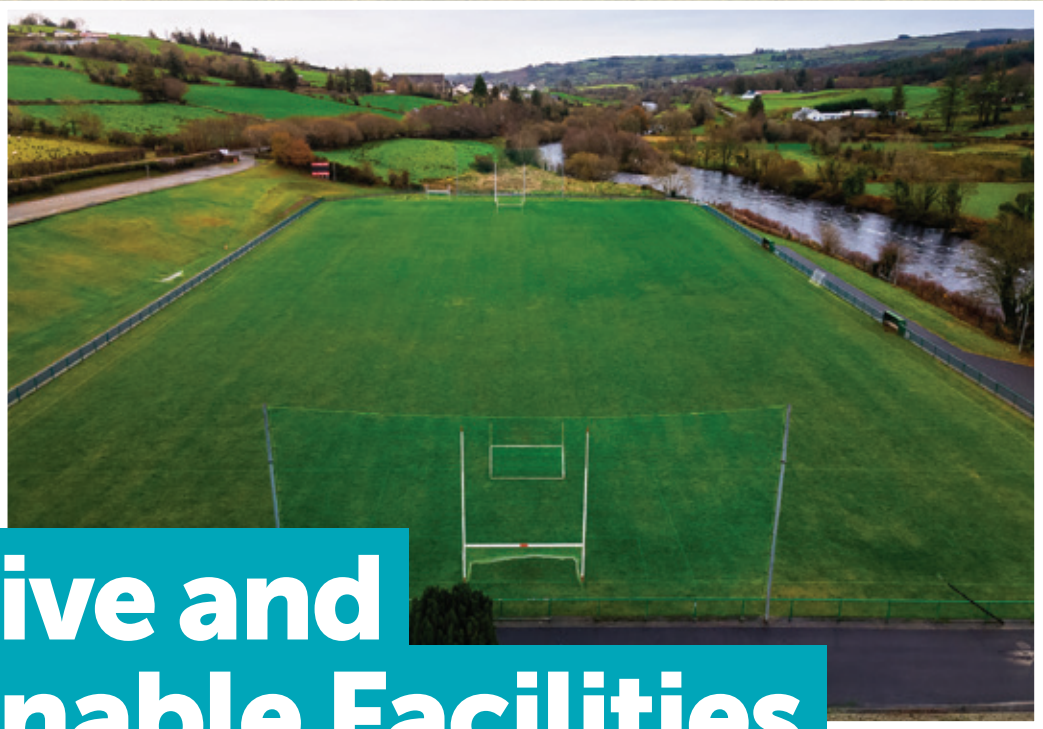
At SSE Renewables, safety is at the core of everything we do. Our guiding principle is simple: if it's not safe, we don't do it. This value is fundamental to our operations, and we are proud to support organisations that share this commitment. One such organisation is Donegal Mountain Rescue, a team of 35 dedicated volunteers who are on call 24/7 to respond to emergencies in the mountainous and remote areas of County Donegal, including during extreme weather events.

With €23,000 support from the SSE Renewables Meentycat Community Fund, Donegal Mountain Rescue has purchased essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all team members. This investment ensures that the volunteers are fully equipped to respond safely and effectively to critical situations. The new PPE standardises the gear across the team, improving both protection and visibility during rescues. It replaces older, inadequate gear, ensuring that all members are equally prepared, enhancing operational readiness, and helping the team attract new recruits to strengthen their long-term resilience.

€1,864 support from the newly established Lenalea Community Fund also enabled upgrades to the electrical and data systems in the team's Incident Control Unit Vehicle, further enhancing response capabilities.

Beyond supporting Donegal Mountain Rescue, this project highlights the broader role local groups can play in regions where SSE Renewables' wind farms are located. It underscores how renewable energy initiatives can drive sustainable, impactful projects that deliver lasting social and environmental benefits. Through our Community Funds, we are proud to power local change, enabling meaningful contributions to the community.

With the new PPE & upgrades, Donegal Mountain Rescue is better equipped to serve the people of Donegal, ensuring faster and safer responses to emergencies. This initiative also reflects our shared commitment to local, sustainable development, leaving a positive legacy for generations to come in the future.



# Inclusive and Sustainable Facilities

CLG Ghleann Fhinne €135,000

Community benefit funds are key to strengthening local sport and recreation by providing targeted support that enhances safety, accessibility, and sustainability. These funds enable local clubs to invest in essential infrastructure that supports community connection and long-term wellbeing.

With support from the Meentycat and Culliagh Community Funds, CLG Ghleann Fhinne has delivered a range of major infrastructure upgrades designed to make its facilities safer, more inclusive, and more energy-efficient.

Projects supported include substantial energy upgrades, such as the installation of solar panels, cavity wall and roof insulation, double glazing, and energy-efficient sports lighting, which together cut energy use, reduce costs, and lower the club's carbon footprint.

Equally important were improvements in safety and accessibility, including new stop ball nets, perimeter fencing and a walking track, and disabled-accessible toilets and changing rooms, ensuring the club's facilities are open and welcoming to everyone.

The club also participated in other SSE Renewables fundraising activities, reinforcing its connection to renewable energy and the wider community.

Through these efforts, CLG Ghleann Fhinne demonstrates how local investment in inclusive, sustainable infrastructure can build stronger communities.







# Native Broadleaf Tree Planting in Cappry Village

Cappry Residents Group €7,300

**Community benefit funding helps drive efforts by local organisations to enhance biodiversity, improve the environment, and strengthen community connections.**

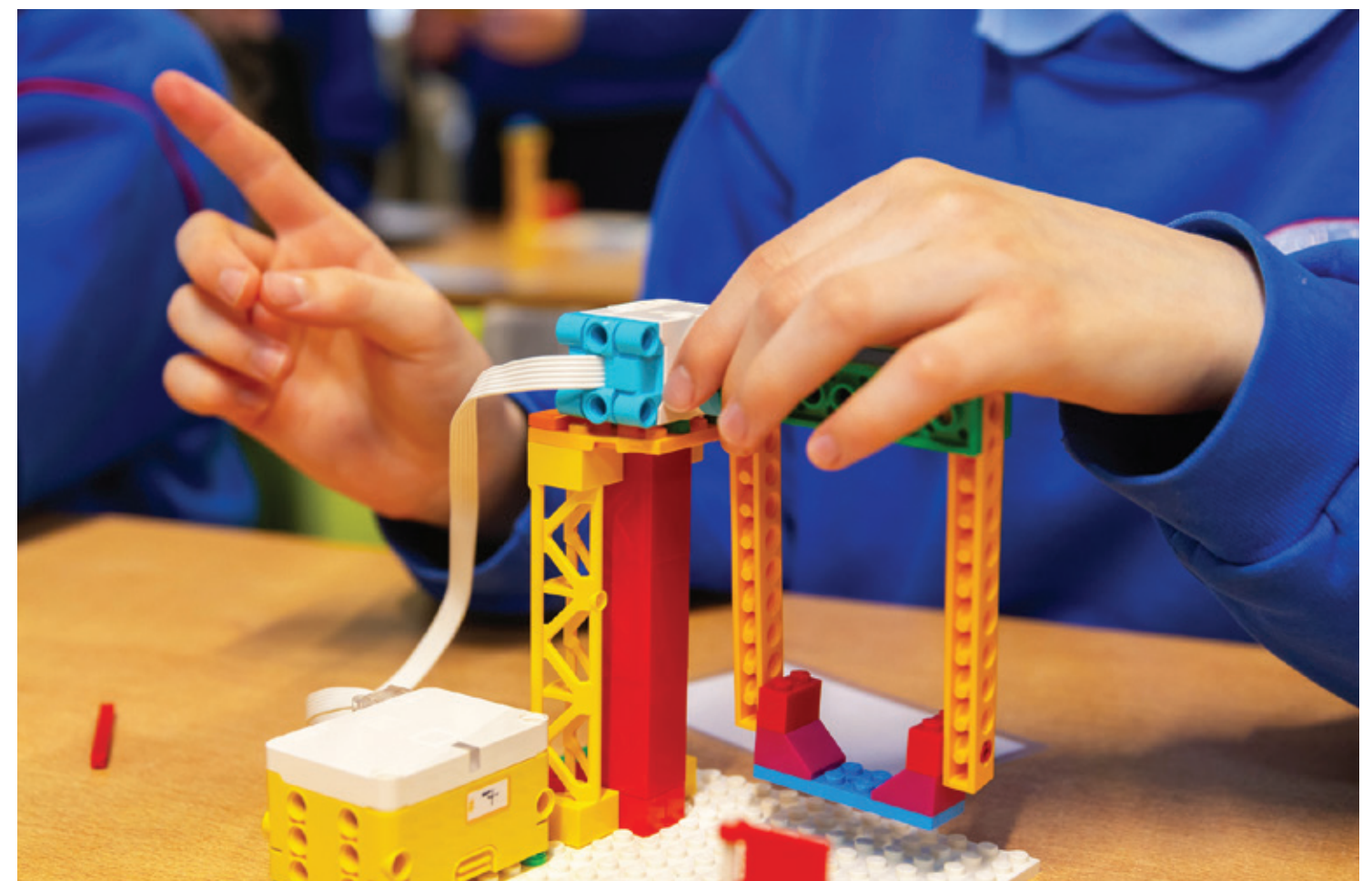
With support from Meentycat Community Fund, the Cappry Residents Group, working with registered forester Jim Crowley—has delivered a five-year Native Broadleaf Tree Planting Programme, planting more than 100 trees along a 1 km stretch of the N15 through Cappry village. The majority of trees planted include mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), common downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), and silver birch (*Betula pendula*), with additional ornamental species such as native wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) and common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). This initiative is helping to create a greener, healthier, and more sustainable village landscape.

The project addresses the limited native tree cover in the area, boosting biodiversity, improving local air quality, and deepening community engagement. Local volunteers played a central role not only in planting the trees but also in their ongoing care—

clearing grass, maintaining tree guards, replacing any trees that died, and applying fertiliser. This long-term stewardship strengthens social ties and encourages wider participation in community activities such as litter picking and grass cutting, ensuring lasting environmental and social benefits.

The programme aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, supporting SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities by enhancing green spaces and resilience, and SDG 13 – Climate Action by sequestering carbon through native tree planting. It also supports the Donegal Biodiversity Plan by promoting native tree planting, enhancing woodland habitats, and supporting local wildlife corridors, directly contributing to county-wide objectives for biodiversity restoration and ecosystem resilience.

By combining environmental improvement with strong community involvement, the Native Broadleaf Tree Planting Project is helping to build a more sustainable, resilient, and connected Cappry Village.



# Building Future Innovators

Scoil Mhuire B&C Stranorlar €8,400

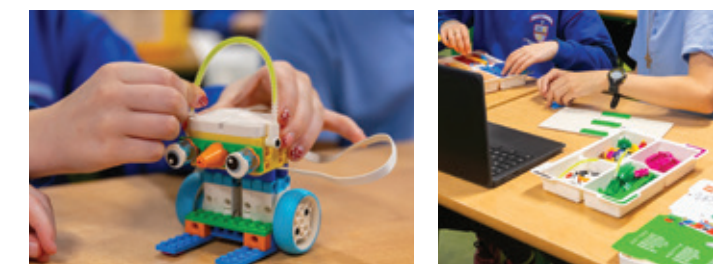
**Community benefit funds significantly contribute to empowering local organisations in education, skills development, and preparing communities for future careers.**

With support from the Meentycat Community Fund, Scoil Mhuire Stranorlar purchased SPIKE Education LEGO kits to promote STEM learning, focusing on coding, design, and engineering skills. This initiative provides hands-on, interactive experiences that inspire problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration, equipping students with practical skills for future studies and careers.

Integrated into the curriculum, the kits give students sustained access to coding, robotics, and engineering concepts while fostering teamwork, critical thinking, and digital literacy. The project complements the school's Digital Learning Plan and the ICT Infrastructure Grants under the Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027, enhancing technology use across all classes. It also aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education – by offering inclusive and equitable learning opportunities.

By combining high-quality, reusable educational resources with active, collaborative learning, the SPIKE LEGO project builds a foundation for an innovative, skilled, and engaged generation of problem-solvers, ensuring long-term benefits for students and the wider community.

The school also took part in other SSE Renewables fundraising activities, highlighting its dedication to a cleaner, more sustainable future for generations to come.





**For further information about  
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