

### **Going the extra mile for rural broadband in Mayo**

The Croagh Patrick Community Network Society (CPCNS) is a community-based broadband scheme established in 2004. It provides broadband services to its network of over 270 residential and business customers in the Clew Bay area. It is the only community-owned broadband service in County Mayo.

CPCNS secured almost €8,000 of LEADER funding for the purchase and installation of specialist broadband equipment. This equipment allowed CPCNS to increase bandwidth and improve the broadband service offered to its customers. The investment, which was matched with €2,500 of the group's own resources, also allowed CPCNS to expand their network to more households, many of whom are unable to access reliable services through commercial providers.

By commissioning a dedicated fibre optic broadband connection and upgrading the existing technical equipment, CPCNS can offer consistent high-speed broadband to a wide range of users in isolated rural areas. The LEADER funding is also helping to secure the long-term sustainability of CPCNS by attracting new customers as a result of this improved infrastructure.

As we move into a hybrid working environment and with the move of so many services online, CPCNS provides a vital rural service which is as essential as running water and electricity into our homes and businesses. This is one LEADER grant which is punching way above its weight.