



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Roads

Consultants appointed and design work on going in relation to Active Travel projects in Castlebar, Deerpark Westport, and a number of Safe routes to Schools schemes.

Contractor appointed for pavement scheme works on the N60 in Balla R345 Cong Relief Road. Approval received from DoT to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection which is now underway.

Architects

Lr Charles St. Castlebar Housing Scheme (4) Started on site: 07.07.2024.

Achill Sound (20) Housing Scheme Started on site: 07.07.2024.

Lios na Circe 22 unit officially opened.

The Meadows Scheme Stage 2 approved.

Ellison Street, Castlebar (Stage 2 submitted to dept for 10 units).

Heritage

Mayo Wetland Field Survey Ph 3 – Westport/Belmullet submitted.

Mayo Field Names Project 2024 commenced.

Conservation

Applications invited for the Build Heritage Investment Scheme 2025

Dates to Note

Housing

Vacant Homes event held 27/8 in recognition of €2.0m grant payments for Croi Conaithe/Vacant Homes Refurbishment Scheme.

VHO – practical event with SEAI to be held in Louisburgh 29/8/2024.

Heritage & Conservation

Co-ordination of National Heritage Week 17th – 25 Aug (77 events held)

HeritACT Public Workshop and public property clinics held in July.

Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- TII approval of the Strategic Assessment Report for N58 Foxford Transport Project has now been received. Tender published for the appointment of consultants for follow on Phases 1 – 4.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: Tender Assessment is now on going and approval to award the tender will be requested from TII on completion of the assessment.
- CPO published for N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme and submissions being assessed.
- Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility which is nearing completion.
- Design works on – going for National Road safety projects with scheme on N59 Georges Street Newport on site and nearing completion.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.
- R313 Glencastle scheme currently at land acquisition stage with construction due to commence in Q3/ Q4 2024.
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Q3 2024.
- Tender to be published for the preparation of Natura Impact Statements for R315 Crossmolina to Lahardane and R314 Killala Relief Road projects.
- Consulting appointed and progressing screening reports in relation to R375 Kilkelly By Pass,

Housing

HAP & RAS (August 2024)

11 no. properties delivered under HAP in August 2024.

1 No. property delivered under RAS in August 2024

Total 1,852 active households supported by RAS/HAP in Mayo at the end August 2024.

Leasing (Aug 2024)

6 properties delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness

10 homeless presentations in August 2024.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme (as at 31/08/2024)

395 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

344 Stage 1 Approved

206 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received.

203 Stage 2 Approved

27 Properties completed

Vacant Homes

Croi Conaithe Grant – 387 approved (45 grants issued); 122 in progress.

Repair and Leasing – 27 active leases, 24 applications for 80 units.

Buy & Renew – 89 active applications.

URDF – 58 properties in the approved programme under consideration.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

Climate Action:

A celebration of Beaches & Dunes event was held in Sligo on the 25th of June for the CARO ASBN Region launching the 2024 Protect Our Dunes Campaign and www.dunes.ie

Pathfinder Tender has been valued and a successful party selected, notification letters sent out and we are in the standstill period until 26th August.

Successful applicants to the Community Climate Action Fund have been notified and the Community Climate Action Officer is currently in contact with each of the groups.



Dates to Note

September 20th – 29th -

Ireland's third SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Week. Mayo County Council is an SDG Champion for 2024-2025.

Looking Forward September Waste Management Workshops for Mary Robinson Centre Youth Event.

Speaking at Green Club online Seminar on club engagement. New year schools programme.

Environmental Awareness:

- Bogus waste collector advert cinema campaign launched, followed on from Dog fouling advert, a 9 week campaign with adverts being screened in 6 of the top 10 movies in Ballina and Castlebar Cinemas.
- Environment Message Campaign continuing on Midwest Radio.
- 16 community groups/NGOs awarded funds under the 2024 Anti-litter & Anti-graffiti Awareness Grants.
- Beach Toy Library scheme extended to all blue flag beaches in Achill in partnership with Achill Tourism.
- Bring your own cup /waste free Wednesday Campaign in partnership with Achill Business Community.
- Submissions made under categories of 'Battery & WEEE Champion' and 'Waste Prevention Award' in the 2024 Pakman Awards.
- Update of Waste Management Bye-law leaflet.

Fire Services – Community Fire Safety:

As part of our CFS initiatives, we have recently conducted a comprehensive training program aimed at enhancing firefighters' ability to conduct Home Fire Safety Visits. Our colleagues from An Garda Síochána and Age Friendly Ireland also attended as their participation is key to developing a collaborative, inter-agency approach to expanding this important community safety initiative.

The training also featured valuable contributions from EI Electronics, who provided in-depth instruction on the installation, operation, and maintenance of smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide detectors. This partnership ensures that our teams are well-equipped with the latest knowledge and tools to safeguard homes across the county.

Rural Water:

- Contract Awarded to Winter's Plant Hire for Pipe network upgrade to Callow Lake GWS. Approved DHLGH funding of €816,000.00 for project.
- Contract awarded to FVD Civil Contractors for construction of inter-connector pipeline to amalgamate Attymass GWS and Callow Lake GWS. Approved DHLGH funding of €976,802.00 for project. Work has commenced on site.
- Contract awarded to Waldron Plant hire for upgrade works to Knocknakell GWS to bring scheme up to Uisce Eireann basic standards for "Taking in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. Approved DHLGH funding of €274,600.00. Work has commenced on site.
- Contract awarded to Pdraig McTigue Civil Contractors for upgrade works to Brackloon /Westport GWS to bring scheme up to Uisce Eireann basic standards for "Taking in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. Approved DHLGH funding of €705,000.00.
- Works progressing on construction of new Murrisk Community Water Connection to serve up to 600 houses in the Murrisk / Killsallagh Lecanvy areas with a new drinking water supply. Total project cost €8,250,000.00. Noel Regan Plant Hire and JRPB civil Contractors awarded construction contracts.
- Works progressing on the amalgamation of Robeen GWS and Lough Carra GWS. Approved DHLGH funding of €2,480,000.00 for the project. Winters Plant Hire awarded the construction project.
- Contract awarded to Winters Plant Hire Civil Contractors for upgrade works to Glenhest Road GWS to bring scheme up to Uisce Eireann basic standards for "Taking in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. Approved DHLGH funding of €155,000.00. Work has commenced on site.
- Contract awarded Winters Plant Hire to bring Pullathomas GWS up to Uisce Eireann basic standards for "Taking in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. Approved DHLGH funding of €255,903.00. Work has commenced on site.



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for July 2024

Applications Received:	154
E Planning Applications:	80
Hardcopy Applications:	74
Decisions to Grant:	114
Decisions to Refuse:	6
Formal Preplanning App:	5
Appointments at five Planning Clinics on the 3 rd July and 31 st July 2024:	83
Files appealed to An Bord Pleanála:	3

Planning Data for August 2024

Applications Received:	108
E Planning Applications:	57
Hardcopy Applications:	51
Decisions to Grant:	83
Decisions to Refuse:	3
Formal Preplanning App:	21
Appointments at five Planning Clinics on the 14 th August and 28 th August 2024:	60
Files appealed to An Bord Pleanála:	5

Governance & Customer Service in August 2024

FOI Requests:	9
Insurance PL Claims:	4
Ombudsman Cases:	1 new case and 3 closed cases
Total Calls Answered:	4452

Dates to Note

Official Events supported by Communications.

Communications led a MCC delegation including The Cathaoirleach to the biggest Irish Festival in the World with attendance each year of circa 100k over a 4-day period in August, using the opportunity to link with our Diaspora and to also promote and sell Mayo as a county of choice to visit, live and invest in

Other events supported - Official opening Lios na Circe, Sod Turning Polranny, Vacant Homes Information Event, Heritage Week, Commencement of a new housing Project in Castlebar (Lower Charles Street)

Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



Human Resources

New Appointments in August 2024 - 1 x Project Manager IWAK, 1 x Senior Executive Officer, 1 x Biodiversity Officer, 1 x Beach Lifeguard, 1 x Electrician, 1 x Traffic Litter Warden, 1 x Sports Development Officer, 2 x Graduate Placements, 1 x Childcare Development Worker, 2 x Clerical Officer

Promotions - 1 x Craftsperson (Gardener), 1 x Website & Digital Media Officer, 1 x Dog Warden, 1 x A/Senior Engineer, 1 x Staff Officer

Competitions Advertised – Assistant Fire Officer, Assistant Engineer

Shortlisted/Screened – Executive Architect, Architectural Technician Grade 1, Executive Architectural Technician, Senior Executive Librarian, Executive Librarian, Librarian, Senior Library Assistant

Interviews held - Driver Mechanic Fire Services, Substation Officer (Ballina & Castlebar), Station Officer (Ballina), Traveller Accommodation Liaison Officer, Staff Officer

Retirements – 1 x General Operative, 1x Senior Executive Engineer, 1 x Senior Engineer, 2 x Veterinary inspector

Training Data for August 2024

Over July & August 2024 **55 employees** enrolled in further education courses.

In August **26 outdoor staff** participated in the following training courses: Sharps & Needlestick Training, Manual Handling, Basic First Aid, Driver CPC Modules 1 – 5, Abrasive Wheels Consaw, CSCS Health & Safety at Roadworks

Training Centre Update: A total of 2,440 trainees’ attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January 2024 with 3,848 training days.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment. Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising

Oifig na Gaeilge

Successful Heritage Week event organised in Áras Inis Gluaire, Belmullet, focusing on Mayo Irish dialects.

Translation, event, and compliance support provided to Tourism, HR, Planning, Fire Service, Communications and MD offices.

Road Safety

The Mayo Road Safety Office in conjunction with Ireland West Airport, Mayo Roads Policing Unit and Europcar launched a “Drive on Left” Road Safety Campaign as a reminder to all tourists visiting Mayo to always drive on the left.

Attended the Castlebar International 4 Days Walk launch in the Ivy Tower, Castlebar.

The RSA completed 3 days of its “Check it Fits” Campaign in Mayo on 9th 10th & 11th July.

Amber Thursday 3rd August campaign – This is a joint safety campaign to promote fire, road and water safety advice and guidance ahead of the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Press Releases issued by Communications in July/August 2024

Going Green Campaign, €2 Million in grant Payments for Croi Conaithe, Heritage Week in Mayo 2024, IPB Pride of Place Mayo Nominees, Sod Turning Polranny Achill, Pride of Place Judging, Amber Thursday Launch, Civic Reception Accorded to Pipers Cross Ceili Band, Ballina Announced as nominee for European Volunteering Capital, Commencement of Works on Four new Apartments in Castlebar, Launch of Drive on Left Campaign, Building an All Island Connections and Exploring the Role of Creativity, Call out for expressions of Interest for Chairperson of Local Community Safety Partnership, Lios Na Circe Social Housing Development in Castlebar Officially Opened, Your Council Day’, Project Manager of SDZ At Ireland West Airport, Ballina announced as candidate for European Volunteering Capital 2026, Pipers Cross Ceili Band, Heritage Week, Sod Turning Polranny.

Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

Dog licences, Bathing Water Identification campaign, General Bathing water notices, Ballina Local Area Plan consultation, Campaign highlighting each discovery point on Mayo’s Wild Atlantic Way, Heritage Week



Directorate Highlights

- Reprs from Tourism attended the annual Milwaukee Irish Fest from 15 – 18 Aug in Wisconsin, Chicago.
- On 5 Aug the Tourism team with the LEO and Community hosted a Mayo.ie area with industry partners at the Bonniconlon Show.
- 3 new temporary seasonal lifeguards hired at Lough Lannagh.
- Lough Lannagh ran a camp for children with Downs Syndrome.
- On 30 Aug. reprs from Fáilte Ireland visited the proposed 15km Ceide Coastal Trail. Funding of €200k was recently secured under ORIS.
- 71 EOIs received for funding under CRF 2024 Phase. MCC will make a submission to DRCD for €1.8m.
- From 12 – 18 Aug. over 350 women participated in 34 events for the MSP“ HER OUTDOORS” Campaign
- MSP co-ordinated 3 events for **National Play Day** from 13–21 July
- A **Music Generation** Open Day was held in Belmullet Library
- **Heritage Week Events** including film premiere of Mayo’s Islands
- **Weekly lunchtime Age Friendly talks** held in Westport Library.
- Lego workshops, chess workshops and Family coding summer camps run in several libraries.

Dates to Note

- Learn to Swim commences 9 Sept.
- 20 Sept - Culture Night 2024 www.culturenight.ie/mayo
- Rollout of supports for 8 community gardens in Mayo with SICAP Mayo NorthEast Partnership on 3 Sept in Bangor Erris
- 18 applications submitted to DRCD under CLÁR 2024. Await outcome.
- 8-9 Aug: Pride of Place judging with visits to Louisburgh and Ballina Karen Community Garden. Judging on Inisturk on the 11 Sept. Winners announced 2 Nov.
- Chamber of Ireland Awards 2024 taking place on 21 Nov in Dublin

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Business Advisory Clinics took place in Ballina, Claremorris, and Westport in July.
- A LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place in July.
- Autumn training programmes available to book at www.localenterprise.ie/mayo
- LEO Mayo is now rolling out the updated Energy Efficiency Grant which can provide up to 75% of the costs for businesses to invest in more energy efficient operations.

Strategic Development Zone at Ireland West Airport (SDZ @IWA)

- Project Manager, Dominick Healy appointed & took up position 22 August 2024. The appointment is for two years and is funded by the Gov through DETE.

Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Programme of Professional Development for Arts Sector underway. It includes Socially Engaged Art Practice–Tools, Resources & Disability Equality Training for the Arts Sector.
- Oweninny Benefit Fund call for applications for the Target Area opened on 27 August.
- The Dept of Health approved Seed funding projects 2024-2025 under Mayo Healthy Communities totalling €75k. Projects include support for Transport collaboration with Local Link Mayo, Health Literacy programme and Community engagement programme.
- Mayo County Childcare is working on a Programme Readiness for 136 Early years and School Aged Childcare services for the new academic year.
- MSP launched its comprehensive Summer Sports Inclusion Programme.
- MCC has been shortlisted in the annual Chambers of Ireland Excellence Awards for the Fit Sticks Trail in Health & Wellbeing. In addition, the Age Friendly Mayo and Slaintecare "Vitality on Valentine's" event has been shortlisted for a national Age Friendly Award.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Application for funding submitted for the “**Mayo Community Sports Campus**” under the LSSIF for development of a state-of-the-art Community Sports Campus, to include an Athletic Track, Multi-Use Playing Pitches, Changing Rooms and Storage Facilities.
- The DRCD approved funding of €30k for the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County. The plan is in the process of being published on eTenders.
- Landowner consultations have commenced on phase 3 of the Achill Island Greenway.
- A Rep from Tourism will attend & participate at the Croagh Patrick Virtual Reality Experience, National Trails Conference from 31 Aug to 4 Sept, Carrick on Shannon.
- A Revitalise 360 programme, a pilot fitness and wellness programme was successfully operated at the Lough Lannagh complex with 8 participants receiving a REPS level 3 gym instructors’ qualification. As a result, a similar programme is now being run in Ballina.
- The Sports Capital funding announcement for the climbing wall project is anticipated for September 2024. The maximum amount of €500k has been allocated to the project.
- Achill Island Greenway shortlisted at Chamber of Ireland Awards.

Town Regeneration

- Engagement with MD’s to identify Town Teams. Preliminary meetings in Balla, Crossmolina and Swinford to scope Town Teams needs for capacity building.
- Presentation and input into Irish Architecture Foundation’s ‘The Reason of Towns’ exhibition and workshop in Áras Inis Gluaire, Belmullet.
- Ongoing research and site visits for Ballyhaunis TCF plan.
- Ongoing identification of opportunities for Killala to deliver TCF plan.

Library Services

- **Jackie Clarke Collection** had its most successful Heritage Day to date with over 8,500 people through the gates as part of the 60th Anniversary of the Ballina Salmon Festival.
- Launch of **Castlebar Celtic Football Club** Memorabilia Exhibition took place in Castlebar. Library.



**Financial Management, Information
Systems & Motor Taxation**

PETER DUGGAN

Mayo County Council

**1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2024 Adopted Budget
Seven months ended 31st July 2024**

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp. To Date Jul-24	Budget 2024	Remaining 2024	% Spent 2024	Inc. To Date Jul-24	Budget 2024	Net Rec'd 2024	% Rec'd 2024
A	Housing and Building	20,364,555	28,725,722	8,361,167	71%	19,579,125	27,450,543	7,871,418	71%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	24,506,449	54,151,004	29,644,556	45%	19,537,297	45,628,186	26,090,889	43%
C	Water Services	9,048,185	19,437,281	10,389,096	47%	11,419,079	23,490,255	12,071,177	49%
D	Development Management	17,897,178	18,505,758	608,580	97%	11,885,934	8,156,820	-3,729,314	145%
E	Environmental Services	12,709,284	21,803,717	9,094,433	58%	4,721,286	8,090,650	3,369,384	58%
F	Recreation and Amenity	8,571,938	14,675,534	6,103,596	58%	3,402,732	5,501,500	2,098,768	62%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	1,174,942	2,063,389	888,447	57%	409,619	741,721	332,102	55%
H	Miscellaneous Services	9,269,665	15,792,135	6,522,470	59%	8,180,189	13,946,899	5,766,710	59%
J	Central Management Charges	15,526,862	26,382,836	10,855,974	59%	1,086,791	1,640,000	553,209	66%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	26,052,541	44,660,815	18,608,274	58%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	12,967,609	22,230,186	9,262,577	58%
GRAND TOTAL		119,069,057	201,537,376	82,468,319	63%	119,222,181	201,637,376	82,315,195	63%

FINANCIAL REVIEW SEPT 2024

APPENDIX A

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Jul-24	Arrears Jul-24	% Collected
Rents	6,165,732	5,131,842	1,033,890	83%
Rates	42,789,322	26,903,666	15,885,657	63%
Housing Loans	2,495,666	1,895,873	599,794	76%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated Interest Incurred
	4	265

4. Significant Variance Against Budget

	€'000
Housing Rents/Leasing	105
Emergency Accommodation	-160
Swimming Pools	75
Leisure Facilities (Lough Lannagh)	120
Payroll	1,583
Other	13

Directorate Highlights



Dates to Note

