



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



DECEMBER 2023 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Roads – Delegation from the Roads SPC met with TII on 22nd November, 2022.

Housing: - Minister Darragh O'Brien visited various projects in Mayo on 20th November, 2022 and officially opened Rehins Fort, Ballina – 50 units.

Architects

Carnacon Housing Scheme 9 units – commenced on site.

Ballavarry Housing Scheme – 12 units commenced on site.

Heritage

2023 County Heritage Plan Projects finalised

End of projects reports prepared, and funding drawn under National Biodiversity Action Fund & Comm. Monuments Fund 2023.

Conservation

Architectural Works completed at Belleek Gate Lodge.

Works under Historic Structures Fund Completed at Belleek Castle.

Procurement & Efficiency Unit

14 competitions published in November.

Preparations underway to publish competition for Plant Hire 2024 centrally.

Dates to Note

Roads: -

SPC – 14th December, 2023

Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q1 2024.

Contract awarded for installation of traffic lights on N84 in Ballinrobe. Works to commence in January 2024.

Housing:

SPC – 8th December, 2023

Housing, Roads and Service Development

TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- Construction works on-going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in August 2024.
- N26 / N59 Ballina By -Pass. Scheme currently at Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: scheme to proceed to tender subject to TII approval.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford: scheme proceeding with appointment of Consultants for Phases 2 – 4 to bring scheme from options selection to the planning phase.
- N58 Foxford By -Pass: Strategic Assessment Report re-drafted and submitted to TII for approval.
- N60 Manulla scheme: Scheme at Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. Public consultation to be held in Q1 2024
- Design works on-going for National Road safety projects. Design Report for N5 / R320 scheme at Swinford now completed and submitted to TII for approval. Scheme to proceed to construction in Q1 2024.
- Tender published for safety works on N59 at Georges Street Newport and scheme will proceed to construction in Q1 2024.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme. Works have commenced on pavement scheme at the Kilmaine
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Q2 2024.
- Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Awaiting approval from DoT to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection.

Housing

In Nov. 2023 the following were delivered.

HAP & RAS (Nov- 2023)

11 delivered under HAP, 1 delivered under RAS

Total of 1930 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of Nov.

Leasing (Nov- 2023)

27 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness - 11 No. homeless presentations in November.

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

357 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

332 Stage 1 Approved

132 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and 123 approved to date

11 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes Croi Conaithe - 204 approved (9 grants issued), 134 in progress.

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 21 active leases & 34 applications for 103 units

Buy & Renew - 66 active applications.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

The Community Climate Action fund was launched on Dec 1st. This €609,000 will be administered by Mayo County Council. More information is available on mayo.ie

Environmental Awareness:

- Facilitator at phase 2 GAA Green Clubs Workshop in Connaught Centre of Excellence.
- Composting in Schools programme in 4 schools.
- Waste/Litter talks to all Junior Cycle Classes in Balla Secondary School.
- Study trip to Shabra Plastics.
- Balla Tidy Towns Meeting.
- Waste Management Workshops Partry National School.
- Cigarette/Vapes correct disposal campaign.

Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- Enforcement officers attended a number of multi-agency checkpoints around the county, to check for compliance with the Waste Management Act and the Solid Fuel Regulations.
- Officers undertook a solid fuel sampling and testing project, to ascertain sulphur limits of fuel being sold around the county.
- As the end of year approaches, there is a concerted effort being made to reach our ambitious inspection targets across a wide range of Regulations.

Climate Action: The LA draft Climate Action Plan went out for public consultation in November with public consultations held in libraries around the county. The public consultation closes on Dec 4th. Submissions can be made on consult.mayo.ie

Water & Air Team:

- 15 complaints received (October)
- 14 Inspections carried out with 4 Enforcement actions taken (October)
- 12 Planning files referred (October)
- Published tender for Water Framework Directive Lake Monitoring requirements. Responded to a hydrocarbon pollution issue following a boat sinking on Lough Corrib at Lisloughrey.

Civil Defence - Operations

Civil Defence in Mayo have attended 24 emergency call out/search and rescue incidents this year at the request of the primary response agencies.

The Civil Defence Community/Event support program continued across 2023 attending 54 sport and community events.

National Events

Civil Defence members attended the Civil Defence Officers Association - Annual Training Conference hosted by Cavan Civil Defence at Farnham Estate in early November.

Funding - Civil Defence in Mayo have received sanction from the Department of Defence for €48,000 towards the replacement and upgrade of its command-and-control unit and to enhance its search and rescue capability.

This grant aid has been used for the purchase of a vehicle which will be converted into a command-and-control unit in 2024 and the upgrade of our drone and sonar (water) systems.

Dates to Note

Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture & Emergency Services S.P. C. Meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th December, 2023



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for November 2023

Applications Received: 102
Hardcopy 45 & Electronic 57
Decisions on Grant: 94
Decisions on Refuse: 6
Forthcoming Decisions: 85
Formal Preplanning applications: 22
Appointments at Planning Clinics: 84
Clinics on 1st, 15th and 29th November

Forward Planning

The Castlebar Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted by Castlebar Municipal District Councillors at a Special Meeting on 27th November 2023. The Plan will come into effect in six weeks.

Official Events Supported by Communications

Ministerial visit by Minister O'Brien – including site visit to the Ballina Innovation Quarter, Castlebar Historic Core and Kiltimagh housing development. Official opening of Crossmolina Fire Station and Rehins Fort housing Development.

Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

Castlebar M.D./SEAI Talks
Climate Action Plan Consultation
Science Festival
Christmas in Mayo
Home to Mayo Competition

Dates to Note

Planning, Human Resources, Communications, Information Systems, Corporate Affairs & Architectural Services



CATHERINE McCONNELL

Human Resources

New Appointments in November 2023 – 2 x Clerical Officers, 1 x Assistant Scientist, 1 x Assistant Planner 2 x Retained Fire Fighter

Promotions – 3 x Pool Lifeguard Swim Teacher, 1 x Executive Planner

Competitions Advertised - Retained Firefighters, Senior Emergency Control Operator, Architectural Technical Grade 1.

Competitions Screened/Shortlisted - Public Art Co-ordinator, Machinery Yard GSS, Architectural Technical Grade 1, Senior Emergency Control Operator.

Interviews held

Emergency Control Operator, Childcare Development Worker.

Retirements in November 2023

1 General Services Operator and 1 Clerical Officer

Training Data for November 2023

65 Outdoor staff participated in mandatory Climate Action – Delivering Action training. 24 staff attended a 2-day Retirement Planning Seminar.

48 Outdoor staff participated in the following:

Chainsaw Training – Water Treatment Plant Operations – Train the Trainer – Abrasive Wheels Consaw – Chipper/Shredder – Fire Warden Training – Forklift Operator – Confined Space – Ride on Roller – Road Opening and Reinstatement Basic.

80 Indoor staff participated in the following: Manual Handling – Quality Customer Service – Excellence in Credit Control – Civil 3D Essentials

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruptions, water repairs, recruitment
- Media responses to local and national Media queries
- Co-ordination of all advertising.
- Home to Mayo competition now closed – approx. 5200 applicants received.
- Delegation from MCC attended the Mayo Association London event 24th November.

Oifig na Gaeilge

- Meeting with Oireachtas Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish Speaking Community as part of the committee delegation to Achill.
- Compliance, translation and event support provided to Communications and Corporate Development, Library Services, Register of Electors, MD Offices, Human Resources and Planning

Road Safety

- Provision of Junior School warden’s uniforms to National Schools.
- Remembrance Day Mass in Knock Basilica 19th of November organised by MCC.

FOI Requests: 13 FOI requests and 1 OIC Appeal

Insurance PL Claims: 9 PL Claims

Ombudsman Cases: 2 new cases and 3 closed

Total Calls Answered: 4182



Directorate Highlights

- Activator Walking with Poles Autumn 2023 Programme - Now in 23 locations countywide.
- Asset Renewal Works for the Great Western Greenway scheduled for completion by Fri 8 Dec. 2023.
- Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning & Marine SPC took place on 27 Nov.
- The Butterfly Garden in Swinford received a Special Award at Pride of Place national awards.
- In Motion—Perspective on Dance in the North West—Symposium at Ballina Arts Centre on 25 Nov.
- Mayo Science and Technology Festival 2023 took place from the 12– 19 Nov. Approx. 4491 people took part in 18 events hosting 55 shows throughout the County.
- Chess workshops and a mini tournament took place on 2&3 Nov in Castlebar & Westport Libraries.
- On Thursday 30th November, Jim O'Connor gave talk to local history group, Jack's Cottage, Islandeady.
- Home Energy Kits were loaned to the public from Claremorris Library for the first time.
- Claremorris Film Society had its monthly screening in the library.
- The Time to Read programme launched 23 Nov in Educate Together NS, Castlebar.

Dates to Note

- Fáilte Ireland hosting a Tourism Networking event on Thursday 7th Dec. 2023 at Breaffy House.
- **National 2023 Volunteers in Sport Awards - Nominations** open from 13 Nov–18 Dec 2023. visit www.volunteersinsport.ie
- Tourism, Recreation, Food & Community Engagement SPC scheduled Fri 8 Dec. 2023
- Jackie Clarke Collection hosted the BBC recording "Who Do You Think You Are" with English actor Paddy McGuinness to be aired in 2024.
- **Mayo Sports Partnership Annual Report** <https://www.mayo.ie/sportpartnership> -visit from 8 Dec

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Mayo Business Awards were held on 10 Nov in Ballina. Minister Dara Calleary and Leas Cathaoirleach Martin Mc Loughlin attended with Winners across seven categories. The Neill O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the Connolly Motor Group.
- LEO Mayo participated in the 3rd Annual Climate Action Weekend in Ballina between 24 and 25 November with an event 'Saving Money for your Business'.
- The LEO supported an event held by Castlebar Chamber of Commerce which considered how digitalisation can play a role in helping businesses to be more competitive.
- Business Advisory Clinics Ballina, Claremorris and Westport from 28 Nov to 1 Dec.

Community Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Funding secured from Health and Wellbeing, Community Healthcare West for a new initiative in partnership with Community Physiotherapy for employment of **Physical Activity for Health Officer** in 2024.
- A further €12,102.80 was received in funding from DRCD to support employment of a LGBT+ Worker through Mayo North East Local Development Company.
- Information sessions rolled out to Mayo childcare service providers on the new financial reporting requirements for DCEDIY with 56 services attending/engaging.
- UPSTART projects in Ballinrobe, Castlebar and Ballina with further projects planned.
- The Excel 2023 – Youth Arts Programme ran in partnership with local arts venues and youth theatres throughout the County.
- **National Winter Initiative Campaign** - Run up to Christmas Challenge (RUTC) Starts 1 Dec. RUTC Schools started on 27 November in 10 schools with 500 students aged 4-13 participating. Men on the Move in 6 locations, Couch to 5k in 7 locations.
- **Community Sports Hubs** held in Ballina, C'bar, Ballinrobe & Ballyhaunis. Ballinrobe & Ballyhaunis at end of a 5-yr funding cycle. EOI for new hubs to be sought in early 2024.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- On the 21 November 2023, the Department of Rural & Community Development announced funding under its Design Measure of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the Killala Bay Ships to Reef project and for a detailed design of the proposed Cong to Lisloughhrey Pier Recreational Trail.
- On 27 November 2023, Fáilte Ireland increased the investment grant for the Outdoor Facility Centres at Carramore to €1.2million. RFT is being republished to appoint an engineering design team. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 11 Jan 2024.

Town Regeneration

- Killala draft Town Regeneration Plan submitted to DRCD in mid-November. Presentations and meetings taking place with Killala Town Team and Killala Community Council. Meetings with MCC staff to identify possible supports and funding sources. All consultation attendees who registered an interest have received updates.

Library Services

- "The Dream Garden" created by the artist Tom Meskell at The Jackie Clarke Collection was visited by approx. 5000 people from 10 Nov until 26 Nov.
- Croí held a mini health fair in Castlebar library on 7 Nov to promote our blood pressure monitor lending scheme and its expansion into Ballina and Belmullet libraries.
- Climate Action Information Evenings took place in Ballina, Belmullet, Castlebar, Claremorris and Westport libraries on the week of 14 – 17 Nov.
- An introduction to AI technology was held in Castlebar library on Wednesday 15th Nov. as part of Science and Technology Week organised by Age Friendly Officer.
- An active retired group from Ballintubber visited Castlebar library on 20 Nov for a talk by Local Historian Jim O'Connor on resources available.



Financial Management & Motor Taxation

PETER DUGGAN



Directorate Highlights

Text here

Dates to Note

Text here

Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2023 Adopted Budget
Ten months ended 31st October 2023

APPENDIX A
FINANCIAL REVIEW DEC 2023

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp. To Date Oct-23	Budget 2023	Remaining 30/10	% Spent 2023	Inc. To Date Oct-23	Budget 2023	Net Rec'd 30/10	% Rec'd 2023
A	Housing and Building	22,146,542	24,035,722	1,889,180	92%	23,804,700	2,085,105	91%	
B	Roads Transport and Safety	39,917,327	49,856,825	9,939,498	80%	41,526,726	8,520,433	79%	
C	Water Services	14,627,733	17,713,690	3,085,947	83%	21,369,276	3,698,324	83%	
D	Development Management	14,422,727	14,174,044	-248,683	102%	6,462,670	-1,845,715	140%	
E	Environmental Services	14,763,214	17,889,861	3,126,647	83%	4,966,547	1,165,802	81%	
F	Recreation and Amenity	11,598,592	13,117,245	1,518,653	88%	4,977,448	-746,746	118%	
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	1,654,524	1,980,731	326,207	84%	581,621	101,912	85%	
H	Miscellaneous Services	10,633,393	12,810,708	2,177,315	83%	12,094,346	2,076,078	85%	
I	Central Management Charges	21,280,221	24,972,867	3,692,646	85%	1,400,078	199,922	86%	
J	Rates	-	-	-	-	31,274,278	37,741,670	6,467,392	83%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	17,229,455	20,675,346	3,445,891	83%
GRAND TOTAL		151,044,573	176,551,683	25,507,109	86%	151,383,286	176,551,681	25,168,395	86%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Oct-23	Arrears Oct-23	Collected %
Rents	8,079,527	6,951,146	1,128,381	86%
Rates	38,903,501	29,927,979	8,975,522	77%
Housing Loans	3,297,101	2,647,206	649,895	80%
4 Significant Variance against Budget				
Housing Grants			-245	
Leisure Facilities (Lough Lamagh)			870	
PEL			180	
Pensions/Gratuity			-410	
Other			-56	

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
28	33,690