

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL  
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



JANUARY 2025







## Directorate Highlights

### Roads

N5 Swinford Bypass Safety Scheme:  
Technical & Environmental consultant appointed.

### Architects:

Completion of Golf Course Road Westport (50) and Mulranny (16) housing schemes.

Stage 2 - Department approval received for the following Ballinrobe housing schemes: -  
Castlebar Road (5 units)  
Creagh Road (3 units)  
Main Street. (3 units)  
Convent Road (3 units).

Cheshire Homes, Ballina (70 units) Stage 2 submission to Department

### Heritage: -

Publication of Mayo County Council Heritage Calendar 2025 – Holy Wells of County Mayo

## Dates to Note

### Roads: -

Meeting of SPC with TII scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Roads SPC Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Housing SPC Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mayo Heritage Forum meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development

### TOM GILLIGAN



### Roads

- N59 Newport to Derradda Road Project: Tender Assessment is complete with recommendation and approval to award contract requested from TII.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: CPO confirmed. Detailed design and landowner negotiations progressing. Scheme to progress to construction in 2025.
- N58 Foxford Transport Project: Technical & Environmental consultant to be appointed in Q1 2025.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford: Consultant appointed and currently at Phase 2 Options Selection.
- Belclare to Murrisk Greenway Scheme: Currently refining the options selection process and selection of preferred option.
- Great Western Greenway Newport Town: Options Selection process concluded. Scheme to proceed to Part 8 planning consent during Q1 2025.
- Active Travel Schemes in Ballinrobe and Achill, in construction
- R313 Glencastle scheme - land acquisition nearing completion, site clearance / enabling works underway for construction stage. Construction to progress in 2025.
- Preparation of a NIS for R312 Glenisland Phase 2 scheme nearing completion. Submission to Bord Pleanala in Q1 2025.
- Successful Consultant identified to undertake R315 Crossmolina to Lahardane and R314 Killala Road projects. Application to Dept. of Transport in January 2025 to award Contract.
- R345 Cong Relief Road - Phase 2 Options Selection is ongoing. Public consultation to be held in Q1 2025.

### Housing

#### HAP & RAS (December 2024)

- 9 No. properties delivered under HAP in December 2024.
- 5 No. property delivered under RAS in November 2024.

Total of 1,850 active households being supported by RAS/HAP in Mayo at the end December 2024.

#### Leasing (December 2024)

- 8 No new properties delivered under the Leasing Programme

#### Vacant Homes (December 2024)

- Croi Conaithe Grant – 462 approved (79 grants issued): 121 in progress.
- Repair and Leasing – 32 active leases, 22 applications for 74 units.
- Buy & Renew – 114 active applications.
- URDF – 58 properties in the approved programme under consideration

#### Homelessness (December 2024)

- 7 new homeless presentations in December.

#### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme (December 2024)

- Stage 1 420 Applications Received
- 341 Application Approved
- Stage 2 233 Applications Received
- 231 Applications Approved
- 58 Properties completed

#### Affordable Housing:

- A total of five 3-bedroom houses were advertised for sale within the social housing development at Golf Course Road, Westport, under the Affordable Purchase Scheme. An online application portal for eligible applicants to apply to purchase these units will open from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 on Mayo County Councils *Consult* platform. Details on this scheme are available on [Mayo.ie](http://Mayo.ie) under Affordable Housing.

his directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:





## Directorate Highlights

**Derelict Site Register Update for December**

- Number of properties on the register – 251

**Christmas waste/tree recycling campaigns.**

## Dates to Note

**January 2025**

**Westport Green Hubs Campaign,  
St. Muredachs Career event.**

## Water Services, Environment, Climate Change &amp; Emergency Services

## JOHN CONDON

**Environment Awareness**

- Waste management workshops ATU Castlebar, Louisburgh Primary school, Derrywash Primary School.
- Water conservation/pollution workshop Ballyhaunis Community School.
- Presentation of prizes at Castlebar Tidy Towns Awards. (photo below)
- Waste Management meetings in Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis community schools with all stakeholders and Ballina Green Town meeting.
- First meeting of Green Hubs Westport project.

**Derelict Sites**

- 1 site removed from the Derelict Site Register in December 2024.
- 4 properties had CPO initiated in December 2024 which were located in Ballina, Swinford, Claremorris and Westport.

**Climate Action**

- Mayo County Council supported the CARO No Idling ads in cinemas this Christmas. Video can be seen [here](#).
- Meetings are ongoing with all sections to review progress on the Mayo Co. Co. Climate Action Plan ahead of the February reporting deadline.
- A Christmas Energy Power Down was promoted to all staff.
- The Stage 1 Energy Efficiency Pathfinder project reports have been received.
- Mayo County Council presented their progress to the National Sustainable Champion forum.

**Veterinary Services**

- The contract whereby Mayo County Council provided Veterinary Services for the FSAI ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. From the 1<sup>st</sup> January the statutory responsibility for these functions has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM).

**Fire Service - Fire Service fleet.**

Mayo County Council have taken delivery of 2 number 4WD Ford Rangers. The vehicles, purchased from Ford, were retrofitted with Vehicle Mounted Signs and other '999' systems by HPMP, Carlow, at a total cost of c. €150,000. The vehicles are 100% capital grant aided and have been put on the run at Castlebar and Ballina Fire Stations to augment our response to Road Traffic and off-road incidents.







## Directorate Highlights

### Planning Data for December 2024

Applications received	100
E Planning Applications:	63
Hardcopy Applications:	37
Decisions to Grant:	71
Decisions to Refuse:	3
Forthcoming Decisions:	130
Formal Preplanning App:	9
Appointments at five Planning Clinics on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec. & 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024:	48
Files appealed to An Bord Pleanála:	2

### Governance & Customer Service

FOI Requests:	13
Insurance PL Claims:	7
Ombudsman Cases:	
New cases	2
Closed case	1
Total Calls Answered:	2954

## Dates to Note

## Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs

### CATHERINE McCONNELL



#### Human Resources

**New Appointments in December 2024** – 2 Administrative Officers

**Promotions** – 1 Senior Executive Librarian, 2 Administrative Officers, 1 Librarian

**Competitions Advertised** – Senior Sports Officer and Programme Manager for Mayo Sports Partnership, Confined Competition for Temporary Senior Executive Engineer

**Shortlisted/Screened** – Clerical Officer

**Interviews held** – Assistant Engineer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Pool Lifeguard Swim Teacher, Senior Emergency Control Operator

**Retirements** – 1 Veterinary Inspector, 1 Cleaner, 1 Plant Operator, 1 GSS Water

#### Training Data for December 2024

**53 indoor staff** participated in various relevant training courses.

**33 outdoor staff** participated in: Playground Inspection Training, Manual Handling (Outdoor), Working at Heights, Chainsaw Refresher Training, Driver CPC Module 2, Driver CPC Module 3, Driver CPC Module 4, Driver CPC Module 5

**Training Centre Update:** A total of 4,424 trainees' attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January 2024 with 7,397 training days.

#### Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, water repairs, recruitment.
- Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising.
- Christmas in Mayo mini site developed to promote activities and events across the County in December – 14,000 page views

#### Social Media/Publicity Campaigns:

- Christmas In Mayo
- Funding (Community Monuments Funds, Architectural Conservation).
- Winter Ready/Gritting/Weather
- Cathaoirleach's Awards

#### Press Releases:

- Gender Pay Gap Report
- Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Cenedra Cullen O'Brien
- Road Safety Shine Bright Stay Alive Campaign

**Advertising** – 25 adverts booked in local papers for various sections.

#### Oifig na Gaeilge:

- Oonagh Bean Uí Shúilleabháin (Ní Chéileachair) Memorial Scholarship awarded to Ce'Nedra Cullen O'Brien for contribution to the Irish Language and Irish Language Arts

#### Road Safety

- Road Safety Officer in conjunction with An Garda Síochána Castlebar, provided two evening Road Safety Talks to International Protection Candidates currently residing in Breaffy Woods Hotel, Castlebar.
- Road Safety Officer launched the "Shine Bright, Stay Alive" Road Safety Campaign.

#### Property

The following notable disposals were approved at the December Meeting

- The Military Barracks, Castlebar
- The Imperial Hotel, Castlebar and Glenpark House, Castlebar
- The lease of the Westport Courthouse

#### Facilities

The final stage of the access control project was completed when the civil works to link in the car park barriers were carried out. The system will be full activated by mid-January.

#### Parks & Recreation

The felling of a number of trees in the Mall, Castlebar took place following a survey by a competent arborist who deemed them potentially unsafe to the public.

This directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:







## Directorate Highlights

- LEO Business Advisory Clinics held in Ballina, Westport & Claremorris.
- Economic & Enterprise Development SPC held 6 December
- Community, Integration & Recreation SPC held 3 December
- MSP Primary Schools Run up to Christmas Challenge.
- Glenamoy Completes First Ever Prime Time of Life Programme.
- MSPs January Introduction to Swimming Lessons & Better Balance Programmes currently available.
- MSP County Boccia League Final held in Breaffy GAA participants from 6 Older Adult Groups.
- Ballina Cricket Club installation of a Cricket Crease on the central green area at Ballina Athletic Track.
- Jackie Clarke Collection obtained a Green Flag Award for the 8<sup>th</sup> Year.
- UK Marketing Groups, visited JCC.
- Polar Express family Christmas event Castlebar Library on 12 December
- Belmullet Library held Lego workshops to coincide with the Christmas markets in the town.
- **Mayo Says No to Racism** workshops in Ballina & Ballinrobe on 'Understanding Hate and Division in our communities and how to build an inclusive response'.
- Castlebar Outdoor Sports Hub nighttime family Orienteering event held on 18 Dec @ the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life.

## Dates to Note

- Spring 2025 training programme schedule available on LEO website for booking with more events being added on an ongoing basis.
- Arts Grants & Bursaries 2025 open for applications – Arts Act Grants, Tyrone Guthrie Bursary, Mayo Artist Bursary, Drama League of Ireland Bursary, UPSTART. Deadline 14 February.
- Arts Plan Consultation commences in Jan – Ballina Arts Centre on 20 Jan and Linenhall Arts Centre on 21 Jan at 7pm & 29 Jan at 6pm (online).
- Cat 4 Oweninny Community Benefit Fund for Rest of County - applications to open Jan/Feb 2025.

## Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

### JOANNE GREHAN



#### Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee held on 10 December 4 projects supported.
- 6 podcasts featuring Mayo businesses recorded for That Great Business Show launched.

#### Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- **Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme** presented at DRCD Third Civic Forum in Dublin Castle on 4 Dec. Focus on programmes being co-delivered/joint-implemented on the ground between the State and the community and voluntary sector.
- **Mayo LAIT** carried out 45 outreach clinics to support 161 residents based in IPAS accommodation centres in Mayo on 250 queries in quarter 4/2024. The team provided guidance to international protection applicants on accessing employment, education, public and community services, activities, and local events.
- Completion of **Community Horticultural project in Ballycastle**, introducing trauma informed practice to community volunteers - a community integration project.
- Completion of **Mayo Sustainable Food Project** in collaboration with MNE including capital funding for equipment, training course and networking event.
- **LEP2025** application form online portal. Mayo PPN in collaboration with MCC providing FREE online workshops to guide community groups on the online application process.
- The **PPN County Plenary and Information Event** took place on 3 December. The draft PPN 2025 budget and workplan was circulated and was ratified by the PPN members at the meeting.
- Minister Joe O'Brien announced **Budget increase of €10k for PPNs** celebrating 10 years of giving local communities a voice in local policy.
- 4 PPN Representatives elected to Mayo Community Futures; 7 to MCC SPCs; 1 to MSP.

#### Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- **(ORIS) 2024/2025** The closing date for EOIs has passed. The scheme is significantly oversubscribed applications will be considered in early January.
- **Great Western Greenway - Asset Renewal Project** - staggered gates at 36 critical junctions. Work will continue into 2025 with the erection of regulatory signage at these junctions and additional gates at less critical junctions. Fencing on the GWG, Rice College Westport Section replaced.
- **Great Western Greenway - Achill Sound** - work continued installing ancillary works at the Achill Sound Trailhead with the installation of accessible bicycle stands this month.
- **Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre & Climbing Wall** tender for the detailed design and project management of the climbing wall facility has been awarded to Grady Associates and an initial meeting on site was held to commence this phase of the project.
- **Velorail Kiltimagh** won an award from the U.K. National Railway Heritage Association for the innovative and courageous repurposing of 13km of disused railway line.

#### Town Centre First (TCF), Town Regeneration November 2024

- Appointment of consultants for Ballyhaunis Town Centre First Plan.
- Ongoing engagement and consultation with Ballyhaunis Town Team.
- Review of Town Centre Living Initiative in Ballinrobe.

#### Ireland West Strategic Development Zone

- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with SDZ Steering Committee held on 13 Dec. The PM progress report was presented and feedback from the Committee members will be incorporated into the SDZ Delivery Roadmap. Review of SDZ infrastructure requirements continuing.

#### Libraries

- 480 students & teachers took part in **Jackie Clarke Education Prog.** with Story Telling, Famine, Nature by Numbers, Historic Treasure Hunt & Discovery Trail Workshop
- **Westport Library** hosted an evening of Carols and Christmas music with the Westport Community Choir, The Westport Singers, and Tony Reidy.
- **A Sensory Santa** in collaboration with Aras Inis Gluairé, Galway University, Mayo North East & Social Inclusion visited **Belmullet Library** on 21 December.

his directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:







Financial Management, Information Systems & Motor Tax  
PETER DUGGAN

Directorate Highlights



Dates to Note



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & MOTOR TAX

Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2024 Adopted Budget  
Eleven months ended 30th November 2024

APPENDIX A  
FINANCIAL REVIEW JANUARY 2025

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Exp. To Date Nov-24	Budget 2024	Remaining 2024	Inc. To Date Nov-24	Budget 2024	Net Rec'd 2024
A	Housing and Building	31,135,776	28,725,722	-2,410,054	30,094,953	27,450,543	2,644,310
B	Roads Transport and Safety	51,922,945	54,151,004	2,228,059	44,116,579	45,628,186	1,511,607
C	Water Services	15,511,701	19,437,281	3,925,580	19,227,905	23,490,255	4,262,351
D	Development Management	30,010,925	18,505,758	-11,505,167	20,533,211	8,156,820	-12,376,591
E	Environmental Services	20,333,936	21,803,717	1,469,780	7,777,531	8,080,650	313,119
F	Recreation and Amenity	13,974,258	14,075,534	1,001,276	5,757,110	5,501,500	-255,610
G	Agriculture Education Health and Welfare	1,781,035	2,083,389	282,354	572,838	741,721	168,883
H	Miscellaneous Services	14,837,978	15,792,135	954,157	13,946,899	13,946,899	-823
J	Central Management Charges	24,351,955	26,382,836	2,030,880	1,574,310	1,640,000	-34,310
	Rates	-	-	-	40,766,869	44,660,815	3,894,946
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	20,577,671	22,230,188	1,652,515
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>203,860,510</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>-2,323,134</b>	<b>204,845,599</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>-3,308,223</b>

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection Nov-24	Collected Nov-24	Arrears Nov-24	Collected %
Rents	8,063,791	8,173,997	889,794	90%
Rates	43,157,172	39,847,668	3,309,515	92%
Housing Loans	3,535,739	2,957,163	578,576	84%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft	12
Estimated interest incurred	7,389

4. Significant Variance against Budget

	€'000
Housing Rental Leasing	195
Emergency Accommodation	-240
Housing Grants	200
Swimming Pools	85
Leisure Facilities (Lough Lamagna)	95
Payroll Allocation Grant	750
Payroll	1,815
Gratuities	800
Other	-100

his directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:

