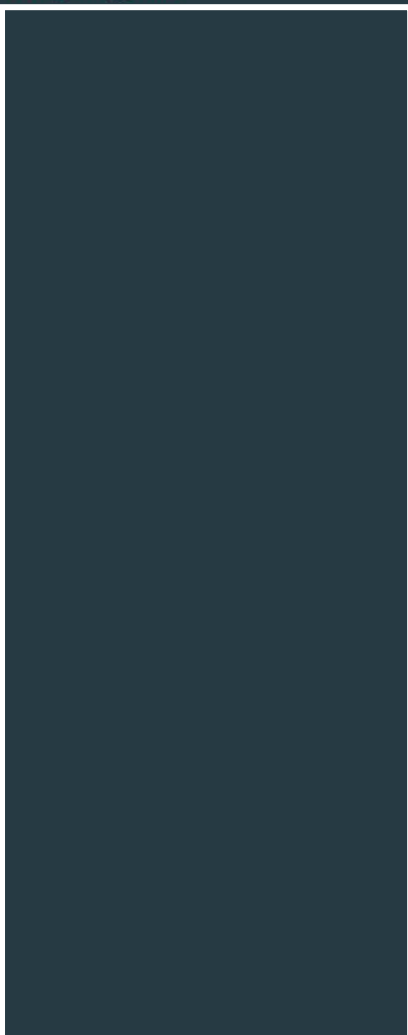


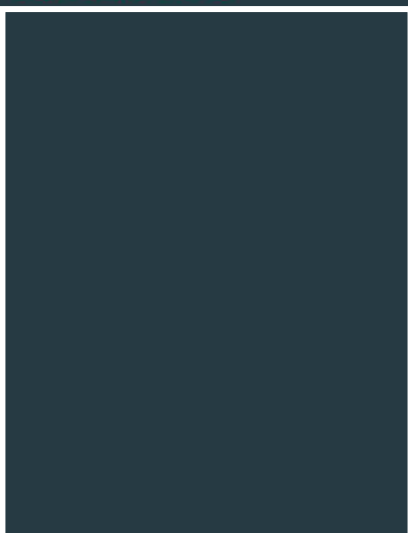


**JULY 2022**

**Highlights**



**Dates to Note**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

## Chief Executive Report

KEVIN KELLY



### Derelict Sites

A “derelict site” is defined as any land which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of:

- a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or;
- b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land in question, or;
- c) the presence, deposit or collection on the land in question of any litter, rubbish, debris or waste, except where the presence, deposit or collection of such litter, rubbish, debris or waste results from the exercise of a right conferred by statute or by common law.

There are currently 289 derelict sites on the Derelict Sites Register which is a significant increase from around 40 properties before 2019.

In addition, since 2019 a further 197 sites approximately have been removed from the Register as works/repairs were satisfactorily completed and the building was determined to be no longer derelict.

With the assignment of a staff Officer dedicated to work on Derelict Sites and the creation of an internal inter-departmental working group representing Environment, Housing, Community and Economic Development it is intended to significantly increase our activity in this area. This group will ensure a complementary and co-ordinated approach to an issue in which several units have an interest.

While it is anticipated that further property owners will undertake work and have their properties removed from the register a significant piece of work is ongoing which will result in additional properties being added to the register. While the overall aim is to combat dereliction, we will also be approaching this issue with a view to reducing vacancy particularly in residential properties. We will continue to communicate with owners on this, and we will provide assistance/advice where possible to bring properties into non derelict status and more aesthetically pleasing to its environs.

Valuations of a further 51 properties that were on the Register at the start of 2022 are being undertaken for levy purposes as the necessary work/repairs have not been carried out to render them non-derelict.

Twenty eight derelict sites were the subject of levies in 2021 with a total demand of €97,000 of which €15,383 has been paid to date. Thirty two sites have been levied to-date in 2022 with a total demand of approximately €190,000. As further properties are entered on the register and the properties are valued, further demands will issue. Levies are charged at 7% of the valuation of the property and monthly interest of 1.25% is payable on demand amounts not paid.

Compulsory Purchase Orders have recently been signed for 3 properties in Ballinrobe and for 1 property in Castlebar and the CPO of further properties is anticipated.

Mayo County Council will examine any funding opportunities available to assist in its efforts to tackle dereliction and vacancy in our towns and villages.



## Directorate Highlights

### Roads

TII have granted funding of €250,000 for a second Capital Maintenance scheme on the N59 at Newport Rd Westport.

### Procurement

Supplygov competition for National Roads verge cutting awarded – P&D Lydon.

Represented Mayo County Council on National sub council for Bulk Fuels (OGP).

### Architects

**Parks:** Works commenced on new community playground on Inishturk.

**Heritage:** Ballina Biodiversity Plan adopted by Ballina Municipal District.

**Architects:** - Lodge Part 8 Planning for 12 units at Ballyvary.

## Dates to Note

Roads SPC – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Housing SPC – TBC.

Meeting of Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme Working Group – TBC.

## Housing, Roads, Architectural Services and Service Development

### TOM GILLIGAN



### Roads

- Construction works ongoing to N5 Westport – Turlough scheme with project completion due in Q2 2023.
- Construction works ongoing on the N26 Cloongullane scheme with scheme completion due in July 2022.
- N26 / N59 Ballina By-Pass is at Phase 2 route option stage with preferred route to be identified in Q4 2022.
- HD28 Pavement Renewal Programme, 11 schemes to go to tender in July/August 2022. Contract value of €1,000,000.
- Design work proceeding on Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project with tender publication in June 2022.
- Agreement with DoT to proceed with repair works to Achill Sound Bridge.
- Tender published for the appointment of Consultants to progress the R345 Cong Relief Road.
- Tender published for Road widening scheme on N84 North of Shrulce.

### Housing

The new Housing Programme ‘Housing for All ‘2022-2026 is now underway. The target for 2022 is 90 houses and projects are currently in progress to achieve same.

#### **HAP & RAS (June 2022)**

- 13 No. delivered under HAP
- 1 No. delivered under RAS

Total of 2,024 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of May.

#### **Leasing (June 2022)**

- 13 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Total: 356 No. households currently supported under the Leasing Programme.

**Homelessness** – 11 No. homeless presentations for June 2022. Total presentation for 2022 = 68

#### **Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme**

237 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

143 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility have been issued

Stage 2 - 36 Grant approval applications received and 22 approved to date

**Ukrainian Refugees:** - Mayo County Council have responded to the refugee crisis by identifying multi-person properties for refugees as well as inspecting vacant pledged vacant properties. According to the latest data there are 1,000 Ukrainian refugees in Mayo.

### Expression of Interest for Affordable Housing

775 expression of interest were received 81% of applications have a household income of under €50k, 4% of applicants are willing to pay over €200k for an affordable house. Full details of the expression of interest was presented to the Housing SPC.

### Procurement & Efficiency

- Retendered for Bound & unBound Road Making Materials July – Dec 2022 to allow for increased rates
- Assisted Architects /Parks and Wildlife Section to prepare and publish 4 x Supplygov Competitions surrounding various Invasive Species Weed Control Programmes.
- Published/assisted in publishing eTenders competitions - High Density Drainage Pipes – awarded JJC, Inishturk Helipad – in evaluation, PEE for Fire Services – in evaluation.
- And Architects Technical Consultancy FW.



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

**JOHN CONDON**



### Directorate Highlights

The Civic Amenities at Derrinumera and Rathroeen are continuing to provide waste services to over 4000 customers per month.

National Inspection Plan for **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems**, June figures and year to date figures.

	<b>New NIP Inspections</b>	<b>Verification Inspections</b>	<b>Pre-Inspection Visit</b>	<b>Total Visits</b>
Jan to May 2022	28	21	30	79
Jun-22	6	4	10	20
<b>2022 Total to date</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>99</b>

#### Environmental Awareness

- National Food Waste Recycling Week - 30<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June. The purpose of the week was to (a) encourage householders with access to a food waste recycling service to utilise the service and (b) provide guidance and tools to help with food separation to ensure it is presented in the correct bin and contamination is minimised. The tagline being used - Separating Food Waste is a Positive Climate Action.
- Awareness raising of Bulky Waste Event being held in Bangor Erris on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June - message communicated via community contacts, Mid-West Radio, Mayo County Council social media platforms and Greening Mayo Facebook page.
- Food Waste Awareness Stand at Breaffy Sustainable Energy Community Information Day held at Breaffy N.S. on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- A Septic Tank Awareness Campaign was carried out on Mid-West Radio and social media platforms for week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- Awareness raising on Bonfire Night 23<sup>rd</sup> June - social media platforms and Greening Mayo Facebook page.

#### Community Fire Safety

Visit from Clare Island Primary School to Westport Fire Station where SO Tom Kitterick and ACFO Michael Dalton were on hand to give an insight into the work of the Fire Service. Recent visit from Kinaffa National School to Castlebar HQ where FF Sean Heneghan gave a valuable talk to the children and provide an insight into the work of the Fire Fighter.

#### Fire Service Training

Staff from Mayo County Fire Service and Western Regional Control Centre successfully completed their Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) initial and refresher training. CISM, is an intervention protocol developed specifically for dealing with traumatic events. It is a formal, highly structured and professionally recognised process for helping those involved in a critical incident to share their experiences, vent emotions, learn about stress reactions and symptoms and given referral for further help if required.



Visit from Clare Island Primary School



Visit from Kinaffa National School

### Dates to Note

- The national Protect our Sand Dunes campaign was launched in Bertra in June ahead of World Sand Dune day, June 25<sup>th</sup>
- The Mayo Changemakers event was held in Ballina Arts Centre on May 30<sup>th</sup> as the final event of Home to Mayo. The event was covered by the Irish Times.



## Directorate Highlights

### Planning Data for June 2022

Applications Received: 103  
Decisions to Grant: 57  
Decisions to Refuse: 2  
Forthcoming Decisions: 124  
Formal Preplanning applications: 10  
Appointments at planning Clinics: 77

### Training

- 57 outdoor staff received training in Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations, Safe use of Herbicides & Pesticides, Safe Pass and Road Opening & Reinstatement.
- 36 indoor staff received training on Excel, Green Public Procurement, Empowering Change (Climate Action Training). 15 staff attended SafeTALK Suicide Prevention Training.
- 3 Staff Members signed up for Further Education.

### Training Centre Update

58 courses have been delivered safely through Castlebar Regional Training Centre for the month of May. This is a total of 492 courses to date with an income in excess of €700,000. This is a 20% increase on 2019 (pre COVID) income. As most of our training is Health & Safety related, it is particularly important that we have managed to clear the backlog resulting from COVID restrictions.

## Dates to Note

- Work is progressing on our new €2.9m million outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar. We are hoping to have the facility fully operational by **Q1, 2023**.
- At a Council Meeting on the 29th of June 2022, the elected members of Mayo County Council adopted the new Mayo County Development plan 2021-2027.
- Cultural, Education, Corporate, Heritage and Library Services SPC – September 2022. Date to be confirmed.

## Planning, Human Resources, Communications & Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



### Human Resources

#### New Appointments in June 2022

2 x Clerical Officer, 1 x Plant Fitter, 4 X General Operative, 1 x Executive Engineer, 2 x ECO

#### Promotions

1 X Senior Engineer, 1 X WWC 3, 1 x SO, 1 x ASO

#### Competitions June 2022

##### Advertised

Environmental Enforcement Officer, Water & Sewerage Caretaker Grade 5

##### Competitions Screened/Shortlisted

Business Advisor, Healthy County Co-ordinator

#### Interviews held

Station Officer – Achill Sound & Charlestown, Substation Officer- Achill Sound, Charlestown & Ballina, Irish Officer, Water Network Plumber (Find & Fix), Civil Site Technician Grade 1

#### Retirements in June

1 Branch Librarian, 1 Clerical Officer, 1 Ganger, 1 General Operative

### Corporate/Communications

- **Public information updates** on traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment
- **Media** - Responses to local and national Media queries.
- **Key promotional Campaigns**
  - Environmental campaigns
    - o Septic tanks & wastewater,
    - o bonfire night,
    - o blue/green algae warning,
    - o World Sand Dune Day
  - Cruinniú na nÓg
  - Water Safety Awareness Week
  - Public Consultations
  - Funding call outs – Culture night
  - Library Events
  - Westport Courthouse & Sandybanks Caravan Park Expressions of Interest call outs.

**Public Liability** - 6 Claims

**Freedom of Information** - 14 Requests

**Ombudsman** – No requests, 1 Closed as not upheld

### Property and Facilities Management

Viewings of Westport Courthouse facilitated for 14 interested parties.



## Directorate Highlights

- Swinford-based business Cubbie, were winners of the Innovation Award at National Enterprise Awards.
- 6 June - RTE Nationwide featured the Clew Bay Bike Trail, incl. Mulranny, Cloughmore Achill, Clare Island & Louisburgh.
- 29 June - MCC interview with Midwest Radio re the Mayo Trails & G/ways network.
- IWAK and Shannon Airport launched as 1st Age Friendly airports in the World.
- 7 June - The 2nd Age Friendly Strategy was launched by Cathaoirleach Michael Smyth in Mayo's Age Friendly Library in Castlebar.
- 13 June - Minister Feighan visited a number of Healthy Ireland funded projects in Mayo.
- 5-6 July - MSP's Sports Inclusion Summer Camp took at An Sportlann Castlebar.
- 200 participants registered for 10 MSP Summer Open Water Swimming Programmes.
- 11 June – Over 500 children attended Cruinniú na Nóg Festival of Creativity events across the county.

## Dates to Note

- Triathlon Irelands Kids Summer Camp will take place on the 13 & 14 July in Bertra Beach Westport.

## Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



### Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- In-person Business Advisory Clinics taking place Ballina, Claremorris and Westport.
- Final networking event for the Mayo Food & Drink programme took place 23 June.
- Work is ongoing to support the roll-out of the eHealth project on Clare Ireland.
- Work continues on the "IDEAS" project with installation of novel solar thermal systems at Brackloon & Drummin Community Centre. MCC's "Climate and Biodiversity Subcommittee" hosted an Energy workshop on 20 June where info on the Horizon 2020 funded project was shared and the new system was demonstrated.
- EU Project "MegaAWE", continues its construction works at the test site in Bangor Erris - completion expected by mid-July. After the unfortunate announcement of the bankruptcy of Ampyx Power, the project Steering Committee is working to re-arrange the project deliverables and working to find a suitable replacement Airborne Wind Energy developer to make use of the test site.

### Strategic Capital Projects

- Public Spending Code (PSC): PSC Quality Assurance Report prepared and submitted to NOAC in collaboration with Finance and Senior Management.
- DRCD funding schemes: ongoing collaboration and information-sharing with DRCD in relation to CLÁR, T&VRS and ORIS funding.
- RRDF national review: formulation of feedback response on behalf of MCC.

### Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- 2022 Martin Sheridan Bursary Awards presented on the 28 June by the Cathaoirleach to Niall McLoughlin, Newport-Cycling, Rebecca McGrath, Ballinrobe-Horse riding/dressage and Eoghan Jennings, Westport-Tennis.
- Open call announced for Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 4.
- Children First Child Safeguarding training rolled out to 26 Early Years providers.
- Age & Opportunity Physical Activity Grant Scheme - 53 Mayo Groups received funding & 6 additional groups in the Sports Capital Programme.
- MSP Sports Ability Week, targeting People with a Disability, took place from the 20-26 June with 20 different events taking place across the county.

### Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Clew Bay G/way: Boardwalk completed at Saula West, Achill, operational July.
- 5 Beach Wheelchairs now available at Keel (3), Dugort (Silver Strand) & Old Head.
- Allocation of Regional Festivals & Participative Events Programme Funding has been completed - letters of offer issued.
- Belmullet Destination Town Enhancement Scheme applications are being evaluated - letters of offer to issue in coming week.

### Library Services

- MCC Libraries took part in Croí Health Fairs in Castlebar(2<sup>nd</sup>), Ballina(14<sup>th</sup>) and Swinford (9<sup>th</sup>) to provide the public with info on Healthy Ireland at your Library
- Summer Stars reading programme launched in Castlebar Library on 18 June with a visit from Kiltimagh Pet Farm.
- 8000 visitors to Jackie Clarke Collection by June 2022.

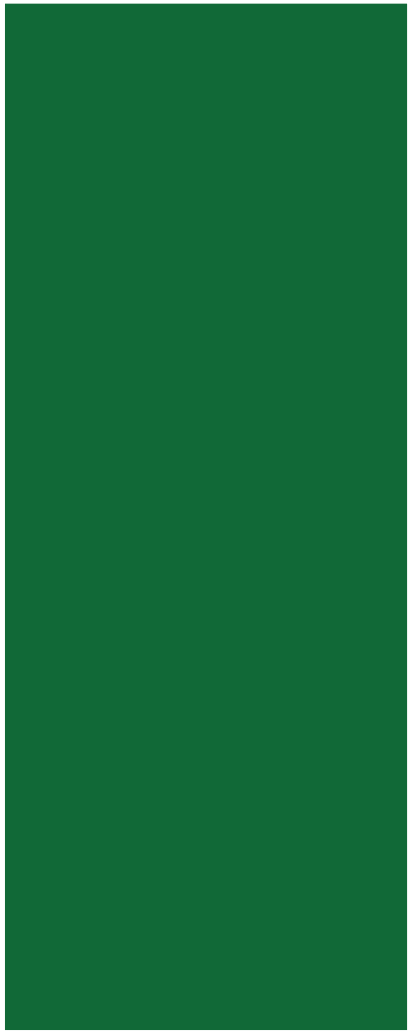
### Marine

- Island Access Development Plan for Inishturk and Clare Island in Draft form following an extensive consultation process.
- Risk Assessment for Offshore Oil and Hazardous Substances Emergency Plan complete.
- Final conference of Coast Project successfully held in Finland.



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

**Directorate Highlights**



**Dates to Note**



Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2022 Adopted Budget  
 Five months ended 31st MAY 2022

**APPENDIX A**  
 FINANCIAL REVIEW JULY 2022

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE			INCOME				
		Exp. To Date May/22	Budget 2022	Remaining 2022	% Spent 2022	Inc. To Date May/22	Budget 2022	Net Rec'd 2022	% Rec'd 2022
A	Housing and Building	9,056,281	20,197,461	11,142,180	45%	8,818,831	20,548,184	11,880,363	42%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	12,597,885	48,883,190	36,086,305	26%	8,174,079	41,364,352	33,180,273	20%
C	Water Services	6,736,029	16,898,766	10,256,237	40%	7,270,992	20,955,222	13,684,240	35%
D	Development Management	6,397,962	13,623,633	7,225,671	47%	1,836,166	4,357,416	2,521,250	42%
E	Environmental Services	7,433,827	16,819,629	9,086,702	45%	2,270,634	5,593,829	3,323,195	41%
F	Recreation and Amenity	5,366,818	11,303,607	5,933,788	48%	1,356,485	3,271,700	1,715,215	48%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	885,260	1,981,117	1,105,857	44%	249,679	666,410	406,731	38%
H	Miscellaneous Services	0,042,009	12,130,855	6,286,056	66%	4,749,790	8,080,249	3,330,459	59%
J	Central Management Charges	3,988,201	22,442,222	18,754,021	16%	241,421	1,500,000	1,318,579	15%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	15,360,782	36,066,604	27,970,427	42%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	8,680,377	20,856,905	5,496,123	42%
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>58,009,284</b>	<b>183,892,078</b>	<b>104,882,828</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>59,019,228</b>	<b>192,892,091</b>	<b>104,872,895</b>	<b>36%</b>

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for May/22	Collected May/22	Arrears May/22	Collected %
Rents	4,643,945	3,204,401	1,342,544	57%
Rates	40,098,415	14,039,701	25,068,714	37%
Housing Loans	2,056,855	1,358,783	698,072	66%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
	0	2,958