

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
INTRODUCTION.....	4
MISSION STATEMENT .....	6
VISION.....	6
CORPORATE PLAN .....	7
ELECTED MEMBERS.....	8
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES.....	10
TOURISM & FOOD STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE .....	10
ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.....	10
CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HERITAGE, CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE.....	11
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE .....	12
HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE .....	12
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE .....	13
FINANCE .....	14
HOUSING AND BUILDING .....	23
ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT.....	30
ARTS SERVICE.....	50
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & AGRICULTURE .....	54
MAYO COUNTY FIRE SERVICE.....	80
BUILDING CONTROL & PLANNING ENFORCEMENT.....	88
WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL .....	92
MAYO HERITAGE OFFICE .....	94
INVEST .....	100
OIFIG NA GAEILGE.....	104
INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS).....	109
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE .....	111
COMMUNITY & INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT.....	116
MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY .....	119
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS.....	127
MAYO SPORTS PARTNERSHIP .....	130

MAYO COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE .....	140
MOTOR TAX.....	144
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT .....	146
ROAD SAFETY .....	152
ROADS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY .....	155
RURAL WATER SECTION .....	165
SWINFORD CULTURAL CENTRE .....	169
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT.....	173
WATER SAFETY .....	185
PROCUREMENT AND EFFICIENCY REVIEW .....	188
GENERAL PURPOSES/CORPORATE AFFAIRS .....	191
MAYO CIVIL DEFENCE.....	193
CASTLEBAR REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE.....	201
OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2016.....	203
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>205</b>

1. MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS SUBMISSIONS.
2. REGISTER OF ELECTORS/EDITED REGISTER 2016/2017.
3. LIST OF EXTERNAL BODIES ON WHICH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ARE FORMALLY REPRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2016.
4. ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES ABROAD 2016.  
ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES FOR CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND MEETINGS IN IRELAND.  
MEETINGS HELD/TRAINING AVAILED OF BY ELECTED MEMBERS 2016.  
PAYMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS 2016.  
PAYMENTS TO NON-COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016.
5. DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE.
6. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

## INTRODUCTION

The 1916-2016 Easter Rising Centenary Year was a busy and productive year for all involved in Mayo and Mayo County Council.

The commemorations in Mayo included a major rising exhibition in the Jackie Clarke Museum, Major John MacBride exhibition in Westport, Parade in Castlebar, Kathleen Lynn graphic novel and a range of local community events.

Mayo County Council launched the Destination Mayo Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 in the early part of the year to continue to build on the reputation of Mayo.

The ongoing success of eleven Mayo beaches in securing Blue Flags and six Green Coast Awards is testament to work and commitment of staff and the wider community in delivering on quality for Mayo.

Housing continues to be a core commitment of Mayo County Council and the Municipal Districts and the commitment to deliver 249 units from 2015-17 is on track to be delivered.

The reduction in the housing voids list from 176 to 54 is an example of meeting this commitment.

The ongoing work on the Ballinrobe Public Realm Plan, the Ballina Town Centre Health Check, the hosting of MeetWest in Claremorris and the significant progress on the Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar are examples of Mayo County Council's ongoing pursuit of regional balance within the County.

The launch of the Mayo Local Community Economic Plan and 18-month Action Plan is a further commitment to working with our national, regional and local partners to promote Mayo as a county for investment.

Corporately Mayo County Council continues to grow, new staff and new areas of work are part of ensuring that the local authority continues to be a 'the Most Innovative Local Authority' in the Country, the LAMA award which we won in 2016. The new IS strategy 2016-2020 and the upgrade to Microsoft 365 are examples of this process and innovation.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and commitment of the staff and councillors of Mayo County Council during the last year, and the ongoing cooperation of the community at large in continuing to ensure that Mayo County Council can deliver on our vision of *“a place in which to live, work, visit, invest in and enjoy”*.



Peter Hynes  
Príomh Fheidhmeannach



Al McDonnell  
Cathaoirleach



## MISSION STATEMENT



***"Promote the well-being and quality of life of our citizens and communities in Mayo and to enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place in which to live, work, visit, invest in and enjoy".***

## VISION

***"A County that is Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud".***

## **CORPORATE PLAN**

Mayo County Council is at the heart of local community, and is a key provider of economic and social development in Mayo. As the democratic leader of the County, we represent the people while delivering vital local services which are central to the quality of life of everybody who lives in, works in and visits Mayo.

As the leading public sector body in Mayo, Mayo County Council also support and facilitate others in the County and nationally who are responsible for key public services. When we deliver our responsibilities, others can deliver their obligations as well.

The Council is central to making Mayo, Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud. This Plan is a key part of our delivering on our commitment to Mayo. In it we set out our mission as the democratic body representing the people of Mayo, what we want to deliver for the people over the next five years, and how we are going to meet our commitments to our communities.

This Plan also sets out what we will work to achieve and how we will measure our efforts so that the people of Mayo will see that we deliver effectively on our commitments to them.

Mayo County Council is community centred and people focused. We represent the people through our councillors while our staff is part of the Mayo Community so we want to make sure that everything we do in the next five years makes a positive contribution to the development of Mayo, now and far out into the future.

A successful Mayo needs a successful Council and the Plan sets out how we are going to be a successful Council.

## **ELECTED MEMBERS**

### **CLAREMORRIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**



***Cllr. John Caulfield***



***Cllr. Tom Connolly***



***Cllr. John Cribbin***



***Cllr. Richard Finn***



***Cllr. Gerry Murray***



***Cllr. Patsy O'Brien***



***Cllr. Damien Ryan***

### **BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**



***Cllr. Neil Cruise***



***Cllr. Gerry Ginty***



***Cllr. Michael Loftus***



***Cllr. Jarlath Munnely***



***Cllr. John O'Hara***



***Cllr. Annie May Reape***



***Cllr. Michael Smyth***



***Cllr. Seamus Weir***



**CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**



***Cllr. Cyril Burke***



***Cllr. Martin McLoughlin***



***Cllr. Frank Durcan***



***Cllr. Blackie K. Gavin***



***Cllr. Henry Kenny***



***Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne***



***Cllr. Al McDonnell***



***Cllr. Thérèse Ruane***

**WEST MAYO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**



***Cllr. Teresa Whelan***



***Cllr. Gerry Coyle***



***Cllr. Michael Holmes***



***Cllr. Christy Hyland***



***Cllr. Tereasa McGuire***



***Cllr. Paul McNamara***



***Cllr. Brendan Mulroy***

## **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

### **TOURISM & FOOD STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Food Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2016.

Members include:

Cllr. Gerry Coyle, Chairman; Cllr. Michael Loftus; Cllr. Paul McNamara; Cllr. John O'Hara; Cllr. Teresa McGuire; Cllr. Thérèse Ruane; Cllr. Seamus Weir; Mr. Michael Lennon; Mr. Pdraig Heverin; Mr. Patrick Chambers; Mr. Michael Carey.

Following the launch of 'Destination Mayo – A Strategy for the Development of Tourism 2016 – 2021', the SPC supported establishment of a number of Tourism Networks and Steering Groups to lead implementation of the Strategy.

Each of the SPC meetings included a tour of a tourism project in the county. Projects visited include the Achill Aquarium, Clare Lake/Land of the Giants, Claremorris and the Town Hall Theatre in Westport.

### **ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Policy Committee comprises of the following Members:

Cllr. Annie May Reape, Chairperson  
Cllr. Rose Conway-Walsh; Cllr. Cyril Burke; Cllr. Patsy O'Brien; Cllr. Seamus Weir  
Cllr. Damien Ryan; Cllr. Brendan Mulroy  
Mr. John McMillan, Mayo County Community Forum  
Mr. Eddie Lavelle, Trade Union Pillar Representative  
Mr. Michael Moran Business Pillar Representative  
Ms. Majella Patasz Environmental Pillar Representative

Note: Councillor Rose Conway-Walsh on being elected to Seanad Eireann was replaced on the Committee by Ms. Teresa Whelan.

The Committee went on a delegation to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (*formerly National Roads Authority*) in September 2016 to discuss:

- Update on N26/N58 Route
- Update on the N26 at Cloongullane Bridge
- Traffic Calming on the N60 at Breaffy
- Access to Co. Mayo via the N5, N17 and N59
- Pedestrian Crossing criteria
- The Planning process
- Road Safety

The Committee has considered and dealt with the following issues amongst others:

- National Roads Programme for the County
- Non National Roads Programme
- Road Safety
- Policy on Regional Road Improvement
- Speed Limits in Housing Estates
- Hedge Cutting Policy
- Review of Pay & Display
- Local Improvement Scheme Policy
- Winter Services Plan 2016/2017

## **CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HERITAGE, CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Under the Chairmanship of Cllr Jarlath Munnely and the Directorship of Mr. Joe Loftus, the Cultural, Education, Heritage, Corporate Affairs and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held 4 meetings during 2016.

- Ms Mary Heanue resigned from the Committee on 17 May, 2016; and
- Mr Diarmaid Mulcahy was appointed to the Committee on 12 September, 2016, following the resignation of Ms Mary Heanue.

During 2016, the following matters were considered by the Cultural, Education, Heritage, Corporate Affairs and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee, including:-

- Recommendation to Mayo County Council that the following Priority Action from Work Plan 2015 – ‘Premier of Mayo as a game fishing County [Priority Action No. 14]’, be developed, in particular, the establishment of Interpretative Centres for Ballina and Cong.
- Recommendation that Mayo County Council consider the implementation and adoption of the initiative to create awareness regarding current global refugee crisis, as outlined in draft policy document entitled ‘On the Move’ – Mayo Refugee Awareness Project.
- Mayo Arts Collaborative (MAC).
- Recommendation that a sum of €3,000 from the Commemoration Strategy Fund be provided towards the publication of a graphic narrative on the life of Kathleen Lynn for distribution to all primary schools.
- Update on Mayo County Council’s 1916 Commemoration Programme.
- MAYO Age Friendly Strategy 2016-2020.
- Update on the Committee’s Priority Actions for 2016 :-
  - Update and adopt a new Heritage Plan.
  - Update and adopt a new Strategic Arts Plan.

- To consolidate and enhance Mayo's position as the leading centre for swift conservation in Ireland.
- Training and development for elected members, including training in the Irish language.
- Audit of Heritage Buildings in the County.
- Recommendation that a sum of €6,000 be provided to facilitate an audit of folklore collections in the County.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council that the Heritage Plan 2011-2016 be extended for a further year so that the remaining 30% of actions set out therein are implemented, noting that preparatory work on a new Heritage Plan has already commenced.
- To identify the Committee's Priority Actions for 2017.
- Presentation regarding 'A Framework for Collaboration' – an agreement between the Arts Council and the County & City Manager's Association.
- Update on Library Development Plan 2016-2020.

## **PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

This committee comprises of elected members and members of the business and farming communities. The committee oversees the development and implementation of policy for the environment function.

The Committee met on 4 occasions in 2016 and discussed inter alia:

- Litter Management Plan
- Pay by Weight
- Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan
- Environmental Impact Study of Wild Atlantic Way
- Climate Change
- Blue Flag Beaches
- Litter Action League
- Draft Mayo Agriculture Strategy

## **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **Housing SPC Members:**

Cllr. Gerry Ginty – Chairperson

Cllr. Blackie Gavin, Cllr. Gerry Murray, Cllr. Annie May Reape, Cllr. Henry Kenny, Cllr. John Cribbin, Cllr. Richard Finn.

Mr. Kevin Korrane – Business Pillar Representative

Ms. Anne Chambers & Mr. Willie Walsh – Mayo County Community Forum

Mr. Padraig Heverin – Trade Union Pillar Representative

The committee meets every quarter and topics discussed in 2016 were;

- Housing Programme 2015-2017
- Housing Allocation Scheme
- Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme
- Housing Disability Strategy
- Rebuilding Ireland – Housing Policy Statement

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2016. Members include:

Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr Al Mc Donnell, Cllr Christy Hyland, Cllr Martin Mc Loughlin, Cllr Tom Connolly, Cllr Neill Cruise, Cllr Rose Conway Walsh, Pat Staunton, Neill O Neill, Seamus Heverin, Tom Kitterick.

Cllr Teresa Whelan and Cllr Martin Mc Loughlin replaced Cllr Lisa Chambers and Cllr Rose Conway Walsh.

### **Topics of discussion:**

- Mayo Day
- Mobile phone and Broadband coverage in Mayo
- Rhode Island Project
- Mayo Vacant Site Survey
- Castlebar Retail Project

**Each of the SPC meetings were held in different locations in Mayo with a tour of each of business.**

- Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar
- Foxford Wollen Mills, Foxford
- Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal
- CBE Concannon Group, IDA Business Park, Claremorris

### **2016 Economic SPC Dates:**

- 09/02/2016
- 19/04/2016
- 14/06/2016
- 28/09/2016

## FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial operations in the Council with particular emphasis on ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to finance revenue and capital activity.

Included among the wide range of services provided by the Finance Section are:

- Financial & Budgetary Control, Cash Flow & Treasury Management
- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Administration of the Financial Management Systems
- Payroll Administration
- Commercial Rates Billing & Collection
- Non-Domestic Water Charges Billing & Collection on an agency basis for Irish Water
- Housing Rents and Loans Billing & Collection
- Payment of supplier accounts
- Cash Receipting
- Administration & Collection of the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid by, or to, the Council are complied with.

Mayo County Council operates a Revenue Account to meet the day-to-day costs of the organisation and a Capital Account for the provision of assets such as houses and roads. The level of expenditure for the Revenue Account in 2016 was €137m, whereas the Capital Account was €75m.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as: -

- Government Grants
- Commercial Rates
- Housing Rents
- Planning application fees
- Non-principal private residence charges
- Other goods and services such as Landfill/Civic Amenity Charges, Pay and Display charges

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.

### Council Budget

The Finance Department prepares the overall Draft Annual Budget in consultation with each department of the Council. The Revenue Budget for the financial year ended 31 December 2016, as adopted by Council, was €125.7m.

## Annual Financial Statement

The Finance Department also prepares the Annual Financial Statement of the Council. The Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was presented to the Members at their statutory meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2016

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

#### Expenditure by Division

	Gross Expenditure 2016 €	Income 2016 €	Net Expenditure 2016 €	Net Expenditure 2015 €
Housing & Building	15,669,917	15,267,363	402,553	131,455
Roads Transportation & Safety	35,575,461	26,507,533	9,067,927	8,352,944
Water Services	17,769,892	18,463,098	(693,206)	(864,041)
Development Management	9,084,946	2,857,418	6,227,529	6,732,306
Environmental Services	17,855,189	8,587,554	9,267,635	7,361,295
Recreation & Amenity	9,453,488	2,331,527	7,121,961	7,243,949
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,668,315	739,249	929,066	945,700
Miscellaneous Services	18,585,334	10,825,956	7,759,378	8,792,116
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>125,662,542</b>	<b>85,579,698</b>		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund			40,082,844	38,695,725
Rates			25,766,049	25,847,673
Local Property Tax			17,492,594	17,171,286
Pension Related Deduction			1,577,802	2,106,427

Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers		4,753,602	6,429,662
Transfers from/(to) Reserves		(4,448,785)	(6,025,926)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		304,817	403,736
General Reserve @ 1st January 2016		(4,656,196)	(5,059,932)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2016		(4,351,379)	(4,656,196)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		393,329,103	389,974,679
Infrastructural		2,988,318,640	2,987,361,463
Community		9,437,690	8,689,944
Non-Operational		56,460,448	57,158,260
		<u>3,447,546,101</u>	<u>3,443,184,346</u>
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	57,814,179	31,331,158
Long Term Debtors	3	65,736,806	68,349,094
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	329,708	316,128
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	18,822,176	16,855,097
Bank Investments		14,415,000	-
Cash at Bank		2,972,559	32,007,769
Cash in Transit		315,479	195,198
		<u>49,374,191</u>	<u>49,374,191</u>
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	50,817,237	54,345,097
		<u>50,817,237</u>	<u>54,345,097</u>



Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		(13,962,315)	(4,970,906)
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	122,965,759	130,620,743
Refundable deposits	8	-	6,720,014
Other		6,452,409	1,325,504
		129,418,168	138,666,262
Net Assets		3,427,716,602	3,399,227,429
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	3,447,546,101	3,443,184,346
Income WIP	2	55,623,453	30,779,709
Specific Revenue Reserve		-	1,238,512
General Revenue Reserve		(4,351,379)	(4,656,196)
Other Balances	10	(71,101,570)	(71,318,942)
Total Reserves		3,427,716,602	3,399,227,429

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Annual Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

The Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) and Accounting Regulations for Local Authorities in Ireland, and the directions of the Minister for the Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

The Annual Financial Statement is subject to external audit by the Local Government Auditor from the Local Government Audit Service whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts, to certify the correctness of the Annual Financial Statement and to submit an Audit Report to the Members of the Council. A copy of the Auditor's Report will be circulated to each Member of the Council when it is received, in accordance with normal practice.

### ❖ Summary Results

Total Income and Expenditure for the year with a comparison with the previous year are:

<u>Income</u>		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Revenue	137,597,036	139,620,074
Capital	68,561,797	50,059,895
Total	<u>206,158,833</u>	<u>189,679,969</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Revenue	137,292,219	139,216,338
Capital	75,412,074	54,955,566
Total	<u>212,704,293</u>	<u>194,171,904</u>

This level of expenditure indicates the on-going extent of day to day service delivery, infrastructural development, together with forward planning and design undertaken by the Council across the County during 2016. It also indicates the significance of the operations of the County Council on the local economy.

### REVENUE ACCOUNT

This account covers the everyday expenses of the Council, such as maintenance of housing, roads, land-use planning, administration and support costs, repayment of loan charges, etc. This account is prepared on a Service and Subservice basis in line with the costing structure which was introduced for all Local Authorities in 2008.

The account may be summarised as follows:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Income	137,597,036	139,620,074
Expenditure	(137,292,219)	(139,216,338)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	304,817	403,736
Debit Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	(4,656,196)	(5,059,932)
Debit Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December	(4,351,379)	(4,656,196)

The Local Government Fund Allocation for the 2016 Annual Budget amounted to €17,492,594 (2015 - €17,171,286).

The comparison between the Budget as adopted and the out-turn for the year is:-

	€
Receipts in excess of adopted Budget	15,511,488
Expenditure in excess of adopted Budget	(11,534,993)
	3,976,495
Deficit L.G/ Fund Pension Levy/ Rates	(3,671,678)
Surplus for year	304,817

The Council had a Specific Reserve of €1.20 million which arose following the introduction of a full Balance Sheet in 2002. Following department circulars the Council released this Specific Reserve to the Income and Expenditure Account during the year under review and used this reserve to increase its provision for Bad Debts by €0.50 million and applied the balance to additional irrecoverable rates.

A more detailed report on the variations between budgeted expenditure and income at service level is outlined below.

Principal factors impacting on the Expenditure out-turn:

- Expenditure on the Rental Accommodation Scheme & Leasing Scheme was approx €1.33 million less than budgeted expenditure. As there is a corresponding decrease in related income, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Increased expenditure on Roads of €0.75 million of which €0.25 million was in respect of Grant aided works;
- There was increased expenditure of €794,000 on Operation/Maintenance of Water & Sewerage Schemes. As these costs are recouped from Irish Water, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- There was increased expenditure of €613,000 on loan charges for Water Services Loans. As these costs are recouped from the DHPCLG, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Expenditure on Group Water Schemes was €869,000 less than budgeted expenditure. As there is a corresponding decrease in related income, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council
- Additional Expenditure of €1.03 million on Landfill. As there is a corresponding increase in related income, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Additional expenditure on Street Cleaning of €343,000;
- There was unbudgeted increase in Provisions for Bad Debts of €0.50 million and an additional increase in Irrecoverable rate of €1.00 million;
- Expenditure on indirect payroll costs were €768,000 less than budgeted expenditure;
- Expenditure on Finance Costs/Loan Charges was €594,000 less than budgeted expenditure.

#### Principal factors impacting on the Income out-turn:-

- Income from Rental Accommodation Scheme was €1.12 million less than budgeted income;
- Recoupment of Operation/Maintenance costs of Water & Sewerage Schemes was €847,000 in excess of Budget;
- Recoupment of loan charges for Water Services Loans was €613,000 in excess of budgeted figures;
- Recoupment of GWS subsidies was €0.94 million less than budget;
- Income from Landfill and Civic Amenities Sites was €1.31 million in excess of Budget;
- There was unbudgeted income of €1.2 million from the release of a Specific Reserve to the Councils Revenue Account;
- Gross Rates income was €741,000 less than Budget.

#### Revenue Collections

The continuing challenging economic environment makes debt collection a particularly difficult task at the present time. Notwithstanding this, there is an onus on this Council to collect debts owing to it and arrears have decreased across all the major income collection areas of Rates, Rents and Housing Loans. We will continue to maintain and strengthen our focus on debt collection working with our Commercial and Non-Commercial customers in a proactive manner commensurate with their particular financial capacity. There are instances, unfortunately, where reasonable means are not taken to pay outstanding debts and we have no choice but to take appropriate court action to pursue these debts.

Of the arrears of Rates of €5.23 million at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, €3.84 million had been paid in the period January to date.

Arrears of housing loans have decreased by €51,516 whilst Rent arrears have decreased by €3,002 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

#### Summary of Revenue Account:

Due mainly to the factors referred to above, there was a surplus of €304,817 on the revenue account in 2016 bringing the accumulated debit balance on the general revenue reserve to €4,351,379. However, we will be taking all reasonable steps in 2017 to ensure that the accumulated deficit on the Revenue Account is further reduced.

#### CAPITAL ACCOUNT

In the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) the capital account has been split and the balances that comprise the capital account have been included under various headings in the Statement of Financial Position.

As a general principle, capital expenditure may be described as that which is incurred on the creation of an asset having a life extending beyond the year in which it is provided such as, purchase of land, house building, major road improvement works, new fire stations, new and improved office buildings etc.

A summary of the transactions on this account with the comparison with the previous year is as follows:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Income	68,561,797	50,059,895
Expenditure	(75,412,074)	(54,955,566)
Deficit for Year	(6,850,277)	(4,895,671)
Credit/(Debit) Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> January	(1,842,835)	(3,052,836)
Debit Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December	(8,693,112)	(1,842,835)

Capital Expenditure has increased in the following areas:

	€'000s
House Construction/Purchase	2,848
Voluntary Housing	1,260
Road Grant works	10,919
Roads – Flood Damage	5,697
Rural Water/GWS	2,397
Investment in IWAK	3,285
Swimming Pools	2,962
Total Expenditure Increases	29,368

Capital Expenditure has decreased in the following areas:

	€'000s
RAS Reserve	360
Car Parks	617
Water/Waste Water Schemes	591
Tourism Projects	2,184
Development Contributions – Reduction in Provision	1,391
Community Gain Investment Fund	869
Landfills – Capping of Cells	624
Piers/Storm Damage	2,210
Total Expenditure Decreases	8,846

### Capital Debt

The Council's Capital Debt at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was €132,686,808. Repayments of borrowings in 2016 amounted to €9,543,413. During 2016 the Council drew down an additional €2,426,000 of borrowings. These drawdowns were for the following:

Application of Borrowings	€'000s
House Purchase Loans	1,226
Capping of Landfill cell	1,200
<b>Total Expenditure Increases</b>	<b>2,426</b>

Of the total debt of €132.7 million approximately €36.6 million of the Councils borrowings relates to borrowings to fund loans issued to housing customers, whilst a further €1.0 million relates to the councils' equity share in loans issued under the Shared Ownership Scheme. There is a corresponding amount included in debtors which represents the total principal outstanding on loans issued to customers together with rented equity outstanding on shared ownership loans. A further €24.8 million of the Council's debt relates to borrowings for Voluntary housing and Water Services, which is funded by the DHPCLG. A further €4.6 million of the debt relates to borrowings which are recoupable from other Local Authorities and €1.0 million of the debt relates to offices provided to TII and the EPA for which the Council receives rental income. A further €0.3 million relates to the Councils refurbishment programme which is funded by Internal Capital Receipts. The balance of borrowings (€64.4 million) represents expenditure on items such as Landfill sites, land purchase, offices and buildings for which a revenue stream is provided.

### CONCLUSION

The Council's cumulative deficit in the Revenue Account as set out in the General Revenue Reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was €4,351,379. It is important that this deficit is reduced and eliminated over the coming years and that this is taken into account when framing the Budgets for 2017 and future years. We will continue to closely monitor the Council's Expenditure and Income in order to maintain and improve the Council's financial position.

❖ The Council's cumulative debit balance on the Capital Account at 31st December 2016 was €8,693,112.

Over the course of 2016 Mayo County Council has managed the resource base of the council effectively despite the many challenges faced. We must continue to manage our finances in a prudent fashion striving always to ensure that essential services are delivered to a high quality and represent value for money. We will also continue to maintain strict financial and budgetary controls, strive for a further reduction in our cost base and prioritise our services according to the greatest need so as to sustain our financial capacity to deliver core essential services.

2016 was another challenging year for Mayo County Council. The challenging economic conditions have impacted considerably on the Council's financial circumstances since 2008. Income sources have particularly suffered while at the same time demand has increased for many of the services provided by the Council. This continuing financial situation places pressures on the Council and requires very focussed and ongoing financial management of available resources and appropriate discipline to work within available budgets and affordability thresholds.

## HOUSING AND BUILDING

The Government's mission is to ensure that everyone can access a home, either on their own or with State Support. They are determined to deal with the dramatic under supply of housing and the problems it generates for families and communities. Mayo County Council has re-organised our Housing Service to reflect this priority. Provision of good quality affordable accommodation presents challenges, but also opportunities, for Mayo and significant funding is being provided for the delivery of housing solutions for those in need.

**Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness** was launched in July 2016. It comprises five pillars of concerted actions right across Government – addressing homelessness, accelerating social housing, building more homes, improving the rental sector and utilising existing housing. A social housing programme of 47,000 units to 2021 will be delivered nationally with funding of €5.35 billion. In this regard Mayo County Council has established a Working Group comprising officials from Housing, the Municipal Districts, Architects, Planning and Environment to shape the future housing programme within Mayo. The results from the recent Housing Needs Assessment and the CSO data on vacant stock and the Council's own data on derelict sites and unfinished estates will inform the size, location and nature of the future housing programme.

### **The Principal work areas for the Housing Service in 2016 were:**

- Delivery of the 2016 Housing Construction Programme
- Housing Needs Assessment 2016
- Refugee Resettlement Programme – 17 Syrian Families arrived in November 2016
- Management of the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) for new housing applicants and applicants transferring from rent supplement to HAP.
- Management of the 1,122 houses and almost 500 Landlords within the Rental Accommodation and Social Leasing Schemes.
- Introduction of the new Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme
- Operation and Management of the three Housing Grant Schemes
- Continued implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
- Maintenance and planned refurbishment of the housing stock
- Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment
- Catering for Special Needs and Rural House Applicants
- Continuing to provide Private Housing, Incremental Purchase and Home Improvement Loans
- Preparation of a Draft Housing Disability Strategy
- Review and development of Housing Policy Statements and Procedures and Protocols for housing staff and clients.

## Housing Capital Programme 2015-2017

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) has approved a multi annual housing programme for the period 2015-2017 inclusive with a budget of €27.2m and a target of 146 units. These initial targets and funding envelope have been reviewed in response to ongoing housing difficulties across the country.

Mayo County Council will now deliver 249 housing units for the period 2015-2017:

- 90 New Builds (59 Local Authority & 31 Voluntary)
- 75 Acquisitions (65 Local Authority & 10 Voluntary)
- 84 Voids

### **Current Project Details:**

2 Units at Roche's Terrace, Ballina	-	Complete
21 Units at Tubberhill, Westport	-	On Site
1 Infill Unit, Westport	-	On Site
12 Rurals at various locations	-	5 Currently on Site
4 Units at Marian Crescent, Ballina	-	Pre-Tender Stage
8 Units at Knockmore	-	Part 8 Stage
4 Units at Kilmeena	-	Part 8 Stage
4 Units at Knock	-	Part 8 Stage
1 Infill Unit, Newport	-	Part 8 Stage
2 Infill Units, Swinford	-	Survey Stage
65 Acquisitions (Various Locations)		

### Tubberhill Phase 2 Social Housing Development

In September 2016 Mayo County Council entered into a contract for the construction of 21 new social housing units and 2 retail units at Tubberhill, Westport. This is the second and final phase of construction on this site, phase one having been completed in 2008. Both phases of development were designed in-house by Mayo County Council's Architects Section and the combined scheme is designed to maximise passive solar heat gain, optimise the spectacular views available, be highly energy efficient and create a quality urban and domestic environment.

### Voluntary Housing Bodies Project Details

- 8 Units at Foxford by SVDP - Complete
- 7 Units at Logmore, Belmullet (IWCA) - On Site
- 4 Units at Foxford (SVDP) - Tender Stage
- 6 Units at Ballinrobe (SVDP) - Pre-Tender Stage
- 6 Units at Glenamoy (Community) - Design Stage
- 1 Acquisition (Clúid – In Castlebar) -



## Planned Refurbishment Programme

### Energy Efficiency Programme

The Council is continuing work on energy efficiency retrofits across our entire housing stock to ensure that every dwelling has a minimum cavity wall insulation of 50mm and attic insulation of 250mm or equivalent 'U' value. Also, as part of this programme, work has commenced on window and external door upgrades, where required. Funding of €665,000 was available for 2016. This work will, funding permitted, continue for another 3 years to deal with the circa 300 remaining units needing insulation works and circa 400 units needing work on windows and external doors.

### Voids

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) provides funding to deal with vacant units/voids which, matched with our own resources, has seen huge progress made in this area in the last two years.

In mid-2014 the number of vacant social housing units in the County stood at 176 and since then an additional 283 units have been returned to stock by former tenants. The number of vacant units countywide is now down to 54. Great credit is due to the staff within the various Housing Offices around the County who have worked so diligently to deliver this progress.

### Central Heating

Mayo County Council has commenced work to ensure that Local Authority Houses that currently do not have a central heating system, are provided with one. The original estimate on the number of units without central heating was 112 but following survey this figure has been revised downward to approximately 60 units. The cost of the works will be approximately €700k and funding has been provided. Work is ongoing and should be complete on all houses within the programme by mid-2017.

### Housing Grant Schemes

The Council operates three Housing Grant Schemes, comprising;

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Mobility Aids Grants
- Housing Adaptation Grants for people with a disability.

The Council budgeted for expenditure of €2,800,000 for Housing Grants for 2016. Every year we receive between 700 and 800 applications under these schemes. Most applications are granted. The level of funding approved varies from €1,500 for a level deck shower to as much as €30,000 for house adaptations and/ or extensions to accommodate the needs of a disabled householder.

The changes to the schemes introduced by the Council, which became effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, has ensured that the grant schemes remain viable and operate successfully. These changes have had a positive impact on the administration of the schemes as all applications are now being processed as they are received.

## Social Housing Current Programme

### Housing Assistance Payment

The new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme has been designed to bring all long-term social housing services, provided by the State, together under the Local Authority system, thereby providing for integrated social housing under one sector.

Rent Supplement is to remain but will revert to its original purpose as a short term income support. Currently, there are 1232 households in receipt of rent supplement in Mayo, most of whom will be eligible for Social Housing Support and will in time transfer to HAP.

Persons in receipt of HAP are considered to have their housing need met and are removed from the housing list. They can however access a housing transfer list if they wish to be accommodated in direct local authority housing or voluntary housing.

The HAP recipient source's their own accommodation and a monthly rental payment, within the rent caps, is paid directly to the landlord. The HAP recipient is required to make a weekly differential rent payment to the local authority.

HAP commenced in Mayo on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and a dedicated HAP unit located as part of the Housing Office in Swinford has been established to manage the workload. The unit implements HAP for clients who have been (a) approved for Social Housing Support by their local Housing Office and (b) for whom HAP has been identified as an appropriate solution in meeting their housing need. There were 390 households on the HAP Scheme in Mayo at the end of 2016.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, Mayo County Council had assumed responsibility for 1,641 units (470 from the Voluntary Sector & 1,137 from the Private Sector). However over the period 2006 to 2016, 248 Voluntary clients have left the scheme and 466 Private tenancies have either transferred or ceased their tenancies.

### Social Housing Leasing

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, Mayo County Council had assumed responsibility for 205 units under Leasing. However since 2009 to 2016, 65 have left the scheme or had to be transferred within the scheme. This Leasing scheme caters for clients who have been deemed eligible for Social Housing but who are not in receipt of Rent Supplement.

A huge challenge for the SHCEP team is the lack of properties available for renting in the county. This, coupled with the fact that many landlords are now deciding to return to their properties themselves thus leaving the team to transfer many tenants during the year, is slowing down the process of transferring clients on the Housing Waiting List to the schemes. The constant increase in prices for renting in the county is another challenge the team are facing on a daily basis making it extremely difficult to secure good value for money.

### Housing Needs Assessment 2016

The 2016 Housing Needs Assessment was taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. All applicants on Mayo County Council's Housing Waiting List were written to and asked to complete a short form to update their personal information and records. Advertisements were also placed in the local media inviting applications.

In all, approximately 2,800 households were written to. Small numbers requested removal from the list or were removed as they were no longer eligible for Social Housing Support under the 2011 Social Housing Assessment Regulations.

The vast majority of applicants removed from the list were taken off as they did not return the update form. It is probable that some of those households would wish to remain on the list and that others do not wish to be on the list but wish to retain their current housing support. Those in the latter category will be picked up as rent supplement recipients move to Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Those who inadvertently failed to return their update form can be added to the list once the update form is submitted. The remaining households removed from the list comprise of persons who have moved away, are no longer seeking Social Housing Support or have made their own determination of ineligibility in cases where they have secured employment.

The revised waiting list number for Mayo is now 1608 households which includes 362 transfer applicants. This figure is considered to be a realistic measure of actual demand having regard to the number of households currently in receipt of rent supplement (1232) and the Housing Needs Assessment for 2011 (2056) and 2013 (1479). With effect from 2017 the Housing Needs Assessment will be carried out on an Annual Basis.

### Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016

In January 2016, a new scheme for the purchase of existing local authority houses came into effect to give local authority tenants the opportunity to buy their homes. To date there has been very little activity. The minimum income threshold of €15,000 is problematic for many tenants. Under Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness a commitment was given to review the scheme early in 2017.

### Traveller Accommodation

Mayo County Council continues to provide for the accommodation needs of Travellers using the full range of housing options available. Very significant progress has been made in this area since the first Accommodation Plan was adopted in 2000.

An Accommodation programme for the period 2014-2018 was adopted in April, 2014. The projected accommodation requirement in the 2014-2018. Traveller Accommodation Plan is 120 units:

- 31 units in the Ballina Municipal District
- 33 units in the Castlebar Municipal District
- 52 units in the Claremorris Municipal District
- 4 units in the West Mayo Municipal District

Since the adoption of the TAP in April 2014 a total of 61 units of Traveller Accommodation have been delivered as follows;

- 16 - Local Authority Casual Vacancies
- 10 – RAS & SHIL
- 28 – Private Tenanted/HAP
- 4 – Voluntary Housing
- 3 – New Build/ Acquisitions

The numbers achieved lag slightly behind target due to the lack of supply within the private rental market and this is an area of concern. There is evidence that Traveller households are one of the most vulnerable groups as landlords exit the rental sector and pressure on the existing 144 Traveller households in private rented accommodation is set to increase.

A mid-term review of the 2014-2018 Plan was carried out in November/December 2016.

#### Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment

On average, there are two to three homeless presentations across the County every week, most arising from drug or alcohol abuse or domestic violence and are short term in nature. Emergency accommodation is provide in local B&Bs or Hotels or within units in the stock reserved by the Council for this purpose. As of now there is no long-term homelessness problem in the County and rough sleepers are rare.

Of concern, however is a potential escalation of homeless presentations as supply in the private rental market tightens, rents rise and homes are repossessed. To get ahead of any potential escalation of the problem, MCC is currently recruiting a Tenancy Sustainment Officer. Tenants/property owners at risk of losing their home will have a point of contact for advice, guidance, mediation etc., to try and keep households in their homes rather than have them present as homeless. The aim is a more active Mayo Homeless Forum, a new Implementation Plan for the period 2017-2020, oversight and guidance for the Municipal Districts in managing homelessness and better data on the scale of the potential problem so that steps can be taken at an early stage to intervene and reduce the number of homeless presentations.

#### Refugee Resettlement

Government policy requires Mayo to accommodate a minimum of 120 refugees from Syria who have been displaced by the ongoing war. 17 families (75 persons) arrived in Mayo in November and accommodation has been provided for them by MCC.

An Interagency Group, Chaired by MCC, is working to ensure transition for the refugees and a successful integration of the families into Irish Society. All the main statutory and non –statutory agencies working in this area are represented on the group.



***4 bed single rural house***

***Tubberhill Housing Development***



## ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT

The Architects Department is a multi-discipline office, providing a centralised Design, Procurement, Management and Architectural, Planning and Conservation Consultancy Service to all departments and regional directorates of Mayo County Council.

The office encompasses a range of in-house technical and administrative expertise and is comprised of:

- ✓ Architects
- ✓ Engineers
- ✓ Conservation Architect
- ✓ Architectural & Civil technicians
- ✓ Horticulturalist
- ✓ Clerks of Work
- ✓ Clerical staff

The Local Authority's Capital Works Programme for 2016 saw significant progress on site of many new key construction developments including amongst same the Castlebar Swimming Pool & Outdoor Educational Facility, the Tubberhill Social Housing development in Westport, the New Activity Services Centre in Mulranny, together with many other new Enterprise, Recreational and Sporting Facilities and Conservation-led building projects throughout the County.

Other 'non-construction' related work areas in which the Architects Department have had an increasing involvement over the year include:

- Administration of the "Structures at Risk" Grants Scheme
- Planning & Architectural Conservation Consultancy Services
- Maintenance & Management of Turlough Park Gardens

### Capital Programme:

#### Housing

The Housing Construction Programme 2015-2017, launched in early 2015, has led to a significant increased level of 'new-build' activity throughout the County in 2016.

Planning and Design works were progressed on a number of housing developments, which are now due to commence construction on site in early 2017 these include new social housing schemes at the following locations:

- Marian Crescent, Ballina
- Kilmenna, Westport
- Knock
- Knockmore

Other housing related activity within Mayo County Council also focused on remedial and energy efficiency up-grade works. 2016 saw the completion of upgrade works involving attic & wall insulation to over 160 dwellings, central heating installations to 26 dwellings and window & door replacement works to a further 24 dwellings.

#### Tubberhill Phase 2 Social Housing Development.

September 2016 saw the commencement of the construction of 21 social housing and 2 retail units as second phase of development in Tubberhill, Westport. Progress and workmanship to date has been good as can be seen from the progress photo below.

The all-in cost of this development is in the region of €5 million, with the works scheduled to be completed in Q4 2017 – which is also the timeframe for the delivery of the New HSE Primary Care which is also currently under construction on an adjacent site.



***Progress of works to date on site in Tubberhill.***

#### Enterprise

##### Westport Enterprise Centre

On September 26th September 2016 Westport Multi Agency Enterprise Ltd entered into a contract for the refurbishment of an existing multi- purpose warehouse immediately adjoining the Westport Civic Offices on Altamont Street in Westport.

The facility when complete will provide office accommodation and start up facilities for new businesses and enterprises. These facilities will include cellular offices, shared working spaces with 'Hot desks' for short term or part time use, 1Gb high speed broadband will be available, training and meeting rooms, together with social and business networking facilities.

The centre, named the 'Leeson Enterprise Centre' will be managed by Westport Chamber of Commerce, and was funded by Enterprise Ireland.

Works reached Substantial Completion in 2016 at all in cost of circa €1.2 million. The high quality finish and workmanship achieved through the excellent co-operation between the contractor and the design team is now clearly evident in the attached interior shot of the new facility. The Architects Section is now working with the client to complete the furnishing and office fit out of the building.

The new Centre – to be named the 'Leeson Enterprise Centre' it is hoped will be open for business in May of 2017.



*Above is an interior view of the new Leeson Enterprise Centre.*



## Recreational, Community & Service Facilities

### Castlebar Swimming Pool & Out-door Education Building

Construction works on the new Swimming Pool Complex and Outdoor Education Building, at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar, progressed well in 2016 with the pool complex taking shape as can be seen in the progress photographs below.

The Development when complete (Q4 2017) will include indoor swimming pools, viewing area, changing & storage facilities, fitness gym, aerobics studio, climbing wall, lecture rooms and associated offices, services facility, secure compound, car park and external lighting, CCTV, pedestrian access to Lough Lannagh and all associated site works and service connections.

The development was designed in-house by Mayo County Council, Architects Section and the combined scheme is designed to compliment, the amenity and educational usage of the Lough Lannagh area, whilst providing modern facilities, for public enjoyment and educational needs.

The development is designed to be energy efficient, sustainable, accessible and is grant aid assisted by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, together with contributions from Castlebar Community Development Association, GMIT and Mayo County Council.



***Above is Artists impression of project when complete.***



*Above and below are progress photos of works to date on site.*



*Refurbishment Works to the Charlestown Outdoor Swimming Pool.*

The Charlestown Outdoor Swimming Pool has been serving the local community in Charlestown and surrounding area for over 40years. The facility is in the ownership of and is operated by Charlestown Swimming Pool Management Committee.

Mayo County Council was successful in securing a grant for upgrade works under the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme (LASPP) – Energy Efficiency and Enhanced Disabled Access Initiative 2015 and were responsible for the organization, supervision and delivery of this project in conjunction with the Charlestown Swimming Pool Management Committee



***Existing Pool prior to refurbishment.***

Upgrade works carried out on the pool included:

- New plant room block.
- The re-lining of the existing pool tank with a new insulated lining system.
- The provision of air source heat pumps to heat the pool water.
- The provision of new accessible ramped access to pool deck and new paving and drainage works to deck area.
- The provision of new accessible ramped access to and around the main changing block.
- The provision of new primary water supplies, primary electrical supplies backwash and waste water discharge systems.



*Refurbished Pool 2016*



*New Activity Services Centre for the Great Western Greenway*

This project involved the conservation and restoration of an abandoned historical railway building, the former Station House in Mulranny. It is also a re-invention of the building, which previously provided waiting areas and a station master's house, but now will function as an exhibition/ heritage centre, a service stop for the Greenway, first aid centre, and a base for activities along the Greenway and the Wild Atlantic Way.

This project is unique in that it has not only saved, but has breathed new life into what was (less than one year ago) little more than a ruin, whilst at the same time it has set a national example of how our great railway architectural heritage can be re-vitalised.

Delivery timeframes on this project were very onerous - funding from Failte Ireland was dependant on total expenditure of grant aided funds within 2016.

Despite the project not starting on site until August 2016, 100% of grant expenditure was achieved by year end, which was a remarkable tribute to the efforts all involved.



View to rear of building (facing N-E) prior to reconstruction works – February 2016



View to rear of building (facing N-E) post completion – March 2017

Photographic Time line.....



*Early 20th Century*



*Late 20th Century*



*February 2016*



**January 2017**

### SEAI 'Better Energy Communities' Energy Efficiency retrofit Works.

In 2016 grant funding of between 30-60% was secured from SEAI for energy efficiency retrofit works on a 'Community' of existing energy-inefficient public, private and community buildings that it was deemed would significantly benefit from such upgrade works.

The initial building assessment process and subsequent grant application to SEAI was facilitated by Retrofit Energy Ireland (REIL). While REIL also procured, and managed the retrofit works to the 'community element' of the project - the Architects Department procured and managed the retrofit works to the following three key Mayo County Council buildings:

- Aras an Chontae, Castlebar
- The Firestation HQ and
- The Mayo Library Head Quarters.

Mechanical and Electrical consultancy services were provided by Delap & Waller Engineers.

Energy retrofit works undertaken by MCC on the above three facilities included:

- Photo Voltaic panel installation to the Library - generating approximately half of the electricity requirements of that building.
- Replacement of in-efficient light fittings with new Led fittings - up to ten times more efficient.
- Replacement of in-efficient heating systems with 'A' rated boilers and/or heat pumps.  
Cavity Wall insulation and draft proofing works.

The overall SEAI/ BEC project cost was in the region of €1 million for which the 'community element' received up to 60% grant assistance with public and private elements receiving 30%. All works were completed by the grant drawdown deadline of the 14th October 2016.

The All-in Cost of the above upgrade works to Mayo County Council was circa €270,000.00 with a 6-10-year payback anticipated.



*Photo Voltaic Panel Installation on the Library HQ in Castlebar.*

### Architectural Conservation, Planning & Architectural Conservation Consultancy Services

The Architects Department has since 2010 taken on the duties and responsibilities associated with the role of Architectural Conservation Officer for Mayo County Council.

As part of these duties and responsibilities during 2016, the Architectural Conservation Officer provided advice and reports in relation to the following;

- Record of Protected Structures
- Planning File Reports and Pre-planning consultations
- Conservation advice to owners of built heritage
- Built Heritage Investment Scheme
- Structures at Risk Fund

### Dry Stone Wall & Lime Skills Workshops

Organised in conjunction with the Heritage Officer this annual workshop took place in May 2016 in association with Mulranny Community Futures & the Building Limes Forum Ireland. The format of the workshop consisted of a series of theoretical and practical elements. Talks, case studies and demonstrations by conservation professionals, stonemasons, brick and lime practitioners provided for an introduction to best practice and the principles of architectural conservation. This project is part of ongoing conservation repair works to dry stone walls along the Mulranny Greenway.





***Participants at the Dry Stone Wall & Lime Skills Workshops***

### Architectural Conservation

#### Structures at Risk Fund 2016

The purpose of the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) is to assist with works to safeguard structures protected under the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended): including works to proposed protected structures, and in certain cases, works to safeguard structures within Architectural Conservation Areas.

Applications were invited for the Structures at Risk Fund with funding allocated under the scheme from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Inspection of the works and administration of the grant-funding in accordance with departmental guidelines ensured the completion of essential conservation works to three structures at risk.

#### Ballysakeery Glebe House, Mulafarry

Recorded in 1874 as the birthplace of Dr. Kathleen Lynn, Ballysakeery Glebe House was built in 1820. As Chief Medical Officer stationed at City Hall during the Rising Lynn played a significant role. Conservation works funded under the scheme allowed for the careful dismantling of the central cut-stone chimney stack with later reinstatement. Essential repairs to the roof structure including re-slatting and associated leadwork completed the works to part of the roof.



***Ballysakeery Glebe House: Before***



***Ballysakeery Glebe House: After***

### Robe Villa, Ballinrobe

Robe Villa is a significant townhouse erected by Captain Courtney Kenny (1702-79) on a site leased (1739) from Michael Cuffe MP (1694-1744) and is regarded as an important component of the eighteenth-century domestic built heritage of Ballinrobe with scenic vistas overlooking the Robe River. Funding provided for essential roof repairs and associated leadwork, with a number of the principal chimneys re-built with lime mortar.



***Ballinrobe House***



***Ballinrobe House: Roof Repairs***

### Ballinafad House, Ballinafad

A country house built for Maurice Blake, one-time High Sheriff of County Mayo (fl. 1838), Ballinafad House represents an important component of the early nineteenth-century domestic built heritage of the rural environs of Ballcarra. Ongoing architectural conservation works continued at Ballinafad House in 2016 with repairs being carried out to the exterior and interior. The cornice and top block course to the later entrance porch had been displaced due to the corrosion of the iron fittings.

Conservation works funded under the scheme were essential to save the cut-stone entrance porch on the arched perron to the front elevation.



***Ballinafad House***



***Ballinafad House***

### Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016

Applications were invited under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) for 2016, as operated by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. This scheme seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in certain cases, for the conservation of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftworkers and tradespeople. Inspection of the works and administration of the grant-funding in accordance with departmental guidelines ensured the completion of essential architectural conservation works to seven structures of architectural significance.

### St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina

St. Muredach's Cathedral erected under the aegis of Reverend John MacHale (1791-1881), to a design attributed to Dominick Madden of Galway. Rated as being of national importance, the conservation works funded under the scheme consisted of repairs to ribbed vaulted ceilings that had been damaged as a result of water ingress. Further to works to eliminate the ingress of water the specialist conservation works included repairs to the timber vaulted frames and the formation of new sections to parts of the plaster ribs, plain decorative plasterwork and the stabilization of existing and repaired ceilings to the Sanctuary and Crossing. Localised repairs were also undertaken to the mosaic wall tiling.



***St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina***



***St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina***

**Ballinafad House, Ballinafad**

Funding secured under the scheme allowed for roof works to the west wing of the Ballinafad House in 2016 with repairs to the timber structure, re-slating and leadworks to the parapet gutter.



***Ballinafad House***



***Ballinafad House***

**Church of St. Charles the Martyr, Hollymount**

Set in the designed landscape associated with Hollymount Demesne, the Church of St. Charles the Martyr and graveyard contains a significant number of high quality freestanding limestone ashlar funerary monuments and decorative ironwork railings. The church spire is internationally significant in that it is the earliest known surviving example of a cast-iron spire in Europe. Funding provided for repair works to the lower four stages of the cast iron spire.



***Church of St. Charles the Martyr, Hollymount***



***Church of St. Charles the Martyr, Hollymount***

**The Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar**

Appraised by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage as a 'linen hall (c.1790)' this property holds a prominent position in the streetscape of Castlebar. Architectural conservation works funded the removal of inappropriate cement pointing to the front façade to allow for lime mortar pointing to match the original. Specialist stone repairs were required to the reveals of the upper windows. Eaves stones were re-bedded in lime mortar where necessary with the provision of new cast iron gutters and downpipes. Repairs to the cast iron plates were also carried out.



***The Linenhall Arts Centre***

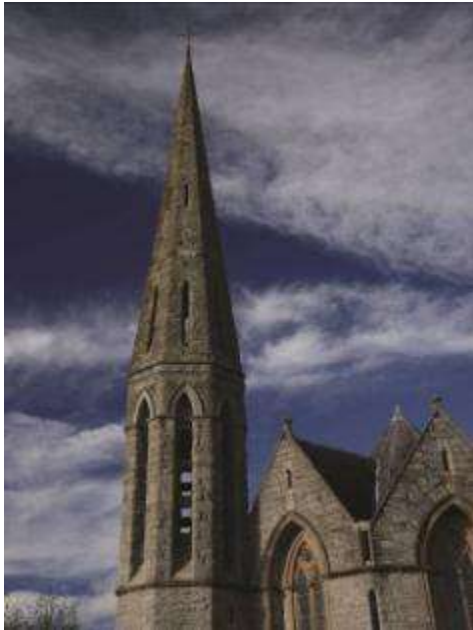


***The Linenhall Arts Centre***

**Holy Trinity Church, Westport**

Holy Trinity Church, designed by Sir Thomas Newenham Deane is a rare Irish example of Victorian High Church Anglican Ecclesiastical design especially in the richness of the interior.

The funding provided for conservation repairs to the Vestry Chimney gable to halt water ingress. Lime mortar pointing was addressed and defective cast iron gutters and downpipes were repaired and replaced.



*Holy Trinity Church, Westport*



*Holy Trinity Church, Westport*

St. Thomas Church, Dugort

A church erected to a design signed (1851) by Joseph Welland, Architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and widely regarded as a particularly important component of the ecclesiastical heritage of Achill Island forming the centrepiece of the so-called "Colony" founded (1833) by Reverend Edward Nangle. Repairs were carried out to two cast iron lancet windows and a cast iron quatrefoil window.



*St. Thomas Church, Dugort*



Mullafarry Presbyterian Church, Mullafarry

Detached three-bay double-height single-cell Presbyterian church, dated 1824 on a rectangular plan with single-bay single-storey gabled projecting porch to entrance (west) Mullafarry Presbyterian Church is a simple barn plan form set in a wooded cemetery. Conservation works to secure the future of the structure included for re-slating with associated leadwork and replacement cast iron gutters and fittings.

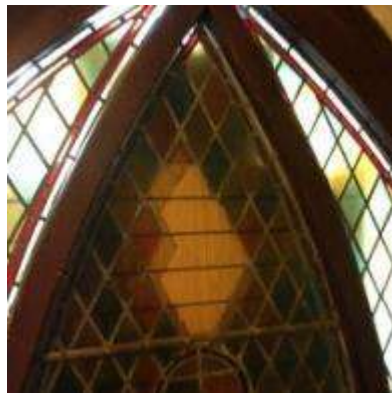


***Mullafarry Presbyterian Church***

Heritage Council Funding

St. Catherine's Church, Louisburgh

Further to grant funding to the Granuaile Centre which shares the structure with the library service, the Architects Department provided for procurement, project management and reports for drawdown of funding. Specialist joinery and glazing works were carried out to save the east window and three pointed-arch windows.



***Granuaile Centre, Louisburgh***

### St. John's Church, Ballycastle

Grant funding allowed for the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan and to carry out essential works to the church including the stabilisation of the church bell. Removal of cementitious render and a small amount of pointing with a suitable lime-mortar to the tower were also completed.



***St. John's Church Ballycastle***

### Recreational Facilities

In 2016 the Architects Department continued to facilitate the development new public recreational facilities throughout the county. Such facilities include Playgrounds, Multi Use Games Areas etc.

All projects are carried out in partnership with community groups and are funded in some instances by the Local Authority, LEADER, Central Government, or through Community Fund raising but in most instances through a combination of all the above funding sources. The projects are designed and project managed by the Architects Department with the local community having a central role at all stages of delivery.

This significant investment has seen a network of Public Recreational Facilities spread across the county to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors alike. County Mayo is now recognised as one of the best served counties in the country in terms of the provision of public recreational facilities.

### Construction of New Playground Facility in Pullathomas.

The Pullathomas playground was completed in October 2016 and was funded through the (CGIF) Community Gain Investment Fund at a cost of circa €70,000. The contractor was Kompan Ireland.





***Cutting the tape Oct 2016***



***Local Children lend the Minister a helping hand!***

## ARTS SERVICE

Annually, the service works with over 250 community groups and impacts directly on the lives of at least 30,000 people who attend events organized or funded through the Arts Office.

### ARTS INFORMATION, PROMOTION AND ADVICE

- Advisory service to community groups, artists and arts organisations regularly about arts events and sources of funding for their projects and programmes.
- Email bulletin on a monthly basis covering all Mayo Arts news.

### ARTS PROGRAMME

#### 1. Mayo Artsquad



*Mayo Artsquad Workshop Space*



*Working on 'Shark' for The Achill Experience*

- Samhain Abhainn: Hallowe'en scary walks in Belleek Woods Ballina.
- Foxford River Fest. Artsquad produced large scale willow sculptures and on site props.
- Onsite – site specific art trail at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life

#### 2. Arts in Education Programme

- Mayo County Council School's Exhibition Programme - exhibitions travelled to 3 schools.

#### 3. Literature

- Poetry Day Ireland 2016 – Poets Sean Lysaght and Michelle O'Sullivan live on Midwest Radio
- 'Writing Winning Short Stories' – Day-long Masterclass with Nuala Ní at Linenhall Arts Centre.

#### 4. Arts for Older People

Bealtaine - Ireland's national celebration of creativity as we age. Highlights from 2016

- The Dresser Project with Michael Fortune exhibition was launched in The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life in May this year.
- Time for a Tune, A memorable evening with renowned musician Charlie Lennon.

## 5. Public Art Programme 2016:

- Fake Panel - Training initiative for artists aiming to improve proposal writing and presentation skills. In 2016, sessions took place in Limerick School of Art & Design and DLR Artists Network.
- Mayfield Housing Association - James L Hayes produced a number of bronze cast fruit and vegetables sculptures from the site and these were installed in the entrance foyer of the estate's communal building. James also produced a mirrored stainless steel installation.
- 2016 Mayo County Council Jackie Clarke Residency - Artist in residence programme with Katie Moore to produce Paper Bloom



***Launch of 'Paper Bloom' at Ballina Civic Office Exhibition Space & Feature in national press***

Paper Bloom was launched in early May and a closing event took place on June 25<sup>th</sup> at which Aidan Dunne (Art Critic, Irish Times) spoke about Katie's work. A publication documenting the art work was published.

- Tír Sáile - extensive audit of existing Tír Sáile works and a plan to repair and renew the trail, initial funds have been secured to start the development of this work.

## 6. Youth Arts

EXCEL 2016 - youth arts programme is run annually by the Arts Office. Highlights from 2016

- One to One Portfolio Information Clinics with Joanna Hopkins
- Artist Talks - Westport College of Further Education with John Mayock and Katie Moore gave a talk to students at St. Patrick's College, Lacken
- ArtSnack series: Mayo County Council worked in partnership with Mayo Arts venues to provide a menu of taster arts events for secondary school students

Mayo Youth Theatre (MYT) 2016: Twenty five young people benefited from weekly sessions in Ballina, which led to their annual production 'Broken Town' by Fiona Keane.

## 7. Music

- Whistleblast Quartet - completed a series of interactive music education programmes in Mayo.

- Music Generation Mayo - [www.musicgenerationmayo.ie/](http://www.musicgenerationmayo.ie/) | 2016 highlights include:
  - Jam Bands summer camps in Westport, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar and Claremorris
  - Early Years music camps in Castlebar and Ballina (Parents & toddlers/children 4 – 6 years)
  - PUNKIT! Percussion project and performance at Linenhall Arts Centre
  - Mayo Youth Choirs participating in 'A Nation's Voice' on the national stage

## 8. Disability Arts Programme:

### UPSTART

In 2016, 6 projects have been awarded funding which will lead to showcases in 5 venues in December.

### IGNITE!



Silent Moves – Mayo's IGNITE! Commission featured in The Irish Times

The Mayo Commission 'Silent Moves' won the vote to become the people's choice in the Irish Times Modern Ireland in 100 Great Artworks and has been included in a publication of the same title.

LUISNE - Celebrated 10 years at the Community Garden in Ballinrobe, where their art works feature. They have been working with Scannán Technologies in Ballina on a joint project for UPSTART 2016. [www.artluisne.com](http://www.artluisne.com).

## 9. Culture Night

Culture Night took place on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. This year 33 organisations participated across 21 locations in Mayo and organised 70 free events. Over 3,000 visitors enjoyed the night and all reported it was the best Culture Night yet.



Culture Night in Burren, Artsquad and Ballinrobe.

## 10. Film Mayo:

[www.filmmayo.ie](http://www.filmmayo.ie)

Awards - Film Mayo was nominated for the TMT 2016 Entertainment Awards.

Training - Screenwriting workshop with David Keating

Film Bursary - Bursary award for filmmakers in Mayo, to Tyrone Guthrie Centre

## 11. 1916 Commemoration Projects:

Mayo Arts Office, through the 1916 committee, sought support and was proactively engaged with several remarkable arts projects to commemorate the 1916 Rising.

- Kathleen Lynn Project: Mayo Collaborative Project exhibition based on the life Dr. Kathleen Lynn.
- The Foggy Dew, Mick O’Dea Exhibition in Ballina Civic Office Space & Ballinglen Arts Foundation
- Artist’s Residency at Jackie Clarke Library
- Mayo 1916 Commemoration Parade & Family Day, Castlebar



Mayo Artsquad flying the Tricolour for the 1916 Commemoration

## ARTS GRANTS:

The Arts Office provides grants for both professional and non-professional practitioners in all art forms.

- Arts Acts Grants
- Visual Arts awards
- MCC Tyrone Guthrie Awards
- Amateur Drama Awards
- Music Recording Assistance Awards

## Summary

The Arts Service will continue to support artists and arts practitioners who live and work in Mayo in order to maximise their creative potential. The support of those who make art and are involved in the arts, at whatever level, continues to be the core of a progressive and responsive service.

## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & AGRICULTURE

The Section is tasked with the enforcement of environmental legislation, the implementation of EU directives and regulations, national and regional policies and the raising of awareness/education on environmental issues with the general public. The remit now also includes a strategic focus on Climate Change, Flooding and providing leadership in the Agriculture Sector.

The Environment function is to facilitate the vision of sustainable, physical and economic development. A quality environment sustains and facilitates development in many sections of the County's economy including tourism, food production, and foreign direct investment, particularly in the healthcare sectors. The environment section assists in this regard through its monitoring and reporting role, ensuring the highest standards are adhered to and by building a positive image of the County's environment.

### Mayo County Council's Agriculture Working Group

2016 seen the establishment of Mayo County Council's Agriculture Working Group to address the following issues:-

- To provide a representative voice for Farmers in Mayo in relation to National and European Agriculture Policy;
- To ensure that Farmers are aware of opportunities to diversify in order to ensure viability in the future.
- To review the products produced by Farmers in Mayo so as to ensure future viability.

The working group comprises of elected members and members from external bodies i.e. Teagasc, The Irish Farmers Association, the Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The working group met on 4 occasions in 2016 and discussed inter alia

- The work programme for the group
- Baseline of the Agriculture Sector in Mayo
- Outline of draft Agriculture Strategy

### Environment Awareness

Raising awareness to the protection of Mayo's environment and enabling the public to take responsibility for the environment is a key part of the work of the Environment Section of Mayo County Council. Environmental awareness is focused on all sectors of the community – school children, young adults, householders, businesses and community groups.

Below are some of the many initiatives that took place in 2016. We plan to continue to create and run new campaigns in 2017 and will work with all our many partners in Mayo in implementing these campaigns.

### Schools and Young People Environment Awareness Programme

Mayo County Council has continued to promote environment awareness on the issues of litter, waste, recycling, composting, energy and water conservation with our pre-school, primary and secondary schools and also with Foroige and scouting groups.

Several school based programmes were held in 2016. The 'Leave no Trace' workshops continued in 2016 and were delivered to an additional 18 primary schools throughout the county. Mayo County Council continued to roll out workshops on the protection of water, waste & litter management, composting and energy conservation all with the specific aim of increasing awareness on environmental issues among young people.



ECO UNESCO – Global Responsibility Fashion Focus Workshop carried out in a number of Mayo secondary schools in 2016.



### Green Schools Programme

The Green School's Programme is an international programme designed to encourage and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. This programme is run in co-operation with Local Authorities throughout Ireland and is managed by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland.

Green Schools is both a programme and an award scheme. The award is given to schools that complete the seven steps of the programme and has to be renewed every two years. To date, in Mayo there are 184 schools registered for the Green Schools Programme and of these 160 have been awarded Green Flag status. Six Green School Teacher Seminars were held by Mayo County Council in 2016 and were attended by teachers from throughout the County.



***Roundfort NS, Claremorris, Receiving their first Green Flag at an awards ceremony in Claremorris in May 2016***

### Environment Awareness Events

In 2016, several information workshops were held to promote environmental awareness particularly on the Pay By Weight Campaign but also on composting, food waste prevention and greener cleaning. Events were held at community, workplace & business level.



Ballina Heritage Day Supporting the 'Chain for Change Stand'





Stop Food Waste Food Event at Connaught Spring Show with Ballinrobe Tidy Towns.



Resource Efficiency Information for businesses at the 'Meet Mayo' event in the Breaffy Arena.



Pay by Weight Event with Crossmolina Tidy Towns.



## GIY Workshop

In March 2016, a GIY Workshop was delivered in Knock, Co. Mayo. This practical and inspiring workshop and seed sowing demo enabled participants to start growing their own food with the support of the GIY network nationally. Four key environmental aspects were addressed:- Sustainability, Food Waste Prevention, Composting and Water Conservation. Another key focus of the workshop was on the importance to food growing of garden biodiversity, advice was given on how to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.



In June the Environment Office teamed up with the EPA Green Business team to carry out a detailed Resource Efficiency Audit at Knock Shrine and Grounds.



Information day for staff on 'Pay by Weight' in Baxter Pharmaceuticals.



Sharon Cameron, Environmental Awareness Officer on behalf of Mayo County Council presented Acknowledgement Awards to Baxter on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at their Irish Manufacturing Operations in Castlebar for their sustainability initiatives at both facilities (Castlebar & Swinford) on having achieved Zero Waste to Landfill and on importing 100% Renewable Electricity.

### Free Electrical Recycling Days for Householders

During 2016 WEEE Ireland with the support of Mayo County Council Ireland carried out free Electrical Recycling events in 15 locations throughout the county. These are part of an overall electrical and battery recycling scheme.

### Tidy Towns

Support is given to Tidy Towns Committees on an ongoing basis in particular with the categories of 'Tidiness and Litter Control' and 'Sustainable Waste and Resource Management'.

In 2016, Mayo County Council in partnership with Ballindine Tidy Towns Committee launched a novel roadside litter initiative. Large Notice Boards were erected along the roadside entering the village of Ballindine reminding people not to litter the countryside with their take-away litter. This followed an earlier road side litter campaign over the June Bank Public Holiday Weekend on the N5 and N17.



### National Spring Clean

An Taisce's National Spring Clean is Ireland's biggest anti-litter campaign. It encourages people from all walks of life to take pride in their local environment and to take action against litter. The campaign runs throughout the whole month of April and relies on the wonderful support from volunteers nationwide. All schools and community groups were invited to participate in the Spring Clean Campaign and all registered groups were issued with bags, gloves and litter pickers to assist them in their litter clean ups.

In April, 2016, the An Taisce Ambassador and model Sarah McGovern together with the Secondary School students of Charlestown Secondary School and Charlestown Foroige Club 'Clean Up Mayo Day' – a new initiative of the Environment Office to encourage even more interest in National Spring Clean.



### National Reuse Month

October 2016 was designated as National Reuse Month. Many events were held during the month including the 'Bling Your Thing' Competition with Midwest Radio and the 'This is Not a Wood Pallet' workshop. Both of these events engaged the interest of the general public and focused minds on the topic of reuse.



Ms. Mary Lavelle's Winning Entry into Mayo County Council's Bling Your Thing Competition.



**THIS IS NOT A WOOD PALLET**  
 repair - remake - reimagine

Are you tired of your old furniture? Do you want to give it new life but don't know where to start?

Mayo County Council is holding an exciting furniture upcycling workshop for the people of Mayo. The course will help you get the most from your old furniture and help you create beautiful new pieces.

**Where:** Regional Training Centre, Mayo County Council, The Hub, Castlebar

**Date:** Wednesday, 19th October 2016

**Time:** 7.30 to 3.0pm

Workshop will be presented by  
 Mayo County Council, 701-703a, Castlebar, Co. Mayo  
 Booking information on 01 824 304 7000  
 @mcouncilmayo

**reuse month**  
 repair - remake - reimagine

The Furniture upcycling workshop held for National Reuse Month attracted a huge audience.

## Radio Campaigns

In 2016 Mayo County Council once again teamed up with i102 radio and Midwest radio in running a series of anti-litter and waste awareness messages. The monthly environment radio slot on Midwest Radio's Tommy Marren Show continues to be extremely popular and the public are invited to submit their queries for the 'quick fire' round at the end of each slot. Mayo County Council also teamed up with Midwest Radio to run an information campaign throughout National Reuse Month in October.

## Administration and Implementation of Grant Schemes

### Anti-Litter & Anti Graffiti Grants 2016

This grant scheme is aimed towards organisations that are planning a project to target anti-litter or anti-graffiti measures. Organisations are invited to apply for grant aid to co-fund public education and awareness initiatives on the subject of litter and graffiti. Funding has been allocated to 19 organisations for Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti projects in 2016.



Castlebar Foróige Neighbourhood Youth Group

Give us a sign, anti-litter project funded under Anti Litter Awareness Grants.

### Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2016

Local Agenda 21 is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. Eligible projects under this scheme support and complement national environmental policies such as those on waste, biodiversity, climate change, air, water, sustainable development etc. Funding has been allocated to 18 organisations for the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2016.



#### **Local Agenda 21 Project – The Good Shepard**

Innovative way of dealing with the issue of 'grass cutting' on public green spaces in Westport. This pilot project was an alternative concept to reduce CO2 emissions from the task of grass cutting.

### Food Waste/Brown Bin Door to Door Campaign

In October 2016, in an effort to increase awareness to food waste reduction and use of brown bin the Environment Office teamed up with 'Waste to Zero' to run a door to door information campaign with over 1,500 homes in the towns of Ballina, Castlebar, Westport, Claremorris and Ballinrobe. Over 700 people were surveyed during this campaign and this information will help in targeting awareness campaigns in 2017.

### Christmas Campaign

In December 2016, the annual Christmas Decoration Competition for Primary Schools took place. The challenge was to encourage children to make Christmas decorations for Mayo County Council's Christmas tree from everyday waste materials. All decorations were displayed in the Reception Area of Aras an Chontae, Castlebar.

### **Race Against Waste Christmas Campaign – Winners 2016**

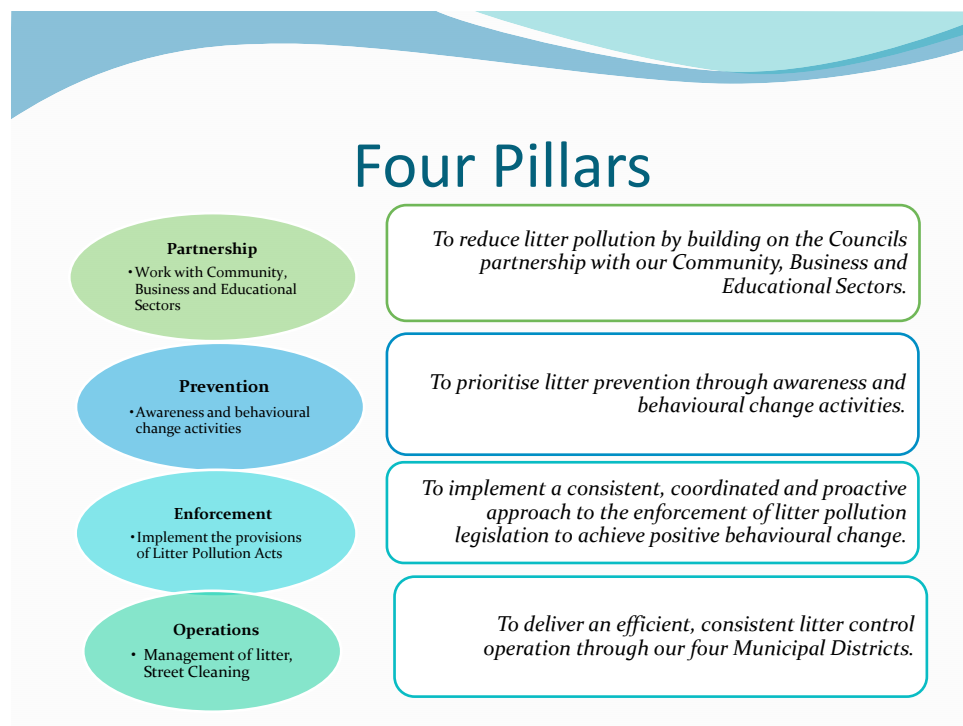


## Litter Management Plan

The Litter Management Plan 2016 -2019 was prepared and adopted during 2016 and is now in the process of implementation. The plans vision is;

"To reduce litter pollution through partnership, prevention and enforcement focusing on behavioural change leading to a cleaner environment for all".

The plan establishes our objectives for the prevention and management of litter, enforcement of respective litter laws in Mayo and the means to achieving these objectives. The litter plan is largely action based with partnership, prevention, enforcement and operations our main focal points. Our primary objectives are to achieve a marked reduction in the proliferation of litter thus attaining a cleaner environment for Mayo and its residents.



Particular focus is being placed on enforcement arrangements and prevention measures.

In relation to Council operations, each Municipal District will prepare a service plan for street cleaning, detailing how the resources provided will be deployed throughout their district to meet area specific requirements and coordinate activities with Tidy Towns Committees and other Community Groups.

Arrangements are in place for segregation of street cleanings in Council depots and for more cost effective disposal.



### Cleaner Community Campaign and Litter Action League Awards

This is the 25th successive year of the Cleaner Community Campaign Awards. Mayo County Council organises the Cleaner Community Campaign as part of our mission to promote and protect our natural environment. The campaign is geared towards fostering a sense of pride of the local community's surroundings.

The 2016 competition had five categories, 'Bloomin' Lovely', Sweep Your Street, Best Kept School, Best Kept Burial Ground, Adopt a Mile and Coast Boast.



This is the 14th successive year of the Litter Action League and the first year of the Litter Action Community Competition. Both competitions aim to encourage Local Community Councils and Tidy Towns Committees to further their involvement in the elimination and prevention of litter in towns and villages in the County while also raising awareness of the extent and effect of litter in local communities.



### Waste Management

A Domestic waste 'kerbside' collection service is provided by seven private (permitted) waste operators, five of which are based in county Mayo – the remaining two are Galway based. Approximately two thirds of all households in the county avail of a kerbside collection service. Of the remaining one third, approximately 25% avail of Civic Amenity Facilities and 15% bin share. This leaves a considerable portion of households that do not avail of any form of kerbside collection service or Civic Amenity facilities – estimated at 20% plus of the overall household numbers in the county.

In late 2016, Mayo County Council initiated a waste awareness and waste management fact finding survey of 1613 households, with a focus on the larger urban areas of Ballina, Castlebar, Westport Ballinrobe and Claremorris. The site work and report for this was carried out by Simon Rooney of 'Waste to Zero' and a total of 732 households took part in the survey.

As well as generating domestic awareness on household waste management issues, the survey allowed Mayo County Council to compile valuable information on access to kerbside services, including the quality of service and the extent of compliance by service providers; particularly in the area of food waste collection service provision and uptake.

This information will allow for a more targeted approach in 2017 of kerbside waste collection service provision, by Mayo County Council Enforcement – particularly in the area of domestic food waste collection service provision.

Waste collection service providers continue to be permitted by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO), based at Offaly County Council. In the case of non-compliance by permitted waste operators, with a Waste Collection Permit (WCP) issued by the NWCPO, Mayo County Council, as part of the Enforcement process, may recommend the initiation of a 'review' of a WCP by the NWCPO. The WCP 'review' option is key to encouraging waste operator compliance and will if necessary, be utilized for dealing with non-compliance issues in relation to kerbside waste collection service provision, in 2017.

In addition to domestic waste (kerbside) collection, the collection of all non-domestic waste, including Bulky waste and Construction & Demolition waste is governed by WCP authorisations issued by the NWCPO.

#### Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration

Mayo County Council continues to process applications for Waste Facility Permit and Certificate of Registration authorisations for the County. All applications made to Mayo County Council must include evidence of planning permission or planning exemption for the proposed activity.

In 2016, a total of 6 new Certificate of Registration authorisations (for site filling activity) and 1 Waste Facility Permit (for a Waste Transfer Station) were granted, by the Environment Section. In addition, 3 existing Waste Facilities had permit reviews carried out – this resulted in the re-issuing of all three Waste Facility Permits, by the Environment Section.

County Mayo is currently served by 26 Waste Facility Permits and 25 Certificate of Registration sites – giving a total of 51 authorised waste sites in the county. These sites allow for the proper management of wastes such as; End-of-Life vehicles, Construction & Demolition wastes, Household & Commercial wastes and Farm Film Plastics.

#### Environmental Enforcement

Enforcement of all Waste Collection Permit's issued by the NWCPO (for collectors based in county Mayo) is carried out by Mayo County Council.

In accordance with EU requirements an annual RMCEI plan is produced by the Environment Section.

This plan provides an annual blueprint for execution of both routine and non-routine environmental inspections under the headings of Waste Management and Water/Wastewater monitoring. Each year the plan is updated to take into account any new or amended legislation and national or EU priorities.

Activities in the plan include roadside check points, covert surveillance, inspections of permitted facilities (based on risk prioritisation), domestic and commercial inspections for waste management and other initiatives.

The main focus areas in the 2016 Plan were Food Waste Recovery, Discharge Licenses and C&D Waste Management. Pay-by-Weight was also included as a priority at the beginning of 2016 but this objective was abandoned at National level in late June and so it was de-prioritised from mid-year on.

RMCEI Plans are now utilized by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to measure the performance of Local Authorities in the field of Environmental Management.

The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) office for the Connacht Ulster Region commenced operations in January 2016 and Mayo County Council Waste Enforcement section is now working with the WERLA office through the Joint Operations Group to streamline and prioritise Enforcement activities.

#### Domestic Waste Water Treatment System (Septic Tank) Inspections.

In July 2013, the National Inspection Plan (NIP) for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) came into effect. The aim of this plan is to address Ireland's past failure to implement the 1975 Waste Framework Directive; namely to regulate the waste water generated in unsewered areas.

The NIP is a risk based plan which designates eight separate risk categories nationally and by extension within each county.

Under the NIP, Mayo County Council carried out a total of 109 inspections for 2016. This included a backlog of 25 inspections from 2015.

Based on the current inspection numbers, the Domestic Waste Water Treatment System (DWWTS) failure rate is: 67%, - i.e. 2 in every 3 DWWTS inspected do not meet the minimum standard required and is deemed a risk to surface and/or groundwater.

#### Landfill and Civic Amenity Sites

Mayo County Council has operated two landfill sites at Derrinumera and Rathroeen over the last forty to fifty years. The sites have migrated from traditional "dump" sites to fully engineered landfill licenced by the EPA over that period. Below is a summary of the site history and current activities.

### Derrinnumera

Active since 1974 - Licenced by EPA in 1999 (W0021-02) to accept 40,000tpa. 2 lined engineered cells constructed over old waste body. Cell 1 received waste from 2003 - 2007 and had final cap completed in 2008. Cell 2 received waste from 2007 - April 2012 and had final cap completed in 2013.

Current activities - Operational CA site, leachate management, landfill gas management, surface water and groundwater monitoring, maintain and monitor pollution control mechanisms. Monitoring requirements necessary for period of at least 30 years.

### Rathroeen

Active since 1970's - Licenced by EPA in 2001 (W0067-02) to accept 45,000tpa. 4 lined engineered cells constructed over old waste body. Cell 1 received waste from 2003-2006 and had final cap completed in 2006. Cell 2 received waste from 2006 - 2010 and had final cap installed in 2010. Cell 3A received waste from 2012-2014 and had final cap completed in 2015. Cell 3B received waste from 2014- June 2016. The construction project for the capping of Cell 3B commenced at the end of 2016.

Current activities - Operational CA site, leachate management, landfill gas management, surface water and groundwater monitoring, maintain and monitor pollution control mechanisms. Monitoring requirements necessary for period of at least 30 years.

### Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Plan

(Lead Authority - Mayo County Council)

The Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Office continues to work with the Connacht Ulster Region (CUR) on the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 - 2021.

In 2016 a total of €203,000 was allocated by the EPA for Waste Prevention Projects nationally of which €63,500 was allocated to the CUR. The Regional Office is currently coordinating this project across three local authorities. All authorities are required to provide 15cents per inhabitant annually, under the plan, for waste prevention projects. The plan requires all local authorities to reduce waste generated by 10% over the period of the plan. The region is also working with REPAK to explore joint initiatives particularly around the issue of contamination in household waste recycling bins.

The Regional Office coordinated National Reuse Month throughout the month of October aimed at the promotion of the concept of reuse and the empowerment of individuals, families, communities and businesses to reuse in practical ways in their everyday lives to prevent waste.

The Regional Office has prepared a set of Draft Siting Guidelines for waste facilities and will consult with regional planners, Local Authorities and other relevant stakeholders over the coming weeks with a view to the publication of final siting guidelines in early 2017.

The Regional Office has prepared a roadmap to prioritise historic landfills to be remediated. Agreement has been reached with DCCAE that 3 historic landfills, 2 in the Southern Region and 1 in the Connacht-Ulster Region would receive the €2m funding available for 2017 between them. The DCCAE have offered a further €3m funding for 2017 and the Regional Office is currently reviewing the road map to confirm the next eligible sites for this funding.

The Regional Office completed Appropriate Assessment Training for all authorities in the region, in 2016, to assist staff in the assessment of existing and proposed waste authorisations. The regions also developed a standardised template to assist local authority staff in this process.

The Connacht Ulster Region is currently participating in working groups nationally chaired by DCCAE to examine issues which resulted in the postponement of the introduction of weight based waste charges in 2016. The objective of the working groups is to chart a way forward for the equitable implementation of the polluter pays principle through incentivised charging systems.

The Regional Office has facilitated the funding of targeted Household Hazardous Waste collections across the region in 2016. The Hazardous Waste collections are funded by the DCCAE and individual Local Authorities and are free to the public and accompanied by education and awareness on hazardous waste. It is anticipated that further funding will be provided in 2017 for these activities.

The waste regions coordinated the collective exercising of Section 56 Powers (Waste Management Act) by all Local Authorities in mid 2016 to avert the threat of environmental pollution due to the non collection of household waste. These powers facilitated the provision of additional landfill capacity for a prescribed period. Residual Municipal Waste Disposal Capacity continues to be a challenge and the CUR are closely involved in the monitoring of the situation nationally. The East Galway Landfill opened during 2016 and is predominantly focused on servicing the Connacht Region providing 40,000 tonnes capacity in 2016 and an anticipated capacity of 100,000 tonnes in 2017.

The CUR is involved in a research project on areas of low waste collection coverage and the design/implementation of communication programmes for these areas is in the final stages of development.

Recent significant growth in the construction industry has led to a shortage of capacity for soil and stone wastes particularly in the east of the country and it is anticipated that this will be a challenge in the CUR in 2017.

The regions have commissioned an analysis of current waste arising and capacity with recommendations for future actions. This analysis and recommendations will be available in early 2017.

The CUR published an Annual Report, the first since the adoption of the Waste Plan in mid 2015. The Report covers the various activities of the regional office over the last year as well as providing extensive validated data for 2014.

#### Aquatic Monitoring Programme & Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive, Directive 2000/60/EC, was adopted in 2000 as a single piece of legislation covering rivers, lakes, groundwater and transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters and includes heavily modified and artificial waterbodies. It requires Member States to manage their water resource on an integrated basis. Its objectives are to prevent further deterioration of and to protect, enhance and restore the status of all bodies of water with the aim of achieving at least good status. The means to achieve good status must be set out in River Basin Management Plans.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was transposed into Irish Law by the EC (Water Policy) Regulations in 2003. In July 2014 the 2003 Regulations were amended by the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014. The Regulations establish statutory deadlines for the river basin planning process. The 2014 Regulations also facilitated the establishment and implementation of a new Three Tier Governance system for the Water Framework Directive implementation in Ireland.

The River Basin Management Plans describe the measures planned to protect and improve Ireland's water environment covering rivers, lakes, groundwater, transitional (estuaries) and coastal waters. The River Basin Management Plans are the end result of a process that starts with identifying the waters and key water management issues within a river basin district. Thereafter, the status of those waters is assessed and classified (based on a monitoring programme), environmental objectives for the water bodies within the district are established and a programme of measures to achieve those objectives is compiled.

The Environment Section undertakes the statutory River and Lake Monitoring Programmes for Mayo under Water Framework Directive. The following table outlines the number of samples taken during 2016 as part of the River and Lake Aquatic Monitoring Programme:

#### 2016 AQUATIC MONITORING PROGRAMME

##### WFD - Mayo River Monitoring Programme

Number of Rivers to be monitored:	Number of River locations to be monitored:	Number of River Samples scheduled for 2016:
49	108	715

### WFD Mayo Lake Monitoring Programme

Number of Lakes to be monitored:	Number of Lake locations to be monitored:	Number of Lake Samples scheduled for 2016:
21	53	494

River Basin Management Planning takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water environment. The planning process revolves around a six year planning cycle of action and review so that every six years a revised river basin management plan is produced.

In July 2010, the first cycle River Basin Management Plans (RBMP's) for Ireland were published, covering the period up to 2015.

While the implementation of the first cycle River Basin Management Plans is still on-going, preparations are now underway to deliver the second cycle updated plans. Preparation of the updated plans has been delayed due to the significant reform of the water sector currently underway. The second cycle River Basin Management Plans will be published in December 2016 for public consultation until June 2017. The updated River Basin Management Plans will be delivered in the second half of 2017.



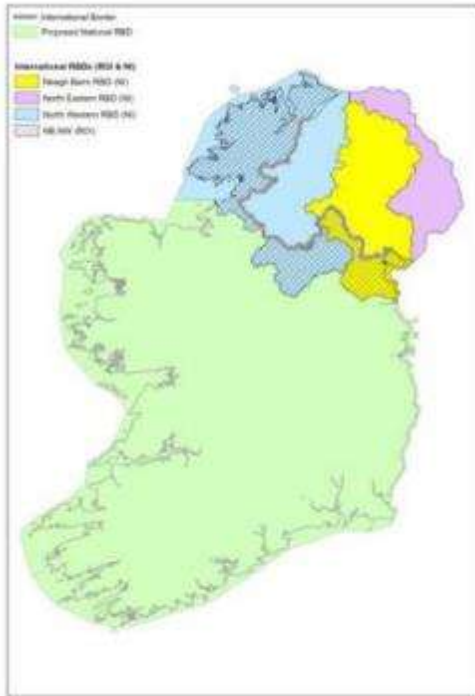
### WFD - New Governance and Administrative Arrangements

As part of a review of the governance structures the following arrangements are being implemented:

- There will be a single national approach for the development of river basin management plans within this jurisdiction. The technical analysis and planning tasks will be advanced on the basis of appropriate water or catchment management units to be decided by EPA, and



- Specific administrative arrangements will be put in place to coordinate requirements with Northern Ireland in relation to cross-border waters, encompassing water management units of the Neagh-Bann, the North Western and the Shannon River Basin Districts which flow into or out of Northern Ireland.



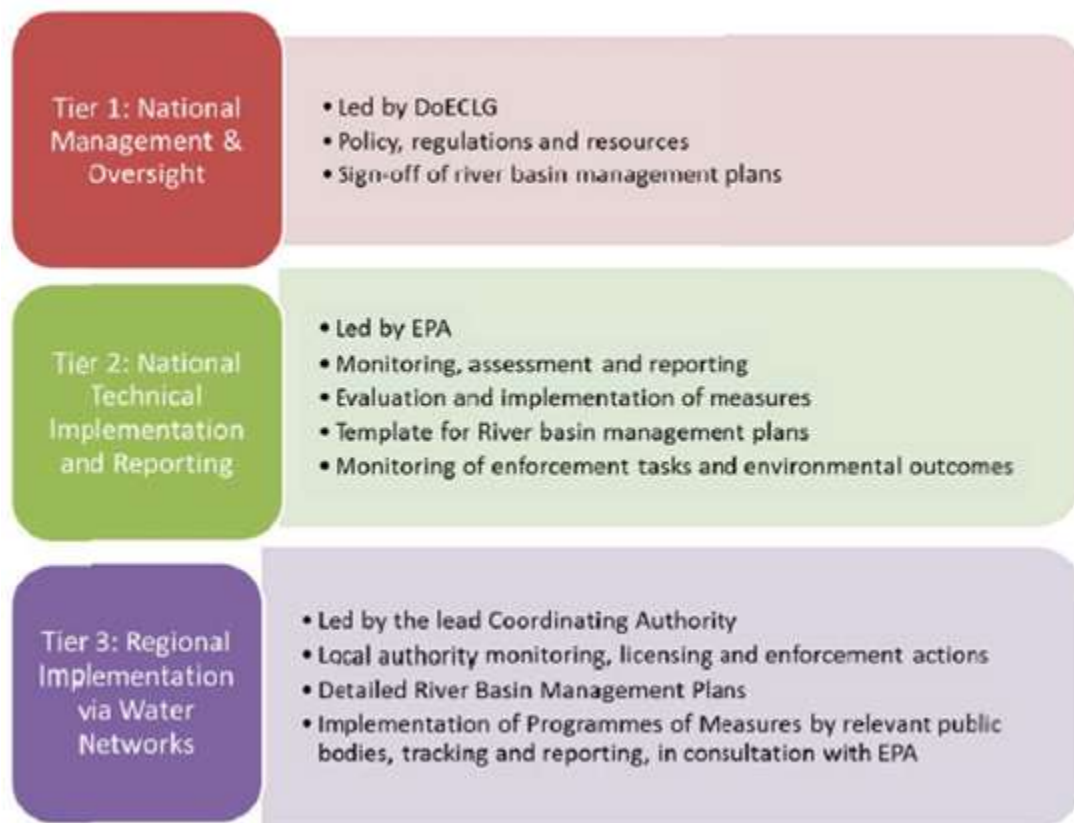
The Eastern, South Eastern, South Western, Western and Shannon River Basin Districts are now merged to form one national River Basin District. In relation to the North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts a single administrative area will be established in the Republic of Ireland portion of these two IRBD's for the purpose of coordinating their management with authorities in Northern Ireland

While this re-arrangement will lead to efficiencies in relation to matters such as assessment and reporting, regionalised administrative structures will be put in place to support implementation (e.g. river basin district characterisation, the development of programmes of measures, enforcement, public consultation and awareness activities). Arrangements will also need to be put in place to facilitate the input of communities at local catchment level.

#### Water Framework Directive - Revised Governance Structures:

Based on the review of governance arrangements, a new three tiered governance structure is now established. Regulations have recently been made to give effect to these new governance structures. Ultimately the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government will adopt the final river basin management plans. The new arrangements consist of 3 inter-locking levels that are proposed for effective governance and delivery.

This is illustrated in the figure below.



Under the new arrangements, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government at Tier 1, has clear responsibility for policy, legislation and ensuring the provision of adequate resources for implementing the Directive. It is at this level also that the draft river basin management plan(s) and programme(s) of measures will be refined and finalised in consultation with key Departments and state agencies before presentation to the Minister for approval. A Water Policy Advisory Committee has been established to assist the Minister and its functions and membership are set out in the new Regulations.

Significant new responsibilities have been assigned to the EPA at Tier 2, including the crucial role of drafting environmental objectives, undertaking catchment characterisation, preparing template river basin management plan(s) and compiling common programme of measures for further development and input by Mayo County Council and other local authorities at Tier 3 and the finalisation and approval by the Minister.

The Environment Section in Mayo County Council and the other local authorities, operating at Tier 3 will lead implementation, investigative catchment studies and enforcement of measures on the ground.

The local authorities will have key responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Directive on public participation including consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan that is developed from the template plan prepared by the EPA.

The Department is currently engaging with the County and City Management Association on the necessary structures and resources for Local Authorities to undertake their responsibilities at Tier 3 level.

### Bathing Water Quality Monitoring Programme

Mayo County Council monitored and reported on the water quality at thirty one bathing waters during the Bathing Water Season in 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the Bathing Water Quality Regulations. Fifteen of the bathing waters were formally 'identified' under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008.

Number of bathing waters to be monitored	Number of inflows to bathing waters to be monitored	Number of Bathing Water Samples scheduled for 2016
31	10	284

### Beaches

In 2016 Mayo County Council was awarded eleven Blue Flags for Elly Bay, Mullaghroe, Golden Strand, Clare Island, Dugort, Keel, Carrowmore, Doega, Keem, Bertra and Mulranny. Blue flag beaches meet [32 strict criteria](#) for water quality, management, safety and environmental education.



Keem Bay, Achill - Blue Flag 2016

In addition, Mayo County Council were awarded six Green Coast Awards for Carrowniskey, Cross (Belmullet), Portacloy, Silver Strand, Srah and Termon. Green Coast Flags are awarded based on natural beauty and excellent water quality, without the focus on built infrastructure in the Blue Flag standard.



*Portacloy, Belmullet - Green Coast Flag 2016*

### Burial Grounds

There is a total of 156 burial grounds in Co. Mayo, community groups maintain 108 of them with a financial contribution given towards maintenance by Mayo County Council as part of the Municipal District allocation.

Community involvement is encouraged as much as possible having regard to the works that can be undertaken in burial grounds protected under National Monuments Act 1930-2004.

There is a need to provide additional resources to fund the acquisition and development of new burial grounds in a timely fashion. The budget includes a capital contribution in this regard.



### Derelict Sites

There are currently 88 sites registered as derelict in the County;

- 15 - West Mayo MD
- 24 - Claremorris MD
- 39 - Ballina MD
- 10 - Castlebar MD

During 2016 the Environment Section issued 21 Section Notices under the Derelict Sites Act resulting in a total of 10 sites being removed from the register.

**Before - Ballyvary, Co. Mayo**



**After**



We will continue to engage with owners, Municipal District staff and local communities to find the best solutions and new uses for derelict sites to assist with regenerating our towns and villages.

### Climate Change

At the July 2016 meeting of the Council, a comprehensive presentation was made to the Council highlighting the evidence of climate change in the County, the causes of it and the severe impacts it will continue to have on all sectors of community in the future. The Government has committed Ireland to embracing the Paris Agreement (COP21) and has mandated the local authority sector in the Climate Change and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (Ireland) which aims to set climate change as a fundamental national objective in order to achieve a transition to low carbon, climate resilience and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

During 2016 approval was granted to recruit the staff resource required and advance the process of developing a climate change adaptation strategy for the County, while embracing and leading with best practice in the transition to a low carbon economy.

### Agriculture

#### Food Safety

The aim of Mayo County Council Veterinary Department is to work with local Food Business Operators to help them achieve and maintain the highest standards of food safety. We are actively involved in combating zoonotic diseases i.e. diseases transmittable between animals and humans. We also have a direct input into the elimination of Notifiable Diseases.

The food safety work is carried out under a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), with particular emphasis on hygiene and traceability.

Within the county there are

- 9 approved Small Meat-Manufacturing Premises
- 7 registered premises

The approved premises produce/distribute a range of products including bacon products, sausages, black and white puddings, luncheon rolls and cooked hams, minced meat and cuts of chicken. They supply local shops and supermarkets, along with manufacturing products for other Food Business Operations around the county. Some are now considering supplying international markets. All small meat-processing premises are inspected and monitored on a regular basis.

There are 16 abattoirs in the County. The veterinary staff carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on every animal slaughtered in these abattoirs in Co. Mayo, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene.

In 2016 there were 1,192 cattle, 10835 sheep, and 30 goats slaughtered in those Mayo abattoirs.

### Dog Warden Service

In Mayo, the Dog Control Service is provided directly by Mayo County Council. Our main responsibility is to ensure that dogs in Mayo are licenced and kept under effectual control.

In 2016 there were 131 dogs taken into the Dog Pound. It is our policy to rehome as many dogs as is possible. The number of dogs rehomed in 2016 was 100. The Council provides a Dog Shelter within the county.

Every dog over 4 months old is legally required to have a dog licence. In 2016 there was a 9.5% increase in the number of dog licences purchased. Licences can be purchased on line at [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie) or from any post office.

Cost:

Annual licence	€20.00
Lifetime licence	€140.00

In conjunction with the Irish Farmers Association we ran a newspaper campaign to make dog owners aware of the damage dogs can cause to sheep

Under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010, there are ten establishments registered.

It is a legal requirement from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to have all dogs microchipped and the microchip registered on a government approved database. On registration of the microchip, the approved database operator will supply a Certificate of Microchip Registration to the owner. This Certificate is required if any canine is to be bought, sold, or transferred to a new owner.

### Ex Gratia Funding

In 2016 an allocation of €39,500.00 for animal welfare was made available to animal welfare groups. Eight organisations received funding.

## MAYO COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

### Introduction

Mayo is a large rural County, which covers an area of 2,159 sq. miles and has a population of approximately 130,425 people, making it one of the largest fire authority areas in the country.

Mayo County Council has a statutory obligation, as a fire authority, under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, (a) to make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fire, for the protection of and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, (b) establish and maintain a fire brigade and premises, and (c) make adequate provisions for the reception of and response to call for the assistance of the fire brigade.



### Fire Prevention

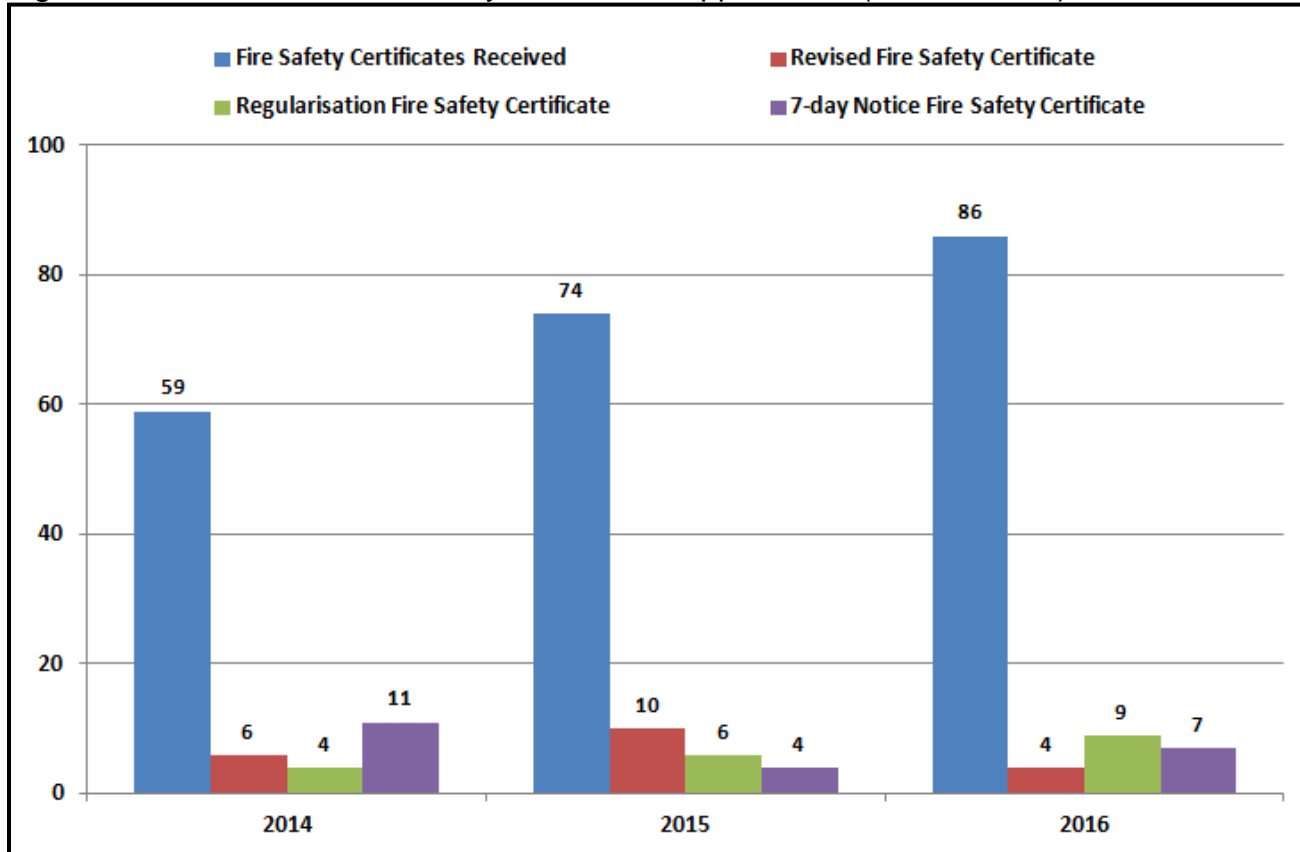
Fire Prevention Officers ensure that buildings are planned, designed, constructed and maintained in a safe manner from a fire safety point of view. There is a vast body of legislation under which the Fire Authority works; the two principal pieces of legislation are the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 and the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014. Under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, the Fire Prevention Officers, assess Fire Safety Certificate Applications. The number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications received in 2016 was 106, up 12.8% from the previous year. The number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications processed annually for the period 2012 to 2016 is shown in Table 1 and a breakdown of the types of applications received for the period 2014 to 2016 is given in Figure 1.

Table 1: Summary of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) Processed (2012 to 2016)

Fire Safety Certificates Detail	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Applications Received	76	93	80	94	106
% Annual Change	-30.3%	22.4%	-14.0%	+17.5%	+12.8%
Applications Invalid	3	1	3	1	9
Decisions Made	68	83	66	87	99
Granted (With conditions)	68	63	54	76	84
Granted (Without conditions)	0	20	12	11	14
Applications Refused	0	0	0	0	1



Figure 1: Breakdown of Fire Safety Certificates Applications (2014 to 2016)



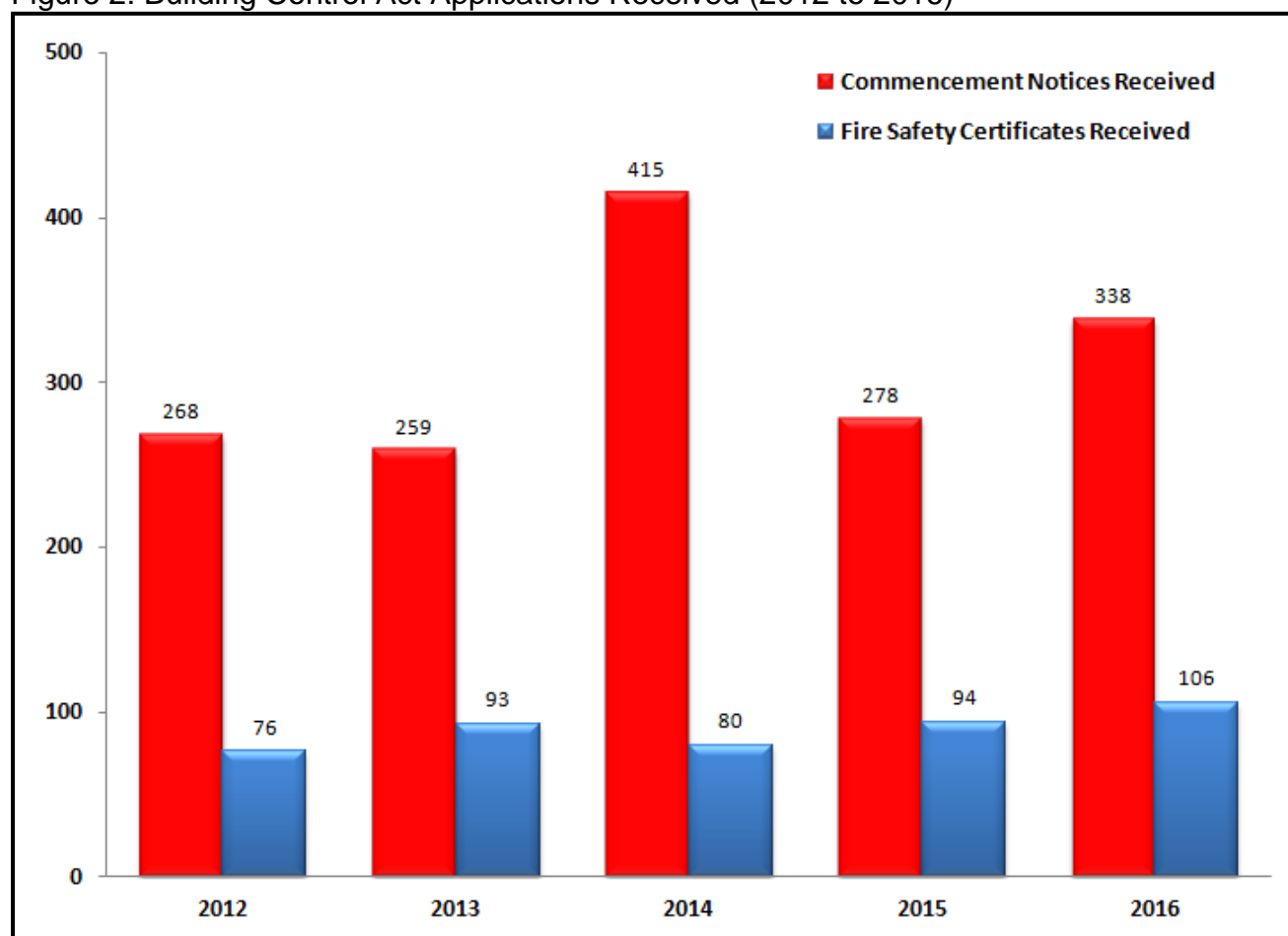
The Council also process Commencement Notice Applications, under of the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, within the Fire Service. The number of Commencement Notice Applications received in 2016 was 338, up over 21% from the previous year. The number of Commencement Notice Applications processed annually over the period 2012 to 2016 is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Commencement Notices Processed (2012 to 2016)

Applications Detail	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Applications Received	268	259	415	278	338
% Annual Change	-16.8%	-3.4%	+60.2%	-33.0%	+21.6%
Applications Valid	265	251	400	270	313
Applications Invalid	3	8	15	8	25

A summary of Commencement Notice and Fire Safety Certificate Applications received annually over the period 2012 to 2016 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Building Control Act Applications Received (2012 to 2016)



Fire Prevention Officers also carry out inspections under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. This legislation covers the licensing of public houses, hotels, dance halls, clubs, restaurants, gaming and lottery premises etc. The inspections carried out by the Fire Prevention Section are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Inspection carried by Fire Prevention Officers (2011 to 2015)

Inspection Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Section 24 Inspection (Licensing Applications)	308	192	263	248	233
Section 13 Inspection (Planning Applications)	8	5	4	8	3
Other Inspections	114	92	172	118	88
Total Inspections	430	289	439	374	324

### Community Fire Safety

Fire Service personnel were actively involved in the following activities / events in 2016:

- Active Retirement Group Talks in Charlestown and Ballinrobe
- Multi-agency Community Safety Event in Breaffy House Resort, Castlebar.

- Mayo Safety Roadshow
- Mayo Science & Technology Festival in GMIT Castlebar.
- NDFEM Primary Schools Programme, delivered to 3,586 students in 163 schools.
- National Fire Safety Week, used to promote safe fire prevention practices, through media advertisements radio talk shows and quizzes, fire station open days and simulated chip fire demonstrations.
- Graduate.ie (online competition for Second Level Students) - Mayo County Fire Service actively participates in this educational initiative, focusing on the topic of general fire safety.



***Mayo Primary Schools Fire Safety in the Home Competition 2016. Cllr Al McDonnell presenting the prize to overall winner Sarah Gill from Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis, along with Peter Hynes Chief Executive and Seamus Murphy Chief Fire Officer, among other.***

### Fire Service Operations

The Council currently employs 121 fire fighters in 12 fire stations located around the County, as shown in the adjacent map.

These fire fighters deal with a vast array of incidents annually, ranging from chimney fires, house fires, bog/forest fires, road traffic accidents, rescues and incidents involving hazardous materials. In 2016, Mayo County Fire Service attended 714 incidents, a decrease of 8.9% from 2015. A breakdown of the types of incidents responded to by fire brigades from Mayo are given in Table 4.



Table 4: Summary of Types of Incidents Attended from 2012 to 2016

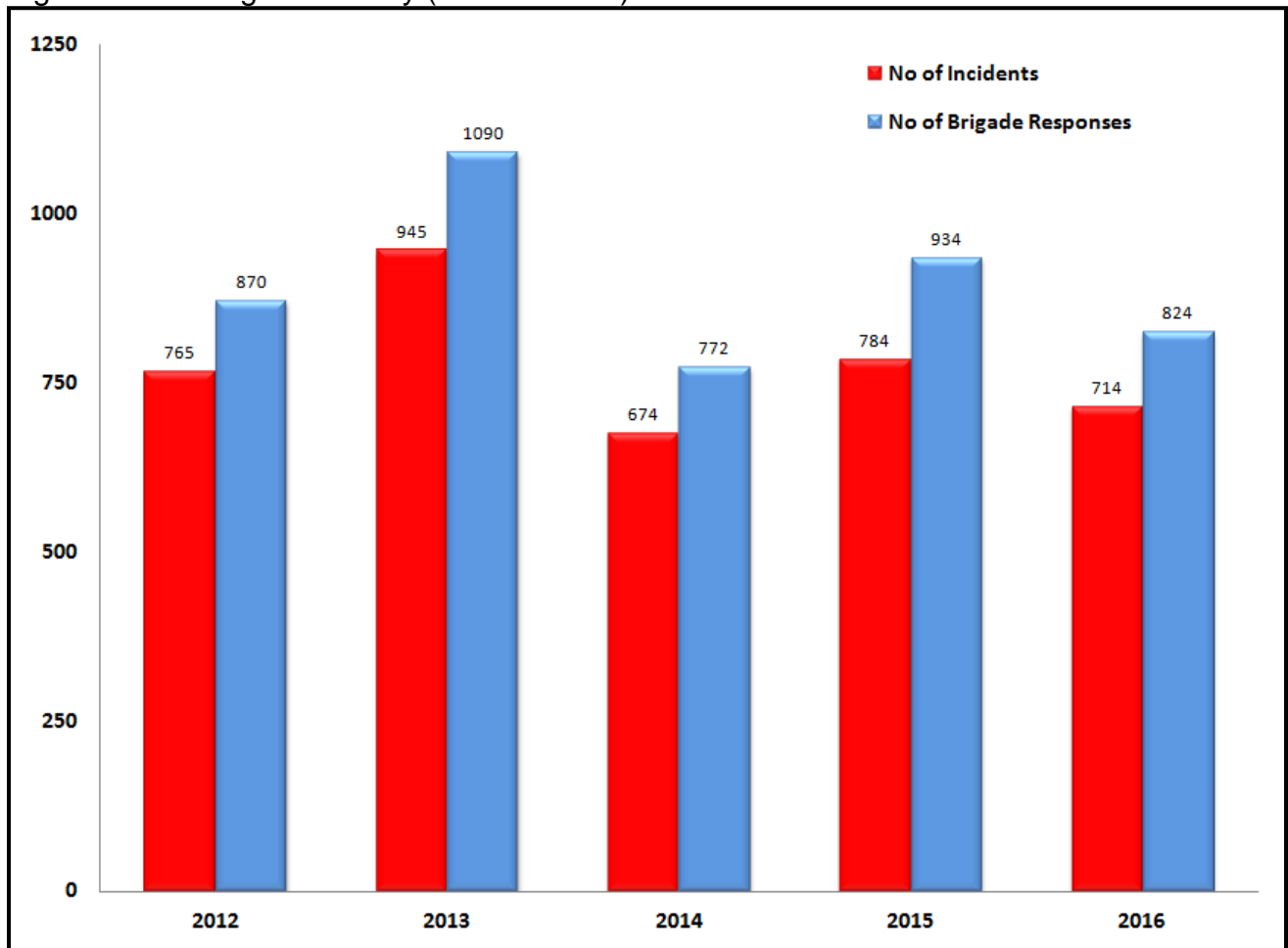
Incident Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Fires Attended	499	694	440	519	434
In own area	486	663	421	487	41
In other fire authority area	13	31	19	32	23
Special Services Incidents	172	165	159	186	175
Road traffic accidents	141	134	135	133	14
Water pumping / flooding	0	2	1	15	3
Water rescue	2	2	2	9	4
Other non-fire rescues	12	8	12	11	9
Haz-Mat in transit	1	1	0	1	11
Miscellaneous	16	18	9	17	1
False Alarms	94	86	75	79	102
Malicious	17	15	16	14	10
Good intent	77	71	59	65	92
Total no. of Incidents	765	945	674	784	714
Change from Previous Year	-294	+180	-271	+110	-70
% Annual Change	-27.8%	+23.5%	-28.7%	+16.3%	-8.9%

The 714 incidents in 2016 resulted in 824 fire brigade responses, i.e. actual fire brigades attending incidents. This figure for 2016 represented a decrease of 11.8% from that recorded in 2015, as shown in the Table 5 and Figure 3.

Table 5: Summary of Fire Brigade Activity from 2012 to 2016

Fire Brigade Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total no. of Incidents	765	945	674	784	714
Total no. of Attendances	870	1090	772	934	824
Change from Previous Year	-259	+220	-318	+162	-110
% Annual Change	-22.9%	+25.3%	-29.2%	+21.0%	-11.8%
Ratio of Attendances / Incidents	1.137	1.153	1.145	1.191	1.154

Figure 3: Fire Brigade Activity (2012 to 2016)



### Fire Service Appliances

The Council took possession of a second hand Aerial Appliance, Water Tanker and a Class B Fire Appliance in 2016 together with 4 number 4WD vehicles with crew cabs. The Aerial Appliance is a Bronto F32RL Aerial appliance and is configured with a telescopic boom that gives the machine an impressive 23m outreach and a maximum working height of 32m which is 12m higher than the previous platform.



The water Tanker has a capacity of 14,500 litres and provides increased response capability of the Fire Service by providing additional water supplies at rural and large industrial incidents as well as augmenting the mains supplies in urban areas. Both vehicles went into operation with the Castlebar Fire Brigade Fleet and respond to incidents in both the Castlebar area and elsewhere within the county where assistance is required in the event, for example, of a large industrial fire.

The procurement of these appliance stems from the continuous fire appliance fleet replacement programme in the County, funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

### Major Emergency Management

The National Framework for Major Emergency Management, approved by Government decision, enables the 3 Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive and the Local Authority to prepare and make a co-ordinated response to major emergencies including, inter alia, fires, transport accidents, hazardous substances and severe weather.

In 2016, the existing Major Emergency Plan (MEP) was reviewed and updated. The purpose of the MEP is to put in place arrangements that will enable Mayo County Council to effectively manage a Major Emergency in co-operation with the other PRA's,

It sets out the mechanisms for co-ordination of the PRA's at all levels of Major Emergency Management – on site, at local level and at regional level as well as providing a link to national level emergency management.

Regional Training was organized and facilitated in Lough Lannagh for the 3 Principle Response Agencies on a regional basis covering counties Mayo Galway and Roscommon. The training included (1) Information Management, (2) On-Site Co-Ordination and (3) Media Liaison Officers

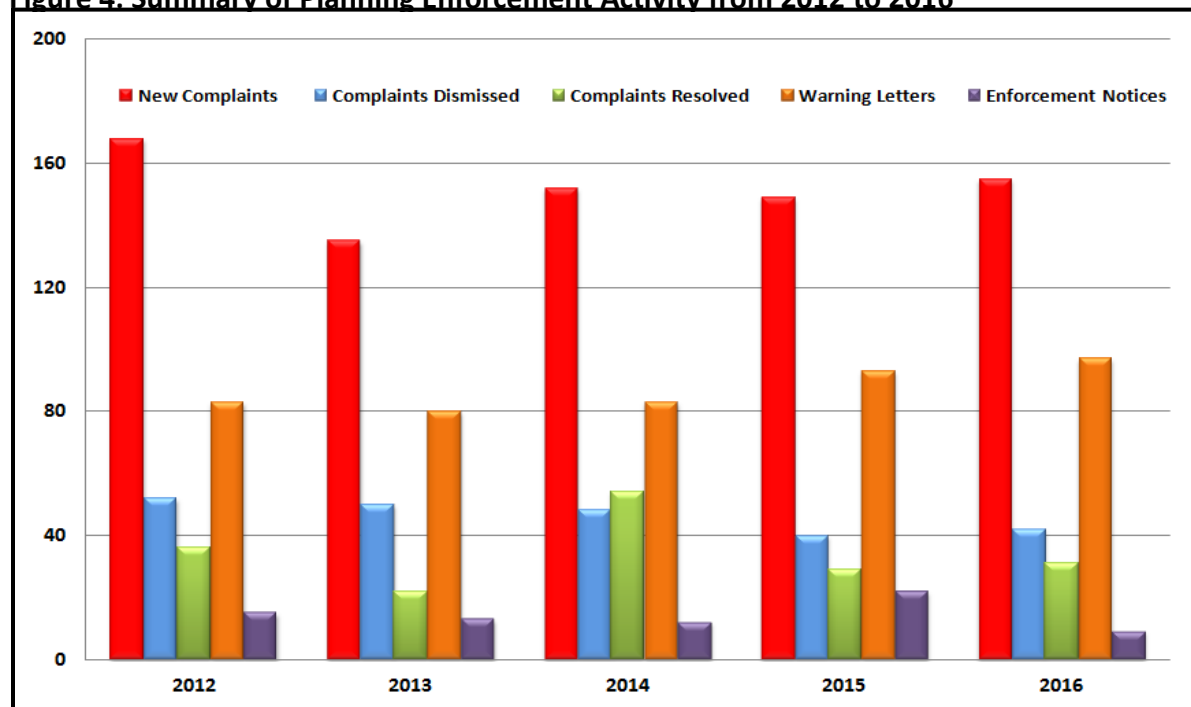
## BUILDING CONTROL & PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Mayo County Council is the Building Control Authority and the Planning Enforcement Authority for the administrative area of County Mayo. The main functions are to investigate written complaints received in relation to alleged unauthorised developments in accordance with the Planning and Development, Act, 2000, and carry out random building control inspections under the Building Control Acts, 1990 and 2014, to ensure compliance with the Building Control Regulations, 1997 to 2009. A summary of activity for Planning Enforcement Section is shown in Table 6 and Figure 4.

Table 6: Planning Enforcement Activity from 2012 to 2016

Description of Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of new complaints received	168	135	152	149	155
Number of complaints that were dismissed	52	50	48	40	42
Number of complaints that were resolved through negotiations	36	22	54	29	31
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Warning Letters	83	80	83	93	97
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Enforcement Notices	15	13	12	22	9
Number of files with the County Council's Solicitor	38	32	38	33	37
Number of prosecutions	1	0	3	2	0

Figure 4: Summary of Planning Enforcement Activity from 2012 to 2016



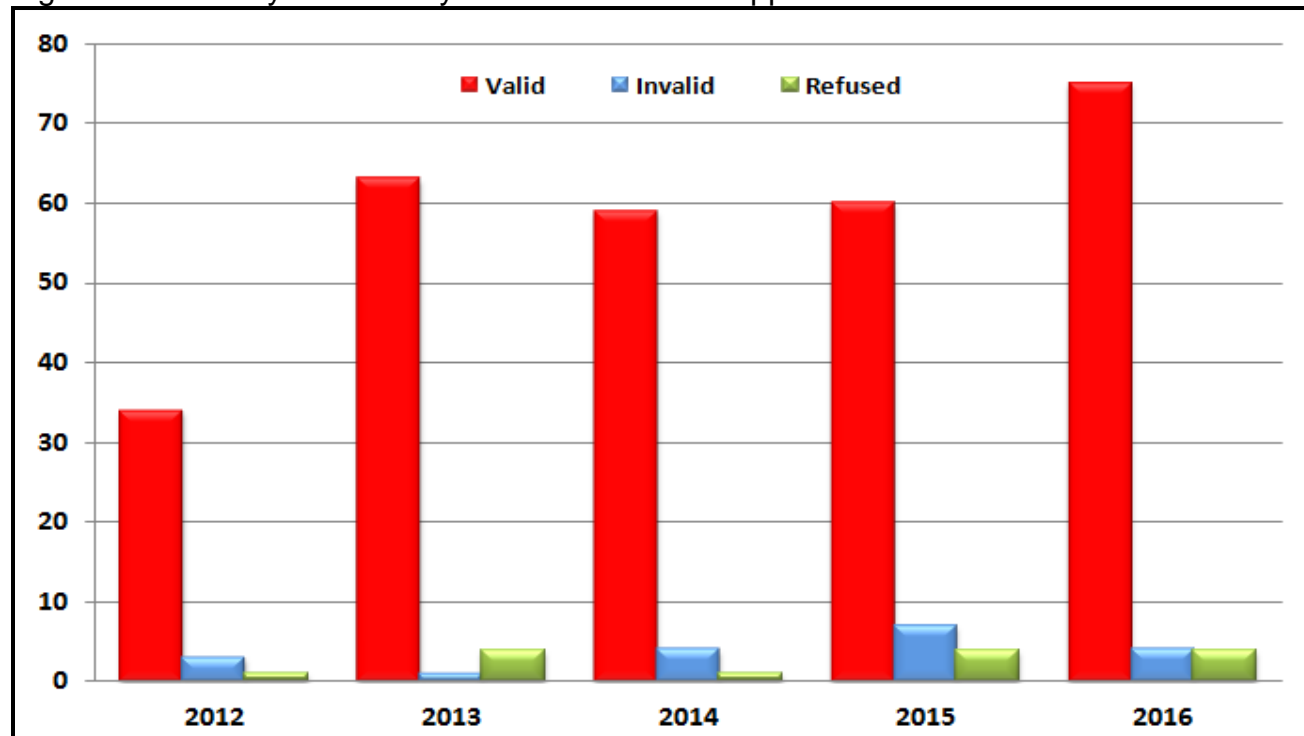


Duties carried out under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, also include the examination of Disability Access Certificate applications and the issuing of Disability Access Certificates. A summary of activity in relation to Disability Access Certificates is shown in Table 7 and Figure 5.

Table 7: Disability Access Certificates Processed from 2012 to 2016

Description of Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of valid Disability Access Certificates (DAC) applications	34	63	59	60	75
No. of DAC Applications Rejected as Invalid	3	1	4	7	4
No. of applications where the applicant was invited to submit Additional Information	19	21	28	34	38
No. of DAC applications where prescribed maximum period of time for considering applications was extended	10	14	11	15	18
Disability Access Certificates issued: -	37	56	53	53	68
Within 2 months	29	42	42	42	47
Greater than 2 months	8	14	11	11	21
Granted with conditions	34	36	49	42	58
Granted without conditions	3	20	4	11	10
No. of Disability Access Certificates refused	1	4	1	4	4

Figure 5: Summary of Disability Access Certificate Applications from 2012 to 2016

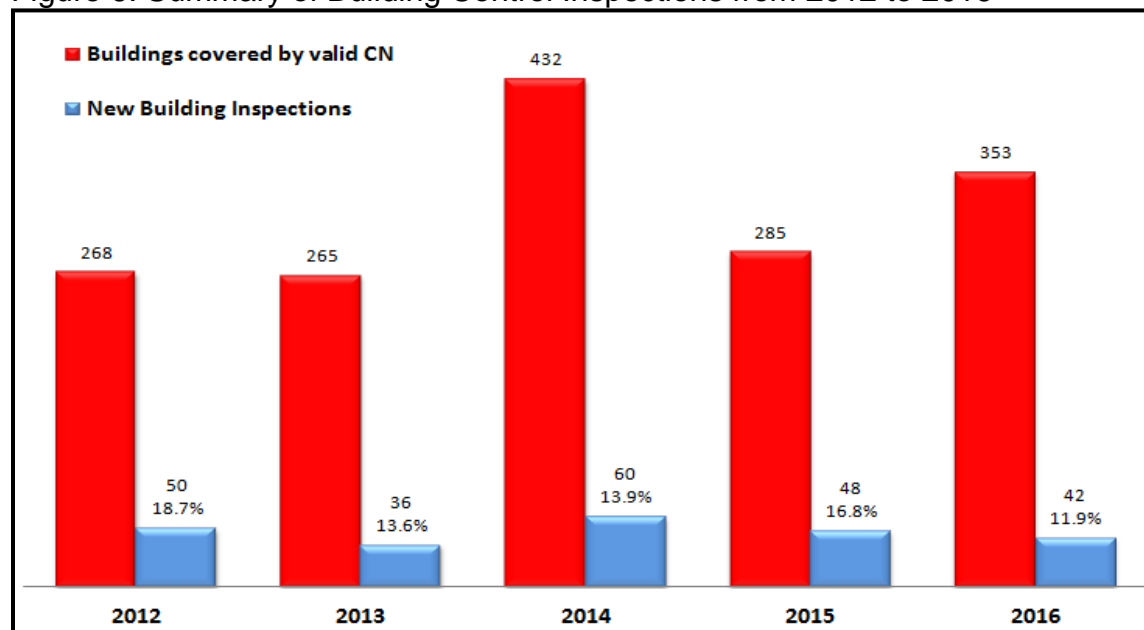


Building Regulations are made for specific purposes, e.g. to provide, in relation to buildings, for the health, safety and welfare of persons, the conservation of energy and access for all. Technical Specifications are relevant to the extent that they relate to these considerations. Building Control inspections are carried out on a limited number of new buildings as identified by valid commencement notices lodged, the purpose of which is to perform spot checks on compliance with the building regulations. In most instances breaches in the regulations are addressed through protracted negotiations. On occasion it is necessary to instigate legal enforcement proceedings. A summary of activity in relation to Building Control is shown in Table 8 and in Figure 6.

Table 8: Building Control Inspections from 2012 to 2016

Description of Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of building covered by valid commencement notices	268	265	432	285	353
No. of buildings where information/documents were requested	2	0	0	51	64
No. of new building inspections	50	36	60	48	42
% of new building inspections	18.7%	13.6%	13.9%	16.8%	11.9%
No. of inspections carried out, including multiple inspections of the same building	178	176	179	211	220
No. of applications for relaxations & dispensations to the building regulations	3	0	0	2	3
No. of applications for relaxations & dispensations to the building regulations granted	0	3	0	2	2
No. of enforcement notices served	2	2	1	2	1

Figure 6: Summary of Building Control Inspections from 2012 to 2016



The Disability Access Officer duties are also assigned to a member of the Unit. Other duties carried out by the Unit include the Maintenance of Aras an Chontae and associated buildings. In the current economic climate it has been found that many Planning Enforcement and Building Control files require protracted negotiation in order to achieve a satisfactory conclusion and there has been an increase in the necessity to issue enforcement notices and proceed to action by the Solicitor.

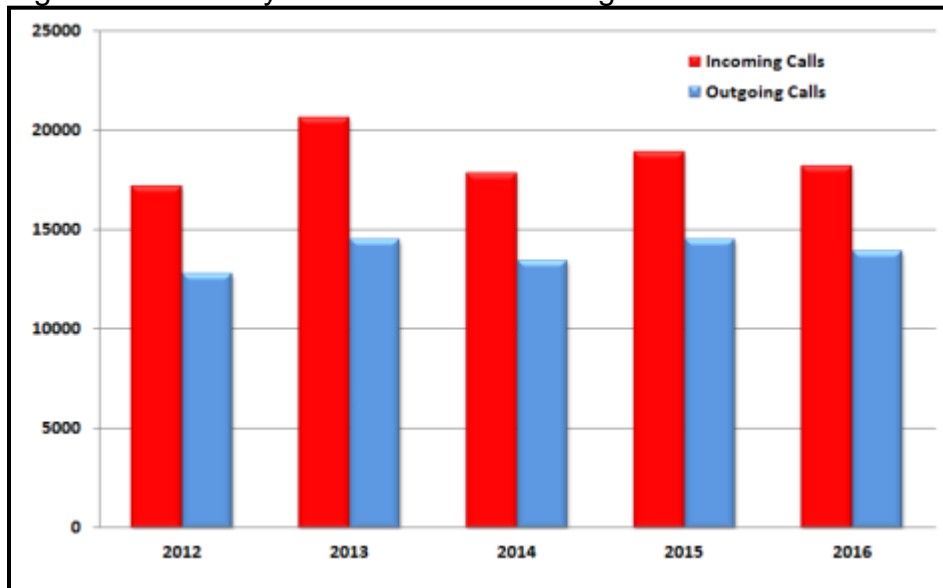
## WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL

In 2016 Mayo County Council operated the West Region Fire Control (WRFC) on behalf of the local authorities of Connacht and County Donegal. WRFC provides the 112/999 emergency call answering and mobilising service for these Fire Authorities. Table 9 and Figure 7 summarise the call volume activity of WRFC for the 5 years ended 2016. Call volume activity is down 3.79% on 2015 figures.

Table 9: WRFC Call Activity from 2012 to 2016

Call Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Incoming Calls	17163	20589	17778	18876	18187
% Change	-23.07%	19.96%	13.65 %	6.18%	-3.65%
Outgoing Calls	12755	14451	13405	14473	13899
% Change	-22.71%	13.30%	-7.24%	7.97%	-3.97%
Total no. of Calls	29918	35040	31183	33349	32086
% Change	-22.92%	+17.12 %	+17.12 %	+6.95 %	-3.79%

Figure 7: Summary of WRFC Call-handling Activities from 2012 to 2016

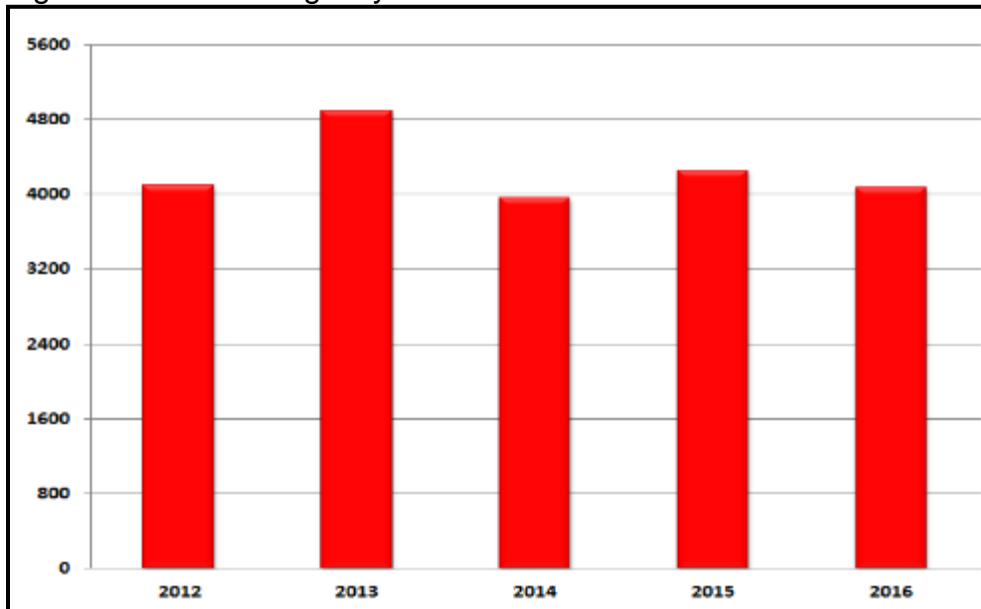


This call activity resulted in 4,065 fire brigade emergency incidents throughout the region in 2016 which represents a decrease of 4.31% on 2015, as shown in the Table 10 and Figure 8.

Table 10: Emergency Incidents from 2012 to 2016

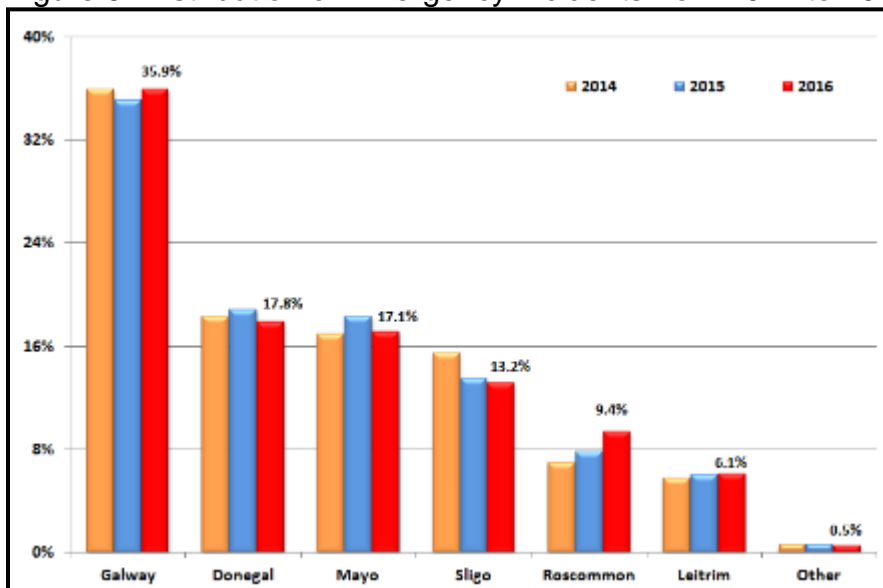
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total no. of Incidents	4088	4882	3954	4248	4065
% Change	-22.74%	+19.42%	+19.01%	+7.44%	-4.31%

Figure 8: No of Emergency Incidents from 2012 to 2016



Of the 4065 incidents, 17.1% of these incidents occurred in County Mayo, as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Distribution of Emergency Incidents from 2014 to 2016)



## **MAYO HERITAGE OFFICE**

The Heritage Office aims to identify, raise awareness of and promote the conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county. The County Mayo Heritage Plan contains 60 actions, formulated to realise the above aims and objectives, to be undertaken over a five-year period. Each year an annual work programme is developed, setting out the actions/projects to be undertaken. The key Heritage Plan actions undertaken in 2016 include the following:

### Ballinrobe Public Realm Plan

In October 2016, we began the process of preparing a Public Realm Plan for Ballinrobe. The objective of the Plan is to develop and deliver the most effective presentation, management and development of Ballinrobe's public realm, with particular reference to its history and heritage. Specifically, the aims of the plan are: to identify the unique characteristics of Ballinrobe to inform the future development of the town; to develop a detailed action-based plan for the town's public realm, which can be used to guide public and private investment in Ballinrobe, to maximise and enhance its existing cultural assets, in tandem with economic and social development; to propose policies for the Ballinrobe Area Plan; to stimulate interest and activity among all the community in carrying out activity to enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of the town; and to involve all stakeholders in developing a shared vision for the economic, environmental and cultural development of Ballinrobe.



***Ballinrobe Public Realm Plan Drop-in Public Consultation Event November 2016***

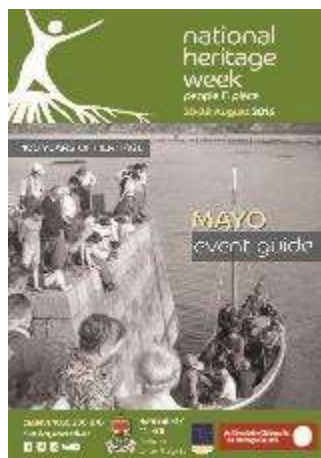
### Habitat Mapping and Management Plans

The Mayo Habitat Mapping project, which commenced in 2014, continued in 2016 with mapping of habitats in Westport, Ballinrobe and Ballycastle. The aim of this initiative is to assess and evaluate the natural heritage of each of these areas and prepare a biodiversity management plan for each. Detailed recommendations in relation to habitat and biodiversity management were formulated to assist the local communities and Tidy Town committees to realise the potential of their local areas. The plans identify opportunities for appropriate biodiversity enhancement and conservation, and recommend practical measures aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the towns/villages. The plans are also of value to planners, engineers and other local authority staff, assessing and developing proposals for these areas.

Opportunities for the development of educational and interpretative facilities for the towns/villages are also explored.

### Heritage Week 2016

The theme of Heritage Week, which ran from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016, was “100 Years of Heritage” in commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising. A diverse and eclectic programme of over 90 events was organised for the week, including heritage walks, talks, demonstrations. The events, many of which were organised by communities, showcased the rich and diverse built, natural and cultural heritage of the county. The Mayo County Council Heritage Week Event Grant Scheme provided support to over 25 communities to host events.



***Mayo Heritage Week Event Guide***

### Ballina Town Centre Health Check

In 2016, Ballina was one of ten towns chosen to take part in a ‘pilot’ trans-disciplinary National Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) Training Programme. The programme consists of two workshops, the first held in September 2016 (Naas, Co. Kildare) and the second to be held in February 2017, with town centre survey programme/mentoring period taking place during October to December 2016. The training will support the creation of robust Town Centre Health Checks for 10 no. Irish towns, which are formally linked to the statutory planning system, through the review of county development plans (CDPs) and Local Area Plans (LAPs). This project is an initiative of the Heritage Council, RGDATA and the Retail Consultation Forum, in collaboration with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG), the Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI), the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and Third-level Institutes. The ‘pilot’ TCHC training programme aims to identify current ‘gaps’ in undertaking TCHCs in Ireland, in order to inform the design and implementation of a new collaborative TCHC National Investment Programme which support various government public policies and strategies, including the planned National Heritage Plan. Partnering with Mayo County Council to undertake the Ballina health check are GMIT Castlebar, Ballina Tidy Towns and Ballina Chamber of Commerce.

It is envisaged that this 'pilot' training programme will be recognised internationally as a best practice collaborative model for town centre management and revitalisation.



***Members of Ballina Town Centre Health Check Team at Workshop, Naas, Co. Kildare***

#### Promotion of Mayo's Natural Heritage

During 2016, a number of events were held to promote natural heritage in Mayo. The Mayo Naturalists' Field Club organised outings and talks on some of the most interesting and valuable natural habitats to be found in Mayo, including lake shore, limestone pavement and woodland, by renowned naturalists, botanists and geologists. Work continued on the Mayo Swift Conservation Project, with the locations of all swift nesting sites (both traditional and next box) in the county incorporated into the Mayo County Council GIS. This is an essential step in the conservation of this important bird. Biodiversity workshops were held with the communities in Ballinrobe and Louisburgh on their local Biodiversity Action Plans.



***Mayo Naturalists' Field Club outing to Moore Hall***



### Mulranny Stone Wall Festival

The second annual Mulranny Stone Wall Festival was held from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The festival, organised by the Heritage Office, in collaboration with Mulranny Environmental Group, and supported by the Heritage Council, included an exciting programme of talks, demonstrations, workshops and local entertainment. While the festival focus on traditional dry stone techniques appealed to adults of all ages, children from Mulranny National School took part in a stone mosaic art workshop.

Participants benefited from the expertise of master craftsmen over three days, restoring walls in 'The Parks' along the Great Western Greenway in Mulranny. Tutors included Pat McAfee, a leading expert in both dry stone walls and lime mortars, and a founding member of Building Limes Forum Ireland, and John Shaw-Rimington, a renowned restoration-mason turned dry stone waller and stone artist, who has run teaching seminars in the art of dry stone walling in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. Experts in the fields of brick restoration, conservation, lime mortars and stonemasonry contributed to the various workshops over the weekend. The general consensus amongst tutors, craftsmen and participants was that it was a fantastic weekend of shared learning, great camaraderie, good food, hospitality and entertainment.



***Cllr. Michael Holmes, Cathaoirleach MCC and Workshop Contributors***



***Repairing Stone Walls on the Greenway***

### Audit of Mayo Folklore Collections

Mayo has a rich oral history tradition, which informs our understanding and appreciation of our material heritage. The audit of oral history recordings will determine the nature and extent of material held in national, regional and local repositories and collections. The audit and the development of a database of oral history recordings/collections will be a useful resource for people investigating our heritage, history and culture. The audit will help to identify priorities for oral history recording and collection. Through this audit, the recordings can be better utilised to increase understanding of our material heritage and to address interactions between people, place and material heritage.

### Heritage Map Viewer

The aim of this project is to develop a GIS based approach to enable the comprehensive audit and assessment of the heritage in Ireland. Mayo County Council is a partner in this project which is led by The Heritage Council. The overall purpose of the Map Viewer is to provide clearer understanding of the heritage and its significance, and to provide a service for spatially enabling government to exercise better management in the future. The project demonstrates how multiple data sources covering disparate themes, from different data owners, and crossing local and regional (county) boundaries, can be integrated to aid conveying information to the public and decision makers at different levels of government. Based on web services standards, the resulting web viewer can be multi-purposed and readily expanded in the future to accommodate new data sources, providing new functionality for different applications and users. The viewer will aid decision makers in preparing various types of assessment reports.

### Mayo Commemoration Strategy

A Mayo Commemoration Committee was established in 2013 to develop a Commemoration Strategy for the period 2013 to 2023. The implementation of the Strategy continued in 2016, with emphasis on the commemoration of the 1916 Rising.

The CentenaryMayo.ie website continues to be updated with material relevant to the period. We are working on an ongoing basis with historical and heritage societies and relevant communities in the county to assist them to develop local commemorative events. The Heritage Officer was a member of the Mayo 1916 Commemorative Committee, involved in the development and implementation of the year long programme of commemorative events.

### Mayo Commemorative Calendar 2016

To commemorate the centenary of the Rising, a 2016 Mayo Commemorative Calendar was produced. Mayo County Council's centenary commemorations focused on three main strands; Major John MacBride, Dr. Kathleen Lynn and the Jackie Clarke Collection. These three strands were brought together in the 2016 Commemorative Calendar. Drawing on material from the Jackie Clarke Collection, the calendar contains a unique compendium of original and rare material relating to the Rising. The calendar was available free of charge to all households in Mayo.



***Members and staff of Mayo County Council pictured at the launch of the Mayo Commemorative Calendar 2016.***

### Invasive Species

Work is ongoing with communities in Blacksod, Belmullet, Achill and Louisburgh to develop and implement control programmes for the alien invasive plant species giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*). Following the implementation of recent legislative provisions in relation to invasive species we are liaising with members of the Mayo Invasive Species Working Committee, comprising of organisations/groups in the county with an interest in the control of invasive species, including NPWS, IFI, Teagasc and Leader. The aim of the Working Committee is to look at the issues surrounding invasive species and investigate ways in which to combat the threat of invasive species in the county.

### Conservation Works to Heritage Sites

The Heritage Office advises and works with communities to assist them in undertaking conservation works to important heritage sites in their local communities. A Conservation and Management Plan is an important tool to guide conservation works to historic sites. In 2016, a Conservation and Management plan was prepared for Kiltane Graveyard, a Recorded Monument on the Record of Monuments and Places for Mayo. This plan will guide future management of the site and any conservation works to be undertaken.



***Heritage Day at Kiltane Graveyard***

### Working with Communities to Protect and Promote Local Heritage

In 2016 the Heritage Office continued its ongoing work with communities, assisting them in collecting information on, and protecting and promoting their built, natural and cultural heritage. Some of the key projects undertaken include:

- Research and Development of an Archaeological Trail in Kilmovee
- Conservation of Raheen's Obelisk
- Murrisk Woodland Biodiversity Plan
- Implementation of Conservation Plan for Carrownalecka Graveyard, Ballinrobe
- Development of a Pollinator Garden Plan in Ballindine.

## INVEST

Mayo Industry appreciation evening, January 2016 in Mount Falcon Estate, Ballina. This occasion was an opportunity to recognise the valued role played by the largest employers in Mayo. Hosted by the Enterprise and Investment Unit, Mayo County Council, the event focused on the prospects for growth and development in our county. Key partners who supported the event included the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Údarás naGaeltachta and the Western Development Commission. This was an invite only evening event in partnership with the Mayo Industries Group (which represent the largest employers in the County). The evening also played host to a number of presentations from An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D., Peter Hynes Chief Executive, Mayo Co Co and Martin Shanahan, CEO, IDA. The event allowed for informal networking where guests could identify areas for collaboration and outline the strategy in Mayo for future growth and economic development.



Development of the Ireland West International Trade Centre in Providence, Rhode Island.

Significant progress has been made on developing the Ireland West International Trade Centre (IWITC) project in Rhode Island, USA. This is a Mayo-led regional project that facilitates access to the US marketplace for small businesses from Mayo, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim. In June 2016, a container was shipped out to Rhode Island which was full of products from companies in the West of Ireland. These are showcased in the Centre. Also in June, nine companies travelled to Rhode Island to establish business links with US clients and another thirteen companies travelled in October 2016, when there was significant progress in identifying sales channels and business growth opportunities. A number of businesses are already making sales through the programme, which is spearheaded by the LEO offices from the participating counties in collaboration with the Western Development Commission and Ireland West Airport Knock. Significant plans are in place to further develop the Centre and exploit available opportunities through employment of a Business Development manager who will be in the Centre on a full time basis and who will liaise with companies to help transition their business into the States.



Mayo Day Highest Networking event

The Invest section organised Ireland's Highest Networking event on the summit of Croagh Patrick for Mayo Day 2016 where Mayo's leading community and business leaders were joined by leading fitness entrepreneur Pat Divilly for what was a great event.



## Invest Mayo Website

The Invest Section continually update the Invest Mayo website which showcases all available commercial property throughout County Mayo.



## Collaborating with DMI Mayo on Digital Events

Collaborating with the “Digital Marketing in Mayo” group to organise events catered towards Mayo’s Digital companies to give them advice from the experts on topics such as growing your Business online and current digital marketing trends so that Mayo companies can keep in touch with their competition. These kind of events help create an inclusive digital community who can collaborate together which is part of Mayo County Councils Digital Strategy in trying to make Mayo the number one rural digital economy in Ireland.

## Uploading of Value Propositions to Mayo.ie Website

The Invest Section have got the key sector profiles, both in pdf and video format on the Mayo.ie website. We can now showcase the reasons why Mayo is an attractive location to base whether you are in the Digital, Life Sciences, Food/Drink or Energy Sectors.  
Swinford Courthouse Creative Hub

In 2016, Mayo County Council received Rural Economic Development Zone funds to make initial renovations to the Courthouse to establish it as a creative Hub. Works were completed to repair the roof, including removal and replacement of lead flashings to chimneys, junctions and roof lights. Works carried out within the structure included removing dry lining on the ground floor, plaster repairs and painting. The works were intended to stop further decay to the building and to commence restoration of the building for a variety of uses by the local community, enterprise groups and individuals. Currently, the SICAP program for the area is being administered from the courthouse.

### Frenchport Pier

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is developing a Wave Energy Test Site off the west coast of Ireland near Annagh Head in County Mayo (west of Belmullet). The wave energy test site is a facility to provide prospective developers with a grid connection and licensed test area location to test their full scale prototype wave energy converters. Easy access to the test site for maintenance, setting up and checking of equipment from Frenchport Pier is a requirement and enhancement works were carried out to the pier during 2016. The Invest Section project managed the works while the County Council outdoor staff were responsible for the construction works. The pier was extended and the deck was raised with works substantially completed by Q4 of 2016.



### Promotion

The Invest team continues to assist in the development of the [www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) website ensuring the inclusion of appropriate information on the natural, human and built resources available across the county to entrepreneurs and potential investors.

## OIFIG NA GAEILGE

Oifig na Gaeilge seeks to sustain and promote the use of Irish in County Mayo and it aids in developing and implementing the Irish Language Policy of Mayo's Local Authority.

Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003

Whilst continuing to improve the level of service available through Irish, Mayo County Council continued to implement the Official Languages Act 2003, and Mayo County Council's Language Scheme. This included informing staff of the Council's obligations regarding the language, undertaking translation work, advising on forms of placenames to be used on road signage, and ensuring the websites and certain publications, forms, information leaflets etc. are available in both official languages.



*Ag Bronnadh na dTeastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council, Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo, An gCoimisinéirTeanga, Rónán Ó Domhnail, Marian Uí Mháille Oifig na Gaeilge, agus Éamonn Ó Dónaill Stiúrthóir Gaelchultúr.*

### Ranganna Gaeilge

In October 2015 Irish Classes were made available to the Staff of Mayo County Council. The Irish Classes were available at various levels from Preparatory Courses to Certificates in Professional Irish from Level 3 to Level 6. There was great interest from the Staff of Mayo County Council in the Irish Classes. Forty Five Staff attended at the various levels and were awarded certificates in 2016 on completion. The Certificate in Professional Irish seeks to provide participants with the confidence and language skills necessary to communicate through Irish with the public in the context of their work, and to also use the language in social situations.





**Staff of Mayo County Council ag Bronnadh na dTeastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga, Rónán Ó Domhnaill, An Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cathairleach Chomhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo, Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council, Éamonn Ó Dónaill Stiúrthóir Gaelchultúr, agus Marian Uí Mháille Oifig na Gaeilge.**

### Irish Language in Mayo

Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 requires that each Gaeltacht county prepares an Irish Language Plan, the purpose of which is to provide for and encourage the increased use of the Irish language in family, educational, public, social, recreational and commercial life. The consultation process will identify the potential for Gaeltacht Service Towns, Irish Language Networks, and ways to support the Gaeltacht areas within the County, and is the first step towards the preparation of a Language Plan for the County.

### Lá Mhaigh Eo



The Irish Language Office of Mayo County Council, celebrated Mayo Day in the Gaeltacht Region of Achill for 2016. At a function held in Gielty's Clew Bay, Mayo County Council made a presentation to John Twin McNamara in recognition of his work and commitment to the promotion of our language, music, culture and traditions. Tomás Mac Sheáin – chairperson of Coiste na Gaeilge CFÁA – welcomed everybody and paid tribute to John for his work over many years. Marian Uí Mháille, Oifigeach na Gaeilge presented John with his award and said it was fitting that it should happen on “Lá Mhaigh Eo”.

### Grúpaí Pobail agus Féilte

Oifig na Gaeilge provides help and support to many community groups and festivals in sourcing funding through Foras na Gaeilge Scéim na nImeachtaí Óige for youth clubs in Mayo. Oifig na Gaeilge also worked alongside community groups and festivals throughout the county helping them secure funding through Foras na Gaeilge Scéim na bhFéilte.

### Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016



Mayo's Seachtain na Gaeilge was launched on the 24 February 2016 in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford.

The information booklet with all the listings of all organised events for Seachtain na Gaeilge in Mayo was launched. Among the events organised throughout the county were storytelling evenings, drama workshops, Lón Gaeilge etc.



***Carmel Balfe Puppet Show trí Ghaeilge in Westport Library***



***Students from Davitt College, Castlebar, with Presentation on 1916***

## **Rith 2016**



Rith 2016 is a national festival that took place March 2016 as one of the main events during Seachtain na Gaeilge and as part of 1916 centenary commemorations. Rith was set up as a fund raising project to help support efforts to promote the language. It has, however, proven to be an effective mechanism to raise awareness of the language while simultaneously engaging young people and not-so-young in active sport and running. This is the fourth Rith following similar events in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Schools, youth clubs, community groups, sports clubs and businesses all took part with 10,000 participants in 2010 and over 30,000 participants in both 2012 and 2014. Rith was welcomed to Castlebar by the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr. Michael Holmes on the 3rd March 2016 and pupils from Scoil Raifteirí National School joined the Run from Mayo County Council at Áras an Chontae, Castlebar carrying the baton with a message of hope from the President of Ireland before passing it on to the next group.

## Lón Gaeilge

Oifig na Gaeilge continued to provide and promote opportunities for people to meet and speak Irish with the intention of developing a network of Irish speakers throughout the county. A series of monthly 'Irish Lunches' were arranged in Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Kiltimagh, Bohola, Ballina and Westport. These lunches have proven very successful in providing Irish speakers, those learning the language, and to those who only rarely use Irish, a chance to come and use their 'cúpla focal' in an informal, relaxed atmosphere.



*Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin is an [Irish language](#) television personality, Writer and Director of Futa Fata Publishing. Tadhg attended a Lón Gaeilge in Ballina and Kiltimagh as a special guest.*

### The North American Gaeltacht

Mayo County Council partnered this summer with Cumann na Gaeltachta in Canada to offer a Gaeltacht Immersion Week at the North American Gaeltacht in the Tamworth/Erinsville area in Ontario. Three teachers from Mayo were selected in a competitive process: Michelle Doocey, Rónán Ó Conbhúí, Sorcha Nic An Chalbhaigh, they represented a wide range of Gaelic language and culture. In addition to teaching language classes and cultural workshops, the teachers were very willing to assist individuals in using the Irish language outside of the classroom



## **INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)**

The primary aim of the IS Department is to maintain and support the ICT requirements of Mayo County Council and at the same time, to plan the future ICT requirements of the Local Authority.

To this end the IS Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 was developed by the IS Department Staff and approved by the Management Team. The aim of this Plan is to provide a structured approach to the management and development of ICT within Mayo County Council. It includes the following goals:

- Information Systems Governance
- Implementation of an Organisation wide CRM Solution
- Customer Service Desk
- Cloud Computing
- Microsoft Licensing Enterprise Agreement
- Database Configuration
- Implementation of AGRESSO Milestone 4 Project
- Unified Communications Infrastructure
- On-going Support to all Departments of Mayo County Council
- On-going Support to External Stakeholders
- Local and Wide Area Networks
- Print Management
- Security
- Online Services
- Geographical Information Systems
- Business Process Improvement and Innovation
- IS Staff Development

Following the approval of the IS Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020 it was agreed to proceed with the upgrade of the existing Microsoft Office Estate (Office 2007) to Microsoft Office 365 and to employ Microsoft Office 365 as a Total Communications Solution for the entire Organisation. The recommendation of the IS Department to purchase Microsoft Office 365 E5, incorporating a complete telephony solution, was accepted and the necessary Microsoft Licences were purchased in December on completion of an eTender Process. MJ Flood Technology, a Microsoft Gold Partner, was chosen to assist in the implementation of Microsoft Office 365.

The following is a list of some of the other tasks undertaken by the IS Department throughout the year.

- ISO - 27001:2013. The Section successfully retained the ISO Standard.
- Continued the management of all Fixed and Mobile Telephony for the Organisation.

- ILAS (Integrated Licence Application System) Project - Mayo County Council forms part of a multi-agency Pilot Project to centralise all Government Licensing into one single portal.
- A Data Retention Policy Project was launched. It is expected to be completed in 2017.
- GIS continued to provide technical support to all Sections of the Local Authority.
- GIS Staff were involved in surveying the Japanese Knotweed throughout the County.
- The Houses of Mayo Project continued throughout the year. IT Staff continued to maintain all 27 Public Facing Mayo County Council Web Sites and On-Line Services.
- IT Staff were involved in the maintenance of the [www.mayo.ie](http://www.mayo.ie) website and associated Services.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Office Mayo forms part of a national network of Local Enterprise Offices established in accordance with government policy in 2014. Operating as part of the Enterprise & Investment Unit within Mayo County Council, the LEO acts as a “First Stop Shop” for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Mayo. The role of LEO Mayo is to drive the development of local enterprise, putting local micro and small business at the heart of job creation. LEO Mayo supports start-ups and works to increase the job creation potential of new and existing microenterprises by providing access to information, advice, training, mentoring, seminars and selective financial support. The key functional areas of LEO Mayo are:

1. Business Information & Advice;
2. Enterprise Support Services;
3. Entrepreneurship Support; and
4. Local Enterprise Development Services on behalf of the Local Authority.

LEO Mayo is funded by the Department of Enterprise, Jobs & Innovation (via Enterprise Ireland), Mayo County Council and through income generated from programme fees and other initiatives. It operates in accordance with a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Enterprise Ireland and Mayo County Council.

2016 was a very productive year for LEO Mayo and its clients. The LEO Mayo portfolio (of 223 businesses) reported the creation of an additional 116 jobs in 2016. 79.5 new and potential jobs were directly created in manufacturing and Internationally Traded Services businesses at microenterprise level in Mayo as a result of capital grants approved to the value of €467,707 in total by LEO Mayo.

Soft supports are also available to all microenterprises (concept stage to existing) regardless as to whether they are manufacturing or classified as an Internationally Traded Service. Supports include business related training courses, mentoring, access to a new international markets and website development. 191 clients participated in free mentoring services and 308 attended subsidised training courses. 22 applicants were successful in receiving Trading on Line vouchers up to a value of €2,500 each and 12 clients sought support from Microfinance Ireland through LEO Mayo.

In addition, LEO Mayo took part in and/or supported businesses to attend a wide range of programmes and events, with a sample of event set out below:

Sample and Summary of initiatives provided by LEO Mayo in 2016	
National Initiatives	
Local Enterprise Week	In its first year in 2016, the LEW took place in March 2016. Fourteen events took place as part of LEW Mayo ranging from business advisory clinics to business seminars to award ceremonies.
Showcase	Showcase, one of Ireland’s largest international trade shows, is organised by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and promoted internationally by Enterprise Ireland. It is an ideal marketplace where buyers from around the world can meet Irish designers in



person. In 2016 5 microenterprises from Mayo exhibited with support from LEO Mayo.

**Ploughing Championships**



The National Ploughing Championships takes place annual in SE Ireland and is an important platform for small and medium sized enterprises. The Local Enterprise Village (consisting of 31 businesses from LEOs nationwide) allows visitors to sample a diverse range of successful products, goods and services, which in turn promotes Irish owned businesses. Two Mayo LEO clients took part in the Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2016.

**Student Enterprise Awards**



The Student Enterprise Programme is the biggest enterprise competition for students in Ireland. It helps students to grasp real life skills associated with running a real enterprise including working as part of a team, managing production and finances, organising a sales and marketing campaign and liaising directly with customers, judges and the media. Budding entrepreneurs from three schools in Mayo scooped up awards at the national event - Make a Mark, Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Gortnor Abbey Co Mayo; The Story of My Life, Ballyhaunis Community School, Co. Mayo; and Melting Moments, Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet Co. Mayo.

**National Enterprise Awards**

Set up nearly two decades ago to celebrate the success of Ireland's small businesses and micro-enterprises, the NEA took place at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin in June 2016. Twelve awards were presented including eight new regional trophies and the overall winner receiving €10,000 to invest in their business. Mayo based Donal Byrne, Big Red Barn was the Regional winner for the west region.



**National Women's Enterprise Day**



More than 180 businesswomen joined forces with the Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon & Galway to celebrate ten years of National Women's Enterprise Day with a major event held in the G hotel, Galway. The theme of the day was Fuelling Ambition and attendees enjoyed a day of sharing success stories, challenges of business and networking. This initiative has been instrumental in allowing LEO Mayo to build working relationships with another important cohort of the population – female entrepreneurs.

**Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur**

In its thirds year, IBYE is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 and has been instrumental in allowing LEO Mayo to build working relationships with an important cohort of the population. There was an increase in applications to the County final competition in 2016, with a total of 61 applications received. Mayo



	<p>County winner, Nigel O'Reilly, Nigel O'Reilly goldsmith won Best Established Business at Regional level and will go forward to the National finals in March 2017.</p>
<p>Local Advertising Campaign</p>	<p>Following on from the availability of funding from Enterprise Ireland to further increase the awareness of the LEOs at a local level, the Local Enterprise Office Mayo undertook an extensive advertising campaign in Mayo to promote the services offered by the LEO for Start Up and Established businesses. Advertising commenced in November 2016 using 4 radio stations and three newspapers to advertise the services of LEO Mayo.</p>
<p>Food Academy programme</p>	<p>LEOs Mayo and Roscommon jointly commenced a new Food Academy programme in 2016 with 13 participants registered on the programme. This programme is developed by Bord Bia, The Musgrave Group and the LEOs to assist food producers in understanding the procedures in supplying to the Supervalu group with an opportunity to stock their products in Supervalu's in the Region on successful completion of the training programme.</p>
<p>Other Tailored Initiatives</p>	<p>Detail</p>
<p>Ireland West International Trade Centre</p> 	<p>LEO Mayo – as part of the Enterprise &amp; Investment Unit of Mayo County Council – is the lead body on the Ireland West International Trade Centre in Rhode Island. This collaborative initiative involves Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Clare &amp; Galway LEOs and provides a soft landing platform in the US for companies based in the West and North West of Ireland. The strategy is to assist indigenous companies explore export opportunities in the US. Our objective with our partners in Rhode Island is to provide a cost-effective client based service, programme, structure and office space to identified companies in the region. Participating companies will receive direct support, networking and connectivity with US based Diaspora and indigenous companies. 16 companies participated in the programme in 2016.</p>
<p>iFactory West</p>	<p>iFactory West is a tailored business and innovation support programme aimed at those small and micro businesses that have ambitions to grow, compete and succeed. The programme offers an opportunity for growing businesses to receive expert business support and access to innovation experts that will work with them to realise their growth objectives. It provides a mix of innovation auditing, specialists consulting, technical support and innovation seminars in a menu format to suit participant needs. It is a joint venture between Mayo, Roscommon and Galway LEOs. This programme commenced in 2016 with a full cohort of 30 companies participating.</p>
<p>Feile na Tuaithe</p>	<p>LEO Mayo (in conjunction with the Enterprise &amp; Investment Unit of Mayo County Council) was a key partner of Féile na Tuaithe in 2016 – a 2-day, free, family event organised by the National Museum of Ireland Country Life at Turlough, Castlebar. LEO Mayo secured participation from the Local Enterprise Offices in Roscommon, Donegal, Galway and Sligo who together supported</p>

	<p>the participation of a significant number of quality artisan craft and food producers working in the Western Region.</p>
<p>Mayo Ideas Week</p>	<p>Mayo Ideas Week is a week-long series of idea generation, entrepreneurship and business events hosted by the development and enterprise support agencies and organisations in Co. Mayo. In its 7<sup>th</sup> year, Mayo Ideas Week took place in late September/early October 2016, themed Innovation Nurturing Great Ideas. 13 events were held across the county. Attendance figures were in excess of 1,500 people.</p>
<p>MeetWest</p> 	<p>MeetWest is the largest business networking event in the West of Ireland, bringing a wide range of companies from the West of Ireland and further afield together to network and do business. MeetWest, held in conjunction with Roscommon &amp; Galway LEOs, was hosted by LEO Mayo in 2016. The event offered participating companies a full day of tailored one-to-one networking meetings complimented by a wide range of presentations, consultation areas and a networking dinner. Over 240 participants attended MeetWest in 2016.</p>
<p>Meet Mayo</p>	<p>MeetMayo is a smaller scale version of MeetWest (above), bringing a wide range of companies from Mayo together to network and do business. The event offered participating companies a half day networking with each other in a more informal manner than MeetWest with each company taking a stand and meet with other business owners/managers in the area. It also provides newcomers with an opportunity to experience what MeetWest is like at a smaller scale and less cost.</p>
<p>Ireland West Food Group</p>	<p>This initiative is tailored towards micro food companies who wish to explore the opportunity of exporting their products to London and SE England. The programme commenced in September 2016 with a number of companies attending the Speciality Fine Food Fair in London. 37 companies, 8 from Mayo, have expressed an interest in participating in this initiative.</p>
<p>National Craft &amp; Design Fair</p>	<p>For the third year a number of food companies from Mayo attended the National Craft and Design Fair in the RDS, Dublin in December 2016 under the umbrella of The Mayo Quarter. As per previous years 8 stands were occupied by Mayo food companies providing them with major marketing and retail opportunities over a 5-day period. It was noted that a number of other counties in Ireland are now replicating the Mayo approach at this event.</p>
<p>Specialised Training programmes</p>	<p>In addition to core business training programmes, two specialised training programmes were provided by LEO Mayo to assist clients in expanding their business in a sustainable manner. The programmes were LEAN for Business (6 participants) and Retail Development Programme (9 participants).</p>

#### LAMA Awards

In its 10th year in 2016, the LAMA awards recognise and celebrate community and Local Authorities working together. LEO Mayo submitted an application to LAMA Awards for Best Micro/Start Up Business (sponsored by Enterprise Ireland). This category aims to award entrepreneurs who are excelling in their industry and achieved great results in the year of 2015. LEO entry, Donal Byrne, Big Red Barn was winner of the category.

LEO Mayo is looking forward to another productive and innovative year in 2017, with a particular focus on delivering National LEO programmes along with local, regional and international initiatives, similar to those provided in 2016 but with focus on addressing the current challenges and opportunities in business to allow emerging, new and existing microenterprises in Mayo to thrive.

The key priorities for LEO Mayo in 2017 are to continue to position LEO Mayo as the 'go-to' entity for local businesses and to heighten awareness of the services and supports available locally and nationally. Other local priorities include taking a lead role in the implementation of the West Region Action Plan for Jobs, Local Enterprise Week, Mayo Ideas Week, and various initiatives aimed at giving LEO Mayo clients the opportunity to explore international markets with particular focus on the EU and the USA; to guide and support microenterprises in uncertain times around BREXIT; and to address the challenges of consumer trends of shopping for goods and services on line.

## COMMUNITY AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

‘Facilitating and Supporting Integrated Development, Community Development and Social Inclusion’.

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), established in 2014, finalised the 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and 18 month Action Plan in July 2016. The Plan, together with Plans from other counties, was launched by Minister Simon Coveney at the National Ploughing Championships in October.

The LCDC continues to monitor the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) with South West Mayo Development Co. and Mayo North East as implementing partners. The end of year assessment for 2015 and the 2016 mid-year review were completed successfully and endorsed by the LCDC. Key performance indicator (KPI) targets set down nationally were exceeded in County Mayo in 2016 under this programme as demonstrated in the table below.

Ref	Indicator	Annual Target	Actuals
KPI 1	Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI)	1536	1561
1.b	% of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis living in a disadvantaged area		364
KPI 2	Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI)	86	120

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the Leader Programme was submitted in February by the LCDC led Local Action Group (LAG) and the Contract was signed in early July at an event in Co. Cavan with Minister Heather Humphries. The new Leader Programme, with Mayo County Council as Financial Partner, became operational in September with a series of public information meetings held throughout the County. A large number of Expression of Interest forms have already been received which the LAG has considered at monthly meetings since October.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN), formerly the Community Engagement Network (CEN), continued to develop its structures during 2016 with their representatives active members of Mayo County Council’s SPCs, the Local Community Development Committee, the Joint Policing Committee, and other bodies. A lot of work has gone into establishing the Network, which acts as the

official point of contact with all community and voluntary Groups in the County. Registration is ongoing for community Groups and there are over 400 Organizations registered to date. The PPN Website went live in September – [www.mayoppn.net](http://www.mayoppn.net)

- Community Futures Plans launched in 2016 include Inishturk, Ballyglass and Knock. Communities whose Futures Plans periods have elapsed have become involved in a process of renewal which will bring their initiatives up to date.
- Community & Integrated Development continues to support local community initiatives and projects that are identified as being of particular importance. This work has been ongoing since the establishment of the section and is particularly significant from the perspective of Mayo County Council. The provision within the Community & Integrated Development budget of limited funding for Special Once-Off Community Projects is particularly important as a small amount of money can make a significant difference to many projects throughout the County;
- The Mayo Age Friendly Strategy was launched in June by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny. The Age Friendly Alliance continues to meet to oversee the implementation of the Strategy for Mayo;
- Community & Integrated Development continues to lead the *Pride of Place* initiative. This work is carried out in conjunction with the various Municipal Districts and focuses on supporting and building capacity within nominated communities. In 2016 the following groups represented Mayo in the various competitions categories:
  - Gráinne Mhaol Dragon Boat Club
  - Ballina Costume Company
  - Ballyhaunis GAA Club
  - Westport Community Initiative

Ballyhaunis GAA club received a National runner-up Award in the Community Reaching Out Initiative Category;

- Further development of the Comhairle na nÓg includes participation in the national Dáil na nÓg;
- Community & Integrated Development continues to provide the administrative support to the Community Gain Investment Fund for Cill Chomain and Iorrais. This fund was established in 2011 and closed for Applications in October 2015;
- The Mayo Science & Technology Festival, held during November 2016, hosted a number of events in various parts of the county. During the week many schools, both primary and secondary, participated in challenges and attended talks and demonstrations related to science and innovation. The Festival's Open Day was hosted by the GMIT Castlebar campus for the fourth time and this proved a worthy experience with thousands of visitors on the day.
- In July 2016 the Community and Integrated Development Unit working with the Admiral Brown Society organised a reception for the visit of the Argentine Ambassador Laura Bernal, Captain Errecaborde and ships company ARA Libertad to Foxford.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The Education & Training Sub-Committee continued to meet during the year and organised Training & Education Expo's which were well attended;
- Community and Integrated Development continue to support the work of the Travellers InterAgency Forum and provide assistance to Traveller Pride Week;
- The Mayo Resettlement Committee was established to co-ordinate the resettlement of Syrian refugees as part of Ireland's commitments under the UNHCR Resettlement Programme. This Committee, chaired by Mayo County Council personnel, meets regularly and has put in places the required services needed by the refugees coming to Mayo, including housing, education services, health supports, childcare and other supports. Funding was secured from the Department of Justice to put in place a support worker to facilitate the integration of the 17 families resettled to date.
- The Mayo Integration Forum continues to meet regularly and considers issues relating to the integration of all nationalities in the county, including refugees and asylum seekers;
- Community and Integrated Development are involved with other Agencies and voluntary organisations in a Group who are seeking to provide advice and supports to young lesbian and gay people in Mayo.
- Community & Integrated Development staff are available to advise elected members, and can provide background information on, projects being considered for funding under various funds and programmes.

## **MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY**

### INTRODUCTION

Membership of Mayo County Library is free! In 2016 all fees were abolished resulting in over 600,000 books being borrowed by 24,000 members throughout the year. Many more people used the libraries' other services: local studies, genealogy, research, online newspapers and maps, and downloadable eBooks, audio books, journals and language courses. Mayo libraries attracted approx. 360,000 visits during the year which is far in excess of any other cultural or heritage organisation in the county.

### CULTURAL PROGRAMME

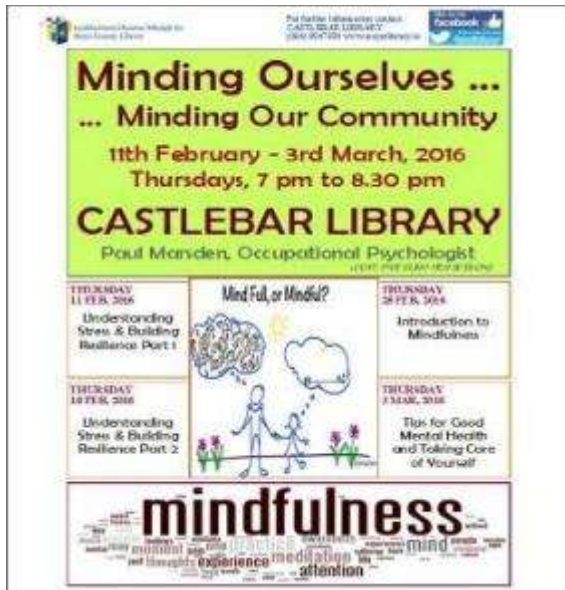
Mayo Library runs an extensive cultural programme which is expanding annually. In 2016 over 250 events were held in libraries in the county including:

- Arts exhibitions
- Book launches
- Lectures
- Arts and craft events
- Literacy Summer camps
- Career talks
- Music Circles
- Free computer courses



***Launch of Press Photographer's Assoc. of Ireland exhibition at Ballina Library***

The Library is also a venue for numerous community based groups e.g. The Irish Wheelchair Association, Writers & Artists Groups, Ballina Chamber of Commerce, Mayo Volunteer Centre, Moy Community Development Board, Youthreach Clubs, Age Action etc.



**Poster for *Minding Ourselves*, a series of talks on mental health held in Castlebar Library in January**

### 1916 CENTNARY EVENTS

Mayo County Council organized a large programme of events to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising. These included a major exhibition Rising in the Jackie Clarke library, which highlighted the largest and most important collection of 1916 items outside Dublin including unique and rare artefacts relating to Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh Joseph Plunkett, Sean MacDiarmada, and P.H Pearse. An exhibition on the life of Major John MacBride, which was opened by President Michael D Higgins in the Custom House Studio in Westport toured the county throughout the year. A graphic novel on the life of Kathleen Lynn was also produced. The library continued to add material to Centenarymayo.ie a website which records the events of the most momentous decade in our history. A history of Mayo County Council in that decade will be produced before the end of the year.



**Exhibition on *Cumann na mBan* in Castlebar Library**



### LIAM LYONS COLLECTION

The Liam Lyons collection of over 50,000 images is available to the people of Mayo in all branch libraries. It can be used for exhibitions, publications and websites and is a valuable resource for students and researchers. It can also be used as a means of attracting visitors to our county

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LENDING SCHEME

The musical instrument lending scheme which allows people from all over the county to borrow instruments through their local library was in great demand in its third year. Over 1000 instruments were on loan throughout the county in 2016. Mayo is the only library service in Ireland or the UK that provides such a service.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

The library runs a wide range of events for children throughout the year from story hours and competitions to author visits and workshops. The highlight of the year is the month-long Children's Book Festival in October which comprises numerous events for children including:

- Author visits
- Pet care demonstrations
- Library Quizzes
- Talks by local Gardai
- Talks on the environment
- Spooky Story-time for Halloween
- Writing workshops



*Puppet show in Ballyhaunis Library*

Summer Reading Challenges for children were organised in Crossmolina, Westport, Castlebar, Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis libraries. The children were challenged to read at least 10 books over the summer. In 2016, 715 children read over 7000 books as part of the challenge, and received medals and certificates from the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council.



*School children attending craft event at Ballina Library*

### TIME TO READ

Time to Read is a programme that aims to help children develop a love for reading, whilst increasing their confidence and self-esteem. It is run through adult volunteers who read to children in disadvantaged schools over a period of 20 weeks..



*Children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge in Crossmolina Library*



***In 2016 Mayo County Council staff volunteered for the scheme which was run initially in Breaffy National School***

### THE HUMAN LIBRARY

A library of “human books” captured the imagination of the people of Mayo in June. The aim of the project was to bring people together in ‘Open Dialogue’ spaces in response to growing social isolation within our communities. In Castlebar Library there was a range of titles to choose from including addiction, mental health, sexuality, teenage mothers, brain tumour, refugee, alternative living and disability. Such was the demand that the Human library will become a regular feature in Mayo libraries.

**HUMAN LIBRARY**  
don't judge a book by its cover

You Don't Need To Be a Library Member To Attend.

Just like a real library, a library to the Human Library has a range of titles. The difference is that the books are not made, and the reading is a conversation.

The Purpose of the Human Library is to challenge what we think we know about other members of our community.

Borrow a Human Being and hear their story.

**HUMAN LIBRARY MAYO**  
Booked tickets only available 20th June 7.30pm

**CASTLEBAR LIBRARY**  
JOHN MOOREHEAD  
CASTLEBAR

**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

**3PM - 7PM**

**HUMAN LIBRARY CASTLEBAR**

The Human Library uses the mechanism of a library to facilitate respectful conversations between people whose paths may never normally cross in life.

**HUMAN LIBRARY**

## ICT INITIATIVES

### EBOOK AND AUDIOBOOK DOWNLOAD SERVICE

Audio books, eBooks and magazines can be downloaded free to any library member's computer, phone or eReader. Numerous online course from languages to computing to photography can also be accessed free by members.

### MAYO NEWSPAPERS ON-LINE

The following papers are all available online in the library: The Western People, The Mayo News, The Ballina Herald, The Connaught Telegraph, The Mayo Examiner, The Ballinrobe Chronicle and The Western Journal.

### WIFI

Wifi access is now available in Castlebar, Ballina, Westport, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis, Belmullet and Swinford libraries.

### MAYO GENEALOGY ONLINE

Mayo County Library, in conjunction with the Mayo Family History centres, provides a genealogical service on the library web site. This facility provides access to the millions of family records held on the centres' databases for library users.

### BOOK REQUESTS

A new national delivery service, initiated in 2016, allows books from any library in the country to be delivered in two days. This service has already proven to be hugely popular.

### MAYO MAPS ONLINE

Mayo Maps Online provides access to the 1838 Ordnance Survey maps, Bald's map of Mayo and maps of the Lynch-Blosse estates with links to additional information including the 1901 Census data, Griffith's Valuation, Tourism Survey from the 1940's and place name information.

### OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

- Irish Tourist Association Survey (1940s)
- The Famine in Mayo: a portrait from contemporary sources online
- In Humbert's Footsteps: 1798 & the Year of the French,
- Mayo People – lives of famous people from the county
- Map of The Clans of Mayo
- Historical newspaper illustrations.
- Book Review section - updated monthly

### EACHTRAI CULTURTHA

Le h-aghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge i mí Mharta, eagraíodh eachtrai éagsúla tré mhean na Gaeilge i leabharlanna tríd an chontae.

Ina measc bhí:

Lochlain O'Meara Dramaíocht. Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Sheila Duddy ag léamh as Gaeilge, Caisleán a' Bharraigh  
Taispeántas Leabhar Gaeilge – Béal an Átha  
Eoghan Mac Goillia Bhríde , scéalaíocht i, gCaisleán a' Bharraigh agus Béal an Átha,  
Comórtaisí do pháisti scoile - Caisleán a' Bharraigh  
Ciorcail craic i mBéal an Átha,  
Spraoí na gCleamaírí le Colm de Bháldraithe i mBéal an Átha



***Mayo Day in Belmullet Library***

### HEALTHY READING SCHEME

The library service runs a Mayo Healthy Reading Scheme in conjunction with the HSE. This is an initiative designed to guide individuals in their choice of self-help books which can then be used in tandem with treatment made by a health professional for conditions such as depression, bullying, eating disorders and stress.

### SCHOOL'S LIBRARY SERVICE

Mayo County Library experienced an increase in demand for children's literacy services from both parents and Learning Support/Resource teachers. The library is continuing to provide an active Special Needs Service to all Learning Support and Special Needs teachers. Information workshops for parents of children with reading difficulties -as part of the collaborative literacy project between Mayo County Library and HSE West Speech & Language Therapy Service –were provided in various locations throughout the year.

### JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION

The Jackie Clarke Collection experienced its busiest year yet in 2016 with 24,106 visitors from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. The Collection was actively involved with local and national festivals and events including: Ballina's March Madness, the 1916 Commemoration, Ballina Salmon Festival, National Heritage Week, Culture Night, the Samhain Abhainn Halloween Festival, and Ballina's Christmas Festival.

The Jackie Clarke Collection houses the largest collection of 1916 memorabilia outside Dublin, much of which was displayed in the major exhibition *Rising*. Over 400 people attended the launch night, which saw James Connolly's grandson Seamus read the proclamation. As well as local and national press and radio, the exhibition featured on UTV and Tg4. The gardens of the Jackie Clarke Collection was also featured in the *Aer Lingus Cara* magazine.

The Collection's Education Programme has been hugely popular with both primary and secondary schools around the county and further afield. Education coordinators and volunteers developed and delivered tailored 1916 workshops to both primary and secondary schools from January to May 2016.

A unique 1916 project saw a collaboration with Mayo Arts Office for an artist in residence programme. Foxford native Katie Moore produced a work of art inspired by the collection and also held community workshops with different groups to produce a 'community installation'

In March, a new gate was installed on Pearse St. making the collection and garden more open and accessible to the general public. A coffee and biscuit bar was also opened this year.

Under the guidance of the Community Liaison team, the Collection worked with groups as varied as Active 55s, Men's Sheds, the ICA, Youthreach, the Irish Defence Forces, Friends of the National Gallery; the Retired Teachers' Association; Foras na Gaeilge; Irish Girl Guides and the Irish Wheelchair Association, None of this would have been possible without the support of Kilmoremy Parish Development and the collection's volunteers.

The Collection was awarded €4000 from the Heritage Council to carry out further conservation work on its material in 2016. The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs awarded €5000 for the development of an audio-visual exhibition from 1916-1923. Cataloguing of the Collection will start in the New Year.



**1916 commemoration event in the Jackie Clarke Library**

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Launch of Internal & External Ezine

The establishment of a new Communications function in the Directorate of Economic, Planning and Community Development has afforded us the opportunity to develop our internal and external communications and to enhance our public image and ensure a clear and consistent corporate message is delivered. As a direct result of this, 2016 saw the launch of our hugely popular internal, MCC Connect, & Mayo.ie external Ezines. The aim is to highlight a number of key projects and initiatives being rolled out by the various departments within Mayo County Council.

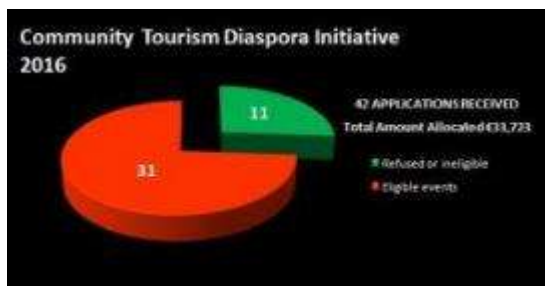
### Mayo Global Day

April 30th 2016 saw our second annual Mayo Day. There was again a huge response to the initiative with events and gatherings happening worldwide as well as across the County and Country. Community groups throughout the County got behind the day, Swinford printed Mayo Day postcards, Ballyhaunis launched a town Operation Transformation scheme and Ballina produced the largest ever Mayo Flag which was hung off the town bridge!

### Community Tourism Diaspora Fund

The Enterprise and Investment Unit promoted and administered the Community Tourism Diaspora fund which seeks to build on the legacy of The Gathering 2013.

In January 2016, the Enterprise and Investment unit advertised the Community Tourism Diaspora fund, inviting local communities around the County to apply. 42 applications were received with 31 projects gaining approval for their events. A total of €33,723 was allocated to Mayo events with an estimated 4,300 additional overseas visitors to Mayo.



### County Mayo Foundation



Work on an innovative project, The County Mayo Foundation was announced in late 2015. The Foundation aims to create an accessible platform for US citizens and Mayo Associations to contribute to community or charitable initiatives in Mayo and to assist our local communities utilise online communication and technology for delivering

projects. A series of public information evenings have just been completed resulting in a great interest in the initiative.

### Ongoing Links with the Diaspora

The EIU continue to work on initiatives and projects that link with our Diaspora, supporting our Mayo Associations and Networks as opportunities arise.



### Development of a Diaspora Strategy

Mayo County Council was awarded funding in 2016 from the Department of An Taoiseach for Diaspora Strategy Development. Work also commenced on a Diaspora Strategy/Action plan for the County. It is hoped to launch the strategy in early 2017.

Key deliverables from the strategy will include;

- Building on existing and exploring new relationships between Mayo stakeholders with Mayo Diaspora.
- Increased collaboration between stakeholders in Mayo on Diaspora engagement.
- Identification of new policies, projects and programmes to partner with Mayo Diaspora.
- Networking Seminars.
- Launch of Action Plan.

### Awards



### Most Innovative Authority 2016 – Mayo Day

Mayo County Council were the delighted recipients of the 2016 LAMA award in the category 'Most Innovative Authority' for the work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit in the Mayo Day Initiative.



Mayo.ie also supported the following events as project partners:

- Féile na Tuaithe
- Wild Atlantic Way Audax
- Mayo Business Awards 2016
- Mayo World Convention 2016
- Irelands Highest Networking Event
- Women's Mini Marathon
- Sporting Excellence Conference



## **MAYO SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

### Background

Established in November 2004 the Sports Partnerships main aim is to increase participation in sport and physical activity among all sectors of the community.

It has three main functions:

Information - To establish a consultation process with sport clubs and organisations and to identify their needs and resources. Initiate research and compile a sports directory. One stop shop for sport in Mayo.

Education- Provide quality opportunities for training courses for volunteers held locally.

Implementation - To develop sports policy within the county through a strategic plan for sport in Mayo and select participation programmes to suit local needs.

We are also involved in facilitating and co-ordinating a number of targeted programmes, projects and initiatives at local level. Target groups include Disadvantaged, Youth at Risk, People with a Disability, Teenage Girls / Women, Older People and Unemployed. The Sports Partnership office managed by Sports Co-ordinator Charlie Lambert also contains Administrator Padraic Durcan, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Ray Mc Namara and Community Sports Project Worker Anne Ronayne. We also work with a team of up to 30 tutors who deliver training and participation programmes on behalf of the Partnership.

During 2016 some of our major projects and initiatives included:

### FAMILIES

#### Mayo Operation Transformation Walks

Over 2,000 people participated in one of the Mayo 5K Walk / Run events which took place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January and again on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate the finale . This year Operation Transformation teamed up with local parkruns all across the country and in Mayo 5K parkruns took place in Belmullet, Ballina, Castlebar and Westport with other 5Ks taking place in Ballyhaunis and Kiltimagh.

Over 20 communities / groups registered with Mayo Sports Partnership to participate in the 5 week long Operation Get Active Mayo campaign. From Geesala to Tourmakeady groups across the county embraced these community initiatives with many personal achievements and milestones reached. For details of these and other programmes log on to the Mayo Sports Partnership website at [www.mayosports.ie/news](http://www.mayosports.ie/news)



***Pic: Cathairleach Castlebar Municipal Council at the Operation Transformation Castlebar Walk***

#### Erris parkrun joins Ballina, Castlebar and Westport

20<sup>th</sup> February 2016 saw parkrun come to the scenic Cross Loop, Cross, Binghamstown, Belmullet, Co. Mayo with meeting point at Cross graveyard and walk approximately 200 metres to the start of the course adjacent to the lake.. This free weekly event, takes place at 9.30am sharp, is hosted by the Erris Community with the support of other organizations such as Mayo Sports Partnership, the HSE through their Get Ireland Active initiative and the West Mayo Municipal Council . The event provides both locals and visitors with a safe and fun environment for the perfect Saturday morning jog or walk.

Mayo now has 4 sites in Ballina, Castlebar, Westport and now Erris, information on each can be found on [www.parkrun.ie](http://www.parkrun.ie) Even if you do not have a barcode the organizers invite anyone who wishes to try parkrun out to come along on the Saturday morning at any of the above locations.



### Junior parkrun comes to Ballina

Only the 2<sup>nd</sup> of its kind in the country Ballina junior 2K parkrun for 4-14 year olds commenced on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am in Belleek Ballina. This is a free event and takes place every Sunday morning all you have to do is register on the junior parkrun website which is now up and running <http://www.parkrun.ie/ballina-juniors/> After registering, you'll receive a barcode which you'll need to bring on the day to log your results.

...



### Large Number of Events take place during Bike Week 2016

Mayo's 2016 Bike week was yet another very successful and fun-filled week with 24 local events varying from bike workshops, cycling training, bike maintenance and a variety of short family cycle events. Once again Mayo's Bike Week steering committee organised 7 lunchtime cycles throughout Mayo which were a brilliant success and helped to raise awareness around bike safety for children and families. This year also saw National Bike Week being kicked off with a Mayo County Council lunch time staff cycle on the Turlough Greenway.



***Pic: Primary School Children from Ballinrobe one of the seven areas who participated in lunchtime cycles***

## WOMEN

### Large crowds turn out for 7th annual Western People Mini Marathon

The Mall in Castlebar was a sea of colour and excitement on Sunday morning as large crowds of men, women and children gathered in the county town for the 7th annual Western People West of Ireland Women's Mini Marathon. Olympic silver medallist Sonia O Sullivan was the special guest on the day, alongside the Caitheoirleach of Castlebar Municipal District Cllr Blackie Gavin.

1916 was the theme of the day, with a major parade taking place in the county town after the mini marathon to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



*Pic: Participants at the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> West of Ireland Womens Mini Marathon*

Over the last seven years, the Mini Marathon – organised by the Western People and the Mayo Sports Partnership – has helped raise well in excess of €1.5 million for local charities and once again, scores of worthy causes were well represented on Sunday.

This year, close to 1800 participants completed the 10km course, while more than 400 others took part in the Mini-Mini event.



*Pic: Two proud participants in the Mini Mini Fun Run on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016*

## CHILDREN

### Primary Schools see benefits of Daily Mile Initiative

Primary school children throughout Mayo are spending 15 minutes daily engaging in completing a mile walking, jogging or running. This is in addition to their to their weekly PE programme and extra curricular activity. It's all because of a new initiative, the Daily Mile, which has taken the UK, Holland and other countries by storm in the last year or so.

The Daily Mile is an initiative which was started by Elaine Wyllie, Headteacher of a Large Scottish Primary School in 2012. Since then it has been introduced into over 1000 schools in the UK. It is very simple to start in a school. Without wasting time to change into kit, every child in a school goes out each day in the fresh air to run, jog or walk for 15 minutes.

Approximately 30 Mayo schools are participating in the programme with many mapping their school on the Daily Mile website see <http://thedailymile.co.uk/participation-map/>

The difference the programme is making can be seen in the comments received from school Principals

“It has made a big difference to the children’s attitude towards exercise and has also increased their fitness levels remarkably” – Richmond National School Crossmolina.

“We have really enjoyed doing the Daily Mile, all the students in our school are involved, as are all the staff! If we happen to forget to go out, we are quickly reminded by the children that it’s Daily Mile time” - Holy Angels NS, Clogher, Claremorris, Co Mayo.



***Pic: Mayo GAA stars Cora Staunton and Lee Keegan pictured at the launch of the Daily Mile with pupils from Snugboro N.S. Castlebar***

## TEENAGERS

Crossmolina and Ballyhaunis students receive Youth Sport Leadership Award  
St Tiernan's/Gortnor Abbey Crossmolina and Ballyhaunis Community School Transition year students completed their 'Level 1 Award in Youth Sport Leadership' training during 2016. This 33-hour course, delivered by Mayo Sports Partnership and accredited by Sports Leaders UK, is especially designed for teenagers, as part of their training students deliver their practical sessions to children from local Primary Schools.

This Level 1 Award in Youth Leadership training was rolled out to Mayo Youth Clubs in the Castlebar areas. For further information contact Anne Ronayne Mayo Sports Partnership Tel: 094 9047022 email [msp@mayococo.ie](mailto:msp@mayococo.ie)



*Pic: Crossmolina students who received Youth Sport Leadership Certificates from Mayo footballer Keith Higgins*

## JOBSEEKERS

Goal to Work Sports Coach Training Programmes delivered in Ballyhaunis, Ballina, Castlebar and Claremorris

Over 40 jobseekers / part time workers completed a 10 week long specialised sports coaching course in the above areas during 2016 which it is hoped will provide them with the tools to obtain some employment. The "Goal to Work" Sports Coach Training Programme which is run 3 days each week allowed trainees to become fully qualified sports coaches in sports such as GAA, Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Cricket with additional sports modules in child protection, first aid, disability awareness, physical activity leader and active leadership. Trainee coaches also honed their skills organising several community events and coaching in local national schools giving many school children some quality participation experiences.

Close to 100 sports coaches / leaders have now received training under the Goal to Work programme and are available to assist communities, sports clubs and schools throughout the county.



*Pic: Ballina Goal to Work Sports Coaches at the presentation of their certificates*

## DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

### Ballyhaunis Community Sports Hub – Opening of the Maples Recreational Park

In July 2015 Mayo Sports Partnership received funding of €78,000 for the development of a Sports Hub in Ballyhaunis. 60% of this funding was allocated for capital expenditure and the development of a Ballyhaunis Cricket Practice area / crease was prioritised. This development is in Partnership with Mayo County Council and was completed in January 2016.

Cricket coaching with Cricket Ireland took place in Ballyhaunis on the 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> January with a number of Childrens Multi Sport Days taking place in the new recreational park in the Maples. 3 Multi Sports Camps for primary school children were held at the Maples in February and March as well as a children's soccer camp.

A Youth Sports Leadership Course in Ballyhaunis Community School was completed in February 2016 and will enable the school to deliver extra activities at extra curricular time for their students.

Other activities which have taken place include Operation Transformation Walks, Men on the Move, Beginners Couch to 5K and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Healthy Living Day again in Ballyhaunis Community School.

More opportunities will be developed in due course. For more information please contact hub co-ordinator Anne Ronayne at 094-9047022 email [aronayne@mayococo.ie](mailto:aronayne@mayococo.ie)





***Pic: The Cricket Crease at the opening of the facility in January 2016***

## MEN

### Men on the Move Activity Programme

Mayo men are felling fitter, looking better and enjoying being more physically active as a result of the Men on the Move Activity programme.

Approximately 300 men from ten areas in Mayo are now participating in this very successful initiative with more areas planned to come on board in the near future. These include Achill, Ballyhaunis, Ballaghaderreen, Ballina, Castlebar, Charlestown, Crossmolina, Claremorris, Erris, Swinford, and Westport. For more information contact Mayo Sports Partnership at 094-9047025 email [mshp@mayococo.ie](mailto:mshp@mayococo.ie)



***Pic: Registering for the Men on the Move Programme during 2016***

## PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Learn to cycle programme for children with learning difficulties

A very successful Cycle Skills Programme was held in Scoil Raftieri Castlebar over three consecutive weeks in July. The Programme which was ran in partnership with Mayo Sports Partnership, HSE and Enable Ireland was very carefully put together and was ran by a very experienced cycle coach in Gerry butler.

12 participants took part in the programme which used different methods like turbo training and balance work to improve the participant's cycle skills. The next Programme is due to start on 24th August and there is a Hugh demand for places on the programme. If you are interested in learning how to cycle and joining a future programme please contact Ray on 0949047023 or [rmcnamara@mayococo.ie](mailto:rmcnamara@mayococo.ie)



*Pic: Participants on the Learn to Cycle Programme*

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT

### Special Participation Grant Scheme 2016

A €19,000 was allocated to 45 clubs / organisations in Mayo through the Partnerships 2016 special participation grant scheme. This year the scheme has funded initiatives including the set-up of a new Mayo Orienteering Club, the new development of a basketball senior club in Westport, walking football initiatives in Ballinrobe, Kilmovee and Achill, community participation initiative in Tourmakeady, mothers and others ladies GAA programmes in Crossmolina and Westport and Cricket in Ballinrobe Programmes in the travelling community and the Special Olympics were also supported under the scheme.

A full list of the successful recipients is available on our website [www.mayosports.ie/news](http://www.mayosports.ie/news)



***Pic: Mayo Orienteering Club receiving funding under the Special Participation Grant Scheme***

The Sports Partnership office is situated at the Cedar Building ( Beside Roadstone) Moneen, Castlebar however if you need more information contact the Partnership at 094-9047025,e-mail [mSP@mayococo.ie](mailto:mSP@mayococo.ie) or log onto [www.mayosports.ie](http://www.mayosports.ie)

## MAYO COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Mayo CCC supported 124 early years' services (approximately 3,000 children) across the county to participate in the National Childcare Funding Programmes and its associated programmes such as the Aistear and Siolta curriculum frameworks. Our support also encompasses quality of practice, child protection training, administrative support, strategic sustainable development, training needs, and information provision. Mayo CCC also support childminding services, parent and toddler groups and provides information to parents.

During 2016 there were 124 formal childcare services in the county. There were 5 notified childminders and there were 55 childminders voluntary notified to Mayo CCC.

123 of these formal services participated in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme.

Among the 124 formal services there were

123 pre-schools  
28 Full Day Care services  
55 After school services

During 2016 there were 68 private early years' services and 55 community early years' services

### Main highlights of activities that occurred in 2016

There were many highlights in Mayo for the early years sector during 2016. The commitment and dedication of the workforce within the county is remarkable. In supporting this workforce Mayo CCC would point to the following highlights

- 2016 saw the introduction of the two year free Pre-school place. The expansion of the ECCE programme started in September 2016. Mayo CCC, the early years services and all stakeholders within the early years sector collaborated to achieve a smooth and effective introduction of the expanded programme. The programme will have many positive impacts for early years services, parents and most importantly children.
- 2016 also saw the introduction of a new national programme to promote inclusion within early years sector. The Access Inclusion Model (AIM) began implementation in September 2016.
- Mayo CCC trained 111 childcare workers from 76 services in child protection & welfare training.
- 29 childcare services received a total of € 212,457.50 from the national small scale capital grant fund in 2016.
- 27 parent & toddler groups received a total of €14,293 from the national parent & toddler Initiative
- 22 child minders received a total of €18,441 from the national Child Minders Development Grant

- In collaboration with Music Generation Mayo, Mayo CCC delivered the early years music programme, entitled ' Soundworlds'. This programme is unique to Mayo.
- Mayo CCC Facebook Page received 528 Likes during 2016.
- Mayo CCC had 16,544 visits from 4,899 users on our web page.
- Mayo CCC produced 4 editions of our newsletter during 2016. Each edition of this newsletter reaches over 2,000 people and provides detailed information on many aspects of early years education & care including Aistear/ Siolta curriculum frameworks, national childcare funding programmes, and updates from various local childcare agencies.
- Finally, Mayo CCC welcomed and very much appreciated a meeting in our office with Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD and Dr. Katherine Zappone TD Minister for Children & Youth Affairs and their representatives. The meeting discussed the pivotal role that early years education and care can play in the social sustainability of the county and most importantly in the life of each individual child.



## Details of any front runners/pilots/new initiatives undertaken during 2015

- Soundsworld, Early Year Music Programme.

Mayo CCC continued the development of our unique early years music programme called Soundworlds. Mayo CCC offered participation to all the services in the county through our newsletter. We received 23 expressions of interest. Based on an agreed criteria we selected 9 services. We met with each of these services on an individual basis during May / June time to clarify the aims of the programme, to clarify our expectations of the service during the programme and to identify practical things that are needed for the programme's implementation. The next step was our development workers and the music generation music tutors delivered a training workshop during October to the workers in the 9 services. This new format of the Soundworlds programme started in the 9 early years services during the first week in November 2016. The programme will run for approximately 1 day a week, 23 weeks during the 38 pre school year. A mid term review workshop will be held during February / March 2017 with all the stakeholders and a final evaluation workshop will be held during June 2017. It is planned to document the delivery of the programme in each of the services. We plan to write up this learning and produce a document during 2017, describing the programme and its learning. We plan to share this work through local networks and nationally through Childcare Committees Ireland.

## Details of achievements of Mayo County Childcare Committee during 2016

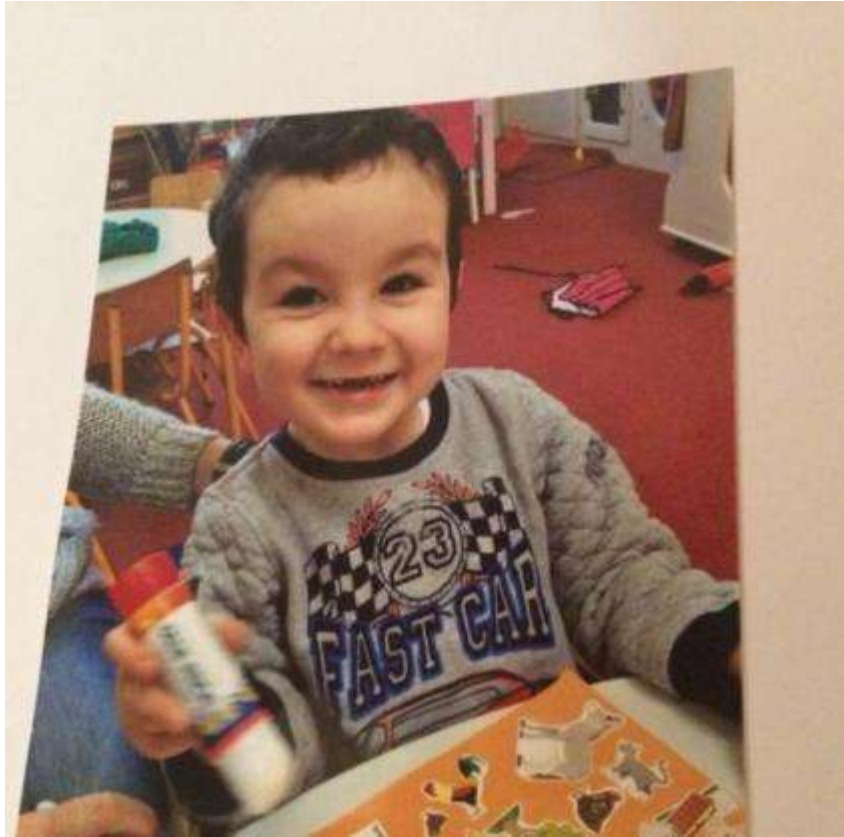
One of our main achievements during 2016 was our seminar which we held in Westport on Saturday March 5th. The seminar was a collaboration between Mayo CCC and the Early Years Intervention team. The seminar was entitled 'Early Years Inclusion Day' - Practical ways to include all children'.

Dr. Geraldine French, the noted specialist in early childhood education gave an inspiring key note address to begin the day. Over 120 early childhood care & education practitioners then attended 3 workshops for the rest of the morning. These workshops aimed to show practitioners practical ways to include children in their every day play school settings. The workshops provided guidance on, puppetry, a multi sensory approach and equality & diversity. The workshops were delivered by Carmel Balfe of Little Gems puppets, Michelle Fahey & Annette Jordan, and Ann Halligan respectively. Each of these facilitators are experts in each of their respective fields. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive regarding the workshops.

Running simultaneously to the workshops and throughout the morning the event also hosted 20 exhibitors. These exhibitions again provided participants with practical ideas and ways to develop an inclusive ethos in all early years settings.

Throughout the day participants could also view art work submitted by early years settings and play schools. This art work provided examples of inclusive practise happening on a daily basis throughout the county in early years services.

Also, services submitted photos which were compiled into a slide show and which were shown on screens at various points through the hotel.



*Having a blast in Footsteps Preschool, Shrute*

## MOTOR TAX

The Motor Taxation Offices in Mayo deal with the administration of the Vehicle Licensing Legislation in County Mayo.

The Council is no longer involved in Driver Licensing. This function was transferred to the Road Safety Authority in 2013.

Mayo County Council has been to the forefront in the devolution of the motor tax service on a regional basis throughout the county and there are currently three motor tax offices located strategically in Mayo as follows-

Glenpark, The Mall, Castlebar  
Civic Offices, Ballina  
Council Offices, Belmullet.

An online contact service is provided at [motortax@mayococo.ie](mailto:motortax@mayococo.ie).

The County Councils Motor Tax website is continuously updated to reflect changes in policy and procedures as well as legislative requirements and can be accessed at <http://www.mayococo.ie/en/Services/MotorTax/>

A Motor tax online service also available to customers at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). The following tax classes are available for online processing:-

- Private Cars
- Motorcycles
- Agricultural Tractors, Excavators/Diggers, and Combine Harvesters
- Hearses
- Vehicles adapted for use by disabled persons
- Motor Caravans (not for first taxing)
- Vintage/Veteran Vehicles
- Commercial Vehicles (renewal only)

The use of the online motor tax facility continues to grow year on year which reflects the user friendly nature of the service.

The total income for Motor Taxation for County Mayo in 2016 was €31,000,000 while the income for 2015 was €33,200,000. €18,700,000 was collected through the online Motor Tax service while €12,300,000 was collected through the Mayo Motor Tax Offices. The reason for the reduction in income is twofold:-

- The maximum rate for a goods vehicle was reduced from €5195 to €900 in 2016
- Pre 2008 vehicles previously taxed at the higher cubic capacity of engine rate are being replaced by vehicles eligible to be taxed at the lower CO2 emissions rate.



The Motor Taxation Offices continue to provide a high class customer orientated service with customer care at the centre of all activity which is reflected in the overall level of customer satisfaction.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

After eight years of declining planning application numbers, an increase was finally recorded in 2015, with a further increase recorded again in 2016, reflecting a slow and steady economic recovery. The number of applications received has tracked the recession from its beginning in 2007 (before it was noticed elsewhere in the economy), to the beginning of the recovery in 2015/2016.

The increase in applications in 2015, is partly due to the abolition of the Town Councils in June 2014, which resulted in all applications from the former Town Council Areas of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport, being processed by Mayo County Council Planning Office, in Castlebar. The slight growth experienced in 2015, continued with an even larger increase in applications received in 2016, reflecting a steady recovery of confidence in the local economy.

The table below shows the number of applications received from 2006 to 2016.

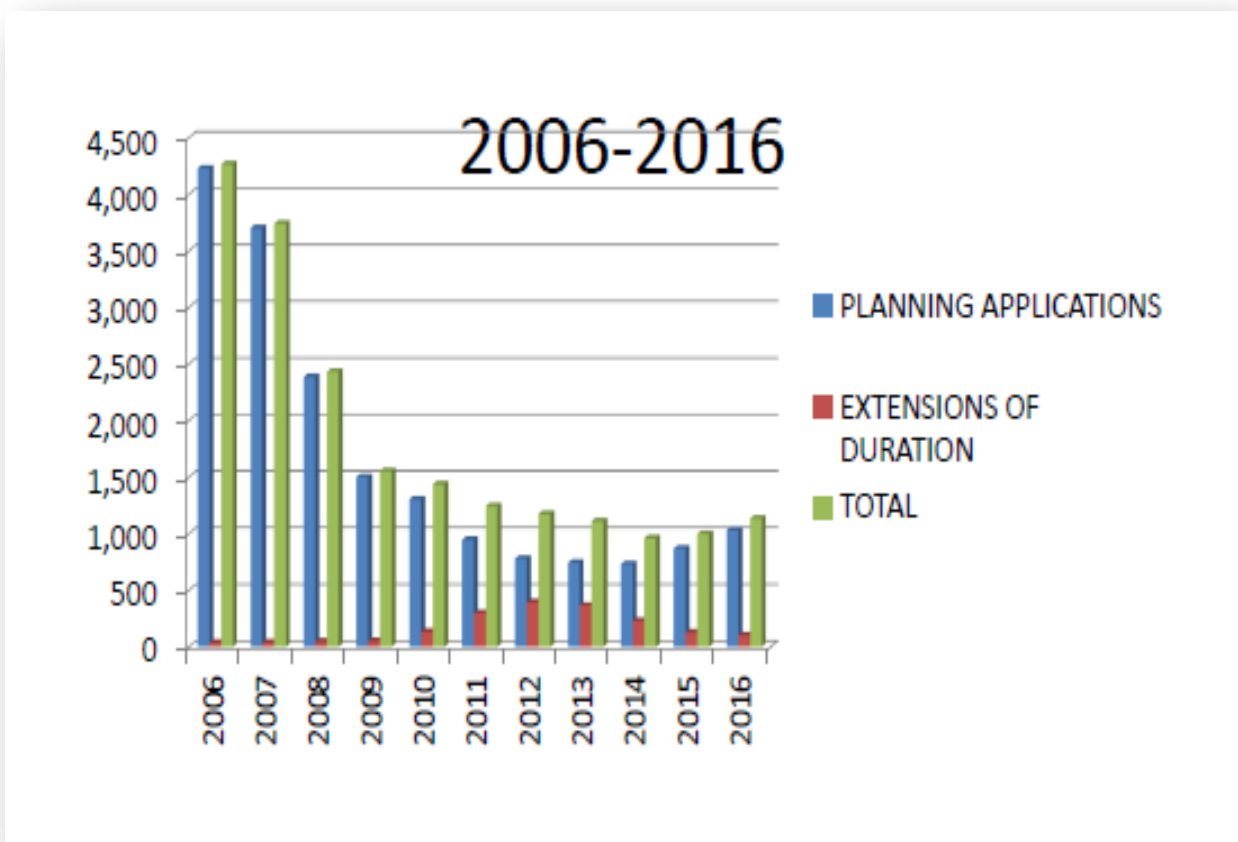
Year Received	No. Planning Applications	No. of Extension of Duration App.'s	Total
2006	4,228	38	4,266
2007	3,702	40	3,742
2008	2,386	48	2,434
2009	1,500	52	1,552
2010	1,303	134	1,437
2011	946	299	1,245
2012	779	396	1,175
2013	744	366	1,110
2014	731	229	960
2015	871	128	999
2016	1,032	104	1,136

**2006-2016**

From a high of 4,266 applications received in 2004, there was a 77.5% drop over the eight years to 2014, when only 960 applications were received. During this time the emphasis changed to having estates completed to a satisfactory standard and having them taken-in-charge by the Council. However, in 2015, application numbers showed a small increase to 999 (up 39 on the previous year) and further increased to 1,136 in 2016 (up by 137 on the 2015 figures).

This increase in development throughout the county generated additional economic activity in both the urban and the rural areas, as the new constructions and developments created increased employment, increased demand for building materials, increased demand for services and an increase in the circulation of cash, all of which helped begin the delivery of economic recovery within the county.

Application numbers and types are graphically depicted below, showing the planning application figures tracking the recession which started in 2007, to the first signs of recovery in 2015/2016. The difficulties in the economy are also graphically depicted in the increased number of applications for Extensions of Duration as the recession deepened, throughout 2010 to 2013, when applicants were unable to secure finance to commence or complete developments for which they had already obtained planning permission.



Planning application numbers are a good indication of the health of the economy in general, as the number of new applications and applications for Extensions of Duration reflect the availability of finance in the county, as it mirrors the economic situation in the rest of the country.

### Unfinished Estates

Significant progress has been made on the “Unfinished Estates” list since its inception in 2010. The original 129 unfinished estates have been reduced to the current total of 8 (down from 13 last year). Efforts will continue in 2017 to resolve the remaining estates.

### National Taking In Charge Initiative

In May 2016, Mayo County Council received funding of €336,234 for the following estates:

Estate Name/Address	Amount
Black Oak Rise, Newport	€79,000
Church Manor/Manor Gardens	€36,014
Glenbrook, Knock	€85,000
Moyvale, Ballina	€ 6,100
Oaklawn, Killala Rd, Ballina	€ 4,700
Rathcluain, Kiltimagh	€90,574
Rathkip/Shanagh, Ballina	€12,572
Suifinn Way, Ballycastle	€ 4,308
Towers Reach, Killala	€ 5,448
Waterstone	€ 4,604
Wesley Court	€ 7,914

The success in securing the funding under the National Taking In Charge Initiative is clear to see, and is a direct consequence of having figures/estimates “ready to go” with the funding application, as soon as the scheme became operational. In addition, Mayo County Council’s success in taking in charge estates throughout the county over the last three years was taken into consideration by the Department. Mayo County Council had taken approximately 180 estates in charge during that three year period.

Work has commenced on these 11 estates and should be concluded in early 2017.

### Formal Preplanning Applications

As a consequence of the recession people are reluctant to commit to a planning application without some degree of certainty regarding the final outcome. In response to this, the planning office has placed a greater emphasis on the formal pre-planning process. This is a free service to the public, which is becoming increasingly popular. We received 200 such written applications in 2016. Considerable resources have been allocated to this process in an effort to guide applicants through what can be one of the most significant, and costly, outlays of their lives. By providing such advice, at no cost to the applicants, costly disappointments may be avoided.

### Walk-in Planning Clinics

Walk-in Planning Clinics continue to be held each Wednesday morning at seven Council Area Offices. The Clinics are administered on a first come/first served basis, and this has eliminated waiting times for consultations with planners.

The Planning Clinics have also reduce the number of telephone and written queries to the Planning Office, as the planners are available for consultations with the public on a weekly basis.

#### Computerisation

Planning Applications are scanned and are available in all Area Offices and on the internet to be viewed at any time. The Planning Register has also been computerised and the old Planning Register Maps have now been digitised.

#### Forward Planning

During 2016, the Forward Planning Section undertook a range of projects in the area of land-use planning and policy formulation/implementation, the overall aim being to support and facilitate proper planning and sustainable development throughout the county.

A significant amount of survey work and collation of data was undertaken in connection with the application of the Vacant Site Levy (introduced under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015), the preparation of the proposed National Planning Framework and future Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Border and West Region. This subsequently fed into the preparation, display and adoption of variations to each of the four statutory plans that operate within the county.

#### Vacant Site Levy

Following on from the preliminary assessment of lands (to assess the extent of vacant sites and possible scope of the application of the levy on zoned lands), a Chief Executive's Report on the 'Application of the Vacant Site Levy provisions of the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015 in County Mayo' was submitted to the members in October 2016.

#### Variations to Plans

Subsequent to the submission of the Chief Executive's Report on the Vacant Site Levy to the members, the variation process formally commenced on October 26<sup>th</sup> in order to incorporate the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 into the four statutory plans as follows:

1. Variation No. 2 of Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020
2. Variation No. 3 to Ballina & Environs Development Plan 2009 – 2015
3. Variation No. 4 to Castlebar & Environs Development Plan 2008 – 2014
4. Variation No. 4 to Westport Town & Environs Development Plan 2010 – 2016.

In addition to changes relating to the vacant site levy and urban renewal and regeneration, Variation No. 2 of Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 also made provision for the rezoning of lands in the Claremorris Area Plan (Map CS1 of the Mayo County Development Plan) from 'Community Services / Facilities' to "Residential Low Density Phase 1.

Following the public consultation process and consideration by the members of the Chief Executive's Reports on submissions, the variations were made by the members on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

#### Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 — Two Year Progress Report

In accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2015, a Two Year Progress Report was prepared and circulated to the members in August 2016. This report set out the progress made in realising the objectives of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020, since it came into operation in April 2014. The report also included a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Interim Housing Strategy, Volume 3 of the Development Plan as required in the Acts.

#### Review of the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo 2011–2020

Mayo County Council adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo in May 2011. The Strategy sets out a path to allow County Mayo to contribute to meeting national legally-binding renewable energy targets and sets out opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to harness renewable energy in a sustainable manner and to assist in combating climate change. A review of the Renewable Energy Strategy has commenced to take account of more recent developments at national level and trends in emerging renewable energy technologies since the Strategy was adopted in 2011.

#### Town and Village Renewal

The Forward Planning Section co-ordinated the preparation and submission of applications to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016 for the towns of Crossmolina, Kiltimagh, Louisburgh and Kilkelly.

Under the scheme, an allocation of €380,000 was made to each county. Up to 85% of the total project cost will be provided in grant aid for approved project proposals. The minimum grant payable is €20,000. The maximum grant is €100,000. At least 15% matching funding must be provided by the Local Authority and/or the local community.

The central aim of the scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.

As part of the implementation process, a Town/Village Renewal Committee was established for each project. This committee is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team from within the Council and representatives from the local community in each town. The specific town and renewal project chosen in each town was agreed by the relevant Town/Village Renewal Committee.

### Revitalising Ireland's Towns – 'Pilot' Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) Training Programme 2016–2017

In October 2016 the Forward Planning Section commenced participation in a 'pilot' trans-disciplinary National Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) Training Programme delivered by the Heritage Council of Ireland, RGDATA and the Retail Consultation Forum, in collaboration with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Irish Planning Institute, Irish Landscape Institute, Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and Third-level Institutes. Galway - Mayo Institute of Technology, including third year students from the Heritage and Outdoor Education courses, partnered with Mayo County Council on this pilot. One of the innovative outcomes from the programme was the development by Mayo County Council of an app for undertaking land-use surveys which was piloted by the GMIT students during the survey work in Ballina town.

The training will support the creation of robust Town Centre Health Checks (TCHCs) for 10 no. Irish towns, including Ballina which was chosen as one of the pilot towns. The 'Pilot' Training Programme aims to identify current 'gaps' in undertaking TCHCs in Ireland, in order to inform the design and implementation of a new collaborative TCHC National Investment Programme.

A key aim of the 'pilot' TCHC Training Programme is to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the critical role that our historic town centres and townscapes play and the wide-ranging impacts that their vitality, vibrancy and viability have on overall socio-economic, environmental and cultural growth and development, and on quality of life for citizens and visitors alike.

### Environmental Assessments

Environmental assessments i.e. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment are now an integral part of the Forward Planning workload in the Development Plan/Variation/Local Area Plan process.

A dedicated SEA officer is located in the Forward Planning Section. Part 8 proposals and planning applications which may have implications for the 2000 Natura network are also submitted to the SAE officer for assessment and reports.

## ROAD SAFETY

In 2014, in association with the Gardai, the HSE West, and the Road Safety Authority, the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council formally launched our Road Safety Strategy 2013–2020.

The County Council in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority operates a programme of education and awareness of Road Safety. This involves promoting the need for caution and awareness of the dangers on the roads in Mayo. The Programme includes visits to schools by the Road Safety Officer and the promotion of Junior Warden and Cycle Training Schemes with schools. With the co-operation of teachers, the Gardai and parents, these schemes make a significant contribution to Road Safety. The Road Safety Officer will also be working with the Road Safety Together Committee in the County whose membership comprises of County Council, HSE West, Gardai and local community representatives towards the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

Road Safety Awareness for 2017 will be concentrated in 5 main areas.

- Promotion of Road Safety in the Primary Schools

The Council provides support to the Gardai when visiting schools by providing leaflets, reflective arm bands and other road safety promotional material. The efforts of the Gardai and their collaboration in promoting Road Safety generally is greatly appreciated.





- Junior Warden Schemes

The activity in this area is to support the four Junior Warden Schemes in the county. There are three in Ballina; one at the Girl's National School, Convent Hill, one at Scoil Padraig, Pound Street and one at The Quay National School. There is also a scheme at Scoil Padraig in Westport.

Uniforms and signs are provided by the County Council. Road markings are updated regularly. This Council is fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the Principals in these schools. Without their enthusiastic support it would not be possible to maintain the scheme.



- General Promotion of Road Safety through Local Media

The County Council operates in support of the Road Safety Authority and also general promotion in the local papers.



- Road Safety Plan



The Steering Committee for the Road Safety Plan, which was developed in 2013, will continue evaluating progress of this plan. It is envisaged that over time we will achieve a significant reduction in the road accident statistics in the County.

- Reverse In - Drive out

Mayo County Council have introduced a “Reverse in – Drive Out” policy in car parks at all of its offices throughout the county.

#### ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS – MAYO

Year	1 Fatalities
2002	14
2003	10
2004	13
2005	14
2006	11
2007	9
2008	10
2009	10
2010	8
2011	12
2012	7
2013	6
2014	11
2015	13
2016	4

## ROADS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

### Introduction

An efficient road transportation system provides the necessary infrastructure to support economic and social development of a region. Mayo County Council in 2016, continued to play its part in the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the County thus supporting the economy within the County.

There are 6,490 kms of roadway in the charge of Mayo County Council and in 2016 a total of €59.8m. was spent on maintaining and improving the network.

### Roads Classifications & Finances

Roads in the County are classified as National Primary; National Secondary; Regional and Local Roads. The lengths of the various categories of roads in County Mayo are as follows:

<i>National Primary Roads:</i>	<i>133 kms.</i>
<i>National Secondary:</i>	<i>267 kms.</i>
<i>Regional Roads:</i>	<i>622 kms.</i>
<i>Local Roads:</i>	<i><u>5,468 kms.</u></i>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>6,490 kms.</i>

Funding of €56.4m. was received from the **National Roads Authority** and the **Dep. of Transport, Tourism & Sport** for the National and Non-National Road network. The Council provided €3.4m. for the road network in the year.

### National Primary Roads

The grants for the **National Primary Roads** for 2016 were broken down as follows:

<b>National Primary – Major Schemes:</b>		
N5	Charlestown By-Pass	€100,000
N5	Turlough to Bohola	€100,000
N5	Westport to Bohola	€9,042,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>€9,242,000</b>
<b>Pavements:</b>		
N17	Charlestown Streets	€734,000
N17	Ballyglass @ Kilkelly	€1,625,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>€2,359,000</b>
<b>Minor Works:</b>		
N26	Cloongullane Realignment	€600,000

The grant for **National Primary Maintenance** totaling €672,159 was broken down as follows:

<b>National Primary – Maintenance:</b>	
Ordinary Maintenance	€371,696
Winter Maintenance	€200,000
Route Lighting	€100,463
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€672,159</b>

The following is a summary of the position on major schemes on the **National Roads** in County Mayo:

#### Major Road Projects

In September 2015, the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan 2016-2021 was published. It recognized that medium and long-term planning of transport infrastructure is well developed with a commitment to invest €9.6 billion in transport over a seven-year period. This includes €6 billion for investment in the national, regional and local road network and €3.6 billion in Public Transport.

The following is the position on all **Major Schemes** in County Mayo:

#### N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project 27kms

The original scheme extended from Westport to Bohola but was reduced in length following the decision by An Bord Pleanála to refuse planning for the N26 Ballina-Bohola Stage II. Arising from the confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and approval of the Environmental Impact Statement in 2014 the project extends from Westport to East of Castlebar and includes a new southern bypass of Castlebar.

The N59 Barleyhill Section has been incorporated into the proposed N5 for future construction purposes.

This year negotiations with landowners proceeded with a view to reaching agreement on compensation. Advance works contracts also commenced. They included Detailed Ground Investigation, Detailed Topographical Contract, Archaeological Excavation, ESB diversions and a Fencing & Hedgerow Clearance Contract. It is hoped that the Project will continue to benefit from funding in 2017.

#### N5/N26/N58 Turlough to Bohola & Mount Falcon to Swinford Road Project

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the N26 Ballina Bohola Phase II Scheme was annulled by An Bord Pleanála in February 2010.

Following on from a Strategic Traffic Study commissioned in 2011 to assess the optimum National Network Corridors linking the N5-N17-N26, funding was made available in 2015 to extend the N5 Westport Turlough Project to Bohola and, also to identify a possible connecting corridor and junction linking the new scheme to the N58 to Foxford and the N26 to Swinford.

In July 2015, Mayo County Council adopted the Preferred Route corridors for the proposed N5/N26/N58 Turlough to Bohola & Mount Falcon to Swinford Road Project.

The project was subsequently suspended with resources diverted to the progression of the N26 Realignment at Cloolgullane Bridge.

#### N26 Cloongullaune Road Project 2kms

This new 1.8km project on the N26 National Primary Road between Ballina and Swinford received an allocation this year. The CPO and NIS was published in October with the closing date for receipt of submissions being the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016. It is anticipated that an Oral Hearing will be held in early 2017 with a decision made by mid-2017. It is hoped that this Project will continue to benefit from funding in 2017

#### N17 Charlestown Bypass (Knock to Tobercurry)

Planning for this scheme which was at the Design/Preferred Route stage has been suspended.

#### N17 Claremorris to Tuam

This scheme is being promoted by the Galway National Road Design Office and a Preferred Route has been selected. This project is currently suspended.



#### National Secondary Roads

The 2016 **National Secondary Improvement Grant** of €13,174,730 was expended on improvements to the N59 (Westport to Mulranny Route), pavement and minor improvements on the N60, N84 and the N58 and the provision of safety measures at Carrowbawn on the Secondary Road Network.

Grants were allocated in respect of the following:

<b>National Secondary – Major Scheme:</b>		
N59	Westport to Mulranny	<b>€2,100,000</b>

<b>National Secondary – Pavement &amp; Minor Improvements:</b>		
N59	Improvements at Mulranny	00,000
N59	Kilbride Road Improvement	0,000
N59	Kilmeena LVNS	00,000
N59	Newport to Derrada Realignment	00,000
N60	Heathlawn	00,000
N60	Lagnamuck	00,000
N60	Manulla Cross	40,000
N59	Rossow Bends	,530,000
N59	Bellacorrick Br. Phase 2 [Est.]	95,000
N59	Garraunard [Est.]	,416,500
N59	Newport-Mulranny at Knockalegan [Est.]	,220,000
N59	Creggan Lough [Est.]	93,730
N58	Kilmore [Est.]	,281,500
N60	Kiltybo [Est.]	,168,000
N84	Cloondeash [Est.]	00,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€13,174,730</b>

<b>National Secondary – Safety Schemes:</b>		
N59	Carrowbawn	<b>€60,000</b>

N84 Ballinrobe Bypass / N60 Ballyhaunis Bypass / N26/N5 Bypass of Ballina

Preferred routes have been adopted for the N84-Ballinrobe Bypass, N60-Ballyhaunis Bypass and the N26/N5 Bypass of Ballina. These projects are currently suspended.

N59 Westport-Newport at Kilbride, Phase I 3 kms

Construction of this scheme is complete except for outstanding landscaping maintenance works. The scheme incorporates a cycle-way, which completes the Great Western Greenway from Westport to Mulranny.

N59 Westport – Mulranny 40 kms

A Bord Pleanala confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and approved the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for Westport–Mulranny Low Volume National Secondary Route in July 2012.

“Notices to Treat” have been served on all landowners and approximately 90% of the compensation claims were settled during 2016. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to continue with the payment of compensation for the outstanding land acquisition claims.

Also, funding was made available in 2015 to commence construction of the 2km section of the scheme at **Rossow Bends**, which is a continuation of the Kilbride Scheme south to Westport. It is anticipated that funding will be made available in 2017 to complete the construction of this section of the scheme.

Funding was also made available in 2015 to procure an engineering service provider to prepare contract documents for the construction of a further 3 kms at **Kilmeena**, which is an extension of **Rosow Bends**. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to conclude the preparation of contract documents.

Funding was also made available in 2016 to commence the detailed design of the section of N59 to the north of Newport town, known as **Newport to Derradda**. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to progress the detailed design of this section of road.



#### N60 Heathlawn 4 kms

During 2015, detailed site investigation works were completed and contract documents for the construction of the scheme are nearing completion. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to commence payment of compensation to the affected landowners and to have contract documents ready for the construction phase of this scheme.

#### N60 Lagnamuck 2 km

Following receipt of the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Mayo County Council submitted a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in August 2015 to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

The CPO & NIS was approved and the CPO became operative in June 2016. Notice to Treat was served in August 2016 and it is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to compensate landowners and to also prepare contract documents for the construction phase of this scheme.

#### N60 Manulla 4 kms

Funding was made available in 2016 for this Scheme. Following the public consultation process, the Emerging Preferred Route for the scheme was selected in 2015 and submitted to the members of Castlebar Municipal District and the Council for adoption.

It is anticipated that funding will be made available in 2017 to continue with the design and preparation of CPO and NIS documentation for the project.

**N59 Improvement at Mulranny 1.7km**

Following on from the launch of the Mulranny Village Design Statement in April 2012 construction was completed on the section from the Church to the Tourist Office. A Compulsory Purchase Order for the Village Core Area, published in December 2013, was confirmed by Mayo County Council in March 2014.

Following a tender competition held in 2014, a contractor was appointed in January 2015 for the construction of the Village Core Area.

Construction was completed in 2016 and it is hoped that funding will be made available in 2017 to close out the outstanding land acquisition claims.



The 2016 **National Secondary Maintenance Grant** of €842,512 was distributed as follows:

<b>National Secondary – Maintenance:</b>	
Ordinary Maintenance	€474,491
Winter Maintenance	€230,000
Route Lighting	€138,021
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€842,512</b>

**National Roads – Local Authority Support**

The Local Authority Engineering Support continued in 2016 with an allocation of €1,935,903.

These allocations are towards the running costs of the offices dealing with the improvement schemes and maintenance programmes on the National Road network in County Mayo and are broken down as follows:

<b>National Roads – Local Authority Support</b>	
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	€365,055
Project Office Support (Improvement)	€1,481,648



Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	€79,200
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	€10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€1,935,903</b>

### Regional and Local Road ~ Grants & Own Resources

In 2016, the funding available for the maintenance and improvement of the Local & Regional Road networks was €28,842,613. A once-off grant of €5,980,000 was received for Severe Weather Remedial Works. The balance of €22,862,613 is broken down as follows:

<b>Regional Road Grants</b>	
Regional Roads - Maintenance	€1,057,000
Regional Roads – Winter Maintenance	€475,065
Regional Roads - Surface Dressing	€1,033,238
Regional Roads – Other Works	€270,000
Regional Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€2,417,605
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€5,252,908</b>
<b>Local Roads Grants &amp; Own Resources</b>	
Local Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€5,691,080
Local Roads – Surface Dressing	€2,023,153
Local Improvement Schemes	€683,742
Councillors Special Allocation	€825,000
Councillors N.O.M. Allocations (31 x €35,000)	€1,350,000
Local Roads Maintenance	€2,889,895
Verge Trimming/Hedgecutting	€100,000
Local Road Improvements	€131,850
Regional & Local Roads – Training Grant	€95,000
Community Involvement Schemes	€657,460
Ineligible Expenditure [against grants]	€550,000
Contribution from Road Grants to Street Cleaning	€320,000
Speed Limits	€87,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>€15,404,180</b>



**Specific Improvement Grants** were allocated for the following schemes:

<b>Specific Improvement Grants</b>
------------------------------------

R310	Lower Chapel St. (Newline) Castlebar	€200,000
R312	Glenisland Bridge Replacement	€500,000
	Cong Road	€400,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>€1,100,000</b>



The **Low Cost Safety Improvement** grants of €521,000 were allocated to the following:

<b>Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants</b>		
R313	Derrynameel, Belmullet	€50,000
R319	Tonreege N.S.	€20,000
R335	Leckanvy	€120,000
LT55594	Road to School Claremorris	€26,000
LP1124	Church Road, Ballina	€120,000
LP1331	Lowpark, Charlestown (Old N5)	€30,000
L1406	Dugort, Achill	€15,000
L1801	Rosbeg	€120,000
L1203	Cornby, Rossport, Ballina	€20,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>€521,000</b>

**Bridge Rehabilitation Works** grants were allocated to bridges on the following Regional & Local Roads:

<b>Bridge Rehabilitation Works</b>		
R293	Classaghroe, Bridge, Ballyhaunis	€136,200
R312	Beltra Bridge Railings (Glenisland Br.)	€73,775
R331	Knockanroe Bridge, Claremorris	€34,050
L1107	Ballynetty Bridge, Crossmolina	€45,400
L57781	Pat Randells Bridge, Ballyvary	€68,100
L5157	Richmond Bridge, Crossmolina	€34,050
L1406	Doogort Bridge, Achill	€136,200
L14064	Doogort Bridge, Achill	€39,725
L1321	Creggagh Bridge, Foxford	€17,025
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>€584,525</b>

### Funding for Severe Weather Damage

The Council received funding of €5,980,000 in 2016 for severe weather damage incurred in 2015. The County again suffered a severe storm on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Funding was put in place to address the impact of the storms and was received in 2016.

### Community Involvement Schemes

The 2016 Grant notification allowed Local Authorities to set aside 7.5% of the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Grants for Community Involvement in road works. A sum of €657,460 was set aside for this purpose in 2016 and it was divided equally between the four Municipal Districts.

The following table outlines, in summary, the Local Community Rate/Contribution:

<b>Local Community Rate</b>	<b>Where Applicable</b>
20%	All works carried out by the Council
30%	Most works are undertaken by the Council
40%	Most works are undertaken by the Community
50%	All works are undertaken by the Local Community – the Council contributes by way of materials or plant

Works were carried out at the following locations

- *Church Road, Belmullet*
- *Blacksod*
- *Glenamoy*
- *Clonbur Road, Ballinrobe*
- *Scardaune/Garrymore,*
- *Coolisduff, Kilmaine,*
- *Doctors Road, Ballyhaunis and*
- *Grave Road, Swinford.*

### Cycle-to-Work Scheme

Mayo County Council continued the Cycle-to-Work Scheme during 2016. Since this scheme was introduced in April 2010, a total of 410 Staff have availed of this scheme. The total cost involved is €305,000 and this amount is fully recouped through salary deductions.

### Speed Limits

The Council adopted bye-laws to reduce the speed limits to 30 km/h. in a number of housing estates in the County. A sum of €87,000 was spent on this project. Some 200 estates in the County have a speed limit of 30km/h.

The Council commenced a review of all speed limits in the County with a view to having revised and appropriate limits put in place by early 2017.



## RURAL WATER SECTION

Mayo County Council administers the Rural Water Programme in Co. Mayo which is funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and is committed to working with communities with the aim of schemes being economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

There are 203 Group Water Schemes in operation in Co. Mayo serving more than 18,000 households and businesses.

### Rural Water Programme 2016-2018

2016 marked the first year in transitioning to a new multi-annual funding framework, the objective of which is to provide certainty for priority investment-needs in order to:

- support implementation of sustainable development in rural areas
- meet the requirements of Drinking Water regulations
- support objectives in River Basin Management Plans

Funding requirements for the 2016 Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 were submitted to the DHPCLG in January 2016 under the following measures:-

- (1) Environmental & Public Health Compliance which incorporates TTHM mitigation, improvements to GWS and amalgamation/rationalisation of GWS
- (2) Network Upgrades/Water Conservation & Management
- (3) Rural Development (establishment of new schemes)
- (4) Transition of schemes to public water and public waste water sector
- (5) Research & Innovation
- (6) Individual Water Supply (demand led)

An interim allocation under the Rural Water Programme 2016-2018 was announced in May 2016 with the full allocation notified by DHPCLG on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

The €14.8 million national budget allocated to the programme comprises of approximately €12 million for group water schemes with the remaining €2 million targeted for group sewerage schemes. Of this amount, Mayo was allocated €5.68 million as follows:-

Measure	Amount
Measures 1& 2 (excl TTHM's &Amalgamation/Rationalisation)	€840,400
Measure 1(a) TTHM's	€3,525,500
Measure 1(b)	€80,000
Measure 3	€522,900
Measure 4	€610,000
Measure 5	€100,000
Total Allocation under 2016 Application	€5,678,800

## Key Developments in 2016

### ▪ Design, Build & Operate

A large part of the allocation under Measure 1 relates to the new DBO contract signed between Mayo County Council and Glan Agua and between 13 No. GWS and Glan Agua on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The estimated completion date of the design/build contract is June 2017.

### ▪ Network Upgrades

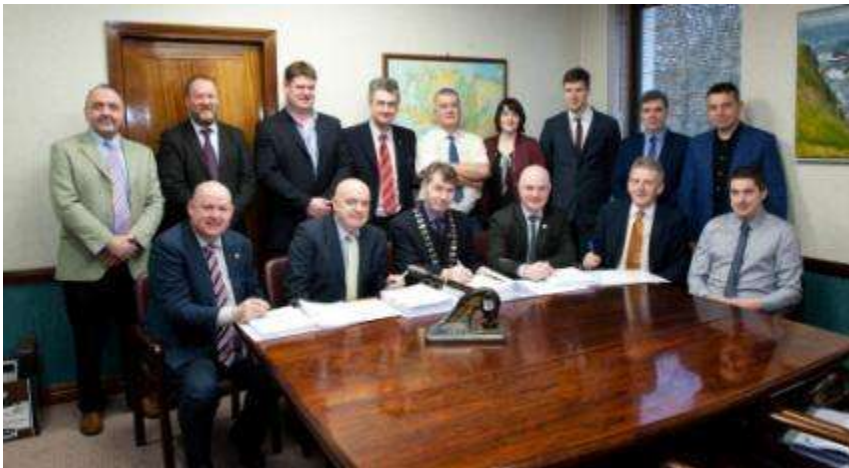
Within the other measures above, upgrade works have been completed in Caher GWS and Clogher GWS with minor upgrade works completed in Nephin Valley GWS allowing a Boil Water Notice to be lifted off 610 households in this community in October 2016.

Works also commenced in 2016 on the installation of additional Scour and Sluice Valves on the Callow Lake GWS, Parke GWS and PBKS group water scheme.



***DBO1A Contract Signing day***

The contract for upgrade works for Cushin GWS and Ayle GWS was signed between Mayo County Council and Shareridge Ltd on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. This is the final scheme in Co. Mayo which is part of the 2002 ECJ ruling against Ireland for non-compliance with the EU Drinking Water Directive. Completion of these works will lift a Boil Water Notice off 149 households and facilitate a connection to the public water supply.



***Signing of Contract for Cushin and Ayle G.W.S. Upgrades***

- **New Group Water Schemes**

Construction works commenced in late 2016 on two new group water schemes for the communities of Aghalonteen and Massbrook. The new scheme at Aghalonteen will address the needs of ten houses with the construction of 2.2km of watermains and the number of houses to be addressed by Massbrook South/Terry GWS will be forty six with 8.6km of watermains. Both schemes are joining onto the existing Nephin Valley GWS and are being funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPCLG) under the New Group Water Scheme Measure.

- **National Rural Water Review Group**

In late 2016 MCC Rural Water Services became involved in a “National Rural Water Review Group” which is charged with the identification of a new national Rural Water model with the objective of identifying possible shared services within the Rural Water Sector in order to achieve efficiencies and service delivery improvement to the Rural Water Sector nationally. This work is ongoing and a business plan is expected to be published in 2017.

#### Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The County Rural Water Monitoring Committee is comprised of elected members and representatives across the agricultural, water and community pillars and was established under Section 75 of the Water Services Act 2007. This committee holds meetings on a quarterly basis and oversees the operation of the Rural Water Programme locally.

#### Subsidy towards Operational Costs of GWS

Subsidies are payable on an annual basis towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes.

There was €2.65 million subsidy payments made to GWS in 2016. For a GWS to be able to provide and maintain an economic service for its membership there must be a strong focus on identifying and reducing water leakage and wastage. In early 2016 the Rural Water office assigned a Water Conservation Engineer to advise schemes on how to reduce leakage across their network and to assist them with minor works which will help the Rural Water Section to prioritise future capital projects in a more focused way. A number of GWS's are now working with MCC and significant reductions in water consumption were achieved in 2016 in the following schemes: Doohoma/Derrycorrib GWS, Tooreen/Aghamore GWS and Rathduff GWS.

#### Water Quality

Mayo County Council is the Supervisory Authority for Group Water Schemes under the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 and 2014. The Council are required to monitor group water supplies through the monitoring programme agreed annually. The monitoring frequencies are based on the volume of water distributed or produced daily within the supply zone of the scheme. The HSE carry out the sampling on behalf of Mayo County Council with approximately 600 samples undertaken annually.

Investigative works on adequate treatment are underway on all privately sourced GWS to ensure that their water complies with the drinking water regulations.

It is estimated that a number of GWS will require assistance through amalgamation and/or upgrade or connection to public mains.

During 2016, Mayo County Council participated in a National “Total Trihalomethane” (TTHM) Working Group for the Rural Water Sector and this work will continue into 2017. Quarterly reports issued by the Department of the Environment are being produced to keep all stakeholders informed on the progress in resolving the issue of TTHMs in drinking water. The approach of the agreed work plan is to put in place measures that will ensure that the group water schemes will, on a long term and on-going basis, satisfy the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive for all parameters not just TTHMs.



## SWINFORD CULTURAL CENTRE

Swinford Cultural Centre and Meeting Room is a multi-purpose venue located on Station Road, Swinford. This facility is based where the Railway Station once operated. The Cultural Centre was once a goods store for CIE.

The Meeting Room is upstairs in the new part of the building and is in Boardroom style but the tables and chairs can be laid out in any manner that the client needs. The Library is also located in the new section of the facility.

### Facilities

- Large Stage, which can be set up in any configuration the client requires.
- Projectors in both Cultural Centre & Meeting Room.
- Large drop down screen in Cultural centre.
- Ability to connect to a laptop (i.e. Powerpoint).
- DVD player connected to projector & screen.
- Jack Point compatible with iPod/mp3 Player.
- Podium with microphone.
- Roaming microphone.
- Tea making - kitchenette area with sink, fridge, microwave and Burco boiler.
- Wifi access throughout building.
- Water cooler and tea/coffee making station in Meeting Room.

### Events

Below is a flavour of events which have been held in The Cultural Centre and Meeting Room in 2016.

- The Abbey Theatre- Travelling play and workshop. In February of 2016 the Abbey Theatre brought a short excerpt from "The Plough & The Stars" Called "Me Mollser" Included was a workshop about 1916 for school children from our area.
- Training events provided to Mayo County Council staff.
- Turas na mBan Conference- A Conference held over two days in February, which sought to explore and promote the diverse aspects of women in society. With Contributions from Ms Justice Laffoy, Dr Rhona Mahony and Senator Marie-Louise O'Donnell to name but a few.
- Central Statistics Office Training Course- Census Enumerator Training (March).
- General Election Polling Centre.
- Public Information Evenings
- Music Workshop- A Traditional Music Workshop for Secondary School Students with Liam O'Maonlaigh from the Band "The Hot House Flowers", Martin and Ciaran Tourish from the Band "Altan".
- Tusla Training Course
- HSE Training Courses.

- Mayo/Roscommon Hospice- In November we hosted the “Expose Swinford Style” Fashion Event, which involved Fashion Shows, Make-up Artists workshops and Rail Sales.
- 1916 Commemoration Concerts- “Music & Memory” Two evenings of Music and History, to commemorate the 1916 Rising with Swinford Comhaltas in April and August.
- Culture Night 2016- An evening of music and dance, Foxford Brass & Reed Band, Comhaltas and ECM Dance participated.
- Jack Feeney Plaque Unveiling- In September 2016 to celebrate the life of John ‘Jack’ Feeney, The Mayo Nightingale, there was an evening of Story and Song, with contributions from Broadcaster Harry Bradshaw and Tenor Frank Naughton. The plaque was commissioned by Pat O’Connor and unveiled by Minister of State for Regional Economic Development Michael Ring TD.
- Irish National and Connaught Team Karate Camps-Shotokan Karate-Mayo brought two Training weekends to The Cultural Centre in April and August.
- Inclusion Ireland Training Event.
- Boxing Tournament- Swinford Boxing Club Tournament.
- GAA Coaching Courses- Level 1 Coaching Course
- Family Reunion
- Fitness Classes- A number of Fitness instructors use The Cultural Centre for Classes.
- Ballet Dancing Classes.
- Hip-Hop Dancing Classes.
- Drama Classes.
- Science Week Event- “It Doesn’t Add Up” Science Show.
- Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Event 2016- Promoting Business and Businesses in Swinford.
- Mayo North East Training Courses- Training Courses Throughout the year, such as- Occupational 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, Healthcare Assistants Course, English for Foreign Nationals and Many More.

The Cultural Centre and Meeting Room has become a valued facility in the town of Swinford, and with the establishment of Social Media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) in late 2015 it has seen a large rise in usage with varied types of uses. We hope to launch a Website in 2017, which will contain information about events and classes that are held in the facility.

Pictures attached give a small flavour of some of the events that have been held in the Cultural Centre over the past year.



***Pictured at the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town event in The Cultural Centre are Michael Hall Mayo Footballer, Tyrone Football Manager Mickey Harte & Mayo Footballer Keith Higgins. November 2016.***



***Jack Feeney Plaque Unveiling  
Minister of State for Regional Economic Development Michael Ring TD,  
Arts Officer Anne McCarthy, Broadcaster Harry Bradshaw, Pat O'Connor (who commissioned the  
plaque), Director of Services Joanne Grehan with  
Relatives of Jack Feeney and Elected representatives at the event in September 2016***



*(Left) Indoor Country Market, which is held on the first Saturday of every month. Liam O'Maonlaigh (Hot House Flowers) during a music workshop in The Cultural Centre. December 2016.*



*The Foxford Brass and Reed Band who performed at Culture Night, September 2016*

## **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

### TOURISM STRATEGY

The County Mayo Tourism Strategy titled “Destination Mayo” A Strategy for the Future Development of Tourism in County Mayo 2016 – 2021 was officially launched on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the Westport Country Lodge in Aughagower.



*Member of the SPC with Minister Michael Ring TD pictured at the launch of the Tourism Strategy*

The vision for Mayo’s tourism industry in 2021 is to be a high quality, inclusive and authentic destination. Intrinsic to this vision is that Mayo’s tourism product appeals to the next generation of tourists, targeting both the mainstream mass market and niche specialist market segments with an array of high quality attractions and activity options coupled with a solid selection of accommodation, hospitality services and ancillary service products. Key to the successful delivery of this vision is the building of collaborations between agencies, industry operators and local communities. A high level Steering Group has been established to progress and drive the actions as set out within the strategy. The Steering Group is headed up by Mr. James Horan former Mayo Football Manager. In addition a total of eight networks have also been established to drive specific actions.

The networks are spread over eight areas to include, Adventure, Culture & Heritage, Spiritual Tourism, Marketing of Festivals & Events, National Wilderness, Fishing, Sports Tourism and Food. Progress on its implementation has commenced and will continue into 2017.

## TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

### Wild Atlantic Way

There are a total of 33 Discovery Points located along the Wild Atlantic Way in County Mayo. During 2016, sign markers and photo points have been installed at each of these sites.



*Discovery Points / Photo Points along the Wild Atlantic Way*

### Great Western Greenway Network

Work has commenced on the redevelopment of a new Greenway Activity Services Centre on the site of the old Mulranny Station House. A funding package of €300,000 was made available from Fáilte Ireland to enable its development.



***Greenway Activities Services Centre under construction***

A Green Patrol has also been established to deal with the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the Great Western Greenway Network. The Green Patrol comprises of representatives from the local Rural Social Scheme, TUS Scheme and area staff of Mayo County Council. The purpose of the Greenway Patrol is to monitor and patrol the Greenway and to ensure that the Greenway is looked after to the best possible standard.

As part of the ongoing maintenance programme to the Greenway, a bioengineered bank stabilisation works was carried out along a section of the Greenway near the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life using 225m of willow spiling revetment.



***Just after Construction***



***Image of works 3 months after completion***

### Trails Development

A number of new National Loop Walks have been developed in partnership with local communities at the following locations:

- Bord na Mona lands at Bellacorrick – 12km Loop Walk
- Moygownagh – a total of three walks ranging in distance from 6km to 15km through Blanmore Forest.
- Cong - Cairn Boreen Loop Walk, total distance 6km
- Erris Head Loop Walk, works comprising of a trailhead extension and path upgrade.



*A section of the New Loop Walk at Moygownagh*





*Trailhead extension and path upgrade to the Erris Head Loop Walk*

#### Mayo International Dark Sky Park

On the 5th of May 2016, the Ballycroy/Wild Nephin National Park in North-West Mayo became Ireland's first Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park as recognised by the International Dark Sky Association.

During early 2016 a steering group was established to develop Ballycroy National Park as an official Dark Sky Place. Ballycroy National Park is Ireland's sixth national park and is located on the Western seaboard in North West Mayo. The group which is titled "The Friends of Mayo Dark Skies Steering Group" comprises of representatives from across various sectors to include several communities actively working together along Mayo County Council and other key development agencies to include National Parks & Wildlife Services, Coillte, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and South West Mayo Development Company, all with the preservation of our dark-skies being a common objective. Mayo County Council committed to dark-sky friendly lighting for future lighting development schemes in the area.

By building awareness of light pollution (a growing problem in economically successful countries), the West of Ireland can help to reduce wasted energy in excessive lighting, improve functional lighting where needed, reduce impact on wildlife and save costs.



***Mayo International Dark Skies***



### Achill Visitor Experience

Mayo County Council together with Fáilte Ireland and with local Community Contributions supported the development of a new aquarium on Achill Island. This facility was officially opened to the public in June 2016.



***Achill Visitor Experience***



### Sacred Landscapes

During 2016 Mayo County Council coordinated activities relating to the research, design and installation of Interpretation signage across eighteen sites in North Mayo. A dedicated website was also developed to highlight the project and each of the sites. Further information is available from [www.sacredlandscapes.ie](http://www.sacredlandscapes.ie)

### Tourism Promotional Activities

During 2016 the Enterprise and Investment Unit of Mayo County Council along with other stakeholders including the destination areas within the county were actively involved in participating in various promotional and marketing initiatives, some of which include:

#### Attendances at Trade Shows

- Holiday World Show Belfast & Dublin
- Best of Britain & Ireland Trade Show

- Mayo Destination Stand at the Milwaukee Irish Fest
- National Ploughing Championship

A dedicated Mayo Tourism Stand was present at the Holiday World Show in Dublin. As a result of being present there, a travel writer came to Mayo to do a tourism promotional piece. This piece resulted in a two page feature in the Sunday World.



**Mayo Tourism Feature in the Sunday World**

### Mayo Destination Stand at the Milwaukee Irish Fest

During 2016 Mayo participated at the annual Milwaukee Irish Fest by way of having a destination promotional stand to promote Mayo Diaspora, Mayo Tourism, recreational activities and Mayo.ie. The Milwaukee Irish Fest is the biggest annual Irish Festival in the United States of America

The tourism team highlighted the significance of the County; visitors to the stand were advised of the various tourist offerings for example the Greenway, Wild Atlantic Way, Knock, Croagh Patrick and all of the various recreational activities along our extensive coastline. There was also huge interest in genealogy and visitors were informed of the various genealogy centres available within the County.



***Minister Séan Kyne TD visiting the Mayo.ie Stand at the Milwaukee Irish Fest***

### Key Outcomes

Meetings had taken place with a number of incoming tour operators including:

- Dreaming of Ireland – Jodi Halsted, specialise in Ireland family vacations – Ireland with kids.
- Gadabout Travel – Maire O'Donnell
- Celtic Journey's – Maria Flynn Conway
- Inroads Ireland – Tours off the Beaten Track – Phil Ryan / Carolyn Janette Owners
- Best Irish Tour – Kari Miller
- Terry Flynn Tours
- Middleton Travel - Torey Corcoran
- Destinations Ireland & Beyond – Tracy Lane O'Brien (Golf & Leisure Destinations)
- InterTrav Corporation – Mark. A House
- Sceptre Tours – Cheryl A Gatto
- BrackTours – Nuala Devlin & Sinead Greaney
- Crafted Ireland Custom Tours – Rebecca Dixon

County promotional packs were compiled and presented to each of the tour operators.

### Visitor Sales & Marketing Coordination

A lot of work has been carried out with all of the various tourism development groups within the county in terms of compiling a listing of things to see and do within each of their respective areas. Examples of this include top 10 things to do along the Wild Atlantic Way, Adventure Activity Packages, Spiritual /Pilgrimage Packages and Island Packages etc.

This in return is being used to present to new and incoming tour operators. Ultimately the objective is that new tour operators will schedule County Mayo into their itineraries.

### RTE Nationwide

Filming for two Nationwide programmes took place during the autumn of 2016.

In June 2016 RTE Nationwide aired a dedicated programme for North Mayo which highlighted the following locations, Ceide fields, Ceathrú Thaidhg, Ballinglen Arts Centre, Kilcommon and Downpatrick Head. This programme attracted in excess of 400,000 viewers.

### RTE Tracks & Trails

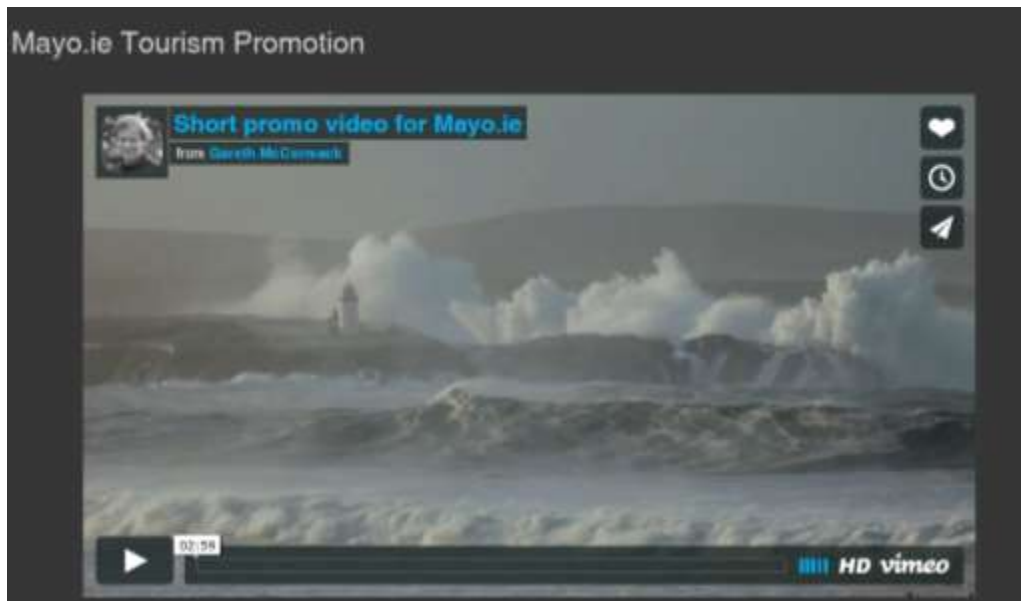
Mayo County Council and Sherwin Media Group collaborated in the development of a twenty six minute programme to highlight the following locations: the Greenway Network from Castlebar to the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Larganmore Loop Walk located near Foxford and Henningans Heritage Centre. The programme was presented by Sinead Kennedy of the Winning Streak Programme and it was aired on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The programme attracted in excess of 300,000 viewers.



*Presenter Sinead Kennedy on the Larganmore Loop Walk*

### Promotional Films

A number promotional videos have also been produced to highlight key attractions and activities in the County. One of the videos titled the top 10 things to do in Mayo was produced by Alan Clarke has been a great success with almost 100,000 views on the Mayo.ie facebook page. Other videos include Wild Mayo by Gareth Mc Cormack and Ceathrú Thaidhg in North Mayo by Alan Clarke



*Image of Wild Mayo Video. Click [here](#) to view video*



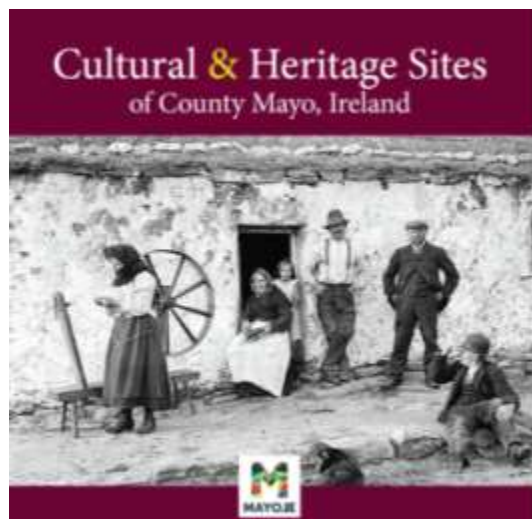
*Top 10 things to do County Mayo. Click [here](#) to view video*



*Ceathrú Thaidhg in North Mayo. Click [here](#) to view link*

### Print Media

Cultural & Heritage Sites of County Mayo – A new publication was put together to highlight all of the Cultural and Heritage attraction in County Mayo. This publication is hugely popular at Trade Shows and with Incoming Tour Operators.



*Image of the Cultural & Heritage Brochure*

The ULTIMATE GUIDE MAYO escape, explore, enjoy - is a new dedicated Mayo Publication which was initiated in the early part of 2016. A total of 60,000 copies were printed and circulated through all of the various Tourist Information Offices, Car Hire Companies, Visitor Attractions and Hotels located throughout the county.



*Front cover of the Mayo Guide. Click [here](#) to view the Guide*



## **WATER SAFETY**

County Mayo has an enormous coastline which was rewarded with 11 Blue Flags & 6 Green Coast Awards for its beaches in 2016. Add to this the many swimming pools, lakes and pristine inland waterways and you can see why water safety must always be a priority for Mayo County Council.

A total of 24 lifeguards were employed by Mayo County Council during the period June – September 2016 and they were located at the most popular areas for outdoor water based activities in the county. They were as follows:

Bertra, Westport

Old Head, Louisburgh

Carramore, Louisburgh

Carrowniskey, Louisburgh

Belmullet Shore Rd. Pool

Keem, Achill

Keel, Achill

Silver Strand, Dugort, Achill

Ross, Killala

Mulranny



Mayo County Council's beach lifeguards performing spinal cord injury management on a casualty.



***Cardiac First Responder training of lifeguards prior to employment - Summer 2016***

The provision of the lifeguard service ensures the safety of all those who visit Mayo's waterways where there has been an impeccable safety record since the inception of the service back in the mid 70's.

Mayo County Council is very proud of its lifeguard service and provides the highest standard of non-mechanical rescue equipment at all lifeguard stations throughout the county. Defibrillators are also on site and all lifeguards employed are qualified as Cardiac First Responders (CFR), at induction training prior to employment.



***Mayo Beach Lifeguards training at Carrowniskey, Louisburgh...June 2016***

Besides the employment of lifeguards and the provision of equipment the Water Safety function also involves the promotion of awareness and this is done primarily by organising water safety courses in the public pools (Castlebar, Ballina, Claremorris and Westport) during the winter months and at numerous outdoor locations during the summer. This extensive programme of courses included the following locations in 2015:

Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Charlestown & Kilmovee Pools  
Clare Island, Inishturk, Dooega & Lacken Pier

Water Safety & Rescue Certificates are issued annually to both children and adults who enroll on these water safety courses., where they obtain a skill for life.

These courses are the breeding ground for the next generation of lifeguards, swim teachers and water safety instructors, who will be employed by Local Authorities and the private leisure industry into the future.

The replacement of ringbuoys, which are either vandalised, damaged or stolen, is a continuous problem for local authorities. Irish Water Safety developed a website [ringbuoys.ie](http://ringbuoys.ie) where any member of the public can report missing or damaged ringbuoys to any Local Authority. An e-mail is sent to the Water Safety Officer in the relevant Local Authority, who will then ensure that the lifesaving equipment is replaced without delay.

## PROCUREMENT AND EFFICIENCY REVIEW

Established in 2009 the Procurement Office has been rebranded, Procurement and Efficiency Review Team in 2016. The main aim of the Procurement and Efficiency Review Team is to achieve increased value for money and greater efficiencies, through the use of common Procurement Frameworks, increased professionalism, and more innovative use of technology. Procurement in Mayo County Council is decentralised. This office manages, and makes available through the [Intranet](#) a range of information on policy, contracts, circulars and other procurement related information.

The following two electronic procurement portals are used to conduct the majority of procurement in Mayo County Council:

Etenders – 53 competitions published in 2016. The majority of these were published or assisted by this office.

Collaborated as lead authority

- Road Signs (Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Donegal, Cavan) – Largest Tender – Worth approx €700K per annum
- Public Lighting Survey (Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo)
- Weed Killer Products (Mayo, Galway)
- Frameworks
- Windows & Doors (Architects Dept)
- Central Heating (Architects Dept)
- Building Contractors (Architects Dept)

### Supplygov

For several years now we are participating in national frameworks made available to the Local Authority sector by Supplygov (Kerry Co Co). These frameworks include Plant Hire, Road Making Materials, Concrete, Bitumen etc. The Procurement and Efficiency Review Team in MCC conducts a number of centralised competitions on behalf of all Mayo County Council buyers. We also monitor mini competitions and advise staff on required procedures, spend thresholds. We encourage consistency, supplier feedback, aggregation of requirements and communication.

To date in 2016:

- Over 40 RFQ's . This office monitors competitions and provides assistance to staff as well as offering support to suppliers and SMEs wishing to tender for goods, services and works.
- Over 480 RFT's This office monitors competitions and provides assistance to staff as well as offering support to suppliers and SMEs wishing to tender for goods, services and works.
- OGP

Since the commencement of the Office of Government Procurement, we have been availing of several public sector frameworks. The OGP also provide access to other resources such as templates, circulars, contract information etc.

In the 2016 OGP Autumn statement they acknowledge the gathering and analysis of public service spend data is one of the key initiatives underpinning the reform of public procurement. A full list of their service is available on [www.procurement.ie](http://www.procurement.ie)

### Energy portfolio

The Procurement team manage our main energy accounts. (Electricity, Gas, Oil, Fuel Cards). We regularly provide reports on spend to management and central government through the OPG (Office of Government Procurement) and the LGOPC (Local Government Operational Procurement Centre). This office monitors bills, meter reads etc. We also engage with both suppliers and staff to manage switching suppliers when required. In 2016 we undertook the responsibility for managing the Public Lighting maintenance, and upgrading of older less efficient lights to energy saving LED's. We also tendered and managed a public lighting survey to clean up our public lighting database. The results of these exercises have led to significant savings for the local authority.

### Collaborative Tendering

We have conducted several collaborative tenders with other LA's in the Connaught/Ulster region. The advantage of collaboration is overall reduced admin costs and the aggregated demand can leverage greater savings from the market. Road Signs, Public Lighting maintenance and Public Lighting Survey would be examples of this.

### Reporting

As part of our function we provide reports both internally and externally. Internal reports are created to monitor spend on several categories, as well as identify maverick purchasing. We frequently use this data to recommend change such as hire v purchase.

- **Contact**

The Procurement and Efficiency Review Team are also a point of contact for staff to address supplier issues. We are also available to suppliers. As well as providing feedback to suppliers, we are available to meet, face to face, to discuss innovations or new products they are trying to offer to the council.

- **Other projects**

Agresso Milestone 4. It is anticipated that significant improvements will arise once central invoicing becomes fully established in 2017, as a result of the introduction of Milestone 4. This should ensure that the vast majority of orders will then be raised before an invoice is received. In Q1 this office completed the initial product mapping. This office has already completed the product mapping required for the upgrade. We anticipate an increase in our workload when implemented as we will have some level of approval to administer.

### Fuel Cards.

A project to re-align Fuel Cards and integrate their use with the GPS monitoring system is underway. The project will ultimately enable Mayo County Council to improve the management and analysis of fuel usage and fleet maintenance through enhanced and integrated reporting.

- **Communication**

As part of our role we communicate between management, staff, and suppliers. We provide a suite of information, contract information, and key procurement documents online, via the council Intranet. Since tracking visits to our page, we have approximately 2,500 clicks per annum, confirming that it is a well used resource.

## **GENERAL PURPOSES/CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

### Freedom of Information

The total number of requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for 2016 was 118.

### Higher Education Grants

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) are processing all new Student Grant applications, including applications from existing students changing their courses or progressing to new courses (be they add-on courses or otherwise), from the 2012/13 academic year onwards. SUSI are also paying Student Grants to all new applicants who are awarded grants from the 2012/13 academic year onwards, subject to confirmation and verification of attendance.

Mayo County Council continue to process Student Grant renewal applications for students to whom they have already awarded grants until such time as those students have completed their current course and will continue to pay these renewal students in the normal manner subject to confirmation and verification of attendance.

The Student Grant Scheme 2016 was released to Mayo County Council by the Department of Education and Skills in April, 2016.

The total number of Student Grant renewal applications received in the 2016/17 academic year was 9. The current remaining number of renewal students receiving grants from Mayo County Council is 5.

It is likely that 2016 will be the last year that Mayo County Council will process any further college grants.

### Learning and Development

Mayo County Council is committed to Human Resource Learning and Development to achieve our objectives and goals. We recognise that our success in providing a high quality of service to the community has been built on a loyal, dedicated and committed workforce. We deem it important to foster a team spirit in all our employees by implementing a progressive Learning and Development Plan for our employees throughout all areas of activities.

### Ethics Register

Annual Declarations for 2016 from relevant employees and elected members were received within the statutory period with the exception of one employee who is on sick leave, however a completed declaration was subsequently received.

### Protective Disclosure Act, 2014

For the first time in Ireland comprehensive whistle blowing legislation is in place across all sectors. Whilst there is existing legislation protecting whistleblowers in certain sectors, this new legislation will cover all sectors and will provide more protection than any of the previous legislation. The Act protects workers in all sectors. In accordance with international best practice, the safeguards in the Act are extended to a wide range of "workers". The concept of "worker" includes employees (public and private sector), contractors, trainees, agency staff, former employees and interns and members of An Garda Síochána.





## MAYO CIVIL DEFENCE

Mayo Civil Defence is a voluntary organisation comprising of approximately 85 volunteers providing support to emergency services and local communities with highly trained members whose activities are valued by local communities and front line emergency services

The strength of the organisation lies in its voluntary ethos and commitment to purpose with its members willingly and freely giving of their time and expertise and training on a weekly basis.

Mayo Civil Defence expenditure budget for 2016 was €120,000.00. This is part Grant Aided by the Civil Defence Board / Department of Defence.

### Mayo Civil Defence Resources

Volunteers	85
Vehicles	15
Boats	2
Command and Control Unit	1
Flood Response Boat	1
Emergency Response Trailer	2



All members receive training in the following areas:

Pre hospital emergency care: CFR,OFA, EFR, and EMT.

Auxiliary Fire Service

Communications

Rescue

Water Rescue –Boat

Swiftwater /Flood Response

Welfare – Humanitarian services

Search Management

Radiation Emergencies

### Highlights of 2016

#### Community Support.

Mayo Civil Defence attended over 65 community support duties throughout the year. These included – Flooding Incidents, Adventures races, Community festivals, Charity and Sports events.



*Neale/ Cong 9/1/16*



**Road Safety Roadshow 10/2/16**

On Saturday 12 March 2016 we provided Medical cover at Grand Fondo event in the Westport area which took place across 120km & 70km routes into South West Mayo and North Galway with approx 700 competitors. Civil Defence provided 4 Emergency Ambulances, a Rapid Response Unit and support vehicles. It is with great pleasure that we can report that the female patient which suffered a cardiac arrest and subsequently ROSC at this cycle event has made a complete recovery thanks to the fast and effective action of Civil Defence Response crews.



**Grand Fondo 12/3/16**

Mayo Civil Defence participated in 6 St. Patrick Day parades and demonstrated a First Aid Demonstration at 4 of these and received awards for same.



**Demonstration**

**Mayo Civil Defence members participated in a Multi Agency Search & Rescue exercise in Killala Bay. The Exercise involved Irish Coast Guard Members from the West/ North West Region, Rescue 118 (Sligo Coast Guard Helicopter), An Garda Síochána from the Ballina / Killala Area, The Garda Water Unit & Mayo Civil Defence.**



**Multi Agency Exercise 16-4-16 Killala Co Mayo**

**Mayo Civil Defence supported Sligo Civil Defence in Enniscrone for the arrival of the 767 Boeing - Jet to be positioned at the Quirky Glamping Site in Enniscrone.**



6/5/16

Mayo Civil Defence attend Westport 1916 Commemoration and also 1916 celebrations in Castlebar



Mayo Civil Defence attended Ireland West Airport Knock for a Charity 5 K Run / Walk on the runway - part of the 30th Anniversary Celebrations. We provided Ambulance and Safety support working alongside IWAK Staff and Order of Malta Knock



**28/5/16**

Mayo Civil Defence held a very successful County Exercise on 9th July 2016 in the Military Barracks Castlebar

3 teams of six volunteers were assessed in their casualty, search and rescue and radio skills throughout the 3 sites and the assessors were very complimentary of the standard of their skills on the day. Roisin McGuire Principal of the Civil Defence College, Roscrea attended and congratulated all who participated and complimented all who had prepared and assessed the exercise.



***County Exercise - Teams, Assessors and Casualties***



**County Exercise 9/7/16**



**Feile na Tuaithe 21st and 22 May 2016**



**Lacken Strand Races 15/5/16**



**Explore Mayo Cycle 11/6/16**



**Achill 1/2 Marathon 2/7/16**



**Gaelforce 20/8/16**



**Shore Farm Hunters Trials 25/9/16**

National Radiation Monitoring Exercise.

On Sunday 13th November Mayo Civil Defence were tasked by Civil Defence HQ to obtain samples at 2 assigned locations across County Mayo.

County Control was established and a team from the Radiation Monitoring Service, dispatched to carry out the assigned task. Samples have been transported to the regional collection centre - Roscommon Civil Defence HQ, for forwarding to the EPA for analysis over the coming day.

Mayo Civil Defence Information

If you would like to join Mayo Civil Defence or get more information visit [www.civildefence.ie](http://www.civildefence.ie)

Facebook – Mayo Civil Defence

Contact :

Rose Doherty (Civil Defence Officer) 094 9024400 / 087 9443634



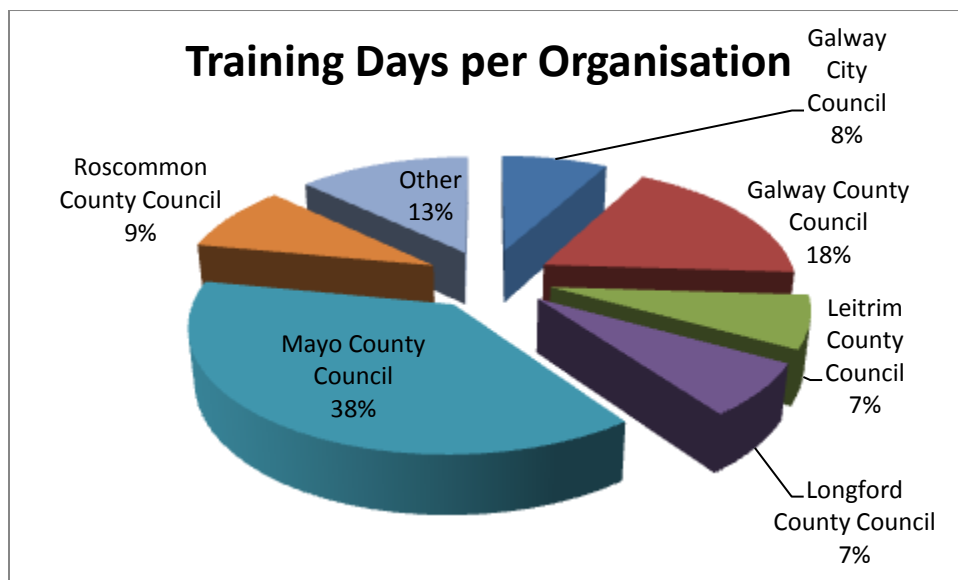
## CASTLEBAR REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Castlebar Regional Training Centre (CRTC) continues to provide workplace training on a shared services basis for 6 Local authorities and other public and private sector organisations in the West and Midlands. Mayo County Council is the lead authority. Training provided is to the highest standard. The facility has accreditation from SOLAS, QQI, City & Guilds and ECITB. We have grown the centre consistently over the past few years and we now deliver over 5500 training days per annum. We are self financing and our turnover in 2016 increased to €1.13 m

The Training Centre Network was established to facilitate the provision of appropriate training to Local Authorities in three key operational areas, namely Roads, Water and Environment. However, we also provide a wide range of other training courses including:

- Occupational Health & Safety Courses.
- High Level Professional (CPD) courses
- Leadership Courses & Seminars.
- ICT courses

During the period 1 January 2016 – 31 Dec 2016 Castlebar Regional Training Centre has delivered training courses and seminars to 4025 attendees and provided 5520 training days. This is an increase of 11% on 2015.



**Figure 1: Training days attended per Employer**

Overall, there appears to be an increased demand for training. Training for Mayo County Council has increased substantially. In particular, demand has increased for higher value, accredited OSH (Occupational Health & Safety) courses. It is difficult to determine exactly why demand is increasing. A certain amount results from pent up demand since the recession. Local Authorities have started to hire again and there are promotion opportunities available. Also Irish Water insist on a very high level of OSH compliance. There is a move towards quality assurance and many LAs now have OHSAS 18000 accreditation. Difficulties with procurement and QA are solved by using the training centres. The construction industry is recovering and we are getting demand from Local Authority Housing technical staff. We have started providing City & Guilds and ECITB accredited courses here that were previously only available in the UK and this has resulted in an increase in demand from the private sector.

In 2017 we intend to grow the numbers of quality accredited training courses provided for Local authorities. We intend to extend the centre and invest in a state of the art outdoor training facility for the provision of mainly roads courses but also a wide range of plant and machinery courses. This facility will be available for both the public and private sectors in the West and will ensure that courses currently only available in Dublin will be available locally. We also intend to grow the centre's customer base with more courses being attended by private sector employees and employees from the wider public sector.

The centre has been awarded as outright winner for training and development by the Public Sector Magazine, Excellence in Business Awards for two years running 2015 and 2016.

## OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2016

The main energy users at Mayo County Council are Transport & Heating fuels and Public Lighting electrical consumption. In general consumption trends increased in 2016 due to data collection process improvements and changes in activities taking place in the organisation

In 2016 Mayo County Council installed energy efficiency measures including wall insulation, Boiler replacement and Lighting upgrades its main Administration Building in Castlebar. Library HQ in Castlebar included wall Insulation, Lighting upgrade and solar PV (11kW) installation.

In 2016, Mayo County Council consumed in the region of 34 MWh of energy, consisting of:

- 10 MWh of electricity; (Assets transfer to Irish water in 2014 reduced energy by 56%)
- 23.6 MWh of fossil fuels, including Natural Gas, Oil (Heating & Transport) Procurement data providing more accurate recoding of fuel consumption
- 0.4 MWh of renewable fuels (Includes Solar Thermal & Wood pellets)

### Actions Undertaken in 2016

Mayo County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- Under the 2016 Better Energy Communities programme Mayo County Council Installed energy efficiency measures including wall insulation, Boiler replacement and Lighting upgrades its main Administration Building in Castlebar and wall Insulation, Lighting upgrade and solar PV (11kW) installation in Library HQ in Castlebar.
- Public Lighting Contract awarded to Electric Skyline Ltd for the Maintenance and monitoring.
- Monitoring of electricity contribution provided by Solar PV (11 kW) system installation in Library HQ building, Castlebar in December 2016.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures will provide Mayo County Council with approx. 6% energy savings annually.

### Actions Planned for 2017

In 2017 and beyond Mayo County Council intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Review Energy monitoring system (Optimising Power at Work) installed by the OPW and record changes and upgrades to Heating & Electrical energy use in the building.
- Review application under the Better Energy Communities programme for funding support towards proposed upgrades to Mayo County Council buildings Identify by Energy Team for future BEC programmes.

- Investment in contracts for public energy efficient Public such as Building and Public Lighting systems based on savings on energy consumption and maintenance costs from licensed suppliers.
- Evaluation of energy savings for Solar PV system installation in Library HQ and a review other buildings suitable for solar PV applications.
- Participate in Government consultations for the Renewable Energy programmes that provide opportunities for the Energy Efficient Technologies in Council Buildings.
- Provide Energy efficient housing stock (County wide basis) under Department support funding for council housing upgrades programme Plan 2017-2021.

## **APPENDICES**

*(See separate document)*

### **APPENDIX 1**

- MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS SUBMISSIONS

### **APPENDIX 2**

- REGISTER OF ELECTORS/EDITED REGISTER 2016/2017

### **APPENDIX 3**

- LIST OF EXTERNAL BODIES ON WHICH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ARE FORMALLY REPRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2016

### **APPENDIX 4**

- ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES ABROAD 2016
- ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES FOR CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND MEETINGS IN IRELAND
- MEETINGS HELD/TRAINING AVAILED OF BY ELECTED MEMBERS 2016
- PAYMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS 2016
- PAYMENTS TO NON-COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016

### **APPENDIX 5**

- DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE

### **APPENDIX 6**

- PERFORMANCE INDICATORS