



Mayo County Council Annual Report 2008

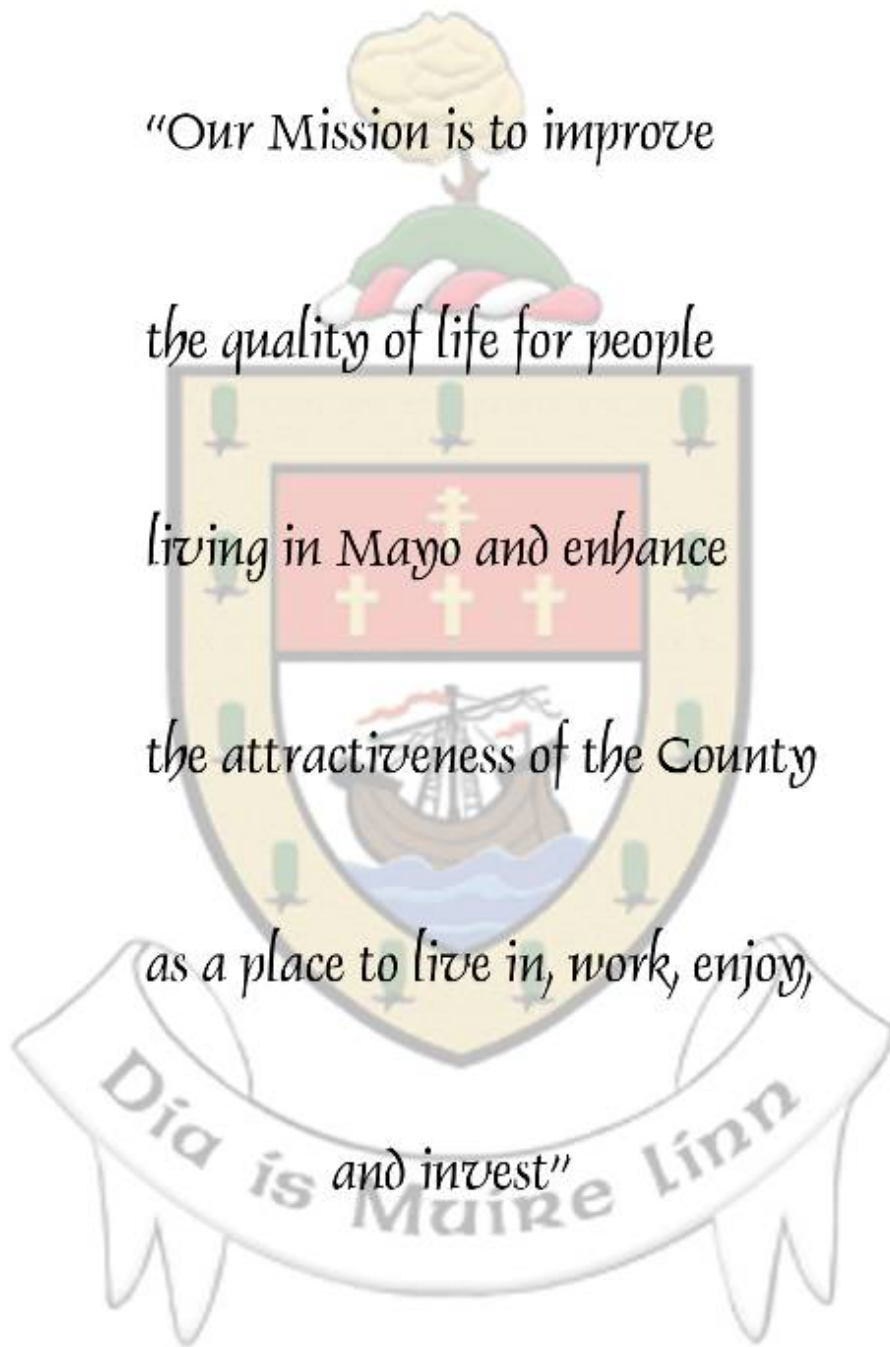


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Mission Statement

*“Our Mission is to improve
the quality of life for people
living in Mayo and enhance
the attractiveness of the County
as a place to live in, work, enjoy,
and invest”*



Members of Mayo County Council

Belmullet electoral area

- 28. Cllr. Gerry Coyle
- 29. Cllr. Michael Holmes
- 30. Cllr. Michael McNamara
- 31. Cllr. Tim Quinn

Ballina electoral area

- 22. Cllr. Jarlath Munnally
- 23. Cllr. Johnie O' Malley
- 24. Cllr. Michelle Mulhern
- 25. Cllr. Annie May Reape
- 26. Cllr. Eddie Staunton
- 27. Cllr. Seamus Weir

Swinford electoral area

- 18. Cllr. Eugene Lavin
- 19. Cllr. Jimmy Maloney
- 20. Cllr. Joseph Mellet (Cathaoirleach)
- 21. Cllr. Gerry Murray

Castlebar electoral area

- 1. Cllr. Cyril Burke
- 2. Cllr. Sean Bourke
- 3. Cllr. Paddy McGuinness
- 4. Cllr. Henry Kenny
- 5. Cllr. Al McDonnell
- 6. Cllr. Johnny Mee

Westport electoral area

- 7. Cllr. Margaret Adams
- 8. Cllr. Frank Chambers
- 9. Cllr. Auzelin Francis O' Malley
- 10. Cllr. John O' Malley

Ballinrobe electoral area

- 11. Cllr. Patsy O'Brien
- 12. Cllr. Harry Walsh
- 13. Cllr. Damien Ryan

Claremorris electoral area

- 14. Cllr. Michael Carty
- 15. Cllr. John Cribbin
- 16. Cllr. Tom Connolly (Leas Cathaoirleach)
- 17. Cllr. Patrick McHugh

Message from Cathaoirleach and County Manager



Joe Mellett
Cathaoirleach



Des Mahon
County Manager

We are proud to present the 2008 Annual Report for Mayo County Council which describes the activities carried out in the last full year of the current Council.

The wide range and high level of activity described in the Report is a logical continuation of what has occurred over the previous decade when the economy was generally in good condition. As the economic situation sharply deteriorated at the end of 2008, it is a challenge for all of us to maintain as much of our activity as possible in 2009 and subsequent years.

Over the past 10 years, Mayo County Council has placed considerable emphasis on social inclusion. While funding is now scarcer than has been the case in recent times, it is essential that the Council continues to take a caring approach to ensure that no members of our community are socially excluded.

Our main priority is to keep essential services at the best possible level whilst retaining our permanent workforce. Through Partnership and working together, necessary efficiencies, and full co-operation of staff, Elected Members and customers, this Council will provide continued high level Local Government services to the people of Mayo.

We will continue to build on our successes, balance our budget, and face the world economic crisis together so that we will be ready for the world economic recovery when it inevitably comes.

We would like to thank the Elected Members and the staff for their loyalty and commitment during 2008 and look forward to their continued co-operation and support.

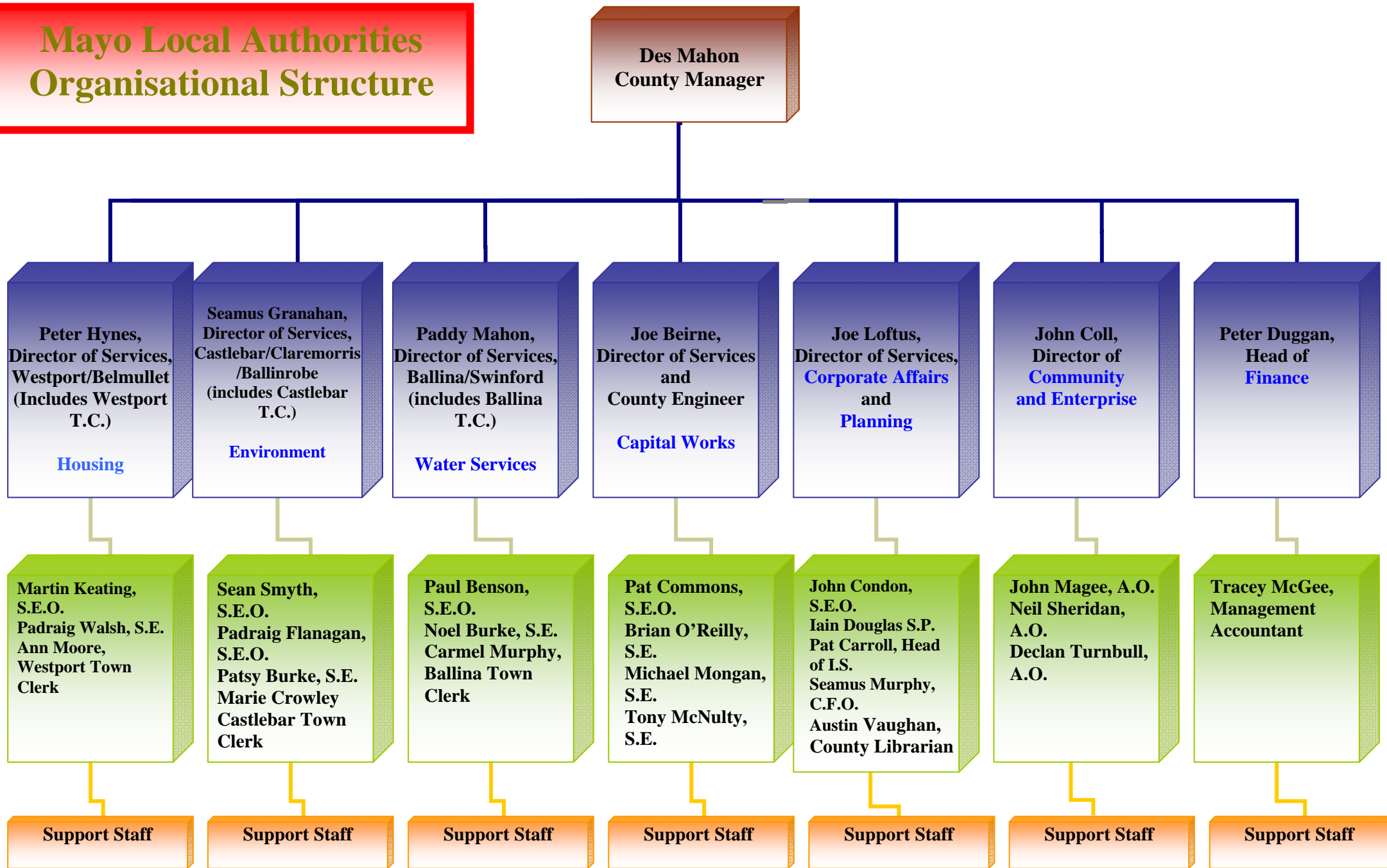
Joe Mellett
Cathaoirleach

Des Mahon
County Manager



Cllr Joe Mellett Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council attending the Mayoral Ball in Haigh Hall, Wigan, Manchester 24/10/08 as per the invitation of Cllr Rona Winkworth Mayor of Wigan.

Mayo Local Authorities Organisational Structure



Background

Local Government in Ireland provides a forum for the democratic representation of local communities promotes community interests and provides important services such as housing, roads, water and sewerage and planning.

Mayo Local Authorities are made up of two parts - the Elected Members and the Executive (The Management and Staff). 31 Members were elected to Mayo County Council and 9 Members to each of the Town Councils, namely Ballina, Castlebar and Westport in June 2004. The Members perform the **RESERVED FUNCTIONS**, which broadly equate with the making of policy and include:

- Approval of Corporate Plan
- Adopting the Annual Budget of the Council
- Making of a Development Plan under Planning Legislation
- Adopting a Scheme of Letting Priorities for the Allocation of Local Authority Housing

The County Manager is appointed to the position following an open competition by the Local Appointments Commission. The Manager performs the **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS** by way of Managers Order. These functions relate to day-to-day administration and include:

- Letting of Houses
- Planning Decisions
- Management of Human Resources

In practice there is much consultation in the performance of the reserved and executive functions.

The functions of Mayo Local Authorities are classified under eight programme groups:

- Housing & Building
- Road Transportation & Safety
- Water Supply & Sewerage
- Development Incentives & Control
- Environmental Protection
- Recreation & Amenity
- Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare
- Miscellaneous Services

The expenditure of Mayo Local Authorities can be classified under two headings:

1. Revenue Expenditure which is day to day spending on the provision of services. The main sources of funding for this expenditure are:

- Government Grants and Subsidies

- Commercial Rates
- Fees and Charges for Services

2. Capital Expenditure is expenditure on the creation of an asset, e.g. construction of houses, water and sewerage schemes and major road works. The main sources of funding for this expenditure are:

- Capital Grants from Central Government
- Borrowings
- Other Capital Receipts

The annual report is an outline of the main programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council in 2008.

Strategic Policy Committees

The policy making function of the Council is supported by a system of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) which consists of elected members and sectoral representatives, who formulate policy recommendations for consideration by the Council.

Each SPC comprises of 7 Councillors and 4 sectoral representatives, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Mayo County Council.

Each SPC is supported in it's work by a Director of Services. While each SPC formulates and develops policy, the final decisions rest ultimately with the full Council. Mayo County Council has six Strategic Policy Committees.

Environmental Policy and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Members:

Cllr Margaret Adams (Chair)

Cllr Seamus Weir

Cllr Eugene Lavin

Cllr Mark Winters (Ballina Town Council)

Mr. Dave Breen, ICTU rep.

Mr. Johnny Groden, Mayo Community Forum

Ms Catriona Gannon, Chambers of Commerce

Michael Biggins, IFA

Cllr Johnnie O'Malley

Cllr John O'Malley

Cllr. Gerry Murray

This Committee comprises of elected members and members of the business and farming communities.

The Committee met on three occasions under the directorship of Mr. Seamus Granahan and discussed:

- Progress on the Western River Basin Project
- Review of the Councils progress of implementing annual reports and plans
- Draft Burial Ground Regulations
- Green Schools developments
- Waste Infrastructure and Recycling
- Education trip to Ferrara in Italy on Environmental Policies.

Road Transportation and Safety

Members:

Cllr. Michelle Mulherin (Chair)	Cllr. Cyril Burke
Cllr. Patsy O'Brien	Cllr. Henry Kenny
Cllr. Damien Ryan	Cllr. Michael McNamara
Cllr. Blackie Gavin (Castlebar Town Council)	
Mr. Eddie Lavelle, ICTU rep.	
Mr. Stephen Meenaghan, Mayo Community Forum	
Mr. Edward Heneghan, Chambers of Commerce	
Mr. Tom Canavan, Chambers of Commerce	

The Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2008 under the directorship of Mr. Joe Beirne. The Committee considered and dealt with the following issues amongst others:

- National Roads Programme for the County
- Non National Roads Programme
- Road Safety
- Hedgecutting
- Road signage
- Local Improvement Procedures / Policy
- Speed limit policy
- Road Works Speed Limits
- Take over of roads

The Committee went on a delegation to the National Roads Authority to advance the national road projects in the County.

Housing Strategic Policy Committee

Members:

Cllr. John Cribbin (Chair)	Cllr. Joe Mellett
Cllr. Eddie Staunton	Cllr. Gerry Coyle
Cllr. Tim Quinn	Cllr. Sean Bourke
Cllr. Willie Nolan (Ballina Town Council)	
Mr. Tommy Ginley, ICTU rep.	
Mr. Christy Loftus, Mayo Community Forum	
Mr. Mary Mulryan, Mayo Community Forum	
Mr. Greg Jackson, Chambers of Commerce	

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) met on four occasions during the course of 2008 under the directorship of Mr. Peter Hynes.

A Workshop for the Members of the Housing SPC was held in April to discuss the following topics:

- Urban Design Manual – ‘A Best Practice Guide’
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas
- Taking in charge of Residential Developments / Management Arrangements.

At the June meeting a Presentation was made to the Housing SPC on the new EU Directive on Building Energy Rating (BER).

Building owners and Local Authorities are now required to provide a BER to prospective buyers and tenants. A BER is an objective scale of comparison for the energy performance of a building ranging from A1 to G. ‘A’-rated homes are the most energy efficient and ‘G’ the least efficient. The requirement to provide a BER is being introduced on a phased basis as follows:

New dwellings:

The regulations apply to new dwellings for which planning permission was applied for on or after 1st January 2007. Transitional BER exemptions will apply to new dwellings for which planning permission is applied on or before 31st December 2006, where new dwellings involved are substantially completed on or before 30th June 2008.

New Non-Domestic Buildings:

The regulations apply to new non-domestic buildings for which planning permission was applied for on or after 1st July 2008.

Existing Buildings –

when offered for sale or letting on or after 1st January 2009.

A Local Authority wishing to sell or let a house will be required to get a BER carried out by a registered BER assessor and to provide prospective buyers or tenants with this information.

The SPC visited the new housing development at Tubberhill, Westport, at their meeting in November. This development participated in the ‘Greener Home Scheme’ administered by Sustainable Energy Ireland and utilises solar energy, passive heating gain, and is also the first of our Local Authority schemes to utilize natural gas.



Other topics discussed by the Housing SPC during 2008 included:

- Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grant
- Needs Assessment
- Capital Programme
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Housing Action Plan

- The new Home Choice Loan Scheme.

The **Home Choice Loan** is a mortgage provided through a number of Local Authorities for first time buyers who cannot get sufficient finance from a bank or building society. Home Choice Loan will provide up to 92% of the market value of a property purchased. The maximum loan amount will be €285,000. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest bearing mortgage which is repaid on a monthly basis. The mortgage term will be for a maximum of thirty years and will only be available for newly built homes.

To qualify for a Home Choice Loan, applicants must:

- Be a first time buyer
- Earn more than €40,000
- Be in permanent employment for two years. If self employed, be able to submit two years certified accounts
- Have proof of being unsuccessful in securing a sufficient mortgage from a bank or building society to buy a home.

The Scheme is being operated in the West/Midlands Region through Galway County Council and information is available from each of the Housing Offices of Mayo County Council.

Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee

Members:

Cllr. Jarlath Munnelly (Chair)

Cllr. Austin Francis O'Malley

Cllr. Michael Carty

Cllr. Brendan Mulroy (Westport Town Council)

Ms. Rose Conway-Walsh, Mayo Community Forum

Mr. Peter Shanley, Chambers of Commerce

Mr. Ray Gilboy, Chambers of Commerce

Mr. John O'Donnell, IFA

Cllr. Johnny Mee

Cllr. Tom Connolly

Cllr. Frank Chambers

2008 has been a successful year for the Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting. Five Strategic Policy Committee Meetings were held at various locations throughout the County under the directorship of Mr. Joe Loftus.

January 2008: Mr. K. Moylan, Border Midland & Western Regional Assembly, addressed the SPC Committee on the BMW Regional Operational Programme and the National Development Plan.

The SDZ Application at Ireland West Airport Knock was submitted to the Dept. of the Environment Heritage & Local Government on 27th March, a delegation from the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government met with Council Officials in early July to progress the application.

In relation to the Hub Strategy, the Dept. of the Environment Heritage & Local Government requested that a Working Group be formed to identify land to be fast tracked for development and infrastructural bottlenecks an Inter-Council Committee was formed to put forward proposals. A Resolution was passed at the May Meeting that the three major interconnecting towns of Castlebar, Ballina and Westport be included in the implementation of the Hub Strategy.

Discussions took place at several meetings regarding the Draft Supplementary Contribution Scheme, particularly in relation to instances where financial contributions are appealed to An Bord Pleanala. A Resolution was passed at the January SPC Meeting to proceed with the preparation of the Draft Supplementary Contribution Scheme and at the September Meeting a Resolution was passed to put the scheme on public display.

Mr. Ray Gilboy, CIF, addressed the November Meeting in relation to the implications on the construction industry of increasing development contributions. The importance of Mayo County Council as a development agency and of concentrating on Forward Planning was also discussed. The Draft Supplementary Contribution Scheme was scheduled to be published in January 2009 inviting submissions from the public.

Mayo County Council's Draft Taking in Charge Policy was presented by the Enforcement Section at the May Meeting and was moved forward for adoption at the June County Council Meeting.

A Renewable Energy Seminar took place on 14th July, 2008 with delegates from various sectors and Members of all the SPC Committees.

The Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas were discussed at the May Meeting and Members of the Committee were asked to put forward any submissions for inclusion in the overall submission to the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government on 7th May, 2008.

A new Pre-Planning form for recording Minutes was circulated at the September Meeting.

The ongoing work on the County Development Plan, the Ministerial Direction to vary the adopted plan, Local Area Plans and the importance of Village Design Statements were also discussed at the meetings. Local Area Plans for Knock, Louisburgh and Newport were to commence in 2008 and in particular towns experiencing pressure for development would be given priority and the key towns of Balla, Ballindine, Crossmolina, Dooagh and Foxford would follow. A Resolution was passed at the September Meeting that Local Area Committees approve each step of the Local Area Plans up to Adoption and this Item be placed on the Agenda for the following County Council Meeting for approval by the Council Members.

Cultural, Education, Heritage & Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

Members:

Cllr. Paddy McGuinness (Chair)
Cllr. Peter Flynn (Westport Town Council)
Cllr. Jimmy Maloney
Cllr. Harry Walsh
Mr. Tony Deffely, ICTU rep.
Mr. John Tonra, Mayo Community Forum
Mr. Pat Conway, Mayo County Forum
Fr. Muredach Tuffy, Chambers of Commerce

Cllr. Michelle Mulherin
Cllr. Jarlath Munnelly
Cllr. Pat McHugh

Under the Chairmanship of Cllr Paddy McGuinness and the Directorship of Mr Joe Loftus, the Cultural, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee met seven times during 2008.

During 2008, a number of issues were considered by the SPC members, including:

- o Library Development Programme 2006-2010 – Progress Report.
- o Strategic Arts Plan – Progress Report.
- o Draft Application to Government for Funding for The Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina.
- o Bye-Laws under Section 61 of Maritime Safety Act, 2005, regulating the use of personal water craft, jet skies and recreational water craft, including fast powerboats.
- o Customer Care Charter.
- o Walking Strategy.
- o Design Template for Community Centres.
- o Craft Fair/Heritage/Harry Clarke – Progress Report.
- o Presentation from the Irish Sailing Association, regarding the use of water craft in general.
- o The Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2009.
- o Progress Report on Mayo County Local Authorities Language Scheme 2005-2008 (under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act, 2003). Scéim Teanga Údarás Áitiúla Mhaigh Eo 2005-2008 (faoi Alt 11 d’Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003).



Cllr. Paddy McGuinness and Ms. Marian Coy, president of GMIT, presenting student Carol Dixon with Award for Academic Achievement in BA (Honours) in Heritage Studies at 2008 GMIT Castlebar Campus Conferring Ceremony

Water Supply & Sewerage Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Al McDonnell, (Chair)

Cllr. Michael Holmes

Cllr. Eugene McCormack (Castlebar Town Council)

Cllr. Austin Francis O'Malley

Mr. PJ Lynn, Mayo Community Forum

Mr. Jimmy Tully, Mayo Community Forum

Mr. Brendan O'Mahony, IFA

Mr. John O'Doherty, Chambers of Ireland

Cllr. Annie May Reape

Cllr. John O'Malley

Cllr. Eugene Lavin

Four Meetings of the Water Supply & Sewerage SPC were held during 2008 under the Directorship of Mr. Paddy Mahon. All of these Meetings were chaired by Cllr. Al. McDonnell.

There was also a very worthwhile informative tour of Lough Mask Water Treatment Plant in July, 2008.

The Committee considered and dealt with the following Items amongst others:

- Water Services Charges Policy Document;
- Rural Water Update;
- Water Services Investment Programme;
- Waste Water Discharge Regulations;
- Waste Water Discharge Licenses.

List of External Bodies on which MCC is formally represented by Councillors in 2008

Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees	<i>Cllr. P. O'Brien</i>
Westport Harbour Authority	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
River Moy Harbour Authority	<i>Cllr. M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>
West Regional Authority	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, S. Weir, E. Lavin, H. Walsh, A.F. O'Malley, J. Maloney, D. Ryan and F. Chambers</i>
EU Monitoring Committee	<i>Cllr. E. Lavin</i>
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, E. Lavin and D. Ryan</i>
Mayo County Enterprise Board	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Munnelly, J. Mellett and M. McNamara</i>
Board of the South West Mayo Development Company Ltd.	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>
Board of Meitheal Mhaigh Eo Teo	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin and J. Maloney</i>
Board of Comhar Iorrais (LEADER) Teoranta	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and M. McNamara</i>
Board of Ballinrobe Racecourse Committee	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>
Board of the Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar	<i>Cllr. J. Mee</i>
Board of the Fr. Patrick Peyton CSC Memorial Company Ltd.	<i>Cllrs. M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>
Board of the Western Rural Development Company Ltd.	<i>Cllr. John O'Malley</i>
Board of Ballina Arts Events Ltd.	<i>Cllr. M. Mulherin</i>
<i>Board of the Custom House Studios Ltd., Westport</i>	<i>Cllr. John O'Malley</i>
GMIT Castlebar Liaison Committee	<i>Cllr. H. Kenny</i>
Board of Belderrig Research and Study Centre	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and Johnnie O'Malley</i>
Consultative Committee of Knock International Airport	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and M. Carty</i>
Board of Directors of Clare Lake Development Committee	<i>Cllr. T. Connolly</i>

Board of Maghu's Castle / Kiltimagh Indoor Fun Park	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin and J. Maloney</i>
Board of Foxford Railway Station Restoration Society	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien, E. Lavin, J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Board of Lacken Sports and Recreation Centre	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton and A.M. Reape</i>
Board of Knockmore / Rathduff Recreation and Resource Centre	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>
County Tourism Committee	<i>Cllr. M. Mulherin</i>
County Councils' General Council now known as Association of County and City Councils	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, John O'Malley and S. Bourke</i>
Board of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company Limited, Dublin	<i>Cllr. J. Mellett</i>
Local Authority Members Association	<i>Cllr. C. Burke</i>
Western Inter-County Railway Committee	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Cribbin, P. O'Brien, J. Maloney and P. McHugh</i>
Local County Rural Water Monitoring Committee	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien, A.F. O'Malley and D. Ryan</i>
County Mayo Heritage Forum	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee, H. Kenny, E. Lavin, J. Munnelly, P. McHugh and M. Adams</i>
Ballycastle (Mayo) Enterprises Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly, E. Staunton, M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>
Louisburgh Holidays Pcl.	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley, John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Belcarra Community Centre	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, H. Kenny and A. McDonnell</i>
Claremorris Swimming Pool Committee	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Cribbin and P. McHugh</i>
Castlebar Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee and S. Bourke</i>
Claremorris Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Cribbin and M. Carty</i>
Swinford Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Crossmolina Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, S. Weir and Johnnie O'Malley</i>
Charlestown Swimming Pool and Recreational Company Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Kiltimagh Community Centre	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin, J. Mellett, T. Connolly</i>

Limited	<i>and J. Maloney</i>
Ballintubber Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, H. Kenny and A. McDonnell</i>
Cushlough Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Castlebar Swimming Pool Advisory Committee	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, H. Kenny, A. McDonnell, S. Bourke and Mr. Harry Barrett</i>
Ballina Swimming Pool Advisory Committee	<i>Cllrs. M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>
Lecanvey Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>
Barnacarroil and Cuiltibo Enterprises Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Cribbin, T. Connolly, E. Lavin and M. Carty</i>
Killasser Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Westport Sports Complex	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Michael Davitt Museum	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and J. Maloney</i>
Manulla Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke and S. Bourke</i>
Sportlann, Ballinrobe	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>
Killala Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnely and Johnnie O'Malley</i>
Aughagower Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>
Comhlucht Forbartha Bheal An Mhuirthid Teo	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and T. Quinn</i>
Louisburgh Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>
Bonniconlon Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>
Ballinrobe Enterprise Limited	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>
Co. Mayo Vocational Education Committee	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee, J. Cribbin, E. Staunton, T. Connolly, P. O'Brien, J. Munnely, F. Chambers, P. McHugh and M. McNamara</i>
Governing Authority, National University of Galway, Ireland	<i>Cllr. P. McGuinness</i>
Regional Health Forum, West	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, P. O'Brien, A.F. O'Malley and T. Quinn</i>

Mayo Local Sports Partnership	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and M. McNamara</i>
Mayo Energy Agency Limited	<i>Cllr. J. Munnelly</i>
Board of Fionntar Comhraic Teoranta	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle, E. Staunton, T. Quinn and Johnnie O'Malley</i>
Western River Basin District Advisory Council	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and Johnnie O'Malley</i>
Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly and J. Maloney</i>
Castlebar District Policing Forum	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke and A. McDonnell</i>

Conferences/Seminars attended by Mayo County Council

Conferences, Seminars, etc. (Ireland)	Date	Number of Councillors attended
Tourism Conference – “Forty Shades of Green Tourism”	01/02/2008	8
“Planning For Renewable Energy”	07/02/2008	6
The Local Government Planning Service	01/02/2008	1
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar	15/02/2008	3
"Suicide Prevention: A Call to Action"	23/02/2008	1
Colmcille Winter School Conference	29/02/2008	11
Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference	06/03/2008	8
LAMA Annual Spring Seminar	27/03/2008	10
The 16 th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference	02/04/2008	9
Planning Seminar for Councillors	26/04/2008	4
Housing Confernce 08 – “A Shared Future – Shaping the Fabric of our Communities”	24/04/2008	4
1916 Revolution or Betrayal	19/04/2008	2
Training Seminar for Councillors, Local Government and the Environment	16/05/2008	2
National Hub Conference 2008	29/05/2008	4
Literacy and the Local Authority	21/05/2008	2
Sustainable Development on the Edge of Europe	05/06/2008	1
The Local Government Housing Service	06/06/2008	3
Byrne/Perry Summer School – “From ‘Murder Machine’ to Modern Education?”	27/06/2008	9
The Local Government Planning Service	04/07/2008	11

Water – The Challenges for Users	17/04/2008	4
MacGill Summer School	12/07/2008	1
The 21 st John Hewitt International Summer School	28/07/2008	2
Parnell Summer School	10/08/2008	13
Humbert Summer School	21/08/2008	3
Youth Suicide in a Changing Society	20/09/2008	1
Benedict Kelly Literary Weekend 2008	12/09/2008	2
The Society for Folk Life Studies Annual Conference	18/09/2008	2
Local Authority Financing	16/10/2008	3
Citizen First International Conference	25/09/2008	1
Getting a Grip 2008 “Addition Proofing our Communities”	02/10/2008	1
Douglas Hyde Conference 2008	17/10/2008	2
County Comes to Town	20/09/2008	1
A.M.A.I. 95 th Annual Conference 2008	11/09/2008	1
2008 La Touche Legacy Seminar	03/10/2008	11
Climate Change “The Way Forward for Local Authorities”	16/10/2008	1
Human Rights, Human Dignity: Health and Housing in Ireland	20/10/2008	1
Business Improvements Districts Conference	07/11/2008	1
The Local Government Budget 2009	31/10/2008	2
“The Good Friday Agreement – 10 Years On”	24/10/2008	2
Irish Language Course for Councillors	26/10/2008	1
"Green Infrastructure – Connecting Nature, People and Places”	04/11/2008	5

National Tourism Conference – “Co-operation and Integration – The Key to Successful Tourism”	27/11/2008	12
"Public Relations and Communication Skills for Councillors”	14/11/2008	9
LAMA Annual Winter Seminar	26/11/2008	10
Planning Seminar for Councillors	10/10/2008	2
Training Seminar for Councillors “Information and Communication Technologies for Councillors”	21/11/2008	4
Homelessness in Ireland	05/12/2008	8
Training Seminary for Councillors “Effective Communications for Councillors”	12/12/2008	4

2008 PAYMENTS

Annual Expenses Allowance	€235,080.47
Mobile Telephone Expenses Allowance	€10,235.98
Non-Members of SPC (Travel & Subsistence)	€2,522.47
Non-Members of Rural Water Monitoring Committee	€368.93
Conferences, Seminars, Training in Ireland	€119,797.98
Conferences, Seminars, Training Outside Ireland	€11,041.09
Chairs of SPC Committees	€36,000.00
Representational Payment	€532,502.19
Superannuation	€10,363.50
Cathaoirleach Allowance	€50,900.00
Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	€11,200.00
Chair of County Development Board	€6,000.00

DETAILS OF MEETINGS HELD 2008

County Council Meetings	21
Area Meetings	74
SPC Meetings	28
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	3
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	6

Councillors Expenses 2008

	EXPENSES DOMESTIC	EXPENSES INTERNATIONAL	ANNUAL ALLOWANCE	REPRESENTATIONAL PAYMENT	SPC	CATHAOIR./ LEAS	COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CATHAOIR.	MOBILE PHONE ALLOWANCE	TOTAL
AL MCDONNELL	€5,001.32	€821.82	€6,984.12	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€35,984.75
ANNIE M. REAPE	€3,711.46	€423.31	€6,638.46	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€453.50	€28,404.22
AUSTIN F. O'MALLEY	€5,302.64	€0.00	€8,984.28	€17,177.49	€0.00	€5,538.80	€0.00	€466.45	€37,469.66
CYRIL BURKE	€5,575.29	€0.00	€5,792.70	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€29,145.48
DAMIEN RYAN	€6,274.27	€0.00	€7,841.40	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€31,893.16
EDDIE STAUNTON	€5,412.90	€436.64	€8,984.28	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€32,011.31
EUGENE LAVIN	€0.00	€821.82	€7,127.04	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€25,126.35
FRANK CHAMBERS	€3,954.05	€0.00	€6,412.68	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€28,144.22
GERRY COYLE	€4,944.20	€0.00	€11,555.88	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€33,677.57
GERRY MURRAY	€5,369.22	€0.00	€8,127.12	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€31,273.83
HENRY KENNY	€4,734.77	€1,067.02	€5,495.58	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€28,474.86
HENRY WALSH	€5,868.50	€0.00	€7,727.13	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€31,373.12
JARLATH MUNNELLY	€0.00	€0.00	€9,530.07	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€579.00	€33,286.56
JIMMY MALONEY	€0.00	€547.50	€6,398.43	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€24,123.42
JOE MELLETT	€782.37	€1,895.56	€7,269.84	€17,177.49	€0.00	€25,728.14	€0.00	€441.50	€53,294.90
JOHN CRIBBIN	€4,966.65	€423.31	€9,555.72	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€38,123.17
JOHN O'MALLEY	€6,463.11	€0.00	€6,984.12	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€342.68	€30,967.40
JOHNNIE O'MALLEY	€0.00	€0.00	€8,269.92	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€25,447.41
JOHNNY MEE	€0.00	€0.00	€6,126.96	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€23,904.45
MARGARET ADAMS	€5,295.53	€1,067.02	€6,441.24	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€36,581.28
MICHAEL CARTY	€4,897.58	€710.41	€7,841.40	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€30,626.88
MICHAEL HOLMES	€4,228.89	€0.00	€7,698.48	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€422.50	€29,527.36
MICHEAL MCNAMARA	€3,997.47	€0.00	€8,984.28	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€30,759.24
MICHELLE MULHERIN	€5,982.41	€0.00	€7,859.94	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€37,619.84
PADDY MCGUINNESS	€627.56	€547.50	€6,126.96	€17,177.49	€6,000.00	€0.00	€6,000.00	€531.71	€37,011.22
PAT MCHUGH	€3,588.87	€547.50	€7,515.69	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€28,829.55
PATSY O'BRIEN	€5,542.05	€0.00	€7,269.84	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€110.80	€30,100.18
SEAMUS WEIR	€4,491.46	€1,731.68	€7,555.56	€17,177.49	€0.00	€25,171.86	€0.00	€0.00	€56,128.05
SEAN BOURKE	€869.67	€0.00	€3,298.43	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€21,945.59
TIM QUINN	€5,371.97	€0.00	€11,841.60	€17,177.49	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€600.00	€34,991.06
TOM CONNOLLY	€6,543.77	€0.00	€6,841.32	€17,177.49	€0.00	€5,661.20	€0.00	€287.84	€36,511.62
TOTAL	€119,797.98	€11,041.09	€235,080.47	€532,502.19	€36,000.00	€62,100.00	€6,000.00	€10,235.98	€1,012,757.71

Service Indicators

F: FIRE SERVICE	
F1: Fire Service Mobilisation	
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	N/A
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.23
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	N/A
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.37
F2: Percentage of attendances at scenes	
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	40.34
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	42.35
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	17.31
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	42.23
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	43.39
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	14.39
F3: Fire Prevention	
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	239
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	254
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	2
CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	
CP1: Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	78.95
CP2: Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	570

3.3 CORPORATE ISSUES	
C1: Working Days lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	3.30
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.48
C2: Staff Training and Development	
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll	6.75

E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
WATER	
E1: Unaccounted For Water	
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	43
E2: Drinking Water Analysis	
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	EPA
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	EPA
WASTE MANAGEMENT	
E3: Waste Segregation	
A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	95.95
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	0.49
E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling	
A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	26.67
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	10003
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	7235
E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill	
A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	73.24
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	27470
E6: Recycling Facilities	
Glass	
A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	95
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	97
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.92

Cans	
E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	95
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	97
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.92
Textiles	
I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	41
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	43
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.74
Batteries	
M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.08
Oils	
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.08
Other materials	
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.08
LITTER	
E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement	
A. Number of full-time litter wardens	1
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	9
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.4
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	243
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	117
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	16
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	10
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	21
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	13

K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	
E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1203
B. Number of complaints investigated	1108
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	775
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	295
E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns	
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	71.19
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	82.14

H: HOUSING	
H1: Housing Vacancies	
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2054
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2014
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	4.67
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	58.51
E. The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	41.49
H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings	
The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	17
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	3
H3: Housing Repairs	
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	85.42
H4: Traveller Accommodation	
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	236.67
H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector	
A. Total number of registered tenancies	3370
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	618
C. Number of inspections carried out	627

D. Number of dwellings inspected as a percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	18.34
H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability	
A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	31
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	28
H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses	
A. Total number of new local authority tenants	146
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

L: LIBRARY SERVICES	
L1: Library Public Opening Hours	
A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	37.4
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	20.4
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	100
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100
L2: Library Visits	
Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	2637.30
L3: Library Stock	
A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	3.18
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3.68
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.35
L4: Internet Access through Libraries	
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	598.63

P: PLANNING	
P1: Planning Applications - Decision Making Individual Houses	
A. Number of applications decided	1070
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	317
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	684
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	68
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	74

F. Percentage of applications granted	86.45
G. Percentage of applications refused	13.55
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	70.18
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	29.82
New Housing Development	
A. Number of applications decided	105
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	34
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	65
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	6
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76
F. Percentage of applications granted	73.33
G. Percentage of applications refused	26.67
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	89.66
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	10.34
Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment	
A. Number of applications decided	966
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	581
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	362
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	22
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	75
F. Percentage of applications granted	95.03
G. Percentage of applications refused	4.97
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	93.48
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	6.52
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment	
A. Number of applications decided	8
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	4
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	3
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	85.33
F. Percentage of applications granted	87.50
G. Percentage of applications refused	12.50
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	67.67
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	33.33
P2: Planning Enforcement	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	344
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	88
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	90
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	166
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	4
F. Number of prosecutions	3
P3: Planning Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	35
P4: Pre-Planning Consultation	
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	2209
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	0
P5: New Buildings inspected	
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	13.63
P6: Taking Estates in Charge	
A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	4
B. Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	12
C. Number of dwellings in respect of column B	332
D. Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	0
E. Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0
F. Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0
Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds	
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.13

B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.01
Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities	
- Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	1901.64

Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION	
Rev.1 House Rent	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	79.12
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	3.16
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	4.90
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	87.54
Rev.2 Housing Loans	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	70.93
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 4-6 weeks old	2.05
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 6-12 weeks old	3.68
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 12 weeks old	92.53
Rev.3 Commercial Rates	
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	89.02
Rev.4 Refuse Charges	
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	n/a
Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	36.25

R: ROADS	
R1: Road Restoration Programme	
- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	368.32
- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	5.6

Roads Transportation & Safety

An efficient road transportation system provides the necessary infrastructure to support economic and social development of a region. Mayo County Council in 2008 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 6,562 kms of roadway in the charge of Mayo County Council and in 2008 a total of €55m 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:

Funding of €16.63m was received from the National Roads Authority for the National Road network, whilst €30.4m was received from the Department of Transport for the Regional and Local roads, with a further €2.5m being received from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for roads in the Gaeltacht areas and roads in the Clár area.

The Council itself provided €5.4m for the Road network in the year.

National Primary Roads:

The grants for the **National Primary Roads** for 2008 were broken down as follows:

NP Major Planning & Design:

N5 Charlestown By Pass	€5,000,000
N5 Westport to Bohola	€1,250,000
N17 Knock to Tobercurry	€ 350,000
N26 Ballina - Bohola Phase 1 - Carrowntreila	€ 118,246
N26 Ballina - Bohola Phase 2 (Planning & Design)	€ <u>1,000,000</u>
	€7,718,246

Pavement & Minor Improvement:

N5 At Ballymacrath	€ 750,000
N26 Pollsharavogue	€ 750,000
2007 National Primary retentions	€ 30,000
Natrional Primary Pavement Assessment	€ 25,000
	€ 1,555,000

The grant for **National Primary Maintenance** totaling €1,234,268, were broken down as follows:

Winter Maintenance	€ 197,000
Bridge Maintenance	€ 35,000
Surface Dressing	€ 316,663
Ordinary Maintenance	€ 511,065
Route Lighting	€ 119,000
Special Maintenance (control of noxious weeds)	€ 55,540

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

Schemes at Planning Stage:

- ***N26 Ballina – Bohola, Phase 2*** (18.4 kms Dual Carriageway)

The Public Enquiry for the Compulsory Purchase Order (C.P.O.) and Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.) for this scheme was held by An Bord Pleanala on the 19th February 2008. No determination has yet been made by the Bord on the scheme. If the C.P.O. is confirmed, it will be possible to proceed with the pre-construction contracts in 2009 and the main design/build contract in 2010 provided the NRA make the necessary funding available.

- ***N5 Westport-Bohola*** (40 kms Dual Carriageway)

This scheme will consist of 40 kms of dual 2 + 2 carriageway between Bohola and Westport and includes the following schemes which were previously being progressed separately:

- Castlebar to Westport
- N5 Castlebar Bypass Scheme
- Westport Northern Relief Road
- N5 Ballyvary to Bohola

M/s. Roughan & O'Donovan/Faber Maunsell Alliance (RODM) have been appointed to progress the overall scheme to the detailed design and statutory procedure stages. The Consultants programme includes for the completion of

the overall scheme to these stages by April 2010. New Route Options were presented to the public in September 2008 and the new emerging Preferred Route will be presented to the public early in 2009.

It is hoped to advance the Castlebar-Westport section of the scheme to the C.P.O. stage by the end of 2009 with the remainder of the scheme going to C.P.O. by mid-2010.

➤ ***N.17 Charlestown Bypass*** *{25 kms Dual Carriageway}*

This scheme, which is part of the Atlantic Corridor, is being advanced in partnership with Sligo County Council. It will extend for 25 kms. from north of Tobercurry to the end of the Knock Bypass. Route Options for the scheme will be presented to the public early in 2009.

➤ ***Knock Bypass to Ballindine***

It is proposed that this section of the N17 will be upgraded to a 2 + 2 carriageway standard and survey work has commenced on this scheme.

➤ ***N17 Claremorris to Tuam***

This scheme is being progressed by the Galway NRDO. The Preferred Route will be identified in early 2009.

➤ ***N.26/N.59 Ballina Orbital Route***

The Preferred Route for this scheme has been identified and approved by the Members of Mayo County Council. The scheme will be the subject of a Peer Review by the National Roads Authority in January 2009.

➤ ***N.59 Ballina - Crossmolina Route***

The emerging Preferred Route was presented to the public in May 2008. The final Preferred Route will be presented to the Members of Mayo County Council for their approval in January 2009 and the scheme will also be the subject of an NRA Peer Review in January 2009.

➤ ***N.5/N.59 Westport Southern Relief Road***

The Constraints Study for this scheme has been completed and the Route Options will be presented to the public in early 2009.

➤ ***N.60 Castlebar-Claremorris***

The preferred route for this scheme has been approved by this Council and some detailed design and E.I.S. work has been initiated but grants for the scheme have been discontinued by the National Roads Authority. The County Development Plan included the upgrading of this route to National Primary status as an objective. Until it is agreed to by the National Roads Authority and the

Department of Transport, there are very poor prospects for further progress on the scheme.

➤ ***N84 Ballinrobe Bypass***

The emerging Preferred Route for this scheme was presented to the public in May 2008. The scheme will be the subject of an NRA Peer Review in January 2009 and the Preferred Route will be presented to the Members of Mayo County Council for their approval in February 2009.

➤ ***N60/N83 Ballyhaunis Bypass***

This scheme has gone through Constraints Study and Route Options Stages and the emerging Preferred Route will be presented to the public in January 2009.

National Secondary Roads:

The 2008 **National Secondary Improvement Grant** of €6,122,538 was primarily for pavement works on the Secondary Network and works were undertaken at the following locations: -

National Secondary Safety Measures:

N59 Bunree bridge Ballina	€ 10,000
N59 Roundabouts in Ballina	€ 20,000
N59 Enniscrone Rd./N59	€ 25,000
N59 At Buckfield Junction	€ 15,000
N59 At Rosturk	€ 15,000
N59 At Bellanumera/Corrick	€ 15,000
N59 Bangor	€ 10,000
N83 Tooreen	€ 10,000
N84 Ballinrobe/Kilmaine	<u>€ 60,000</u>
Total	€345,000

NS Majors:

N59 Westport Relief Road	€ 50,000
N59 Ballina Relief	€150,000
N59 Crossmolina to Ballina	€ 50,000
N83 Ballyhaunis Distributor Road	€ 90,000
N84 Ballinrobe Relief Road	<u>€ 85,600</u>
Total	€425,600

Pavement & Minor Improvements:

N58 Straide	€ 450,000
N59 Ballina Streets	€ 150,000
N59 Ballycroy Lettra	€ 500,000
N59 Bunree br. To Behy Road	€ 300,000
N59 Rosgally, Mulranny	€ 700,000
N59 Carrowmore bends realignment design	€ 100,000

N59 Moylaw Realignment	€ 150,000
N60 Manulla bends realignment design	€ 150,000
N60 Carrick Hill, Breaffy.	€ 800,000
N84 flooding areas design	€ 50,000
NS 2007 NS retentions	€ 40,000
NS scheme design	€ 50,000
Total	€3,440,000

The **National Secondary Maintenance Grant** for 2008 was €1,911,938 broken down as follows:

Winter Maintenance	€ 235,000
Bridge Maintenance	€ 60,000
Resurfacing	€ 620,165
Ordinary Maintenance	€ 804,953
Route Lighting	€ 103,000
Special Maintenance	€ 88,820
Total	€1,911,938

Non-National Roads, Local Improvement Schemes, Regional and Local Roads:

Specific Improvement Grants were allocated for the following schemes:

Brookhill, Claremorris	€ 460,000
Cross to Headford	€ 300,000
Newport Rd., Castlebar	€1,600,000
Barnadearg, Ballina	€ 560,000
Achill Sound Bridge	€1,100,000
Bohola to Kiltimagh	€ 400,000
Kilbroney Killala	€ 300,000
Link Road – McDonalds Roundabout to Newport Rd.	€ 200,000

Achill Sound Bridge

During 2008, Mayo County Council replaced the old swing bridge in Achill Sound with a new swing bridge.

Construction on the Achill Sound Bridge commenced in September 2007 and was completed in October, 2008. The scheme was funded on a 50:50 basis by the Department of Transport and the Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. A grant of €3,100,000 was funded as follows:- €2 million from Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht affairs and €1,100,000 from the Department of Transport.

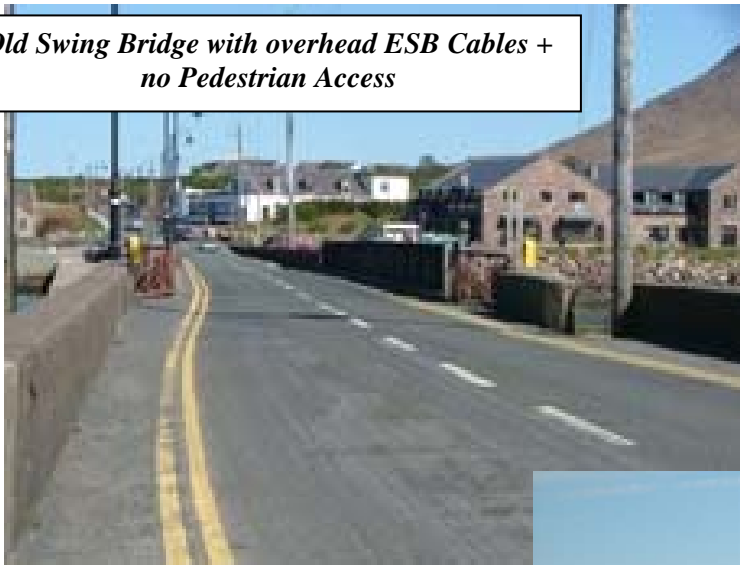
The bridge linking Achill Island to the mainland replaces the previous swing bridge which was rebuilt in 1947; the first bridge having been opened in 1886.

The new bridge is a landmark structure defining the transition from the mainland to the island. This new bridge provides for the first time, a pedestrian access from Achill Sound Village to the schools, hotels and garda station on the mainland.

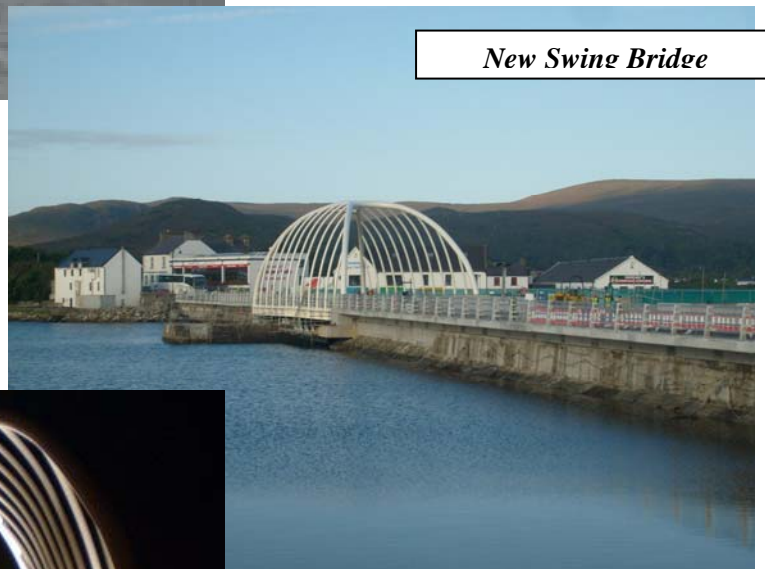
Subject to tidal conditions, the lifeboat, fishing vessels and pleasure craft will be able to pass through the Sound much more freely and safely than heretofore as the new swing bridge has been automated and all overhead power lines have been undergrounded.

The main contractor was SIAC Construction Ltd. and the Consulting Engineers were Malachy Walsh & Partners, Cork + Tralee.

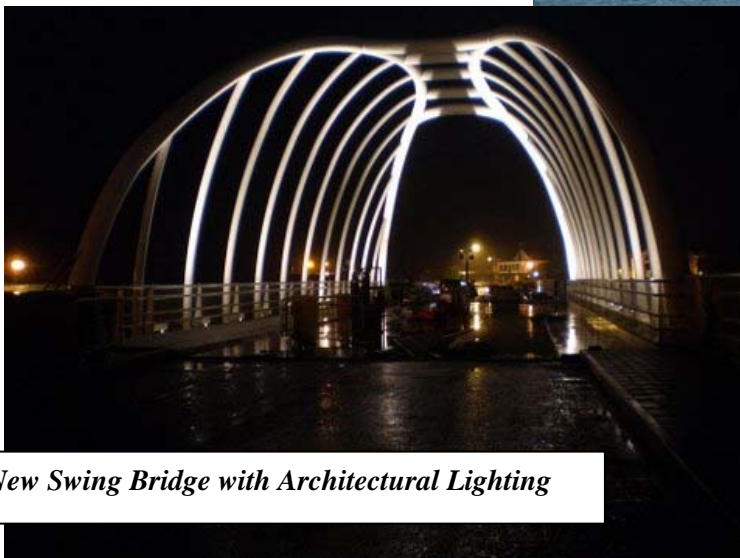
Old Swing Bridge with overhead ESB Cables + no Pedestrian Access



New Swing Bridge



New Swing Bridge with Architectural Lighting



A design grant of €200,000 was allocated for the R312 Derrycoosh/Bellacorrick Road in 2008 under the Strategic Regional Roads programme. Further grants have been applied for in 2009 to continue design and improvement works on this road.

CLÁR (Roads)

In the year 2000, the Government launched the CLÁR Programme. The Programme is designed specifically to address rural areas of special disadvantage. Practically the whole of County Mayo is now in a CLÁR area with the exception of the three major Urban areas. The County has benefited from the CLÁR programmes since its inception.

CLÁR Road grants totaling €683,766 was allocated in 2008 for Class II and III local roads. This was funded 50% by the Department of Transport and 50% by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Local Improvement Schemes (L.I.S.)

The 2008 grant for L.I.S Schemes totalled €1,971,679. All of these Schemes were carried out in accordance with the Policy on L.I.S. adopted at S.P.C. and Council level.

Regional Road Signposting

An allocation of €250,000 was received in 2008 in respect of a programme of signposting on the regional road network. The programme will take account of the Official Languages Act, 2003, in respect of Gaeltacht locations. A further grant is anticipated under this heading in 2009 to complete the signing of the regional road network in County Mayo.

Public Lighting

Mayo County Council operates and maintains approximately 8,000 public lights throughout the County. The estimated cost of operating the Public Lighting System for 2009 is €1,206,698.30.

This is financed by an NRA grant of €222,000.00 and the balance of €984,698.30 provided for by Mayo County Council in the 2009 Budget.

In 2008 there was a moderate decrease in energy costs but a similar increase in public lighting maintenance costs.

Mayo County Council use ESB Customer Supply to supply the energy for our public lighting, there are currently no independent suppliers in the Irish Market willing to supply energy for public lighting. A competition for energy supply was held in 2007 and disappointingly there were no responses.

Mayo County Council has signed a contract until the end of 2008 with ESB contracts to supply public lighting maintenance and other services. We are currently carrying out a condition survey of all our public lighting assets which will allow us to tender this maintenance in 2008 and appoint a supplier when the current maintenance agreement expires.

For improved safety and convenience Mayo County Council has recently implemented a fault reporting structure to allow members of the public report public lighting faults. This allows faults to be reported by lo-call phone number, text, email or post. These contact details are being advertised in the local papers.

A pilot project for Intelligent Road and Street Lighting in Europe (E-Street) has commenced on the recently opened section of the N5 on the Charlestown bypass. The benefits of intelligent energy efficient lighting are:

- Reduce energy costs
- Reduced environmental impact
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Optimises lamp output and life

The Public service obligation (PSO) has been set to zero for 2008 by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

Road Safety

Recently, in association with the Gardai, the HSE West, and the Road Safety Authority, the Cathaoirleach formally launched our Road Safety Strategy 2007 – 2011.

The County Council in conjunction with the National Safety Council 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 Gardaí and parents these schemes make a significant contribution to Road Safety. The Road Safety Officer works with the Road Safety Together Committee in the County whose membership comprises of County Council, HSE West, Gardaí and local community representatives towards the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

Road Safety Awareness for 2008 was concentrated in 4 main areas.

1. Promotion of Road Safety in the Primary Schools

This activity is conducted in conjunction with the Gardaí. The County Council provides support to the Gardaí when visiting schools by providing leaflets, reflective arm bands and other road safety promotional material.

2. Junior Warden Schemes

Again, the activity in this area is to support the 2 Junior Warden Schemes in Ballina Town. One at the Girl's National School, Convent Hill and the other at Scoil Padraig, Pound Street.

Uniforms and signs are provided by the County Council. Road markings are updated regularly. Again, this Council is fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the Principals in both schools. Without their enthusiastic support it would not be possible to maintain the scheme. The teachers, parents and pupils appreciate the benefits of the Junior Warden Scheme to the pupils.

3. General Promotion of Road Safety through the Local Media

The County Council operates in support of the National Safety Council and also carries out general promotion in the local media.

4. Road Safety Plan

The work of a steering committee in the promotion of the Road Safety Plan which was developed in 2007 will continue evaluating progress of this plan. It is hoped that over time we will achieve a significant reduction in the road accident statistics in the County.

Road Accident Statistics - Mayo

<i>Year</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>
2001	8
2002	14
2003	10
2004	13
2005	14
2006	11
2007	09
2008	09

Piers and Harbours

The Council has completed works on the following piers in the county:

Projects completed:

1. Clare Island Pier at a cost of €9.5 million

2. Blacksod Pier at a cost of €2.5 million
3. Inishturk Pier at a cost of €2 million

Schemes at Design Stage:

1. Rinn Rua Pier

Other Proposals:

1. Darbys Point (Cloghmore) Achill
2. Killala Pier
3. Porturlin Pier
4. Purteen Pier, Achill
5. Roonagh – new terminal buildings.

The 2008 Marine Programme consisted of the following:

Projects:			Funded by:		
Location	Works	Total Cost	DCMNR	DCRGA	MCC
		€	€	€	€
Bundooracha	New slipway & pier improvements	200,000	75,000	75,000	50,000
Cloghans	New slipway	150,000	75,000	37,500	37,500
Roigh	New slipway and parking	200,000	75,000	75,000	50,000
		550,000	225,000	187,500	137,500

The sources of funding were:

The Department of Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) - €225,000

The Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRGA) - €187,500

Mayo County Council - €167,500

Islands Programme

For the past number of years, Mayo County Council in association with the Dept. of Community Rural and Gaeltacht affairs has carried out programmes of improvement and maintenance to facilities on the inhabited islands around the Mayo Coast. The islands programme for 2008 is set out hereunder.

Island	Works	DCRGA	Mayo Co. Co.	Total
Inishturk	Construct path from community centre to beach	€35,000	€35,000	€70,000
	Road from North to lake	€15,000	€15,000	€30,000
Clare Island	Improve road adjacent to housing scheme.	€17,000	€17,000	€34,000
	Improve road between quay and church	€25,000	€25,000	€50,000
	Construct shelter at new pier	€25,000	€25,000	€50,000
	E.S.B. connection to 3 phase supply	€ 1,000	€ 1,000	€ 2,000
Inishakellew	Remedial work at causeway	€24,119	€24,119	€48,238
Inishlyre	Provide slipway	€10,000	€10,000	€20,000
Cynish	Repair to existing slipway	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€10,000
Inishbiggle	Road surfacing	€15,000	€15,000	€30,000
	Coastal erosion protection	€15,000	€15,000	€30,000
Claggan	Coastal protection	€10,000	€10,000	€20,000

A grant of €198,750 was also allocated by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with a contribution of €66,250 from Mayo County Council for major improvement works for Inishbiggle East slipway development.

The Council will continue to work in close co-operation in 2009 with the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (Marine) and the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with a view to continuing a programme of improvements on marine structures around the Mayo Coast.

Water Supply and Sewerage (Water Services)

The policy of Mayo County Council is to improve and extend Water Services in the County. EU and National legislation set down standards for Drinking Water Quality and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all our towns by 2005.

The National Development Plan (2007 – 2013) continues to recognise the need to address the infrastructural deficit in the water services sector and provides funding for the Water Services Investment Programme of Capital Works over the next number of years.

Expansion and improvement of these services is necessary to encourage and facilitate residential, industrial and commercial development in the County. Maintaining a proper balance between protecting and enhancing our environment and economic and sustainable development is a central goal of Mayo County Council.

A number of Capital Sanitary Schemes were successfully completed during 2008 while a number of other schemes were under construction.

Schemes under construction 2008

1. Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme
2. Castlebar DBO (part of Castlebar Environs Scheme)
3. Countywide Water Conservation Project
4. Non Domestic Water Metering Project

Schemes to commence 2009 (Subject to finance being available)

1. Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme
2. Kiltimagh Sewerage Scheme
3. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Treatment Plant Upgrade – Ext. from Srah to Westport.
4. Louisburgh Water Supply Scheme (Extension of Lough Mask From Westport)

Schemes in Planning

1. Newport Sewerage Scheme
2. Killala Sewerage Scheme
3. Belmullet Sewerage Scheme
4. Foxford Sewerage Scheme
5. Charlestown /Bellaghy Sewerage Scheme
6. Ballina Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 3 - Ballina Town Distribution and Storage.

7. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply ext to Kilmaine
8. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme Ext to Kiltimagh
9. Mayo Sludge Management

Schemes to advance through planning

(Water Services Investment Programme 2007 2009)

1. Ballina Regional Water Supply Scheme (Treatment Plant Upgrade)
2. Cong Water Supply Strategic Study
3. Lough Conn –East Mayo Regional Water Supply Feasibility Study (incl Swinford)

Serviced Land Initiative Schemes

The following Schemes have been submitted to the DEHLG for funding under the Serviced Land Initiative Schemes

1. Claremorris Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade/ Crossboyne Sewerage Scheme
2. Ballyheane Sewerage Scheme

Small Schemes /Clár Programme

Schemes Completed in 2008

1. Doogort Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 (Golden Strand)
2. Ballycastle Sewerage Scheme(Extension to Carrowkibbock)
3. Roundfort Sewerage Scheme
4. Westport Sewerage Scheme ext at Carrabaun

Schemes under construction in 2008/2009

1. Moygownagh Sewerage Scheme
2. Cross Sewerage Scheme

Schemes to commence in 2009

1. The Neale Sewerage Scheme
2. Mayo Abbey Sewerage Scheme

The programme put forward for 2009 is dependant on funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Clár.

Schemes in Planning (in House)

1. Crossboyne Sewerage Scheme
2. Knockmore Sewerage Scheme
3. Carracastle Sewerage Scheme
4. Ballyglass Sewerage Scheme
5. Closhreid /Ballinsally extension to Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme
6. Aughleam Sewerage Scheme
7. Bunnacurry Sewerage Scheme
8. Attymass Sewerage Scheme
9. Clare Island Sewerage Scheme

Water Metering Water Charges

Laing O'Rourke Utilities Ireland LTD. signed a DBO contract for the Water Metering Project in May 2006. The Design and Build phase was completed in November 2007. The Operate Phase has commenced and this will continue for a ten year period. 2008 was the first year when all Non-Domestic customers were charged Water & Sewerage charges on a volumetric basis. 95% of customers are now metered with the remaining customers to be metered shortly. A dedicated office was set up in 2008 dealing solely with Water Services Charges and water conservation. To date this office is processing 1500 bills per month. Customers can now pay their Water Services Charges in any Mayo County Council office, or online where they can also monitor their water consumption.

Group Water Schemes

Mayo County Council is responsible for functions previously executed by the Department of the Environment in relation to the establishment and administration of Group Water Schemes throughout the County. This provides an additional opportunity for the Council to further the cause of subsidiarity, working hand in hand with local communities in the provision and maintenance of that most basic service – a potable water supply.

1. STRATEGIC RURAL WATER PLAN

The Strategic Rural Water Plan constitutes a blueprint for the future development of rural water supplies in County Mayo and facilitates the focusing of investment where it will have the most beneficial effect. The Plan has been prepared in full consultation with all interested parties. The emphasis in the early stages of the Plan was on dealing with the poor water quality problems in the privately sourced Group Water Schemes approximately 90 of which were seriously deficient. Funding has been concentrated on upgrading pipework, reservoirs etc.

2. NEW GROUP SCHEMES / UP-GRADING OF EXISTING SCHEMES.

A number of Schemes have been advanced through various stages of planning by Mayo County Council. These schemes are under construction and some will be constructed in the near future subject to design approval and local contributions being available if the necessary allocations are received. Work is continuing in advancing other schemes through the various stages of planning. Several schemes are currently being upgraded to allow for connection to the public mains.

The 2008 allocation for new Group Water Schemes / upgrading of existing Schemes was €2,300,000 and the allocation for connecting of Schemes to the Public Mains was €585,000.

3. TAKE-OVER OF GROUP SCHEMES / NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Enquiries regarding take-over of Schemes have been received from in excess of 50 Groups. These applications will be assessed on the basis of existing water quality and reliability of supply among other criteria. Schemes proposed for take-over were shortlisted by the Council.

An allocation of €2million was granted to Mayo County Council for Take-over of Group Water Schemes in 2008.

4. SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

This scheme allows for the payment by Local Authorities of an annual subsidy towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes in supplying water for domestic use. The objectives of the scheme are to secure the improvements of rural water supplies and to extend the benefits of the abolition of Local Authority domestic water charges to households supplied by Group Schemes. It is important that all Group Schemes avail of their Subsidy entitlements. Mayo County Council encourages all Schemes to apply for Subsidy payments to assist them in the efficient running of their water supplies.

5. GRANTS FOR THE PROVISION OR NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLY TO A HOUSE.

This Scheme was introduced to assist households dependant on private individual water supplies who are incurring capital expenditure to:

- Provide a piped supply of water for domestic purposes for the first time, or
- Remedy serious deficiencies in an existing supply of water for domestic purposes.

This scheme does not apply to houses to which a Public or Group Scheme Water Supply has already been, or can be, reasonably provided. 330 applications have been received to date.

6. DESIGN / BUILD / OPERATE (D.B.O.)

Bundle No. 1:

The first bundle of Schemes for improvement of water treatment facilities using the D.B.O. process is near completion.

Twelve Schemes have agreed to use the D.B.O. process namely, Ballycroy, Ballyglass/Carnacon, Brackloon/Spaddagh, Drummin, Glencorrib, Glenhest, Killeen, Kilmeena, Kilmovee, Lough Mask/Creevagh, Laghta and Belderrig.

The following Treatment Plants have been commissioned:

- Ballyglass/Carnacon GWS
- Brackloon/Spaddagh GWS
- Drummin GWS
- Glenhest GWS
- Kilmeena GWS
- Kilmovee/Urlaur GWS
- Laghta GWS

- Lough Mask/Creevagh GWS
- Fahy GWS
- Ballycroy GWS
- Belderrig GWS

The Fahy-Kilmaclasser / Drummindoo amalgamate has been included in Mayo DBO Bundle 1 and had been completed.

Bundle No. 2:

A second Bundle has now been put together comprising of the following Schemes:-

- Callow Lake GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Clew Bay GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Cloonmore/Rooskey GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Curraghmore GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Moylaw GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Nephin Valley GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Parke GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- PBKS GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Shraheens GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.

An advance Works Contract for the replacement of Critical Mains and the installation of Stopcock Boxes is completed.

Treatment System Services Limited have been awarded the main DBO Contract. Work is due to commence within the next month with commissioning of all the Plants by mid 2010.

In 2008 the allocation for DBO was €10,500,000.

NEW SCHEMES / UPGRADING OF EXISTING SCHEMES

Construction Completed	
Carranara	Devleash/Addergoole
Lacken North	Keenagh
Glencastle/Rathmorgan	Comminch
Drum/Binghamstown	Mountjubilee
Killaturley	Mountbrown

Construction in Progress	
Mayo Abbey	Monard
Cullintra	Bofield
Currykirwan	Carra
Ayle	Bengeary
Cushin	Logboy
Straide	Cregduff

Tender Stage	
Cahermaculick	Carracastle
Kilcolman/Facefield	Downpatrick
Massbrook South & Terry	Tonacrick/Cuilkellew
Shammer	Aughalonteen

Schemes Taken-In-Charge	
Cloonfinnaun	Ballydrum
Cloongullane	Rookfield
Milehill	Emlybeg South
Cross/Binghamstown	

Environment Section

Awareness, Enforcement and Protection

The Environment Section is tasked with the enforcement of environmental legislation, the implementation of directives and policy decisions and the raising of awareness/education of environmental issues with the general public.

Highlights in 2008 included:-

- The increase in domestic recycling in the Council from 6% to 25%.
- The implementation of the Waste Presentation Household Bye Laws.
- The increased participation in the Green Flag School Scheme.
- The adoption of an enforcement policy on illegal waste activity under Section 60 of the Waste Management Act.
- The drafting of burial ground regulations for the management of over 170 burial grounds.
- The introduction of 20 textile clothes banks throughout the County as a pilot project.
- The rationalisation of the operation of the Councils 2 Landfill Sites.
- Introduction of further producer responsibility initiatives for waste tyres and batteries.

Environmental Awareness

Mayo County Council has continued to promote environmental awareness on the issues of litter, waste, recycling, composting, energy and water conservation with both primary and secondary schools. Many school visits were carried out during 2008 and schools are offered compost bins and other promotional and awareness information free of charge.

Several other projects took place during 2008 such as

- Energy Workshops
- Magic Shows
- Music/dance/drama shows
- National Spring Clean
- Organic gardening programme
- Christmas Decoration Competition

To date there are over 150 schools registered for the Green Schools Programme in County Mayo and 90 schools have achieved Green School status. Twenty of the schools are now working on the fourth theme of the programme which is currently being rolled out – the Travel Theme. The programme has undoubtedly played a major role towards increasing environmental awareness among pupils, teachers and parents of the registered schools.

Information presentations have been delivered to many community groups and voluntary groups during 2008. These presentations involve the delivery of information about Recycling Centres, Bottle Banks, the principles of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”, composting, shopping for the environment, the dangers of back-yard burning and the safe disposal of hazardous materials, WEEE and batteries. Leaflets and brochures on litter, waste, recycling, landfill/recycling centres, composting and back-yard burning are distributed to those in attendance at these presentations. With the introduction of several pieces of new legislation there is a continuous need to develop community awareness programme.

Anti-Litter Awareness Grants 2008

Funding was allocated to 24 organisations under the Anti-Litter Awareness Grants Scheme 2008. The grant scheme is aimed at organisations that plan projects to target anti-litter measures and raise awareness on the issue of litter. It is also important that the project/activity proposed involves schools or young people.

Civic Amenity Centres

Mayo County Council operates two recycling centres which are based adjacent to the landfill sites. The recycling facilities, which are for household use only, consist of a series of clearly labelled skips and banks where recyclable items can be deposited. Mayo County Council carries out the baling of some recyclable items on site and all the items are transported by permitted waste collectors to end markets where the actual recycling process takes place. The centres also contain an area for the collection of household hazardous waste. This waste is forwarded for recycling or safe disposal.

Recycling of textiles, batteries and electrical items is free of charge at the Civic Amenity Centres. All other recyclable waste is €2 per car load.

What items are accepted for recycling?

- Clear/brown/green glass bottles and jars.
- Clean aluminium drink cans such as soft drink cans.
- Clean steel food cans such as dog food cans.
- Clean wearable adults and children’s clothes.
- Clean bed linen, rugs and curtains, duvets and pillows.
- Clean wearable shoes in pairs.
- Clean type 1 plastic bottles, also known as PET/PETE – mineral/water bottles.
- Clean type 2 plastic bottles, also known as HDPE/PE - milk containers.
- Clean Tetra Pak milk and juice cartons.
- Dry and clean paper including newsprint and magazines.
- Dry and clean cardboard including cereal boxes.
- Books for reuse by Oxfam.
- Original music and game CD’s for reuse by Oxfam – no copies.

- Window, mirror and drinking glass.
- Scrap metal waste.
- Solid wood waste, no MDF or chip board and no metal door handles or hinges.
- Tyres but no wheel rims.
- Clean, dry, white polystyrene. Use special bags provided at reception.
- Gas cylinders.
- All household electrical and electronic goods.
- Waste cooking oil.
- Waste motor oil and oil filters.
- Regular light bulbs.
- Clean and dry plasterboard/gypsum.

Household Hazardous Waste that can be brought for safe disposal

Mayo County Council will accept all items of household hazardous waste provided that the containers are clearly labelled and that all waste is stored in original containers. The main types of household hazardous wastes are listed hereunder:-

- Household corrosives, e.g. household cleaning agents.
- Waste pesticides, e.g. weed killers.
- Waste medicines.
- Waste veterinary medicines.
- Car and household batteries.
- Waste paints.
- Fluorescent light tubes and energy saving bulbs.
- Aerosol cans.

Recycling/Bring Banks

Under the Waste Management Plan there is recognition that we must reduce our dependence on landfill. To aim for this goal, bring banks must be provided in towns and villages with populations of over 500 people. These centres cater for the recycling of clear, green and brown glass and cans.

In 2008, just over 2727 tonnes of glass and a further 78 tonnes of aluminium cans were recycled.

Currently there are 95 sites throughout the county. Funding is available from the Environment Fund to help offset the cost of operating civic amenity sites and bottle banks.

Textile recycling banks located in 20 sites was piloted at the end of 2008. Early indicators are that this will be a successful scheme and the intention is to extend it further to encourage people to recycle clothes.

Landfills

Mayo County Council has two licensed Landfills located at Derrinnumera and Rathroeen. Both landfills are licensed by the EPA and in compliance with regulations, operate to a very high standard.

The licence granted to the Council requires that all waste material is covered and capped under strict rules which involve importing of fill material and hiring of machinery for excavation works.

In November 2008, the Council decided in order to reduce associated high maintenance costs, to rationalise the operation of its two landfills. All waste contractors are currently using Rathroeen landfill only. The capacity of this cell will expire around July 2009 at which stage all contractors waste will be diverted to Derrinnumera until the capacity at this landfill expires. A new cell will be developed in Rathroeen which will cater for contractors waste for up to 6 years following the filling of the site at Derrinnumera. Householders will however continue to be facilitated at both sites.

Waste going to landfill is currently charged at €140/tonne (including government levy of €20). A standard bag of refuse to landfill is currently €5.

Composting

Mayo County Council offer householders “home composting bins” at the reduced rate of €25. The composters (including information booklet and kitchen caddy) may be purchased at all Area Offices, both Recycling Centres and at the Machinery Yard of Mayo County Council in Moneen, Castlebar.

Composters are offered free to all schools. Mayo County Council sold 355 composters in 2008.

In partnership with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council and Belmullet Tidy Towns Committee a composting workshop was held in Belmullet in June 2008. This workshop proved to be very popular and was attended by the general public and community representatives. A similar workshop is planned for 2009. A series of mobile compost workshops were also ran in partnership with Westport Tidy Towns Committee which also proved to be a major success.

Spreading the World

Local media is an excellent tool in delivering the environmental message and the monthly environmental slot on the “Tommy Marren” show worked very well throughout 2008. In partnership with Midwest Radio, a successful recycling awareness week was run in October 2008, as part of Repak National Recycling Week

The Environment Section web-site is another great facility particularly for the general public in gaining knowledge and information on various environmental issues. This

web-site is updated on a continual basis with information on new legislation, campaigns etc.

National Spring Clean is Ireland's biggest anti-litter campaign. It was initiated by Mayo County Council in 1992 and adopted nationally in 1997. 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. In Mayo, 129 community groups/schools took part in An Taisce's National Spring Clean in April 2008. All schools and community groups were invited to participate in the programme and all registered groups were issued with bags, gloves and litter pickers to assist them in their litter clean ups.

WASTE PERMITTING

Waste Collection Permits

Mayo County Council as Lead and Nominated authority for the Connaught Region has dealt with 608 Waste Collection permit applications for the region. New Waste management (Collection Permit) Regulations were introduced on the 1st June 2008. Under these Regulations Mayo County Council may issue Multi-Regional Waste Collection Permits which cover all ten Waste Management Regions. Similarly the other nine regions may issue Waste Collection permits which include the Connaught Region. There is now need for increased consultation between regions and Mayo County Council have both circulated applications nationally and commented on Multi-Regional applications circulated by the other Regions.

The application fee has been reduced to €1000 per region up to a maximum fee of €5000 for all ten regions. The new regulations introduced a fee for review of Waste Collection permits and review shall be carried out prior to the 5 years expiry date.

During 2008 the waste permitting section of Mayo County Council issued 53 Waste collection permits, this includes 7 multi Regional Waste Collection permits under the new regulations which cover all 34 Local Authorities. In addition MCC has assessed and made submissions (where appropriate) on 48 Multi regional applications being processed by other Waste management Regions. 27 Reviewed WCPs were also issued. There are 470 active Waste collection permits in the Connaught region and Mayo County Council is obliged to respond to significant volumes of requests for amendments to these permits from the permit holders. Permitted Waste Collectors are obliged to submit an annual Environmental Report each year with details of waste collected. This information is evaluated and combined for reporting to EPA and for compilation of Local Authority Service indicators.

Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration

Mayo County Council process applications for Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for the County. During 2008, Mayo County Council received 21 waste permit applications of which 9 were issued and 2 Certificate of Registration applications, one of which was issued.

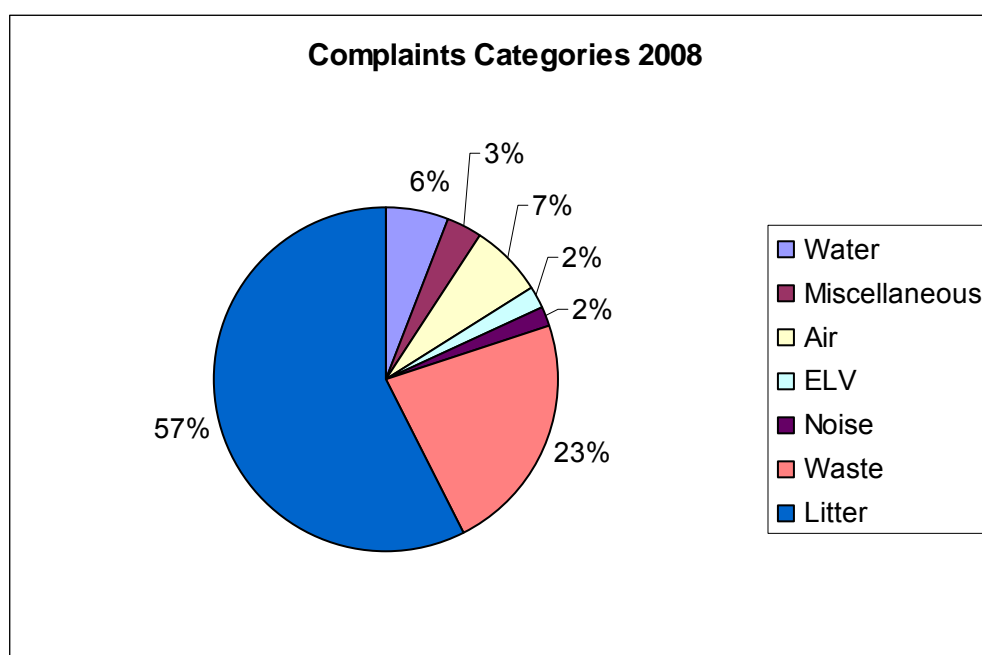
New Waste Management (Waste Facility Permit and Certificate of Registration) Regulations were introduced on 1st June 2008. The fees have increased and are set out in the regulations. The minimum fee is €600 and the maximum is €2000. The fee relates to the class of activity being authorised. Thresholds (set out in the Regulations) relating to quantity and type of waste determine whether an application is Waste Facility Permit or a Certificate of Registration. Permits issued under the new regulations may have a five year lifespan and may be reviewed prior to expiry date (there is a fee for review). Permit holders are obliged to submit an annual environmental report detailing types and tonnage of wastes recovered or disposed of on site.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Call Management System

Great strides are being taken on awareness of environmental issues and communities are diligent in reporting illegal behaviour as is evidenced by the **1,203** calls registered to the Environmental Complaints System in 2008.

89% of those complaints were resolved through the work of the Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens with the remainder of calls ongoing at end of 2008.



Environmental Enforcement Officers

There are three Environmental Enforcement officers dedicated to enforcement of constantly evolving environmental legislation. The 2008 RMCEI plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) includes an operational element which with careful consideration of the available resources outlines details of routine and non-routine environmental inspections to be completed during the year. The plan also includes for closure of enforcement actions initiated in the previous year. There is also provision in the RMCEI Plan for road check points, surveillance, flyovers and other initiatives.

In 2008, an area of outstanding natural beauty on Achill Island, which had been used for the illegal disposal of tonnes of household waste, was cleaned up by Environmental enforcement officers with the assistance of Civil Defence mountain rescue unit. In excess of 1700 routine inspections* were carried out by environment Enforcement officers in accordance with the RMCEI plan. Targets were exceeded in some cases and priority areas such as ELVs were successfully dealt with. Aerial surveys have been used again and as a result illegal waste activity sites have been pinpointed for follow up action.

Eleven multi-agency check points were also completed in 2008 including an inter county initiative. It should be noted that up to 70% of Environmental enforcement officers' time can be taken up with Non-routine work and response to incidents and complaints. The combination of having active Environmental Enforcement officers out on the ground, successful court appearances, media coverage and checkpoints continues to raise the Environmental Enforcement profile and Waste Management in the county.

*Routine inspections included; Waste (facility) permits, Waste Collection Permit audits, Dry cleaners, Vehicle refinishers, Tyres outlets, End of Life Vehicles, Farm film Plastics, plastic Bag Levy Outlets, Packaging Regulations, Solvent Regulations, and Battery Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Litter Management Plan

In the year when Westport claimed first prize in the National Tidy Towns Competition, a considerable number of the recommended measures of the Mayo County Council Litter Management Plan 2007 – 2009 were met. Most importantly, strict enforcement of relevant litter legislation was a priority, resulting in the issue of a large number of on-the-spot litter fines generating an income of €14750 for 2008. Cooperation with community groups continued throughout 2008 and the promotion of the National Spring Clean and other litter awareness initiatives were undertaken. The Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey of An Taisce highlighted a marked improvement in the litter status of Castlebar town; which was described as 'clean to European Norms'. In addition, an intensive litter audit was completed during the summer months which consisted of a study of the active control measures of almost 20 Mayo towns. The audit concluded that while most towns provided adequate numbers of litter bins and many

towns were only 'slightly littered', a small number of towns were described as 'significantly littered' and required further attention in the form of a detailed examination of the town or village litter management strategies. In addition, the audit concluded that the primary source of litter were cigarette butts, as supported by TES / National Litter Monitoring Body.

Litter Action League

2008 saw the continuation of the Litter Action League which was first introduced in November 2002. The competition is open to Tidy Towns Committees and Community Groups in all towns and villages in County Mayo, with the exception of the towns of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport. It is run on a league basis i.e. each of the participating towns and villages compete against all other towns and villages in its group in successive months.

The purpose of this initiative is to encourage Local Community Councils and Tidy Towns Committees to further their involvement in the eradication of litter in towns and villages in County Mayo. The competition also helps to raise awareness of the extent and effect of litter in local communities with awards being given to the winners and runners up. This competition received great interest with 27 groups participating in 2008. It is envisaged that the number of entrants will increase next year and have a positive effect of heightening litter awareness in our towns and villages. Entrants were divided into the following categories:

Group A	Large towns (population over 1,000)
Group B	Smaller towns (population less than 500)
Group C	Villages

The 2008 awards night was held on 9th December, 2008 in the Park Hotel, Kiltimagh, with awards presented to the following:

Group A	Winner	Crossmolina
	Runner Up	Ballyhaunis
Group B	Winner	Bonniconlon
	Runner Up	Bangor Erris
Group C1	Winner	Kilkeeran
	Runner Up	Islandeady
Group C2	Winner	Polranny
	Runner Up	The Neale

Even if areas do not reach the final stages of the competition they receive a prize if they achieve Litter Free Status i.e. 80%.

Cleaner Community Campaign

Each year as part of its mission to promote and protect the environment, Mayo County Council organises a Cleaner Community Campaign. This campaign involves

Community Groups, Schools, Tidy Town Committees etc and is geared towards fostering a sense of pride of the local community's surroundings.

The 2008 competition had seven categories as follows:

- 1 *Local Area Environment Project*
- 2 *Tidy Housing Estate*
- 3 *Best Kept School*
- 4 *Litter Free Mile*
- 5 *Best Kept Burial Ground*
- 6 *Blue Flag Beach Photography*
- 7 *Environmental Slogan*

The category of Environmental Slogan was a new addition for the 2008 competition. The winning slogan:

'Bin Your LitterRecycle Your Waste.....Make Mayo a Magic Place'

features on environmental advertisements, promotional literature and the Council's website.

The winners under each category for 2008 were as follows:

Best Kept Burial Ground

- 1st **Killeen Burial Ground, Louisburgh**
- 2nd **Drum Burial Ground, Clogher**
- 3rd **Bangor Erris Burial Ground, Bangor Erris**

Best Kept Housing Estate

- 1st **Blackrock Court, Quay Rd, Ballina**
- 2nd **Fr Angelus Park, Westport**
- 3rd **Aisling Drive, Ballyhaunis**

Litter Free Mile

- 1st **Ballycroy Village Enhancement Group**
- 2nd **Crossmolina Tidy Towns**
- 3rd **Kilkeeran Residents Association**

Local Area Environment Project

- 1st **Partry Residents Association**
- 2nd **Clogher Environmental Group**
- 3rd **Crossmolina Tidy Towns.**

Blue Flag Beach Photography

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Primary School | 1st | Claire Isaac |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|

Secondary School General Public	2nd	Jonathon Kelly
	1st	Kassi Gorman
	1st	Phelim Doran
	2nd	Eamon O' Daly
	3rd	Joy Kelly

Best Kept School

1st Prize	Cloonlyon NS, Charlestown
2nd Prize	Curraggan NS, Knockmore
3rd Prize	St Pauls Primary School, Cloggernagh, Islandeady, Castlebar

Blue Flag Beaches

Mayo has one of Europe's most unspoilt regions in environmental terms and was the first county to receive 13 No. Blue Flag Beaches. The Blue Flag is an environmental award given to communities who make a special effort to manage their beaches in an environmentally sensitive way, achieve a consistently high standard of cleanliness and carry out educational and awareness raising campaigns on the marine environment.

There are four aspects of management incorporated in the Blue Flag Criteria:

- Environmental Education & Information
- Environmental Management & Facilities
- Water Quality
- Safety & Services

The Blue Flag Campaign is a source of information on clean, safe and enjoyable environments for aquatic recreation. Visitors to the Blue Flag Beaches in Mayo can expect to see an Environmental Code of Conduct and Information on Protected Sites and Species in the locality.

This year Mayo was awarded 13 Blue Flags, maintaining its high performance of beach management having received the same number of Flags as last year:

Elly Bay	Golden Strand	Clare Island
Ross	Dugort	Mulranny
Bertra	Old Head	Dooega
Keel	Keem	Carrowmore Strand
Mullaghroe		

Mayo also won Green Coast Awards on five additional beaches in 2008, by meeting the criteria for excellent bathing water quality and responsible Environmental Management.

The Green Coast Award acknowledges beaches which meet EU bathing water quality standards, which are also prized for their natural, unspoiled environment. The award

encourages ‘best practice’ in beach management of rural beaches and emphasises community involvement in their management.

Mayo County Council looks forward to developing partnerships with the Coastal Communities in the years ahead.

Water Quality

Under the Water Framework Directive the EPA and the Local Authorities have a responsibility to monitor water quality in rivers, lakes and surface waters.

Mayo County Council is also responsible for monitoring the following:

- The quality of drinking water as required by the EC Drinking Water Directive and European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2007.
- Waste water in compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 and to make returns annually to the EPA.
- Surface water in compliance with the EC Surface Water for the Abstraction of Drinking Water Regulations, 1989.
- Salmonid waters in compliance with the EC Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations, 1988.
- Bathing waters to ensure compliance with the EC Bathing Waters Regulations, 1998. Mayo County Council monitors the quality of bathing waters in connection with the Blue Flag Beaches in the County.
- Compliance with the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1997 and 1990
- Compliance with the EC Water Quality Dangerous Substances Regulations, 2001.
- Compliance with the EC Good Agricultural Practice for Protection Of Waters Regulations, 2006

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive requires governments to take a new approach to managing all their waters, rivers, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. We must ensure that our waters achieve as a minimum ‘good’ status by 2015 with no deterioration in the status of any of our waters.

The Water Framework Directive was transposed into Irish Law by the EC Water Policy Regulations, 2003. These regulations established a number of statutory deadlines for the river basin planning process. The deadlines were amended during 2008 by the EC Water Policy (Amendment) Regulations, 2008. Ireland is divided into 8 River Basin Districts (RBD’s) to allow for the co-ordinated management and implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Mayo is part of the Western RBD. The RBD’s were required to develop a River Basin Management Plan for their districts. The ‘draft’ Western River Basin Management Plan was issued by the county councils of Mayo, Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo and Clare and Galway City Council in December 2008 and will be on public display until 22nd June, 2009.

Burial Grounds

Community Groups now maintain up to 60% of the burial grounds in the County with an annual financial contribution towards maintenance given by Mayo County Council. We encourage community involvement as much as possible and appreciate this voluntary effort.

Derelict Sites

Under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, a derelict site is defined as land which detracts to a material degree from the amenity, character, and appearance of the land in question because

- (a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition or
- (b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land.

The Council maintain a register of all sites listed as derelict throughout the County. The number of sites on the register stands at 77 at year end.

Housing and Building

2008 has again been a busy year for the Housing Service in Mayo County Council and in the three Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport. The difficulties on the financial front which developed over the course of the year, and the increased emphasis on value for money, the introduction of new procurement procedures, the turmoil in the private housing market, and the transition to the new Grant Schemes have all contributed to what was a very demanding year for Housing Services throughout the County. The general economic environment, the restriction on credit for private house purchase, and the growth in unemployment have had implications for the provision of social and affordable housing units and for the other support services provided by the four Housing Authorities.

The three yearly Assessment of Need which was carried out in March showed a significant increase in demand for housing and for housing services. Experience on the ground suggests that this trend has continued throughout the year and is likely to accelerate further in 2009, placing increasing pressures on our Housing Services. The significant tail-off in the private housing market has also affected the provision of affordable units in Mayo and the question of affordability and mixed tenure developments is a key challenge for the County into 2009 and beyond. Notwithstanding the additional work involved in the Assessment of Need and other pressures, satisfaction with the level of service provided through the Electoral Area Offices and the Town Councils remained high in 2008 and the Service Indicators for the year show movement in a positive direction. Among the key developments in 2008 were;

Housing Need

The Housing Need Assessment carried out in 2008 showed an increase of 14% on our Housing applicants across the County since the last assessment in 2005. Five Electoral Areas showed an increase with the most significant being recorded in and around Ballina. The most significant decrease was recorded in the Belmullet Electoral Area. Developing a Programme to respond to these particular needs will be a significant challenge in 2009 and beyond.

Grants Schemes

The Council assumed responsibility for the operation of the new Grants Schemes in April 2008. The new Schemes comprise:

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

The level of demand for the new Grants Schemes continued to be very strong through the year.

The operation of the Schemes was very carefully managed to ensure a match between allocation and expenditure in 2008. However indications are that demand in 2009 is likely to exceed allocation. The Schemes will be subject to a review at National level in the early part of 2009 and it is probable that this review will introduce a system of prioritisation which may help to deal with this particular problem.

Any approvals issued under the former Essential Repairs Grant and Disabled Persons Grant Schemes will be finalised in 2009.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme operated by Mayo County Council continues to expand. To date 426 units have transferred to Mayo County Council and just over 1,000 further cases will require to be dealt with over the coming two to three years. The Scheme is being well received in the County and will be a more significant part of the range of Housing Services provided by the County Council in the future.



***Tubberhill
Housing Development,
Westport***

Assessment of Need

As part of the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government's Strategic Review of the Housing Programme, a comprehensive Assessment of Needs was carried out by each Housing Authority in March 2008. The Assessment is carried out every three years. This task involves a great deal of work by all Housing Offices in compiling and checking very detailed data on all applicants for housing in the County. The information gathered has been coordinated by Mayo County Council I.T. Section, and processed by the Department. The final figures are outlined in the table below. These figures will be used to target the work of the Housing Programme over the next three years.

The figures indicate an overall growth in the County from **1,493** applicants in 2005 to **1,704** applicants in 2008 with major growth occurring in the Ballina Area.

2008 Category of Need Breakdown for Mayo County Council

	Inc. Town Council Ballina	Swinford	Ballinrobe	Inc. Town Council Castlebar	C'morris	Belmullet	Inc. Town Council Westport	Total
Homeless	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Leaving Institutional Care	26	2	3	31	2	7	0	71
Disabled	20	4	3	5	4	0	6	42
Involuntary Sharing	15	4	2	9	7	4	1	42
Traveller	22	11	13	21	7	0	3	77
Elderly	26	10	5	12	12	8	18	91
Unfit Accd	3	8	3	1	6	8	5	34
Overcrowded Accd	15	11	4	22	4	11	2	69
Medical or Compassionate Reasons	34	66	15	119	82	13	57	386
Not reasonably able to meet cost of accommodation	377	73	33	221	4	27	152	887
Total 2008	542	189	81	442	128	78	244	1704
Total 2005	354	119	77	431	111	155	246	1493
CHANGE %	+53%	+58%	+5%	+3%	+15%	-49%	-1%	+14%

Capital Programme

Targets 2008

The Housing Construction Capital Programme is delivered as part of a rolling multi-annual programme covering the years 2008 – 2011. All schemes are delivered as integrated, mixed tenure schemes where Affordable Units are provided side by side with units for Rent.

Where possible our developments also incorporate an element of Voluntary Housing. It is part of the policy of Mayo County Council, enshrined in the Housing Strategy and incorporated in the County Development Plan, to provide a larger number of small schemes rather than a small number of large tracts of public housing. Particular emphasis is placed on providing very small schemes in the smaller towns and villages throughout the rural parts of the County. This policy has delivered some significant gains for rural Mayo and will continue to be promoted during 2009.

The multi-annual programme continued through the year with a high level of activity throughout the County. This programme is reviewed with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on an annual basis and targets set for the year ahead. Among the key targets for 2008 in the Mayo plan were;

- **Social Housing** - directly provided housing units, including schemes, rural houses, extensions, special works and acquisitions: **65 Starts.**
- **Affordable Housing** - including units developed by Mayo County Council as part of the Capital Programme; and units provided under Part V Agreements: **29 Starts.**
- **Voluntary Housing** - Including units developed by Mayo County Council and transferred to Voluntary Associations for future management, and units provided directly by Voluntary Associations: **38 Starts.**

Delivery 2008

As can be seen from the accompanying Tables, the Capital Programme is being delivered substantially in line with the targets set in the Multi-Annual Programme. Targets set for Affordable Housing and Voluntary Housing in the Multi-Annual Programme have been exceeded, and it is intended that further progress will be made on these programmes during the course of 2009.

*Housing Development –
‘Naomh Ceallach’, Kilkelly*



Mayo Starts 2008

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc	Total
Ballina Town Council		-	2	1	9	12
Ballina Electoral Area	* Killlala 1	1	-	-	-	2
Swinford Electoral Area	* Midfield 7	-	-	1	2	10
North East Region	8	1	2	2	11	24

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc	Total
Castlebar Town Council	-	-	-	-	1	1
Castlebar Electoral Area	Mayo Abbey 5 * Glenisland 3	-	-	-	-	8
Ballinrobe Electoral Area	0	-	-	-	1	1
Claremorris Electoral Area	* Knock 10	-	-	-	-	10
South Region	18	-	-	-	2	20

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc	Total
Westport Town Council	-	1	-	-	-	1
Westport Electoral Area	*Kilmeena 10	1	-	-	-	11
Belmullet Electoral Area	*Doohoma 9	8	-	1	3	21
West Region	19	10	-	1	3	33

TOTAL STARTS	45	11	2	3	16	77
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* Carry over from 2007 Programme.

Mayo Completions 2008

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc	Totals
Ballina Town Council	Mc Dermott St. 6	-	2	1	9	18
Ballina Electoral Area		4	-	-	-	4
Swinford Electoral Area	Main St. Kilkelly 10 Foxford 13	-	-	1	2	26
North East Region	29	4	2	2	11	48

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc.	Totals
Castlebar Town Council	0	-	-	-	1	1
Castlebar Electoral Area	Mayo Abbey 5	-	-	-	-	5
Ballinrobe Electoral Area	Lough Mask 6 Bog Road 5	-	-	-	1	12
Claremorris Electoral Area	Tooraree Phs. II 6	-	1	-	-	7
South Region	22	-	1	-	2	25

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	Special Works in lieu	Turnkeys, Part Vs, etc.	Totals
Westport Town Council	Tubberhill 23	1	-	-	-	24
Westport Electoral Area		1	-	-	-	1
Belmullet Electoral Area	Tonragee 6 Corclough 9	1	1	3	3	23
West Region	38	3	1	3	3	48

TOTAL COMPLETIONS	89	7	4	5	16	121
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Affordable Housing

The provision of Affordable Housing in the County continued in 2008 with units provided under Part V and from the Council's Capital Construction Programme.

PART V

In 2008 under Part V the following units were acquired as Affordable Housing;

<i>Location</i>	<i>Units</i>
Ballina Town Council	3
Ballinrobe Electoral Area	0
Castlebar Electoral Area	3
Claremorris Electoral Area	8
Westport Town Council	11
Total Acquired	25

Capital Programme

Glenisland	2
Foxford	5
Claremorris	6
Total	13
Total Affordable Units (2008)	35

Given the present condition of the Housing market, the issue of affordability will be a major concern in 2009. The objective of providing high quality mixed tenure housing developments, in the best possible locations, will continue to be a priority.



Tonragee Housing Development, Achill

Voluntary Housing

Voluntary Housing activity during 2008 has continued to demonstrate and reinforce the commitment of Mayo County Council to provide a high quality built environment inclusive of graduated supports and in partnership with local voluntary organisations. The Voluntary sector developments will continue to pose challenges during 2009 and the Council will ensure that a concerted effort is made to complete the targets as listed hereunder.

Voluntary Housing Schemes under Construction 2008

Cheshire Ireland	5 units
Irishtown	12 units
Keel, Achill	6 units
Mayo Abbey Voluntary Housing Association	12 units
The Cedars, Castlebar	1 units
Total	36 units

Voluntary Housing Completions 2008

Ballycastle Voluntary Housing Committee	21 units
Castle Street, Castlebar	19 units
Cheshire, Bohola	5 units
Tooreen Voluntary Housing Association	7 units
Western Care, The Paddocks, Westport	3 units
Total	55 units

Schemes at Planning Stage 2009 / 2010

Ballina Mayo Mental Health	12 units
Ballinrobe Vincent De Paul	14 units
Belmullet Irish Wheelchair Ass.	29 units
Foxford Vincent De Paul	12 units
Glenamoy VHA	10 units
Gurteens, Ballina	4 units
Mayfield Clár IRD	36 units
St. Patrick's Estate, Ballina, Cluid	66 units
Swinford Mayo Mental Health	12 units
Total	195 units

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) was introduced by the Government in July 2004. This scheme involves Local Authorities progressively assuming responsibility for accommodating recipients of rent supplement who have a defined long term housing need, through direct arrangements between the Local Authority and the private rented sector.

Multiple benefits accrue under Rental Accommodation Scheme, including:

Tenant - Security of Tenure; improved choice; improved quality & standard of accommodation; RAS tenants will not lose support if they gain employment but will make a larger contribution to the rent;

Landlord - Guaranteed income stream; Prompt payment by State Agency; Ease of administration – Local Authority act as agent in respect of re-letting of voids and rent collection;

Local Authority - Additional housing option; Provides increased choice of housing options; Facilitates social mix with wider geographical spread of Social Housing.

The Rental Accommodation Scheme was introduced to the Mayo Local Authorities in July, 2006 and a dedicated unit has been established to oversee the successful delivery of this key programme. The RAS unit currently comprises three full time staff, with technical support as required.

To-date Mayo County Council have assumed responsibility for **426** units (238 from Voluntary Sector & 188 from Private Sector). There are currently **1,030** long-term recipients of rent supplement within Mayo, all of whom will need to be accommodated under RAS. This represents a significant challenge for Mayo County Council, who will have responsibility for all of these clients.

The lengthy process of contacting and interviewing all clients in order to confirm their eligibility for RAS, establish their areas of preference and the type of accommodation to be sourced, is continuing. In addition, accommodation assessments are being carried out to ensure that the appropriate standards are met.

The scheme has been very well received in Mayo, with benefits accruing to all parties. The process of transferring eligible clients to RAS will continue, with RAS becoming an integral part of the housing service being offered by Mayo local Authorities into the future.

Grants Schemes

Mayo County Council continued to operate the Essential Repair and Disabled Grant Schemes through 2008. Any existing commitments under these Schemes will be finalised in the early part of 2009. With effect from April 2008 the responsibility for the operation of all of the three new Grant Schemes introduced by the Department in 2007 was transferred to Local Authorities. These new Grant Schemes consisted of:

- **Mobility Aids Housing Grant**

This grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing. The works grant aided under the scheme include:

- Grab-rails / Access ramps;
- Level access showers;
- Stair-lifts;
- Other minor works deemed necessary to facilitate the mobility needs of a member of a household.

- **Housing Adaptation Grant**

This grant is intended for people with a disability and is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has

an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. The types of works allowable under the scheme include:

- The provision of access ramps / stair lifts;
- Downstairs toilet facilities;
- Accessible showers;
- Adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access;
- Extensions, and any other works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability.

- **Housing Aid for Older People**

This grant is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. The types of works grant aided under the scheme include:

- Structural repairs or improvements;
- Re-wiring;
- Repairs to/replacement of windows and doors;
- The provision of heating, water and sanitary services, cleaning, painting and drylining;
- This scheme now incorporates the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme formerly administered by Health Service Executive.

Breakdown of New Housing Grants 2008

The processing of applications under the new Housing Grants Schemes is continuing and the level of activity recorded as at November 2008 under each of the Schemes was as follows:

Mobility Aids Grant		Totals
No. of Applications Received		237
Value of Grants Sought		€993,009
No. of Grants Approved		144
Value of Grants Approved		€527,613
Housing Adaptation Grant		
No. of Applications Received		116
Value of Grants Sought		€1,891,563
No. of Grants Approved		50
Value of Grants Approved		€542,451
Housing Aid for Older People Grant		
No. of Applications Received		560
Value of Grants Sought		€4,130,734
No. of Grants Approved		283
Value of Grants Approved		€1,837,662
Total Value of Grants Sought		€7,015,306
Total Value of Grants Approved		€2,907,726

The Council also continued to make payments totalling **€1,750,000** on the old Disabled Persons Grant Scheme and Essential Repair Grant Scheme during the year.

Finance

The total funding allocated to the operation of all Grant Schemes in the County in 2009, including an allocation of €350,000 which was notified in September from the Department, was **€2,834,300**. The total expenditure on the Disabled Persons Grant and Essential Repairs Grant Schemes during 2008 is projected at **€1,750,000**.

The other three Grant Schemes were very carefully managed during the course of the year and it is anticipated that the balance of the allocation will be sufficient to deal with all claims for payment under the Grant Schemes in 2008. Provision has been made for an allocation of **€3.00m** in 2009.

The Schemes will be the subject of a National Review in the early part of 2009. Following on from this review, the operation of the Grant Schemes will be carefully monitored to ensure that the resources available are targeted at the most needy and pressing cases.

Housing Refurbishment

Long Term Voids

In the Budget for 2008 a special provision was made for dealing with long term voids during the course of the year. A total of **€400,000** was invested throughout the County in dealing with this particular issue and significant progress has been made. There are still areas to be dealt with and a similar provision is included in the Budget for 2009.

Refurbishment Programme 2000–2009

Mayo County Council initiated a major Refurbishment Programme of all Housing stock in 2002. The Programme will see approximately **€5m** invested in the housing stock throughout the County. It will ensure that every house is brought to an acceptable standard of physical fabric, comfort and appearance. Work began in 2002, targeting initially rural houses which were surveyed and tendered in blocks on an Electoral Area basis.

The Programme has now moved on to the refurbishment of schemes, which by their nature are more complex, given the mixed public / private ownership and the requirement to upgrade external open space. The state of progress in each Electoral Area is outlined in the following Tables. The total investment to date on the Scheme amounts to approximately **€1.4m**.

NORTH EAST REGION

BALLINA ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURALS	95	On Site	2,294,000
SCHEMES	60	On Site	593,600
	111	At Survey	1,685,200*
TOTALS	266		4,572,800

*Estimate based on previous works.

SWINFORD ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURALS	75	Complete	870,049
SCHEMES	159	Complete	873,654
TOTAL	234	-	1,743,703

N.E. REGION	500	-	6,316,503
OVERALL			

WEST REGION

BELMULLET ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURALS	174	99% Complete	3,519,000
SCHEMES	89	At Survey	924,000
TOTAL	263	-	4,443,000

WESTPORT ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURALS	71	95% complete	1,252,000
SCHEMES	49	At Survey	441,000
TOTAL	120	-	1,693,000

WEST REGION	383	-	6,136,000
OVERALL			

SOUTH REGION

BALLINROBE ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURAL	26	Complete	194,000
SCHEMES	30	Complete	136,000
TOTAL	56	-	330,000

CASTLEBAR ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURAL	38	Complete	435,000
SCHEMES	16	Complete	93,000
TOTAL	54	-	528,000

CLAREMORRIS ELECTORAL AREA

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>NO OF UNITS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>COST €</i>
RURAL	38	On Site	581,000
SCHEMES	40	95% Complete	872,000
	35	At Survey-Phase 2	
TOTAL	113	-	1,453,000

S.W. REGION OVERALL	223		€2,311,000
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Traveller Accommodation

General

During the course of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005 – 2008, a total of one hundred and eighty three families have been accommodated with support from Mayo County Council. Fifty one families have been accommodated in Local Authority dwellings, seven families have been accommodated through the Rental Accommodation Scheme and one hundred and twenty five families have been supported and assisted by Mayo County Council Traveller Accommodation Liaison Officers in securing private rented accommodation.

The number of Traveller families living in the County has increased from one hundred and sixty nine in November 2005 to three hundred and fourteen as at October, 2008.

Since 2005 the number of Traveller families on the roadside has decreased from forty three to twenty and the number of Traveller families accommodated in private rented accommodation has increased from seventeen to one hundred and twenty four.

Mayo County Council is preparing a new Traveller Accommodation Plan to cover the period 2009–2013. There remains significant challenges to be dealt with over the period of this new Plan, as set out in Appendix 01.

Our Assessment of Need identifies a total target of thirty three units per year, for the duration of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 – 2013. This figure includes families who will become eligible for consideration under the terms of the Plan, returning families and new family formations. Appendix 01 indicates the targets to be achieved.

Legal Cases

A number of Legal challenges brought by individual families against the Local Authority in Mayo are continuing to work their way through due process. One long running case was dealt with in 2008 with Judgement given in favour of the Local Authority involved. Mayo County Council will continue to respond to such legal challenges in the course of 2009.

Group Housing

- Development at Bog Road, Ballinrobe – Construction of three Houses & Refurbishment of two existing houses have been completed in 2008.
- Group Project consisting of four units of accommodation at Laveymore, Charlestown is due to commence in 2009.

Projected Need 2009 – 2013

Electoral Area	Location	Type of Accommodation			Total Numbers (Families)	Projected Target Over T.A.P. 2009 - 2013
		Roadside	Halting Site + Temporary Facilities	Private rented		
Ballina						
	Ballina	10		56	66	73
Ballinrobe						
	Ballinrobe	0		10	10	11
Castlebar						
	Castlebar	2	4	35	41	45
Claremorris						
	Claremorris	1		1	2	2
	Ballyhaunis	4		8	12	13
Swinford						
	Swinford	1		0	1	1
	Kilkelly	0		6	6	7

	Kiltimagh	1		1	2	2
	Charlestown	1	2	4	7	8
	Foxford	0		1	1	1
Westport						
	Westport	0		2	2	2
TOTAL		20	6	124	150	165

Other Services Provided from Housing Office 2008

	WEST REGION		NORTH EAST REGION		SOUTH REGION			Total
	West-port	Bel-mullet	Ballina	Swinford	Clare-morris	Ballin-robe	Castle-bar	
Affordable Applications Received	21	0	14	5	40	6	95	181
Affordable Houses Allocated	17	0	0	0	4	3	1	25
Housing Loan Applications	19	3	1	2	28	1	1	55
Housing Loan Approvals	16	3	1	2	5	1	0	28
Reconstruction Loan Applications Approvals	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Special House Improvement Loans Approvals	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Tenant Purchase Scheme Applications	4	33	10	4	8	9	7	75
Tenant Purchase Schemes Sales	1	11	4	4	8	2	2	32
Totals	78	52	31	18	93	22	106	400

The Table outlines the other work carried out in each of the offices in 2008. Given the economic climate and the increase in our Housing applicants list, it is likely that we will see increased demand for both accommodation and other support services in our Housing Offices in the course of 2009.

Architects

The Architects Section of Mayo County Council is primarily involved in the preparation, design and construction of Capital Projects involving the provision of Local Authority Housing, Civic Offices, Fire Stations and Libraries throughout the County.

Other areas of involvement include:

- Provision of Playgrounds & Neighbourhood Schemes;
- Administration of the “Restoration & Conservation Of Protected Structures” Grants Scheme ;
- Implementation of the Disability Strategy;
- Facilitation of Public Art;
- Maintenance & Management of Turlough Park Gardens;
- Planning Consultancy Services;

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

New Area Offices - Ballinrobe



2008 saw the completion of new Area Offices in Ballinrobe, and also the commencement on work a similar facility in Claremorris with an anticipated completion date of July, 2009.

These facilities will provide a much improved local public service point of contact in both region.

HOUSING PROGRAMME 2008

An important function of the Architects Section is in facilitating the provision of Local Authority housing throughout the County. This involves public consultation with local communities, the purchase and sourcing of suitable development sites, the design,

costing, and tendering of appropriate housing projects and the supervision and management of the project on-site to completion and ultimately handover to the tenant.



*Housing development at
Tonragee, Achill.*

Housing Schemes completed in 2008 included 2 Infill Townhouses at Balla, 18 houses at Foxford, 6 units at Tonragee, Achill, 10 units at Claremorris, 3 New Units & 2 Extensions / Refurbishments at Bog Rd. Ballinrobe, 10 units at Kilkelly, 9 units at Corclough, and 6 Townhouses at McDermott St., Ballina.

*Housing development at
Claremorris.*



On-going Housing projects due for completion in 2009 include developments at –

**Tooraree, Ballyhaunis (Phase II) - 6 Units,
Tubberhill Westport Phase I - 43 Units,
Claremorris Rd., Knock - 10 Units,
Saleen, Castlebar - 59 Units,
Glenisland - 5 Units.
Mayo Abbey - 5 Units.**

New Housing Projects commenced in 2008 include developments at –

**Midfield - 7 Units,
Kilmeena - 10 Units & 4 Serviced Sites,
Doohoma - 9 Units.
Killala - 1 Infill Unit.**

Restoration & Conservation of Protected Structures Grants Scheme

The objective of the Conservation Grants Scheme operated by Mayo County Council is to assist the owner / occupier of a structure that is protected because of its architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest to undertake restoration and conservation works.

The Council is allocated a fixed amount of money for a calendar year to meet grant payments. Grant applications are prioritized each year within the available resources. Works do not qualify for Grant Assistance if they begin before the structure concerned is inspected & approved unless we are of the opinion that the works are, or were necessary to eliminate or reduce an immediate risk to the safety or structure of the building.

*House Re-Thatch &
Refurbish – Knappagh,
Westport.*



Mayo Peace Park - Castlebar

The Official opening by President Mary McAleese of the Mayo Peace park in September of 2008 was the culmination of eight years of endeavour by the 'Peace Park Committee' in association with both Castlebar Town Council and Mayo County Council to provide a dedicated remembrance site to commemorate the many Mayo men & women who died in combat in various wars and campaigns across the world.



Pride of Place Awards 2008

Now in its sixth year, the Pride of Place Competition recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community groups make to society.

2008 saw nominations from villages, towns and cities from practically every county in Ireland. All of these nominees demonstrated what can be achieved when people work together to enhance and improve their locality for the good of the whole community. The 'Pride Of Place' awards have been instrumental in encouraging such endeavours by local communities in Mayo, who through local commitment and 'pride' in their communities have raised the standards and appearance of their local towns and villages.

2008 proved to be another successful year for County Mayo in this competition with Mayo County Council achieving the outright 'Local Authority' winner, Ballyhaunis District Community overall winners of Category 5, Crossmolina a runner up in their Category 4 with Knockmore and Inisturk also representing Mayo in their respective Categories.



County Mayo Entrants - Pride Of Place 2008

**Category 5: (Population
2000-5000)
Winner: Ballyhaunis
District Community
Group, County Mayo**





*Category 4:
(Population 1000-2000)
Runners Up:
Crossmolina, Co. Mayo*

The “NeighbourWood” Scheme

The NeighbourWood Scheme is a woodland Grant scheme that is available to local community groups which is administered and managed by the local authority to fund the development / establishment of new and existing woodlands in close proximity to towns and Villages.



Westport North Wood

Mayo County Council in association with various community groups has successfully applied for funding for four such schemes at the following locations –

- **The Quay Newport**
- **Northwood Westport**
- **Brabazon Park Swinford**
- **Mc Mahon Park Claremorris**

for the following works -

- **Establishment Of New Woodland,**
- **Improvement To Existing Woodland,**
- **Provision Of Outdoor Recreational Facilities**

Playgrounds

A recent initiative undertaken by Mayo County Council saw the provision of new Playground Facilities in a number of the main urban centres.

Following on from the success of the playgrounds established in 2007 in **Ballindine, Belmullet,** and **Ballycroy,** similar playground facilities were developed in 2008 at **Ballinrobe, Foxford, Louisburgh, Swinford** and **Knock.** –



Ballinrobe



Foxford



Louisburgh



Swinford



Knock

Public Art

Mayo County Council has been a leading Local Authority in utilising the ‘Per Cent For Art’ Scheme to provide ‘Art’ throughout the county over the last 15 years.

The development of policy, the implementation of a wider range of commissioning practices and engagement with a broader range of artistic practice has been realised through the work of the Public Art Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Architect’s Department.

The following Public Art commissions were undertaken in 2008 –

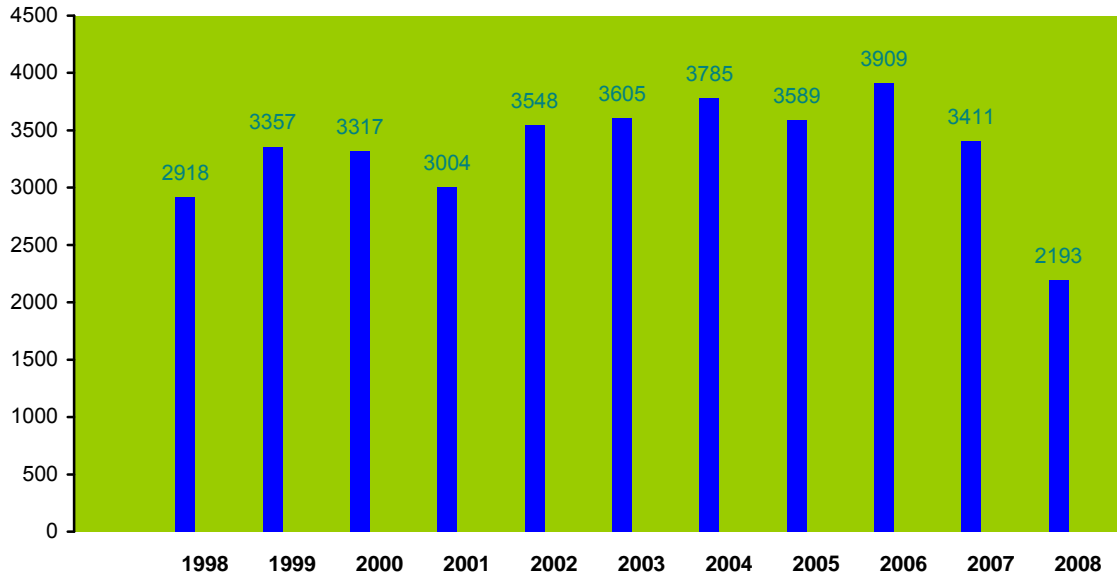
‘Paperworks’ by Lucy Hill, a ‘mixed materials’ artwork, was commissioned by Mayo County Council and funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government under the ‘Library Capital Programme’ and is hanging at the public Library in Castlebar.



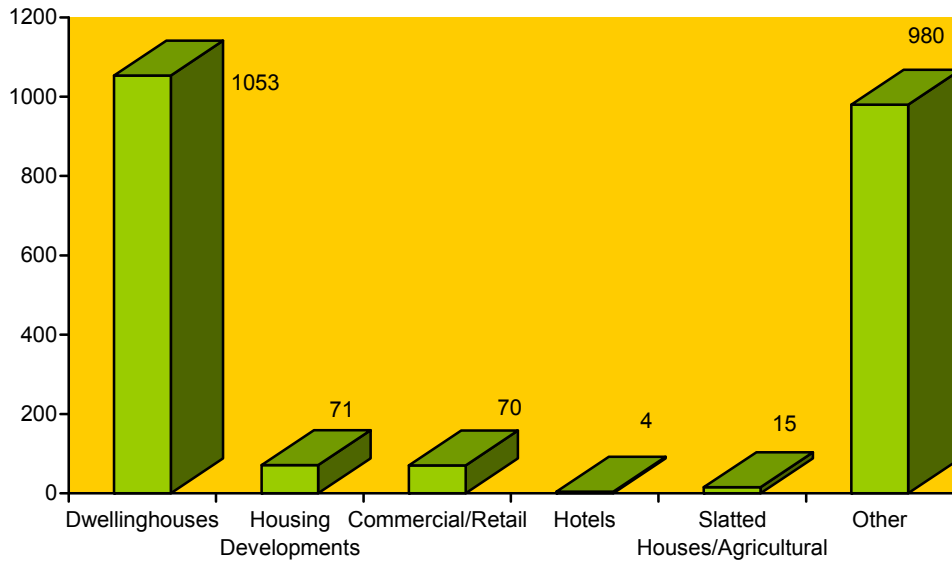
***‘Paperworks’, by
Lucy Hill***

Planning and Development

Planning Applications 1998 - 2008

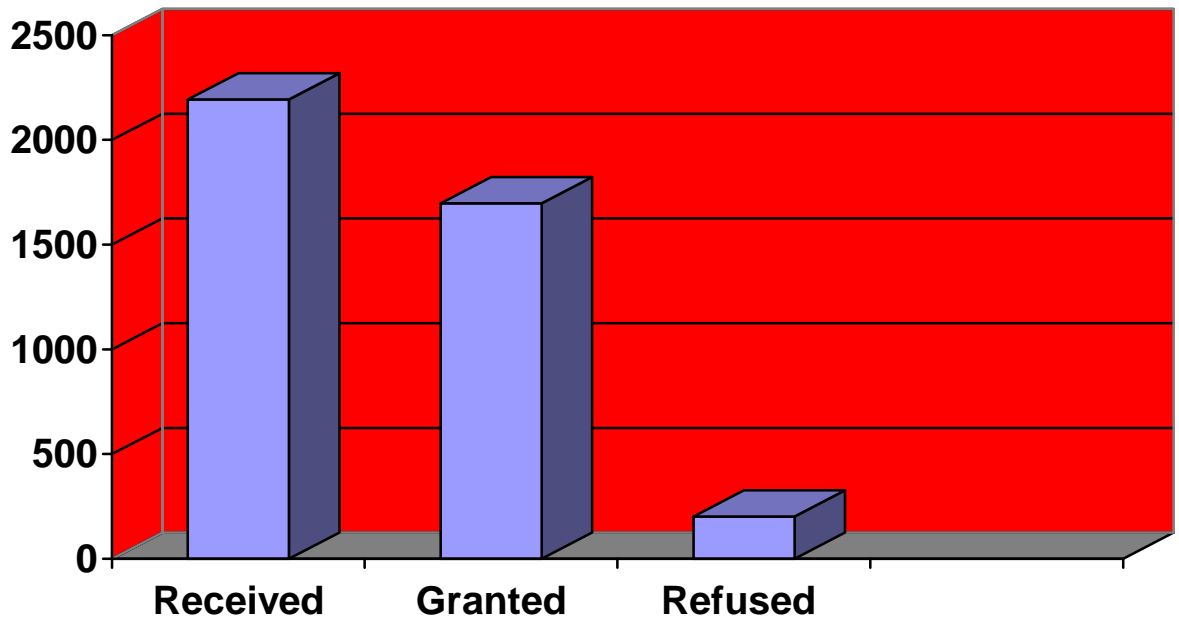


Breakdown of 2008 planning applications



Planning Decisions 2008

Applications Received	2193
Applications Granted	1697
Applications Refused	202



Planning Clinics

Planning Clinics are held in each of the seven electoral areas, every Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 364 Planning Clinics were held in 2008.

County Development Plan

The Mayo County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was adopted by the Members of Mayo County Council on 6th May, 2008. On 11th July 2008, John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, issued a Ministerial Direction under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, requiring the Council to vary the Development Plan.

Local Area Plans

Killala	Pre-Draft Stage.
Kiltimagh	Draft to be published early 2009.
Charlestown	Draft Plan to go on display 2nd Quarter 2009.
Castlebar Town & Environs Plan	Adopted on 6th May, 2008, Ministerial Direction issued July 2008 to make variations.
Ballyhaunis	At Pre-Draft Stage
Ballinrobe	Draft to be published 2nd Quarter 2009
Ballina Town & Environs	Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan 2009 – 2015 to go on public display February 2009.
Westport Town & Environs	Plan prepared and Draft to go on public display February 2009.
Belmullet Local Area Plan	Pre-Draft Stage.
Swinford Local Area Plan	To be Adopted January 2009

E-Planning

Mayo County Council is continuing to develop the concept of e-planning by further developing an efficient service to the public with our on-line facilities. All current and recent applications are available on-line for inspection by the public.

The Self-Service Pre-Planning System (SSPS) allows anyone to focus in on a map of the County until they find the plot of land that they have a particular query on. Mayo County Council also introduced an on-line guide to making a planning application. A recent addition to the planning website is a fee calculation tool which can be used to calculate planning fees for housing, commercial and agricultural developments. Further initiatives proposed for 2009 include accepting planning applications online, to move formal preplanning applications online and accepting submissions online.

In 2008, Mayo County Council's Planning area of the website had more than 2.5 million hits—more than 4,200 visits per week. This is a slight decrease in visitor traffic from our 2007 high of about 15%.

Conservation Grants

The Planning Section administers the Conservation Grant Scheme operated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This grant is 100% recoupable from the Department.

Mayo County Council's allocation in 2008 was €117,000.00. Grants totalling approximately €117,000.00 were paid out by Mayo County Council in 2008 under the Conservation Grant Scheme.

Planning Enforcement (not including Town Councils)

Number of complaints investigated	325
Number of complaints dismissed	85
Number of cases subject to complaints resolved through negotiations	88
Number of Warning Letters	156
Number of Enforcement Notices	0
Number of Prosecutions	4 (31 files with Solicitor)

Finance

The Finance Section of Mayo County Council is responsible for the collection of revenues due to Mayo County Council and the payment of monies and charges due by Mayo County Council.

Mayo County Councils Revenue Department deals with the collection of:

- Commercial Rates
- Water Charges
- Housing Rents
- Housing Loans

Commercial Rates

In 2008, 2,700 rate demands were issued with €11.65 million collected. This represents a collection percentage of 92%. Approximately 9% of Mayo County Council's revenue expenditure is raised through rate charges. The collection of rates on commercial and industrial properties is thus essential in maintaining the range of Council services.

Water Charges

Mayo County Council levy charges for water supplied for non-domestic purposes, such as agricultural, commercial and industrial. Large consumers are billed on a metered charge basis while fixed amount charges are levied on others. Total amount of billed customers in 2008 was 5,675 approx. Water Charges collected in 2008 was €3.048 million.

Housing Rents

Mayo County Council has approximately 1700 housing rent accounts. The total amount of rents collected in 2008 amounted to €4.48 million.

Housing Loans

Mayo County Council has approximately 1,350 housing loan accounts. The total amount of housing loan charges collected in 2008 amounted to €3.4 million. The total number of redeemed accounts in 2008 was 114.

Payment Practices

General Payments are made weekly through the Finance Section. All payments are properly checked and certified by the relevant Senior Officer, before submission for payment.

Prompt Payment of Accounts

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, required the Council to ensure that payments are paid within 45 days of receipt of an invoice or the receipt of goods, whichever is the later. This legislation was superseded by a EU-wide law, which came into effect on 8th August 2002. This regulation provides that penalty interest will become payable if payments of commercial transactions are not met within thirty days, unless otherwise specified in a contract or agreement. The rate of penalty interest is .0281% per day.

In 2008 the Council paid no interest on late payments under the Act/Regulation.

Financial Management

The Council seeks to improve Financial Management by:

- On-going monitoring, management and control of the Councils financial resources.
- Ensuring value for money in all the Councils activities.
- Strengthening the role of internal audit and continually reviewing internal control procedures to ensure propriety and transparency in all the Councils activities.
- Maximizing the financial resources available to the Council through the ongoing investigation and pursuance of funding opportunities at local, national and EU level and effective management of debt collection.

Motor Tax

The Motor Taxation office deals with the administration of the Vehicle Licence and Drivers Licence system for the county of Mayo.

There are currently 3 offices in operation based in the following areas:

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

Contact 094 9047600 or email motortax@mayococo.ie

2008 also had the Motor tax online service available to customers. This service can be used for the renewal of tax on private vehicles, motor cycles and agricultural tractors. You will note that although the online transactions have increased so too have the number of transactions issued by Mayo Motor Tax.

	2006 Local	2006 Online	2007 Local	2007 Online	2008 Local	2008 Online
No. of New Registrations	5,995		5,840		4,553	
No. of Tax discs issued	92,815	21,282	94,316	27,163	94,680	32,519
No. of drivers Licences issued	15,432		15,089		17,245	
Arrears Receipts	9,763	1,503	10,871	2,084	9,388	2,230
CRW's	9,530		10,950		11,934	
Duplicate Registration Certs	1,634		1,801		1,690	
Miscellaneous	699		691		3861	
Total Issues	129,883	22,785	133,718	29,247	135,629	34,749
Total Income	20,581,050	4,752,811	21,246,882	6,183,562	22,422,729	7,847,910

Although Motor Tax online are now issuing 22,785 transactions for Mayo, our local transactions are still on the increase and our overall figures are now higher than before the introduction of Motor Tax online in 2004 when we had 121,993 transactions.

The rates of duty increased from the 1st February, 2008 for the first time in four years.

Mayo County Fire Service

Mayo is a large rural County, which covers an area of 2,159 sq. miles and has a population of approximately 124,000 people, making it one of the largest fire authority areas in the country. Mayo County Fire Service, as one of the 37 fire authorities in the Country, serves this area. It has an obligation, under the Fire Services Acts, 1981 and 2003, to make provision for the organisation of fire Services, Fire Safety, Fire Fighting, the protection and rescue of persons and property and related matters. Mayo County Council is the Fire Authority for the administrative area of County Mayo and the three Town Council areas of Castlebar, Westport and Ballina.



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 2007. The Fire Prevention Officers, who are engaged in this highly specialised work area, are also involved in the processing of, inter alia, the following:

Fire Safety Certificates				
Year	<i>Received</i>	<i>Granted</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Invalid</i>
2008	239	253	1	2
2007	313	276	1	5
2006	317	288	1	13

The Council process Commencement Notice Applications, under of the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007, within the Fire Service. The number of Commencement Notice Applications received and processed is as follows:

Commencement Notices			
Year	<i>Received</i>	<i>Valid</i>	<i>Invalid</i>
2008	994	921	73
2007	1366	1277	89
2006	1570	1425	145

The Council also undertakes inspections of buildings under the various Acts and are continuing with their programme of random inspections of places of public assembly, in co-operation with An Garda Siochana, to ensure compliance with the fire safety requirements and to detect and prevent overcrowding in these premises. As a result of the evolving legislation and new construction techniques, Fire Prevention Officers are kept updated through regular training courses and seminars.

Community Fire Safety

One of the principal recommendations for change in the fire service was that greater focus should be given to fire safety, particularly in the area of community fire safety. A number of initiatives were proposed under the Fire Service Change Programme.

- One initiative was the *Domestic Smoke Alarm Campaign*. The primary aim of this campaign was to target the vulnerable 20% group of householders known to be without smoke alarms. At local authority level, the local fire brigade worked with the Community & Enterprise Department of the Council to carry out this campaign. The Domestic Smoke Alarm Campaign was piloted in the Charlestown area of County Mayo and is being continued into 2009 in other areas around the county.
- The *Primary Schools Programme* continued in our national schools for the second year and children in 3rd class were targeted to educate in relation to the dangers of fire in their own homes. The feedback from teachers and pupils again was very encouraging and it was a very positive role taken on by the fire fighters in their own area.
- A further aspect of Community Fire Safety recommended under the Fire Service Change Programme is concerned with developing and disseminating key fire safety messages to the public at large. To advance this area of Community Fire Safety, Mayo County Fire Service employed digital media screens set up in Mayo General Hospital which gave fire safety messages on a continuous basis to those attending the hospital.

Fire Safety Week

Mayo County Fire Service has always promoted fire safety awareness in the community by means of meetings, seminars, school visits and various targeted information campaigns. This year's theme for national fire safety week, which was again a joint venture between Northern Ireland Fire Service and the Fire Services in the Republic of Ireland, was "Fire Safety is Your Safety". In 2008 Fire Safety Week ran from 6th to 13th of October and both firefighters and fire officers worked to promote the safety message to the targeted groups, as follows:

- In addition to the 3 urban areas being targeted with fire appliances in the central shopping areas, we introduced a 4th area, Claremorris which is now a rapidly expanding shopping location. Leaflets on fire safety and fire safety advice were passed on to members of the public.
- Open days were held again during the week in some of the larger fire stations.
- Advertising campaigns in the local newspaper publications and radio.



Fire Service Operations

The Council currently employs approximately 130 fire fighters in 12 fire stations and 6 first-aid fire fighting units located around the County. These fire fighters deal with, on average, between 1200 and 1400 responses annually ranging from chimney fires, house fires, bog/forest fires, road traffic accidents, rescues, chemical spills and flooding. In 2008, Mayo County Fire Service made 1215 responses to incidents as detailed below.

Details of Operational Work in 2008		Total
Number of fire attended by brigades		673
In own area	651	
In other fire authority area	22	
Special Services Incidents		356
Road traffic accidents	243	
Water pumping / flooding	14	
Rescue / removal of persons from water	5	
Other non-fire rescues	7	
Hazardous substances in transit	50	
Miscellaneous	37	
False alarms		186
Malicious	51	
Good intent	135	

Fire Service Appliances

The Council took possession of two new Class B water tender vehicles in 2008. These appliances went in operation with the Castlebar and Ballina Fire Brigade fleet. These new appliances stems from the continuous fire appliance fleet upgrading programme in the County, funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Fire Service also acquired one 90ft Hydraulic Platform to assist in the Ballina Fire Brigade.



Fire Brigade Retirements

1. Noel Mullarkey – Firefighter with Swinford Fire Brigade, retired 25th January 2008 after 22 years of service
2. Patrick J. O'Malley – Squad Member with Newport Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 26th May 2008 after almost 26 years of service
3. Ian McNulty (R.I.P.) – Sub-Station Officer with Belmullet Fire Brigade, resigned 30th June 2008 after 23 years of service
4. Peter Kelly – Driver/Mechanic with Kiltimagh Fire Brigade, retired 7th October 2008 after 39 years of service
5. Anthony Mulligan – Driver/Mechanic with Charlestown Fire Brigade, retired 13th October 2008 after 23 years of service
6. Sean McIntyre – Sub-Station Officer with Charlestown Fire Brigade, retired 9th November 2008 after almost 40 years of service
7. Patrick Gavin – Assistant Squad Leader with Keel Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 1st December 2008 after 32 years of service
8. Noel Duffy – Station Officer with Westport Fire Brigade, retired 25th December 2008 after 44 years of service

Building Control & Planning Enforcement Section

Mayo County Council is the Building Control Authority for the administrative area of County Mayo, and the three Town Council areas of Castlebar, Westport and Ballina. The Building Control & Planning Enforcement Section deal with unauthorised developments and building control issues. A summary of the activities of the Section for 2008 is as follows:

• Number of complaints investigated	325
• Number of complaints dismissed	85
• Number of cases subject to complaints resolved through negotiations	88
• Number of Enforcement Procedures taken through warning letters	156
• Number of Prosecutions	4
• Files currently with the County Council's Solicitor	31

(above figures do not include Town Councils)

CAMP West

CAMP West Regional Communications Centre (CWRCC) received 7,095 emergency (999/112) calls during 2008. These calls resulted in Fire Service resources being mobilised to a total of 5,273 separate emergency incidents. The total volume of phone calls in the control room was 32,800 calls, i.e. a 28.6% increase in call volume compared to 2007. It is estimated that these call volumes will increase by a further 20% in 2009 with the inclusion of Galway City.

Total Call Volumes			
	2007	2008	% Increase
Incoming	14905	17566	17.85
Outgoing	10586	15234	43.91
Total	25491	32800	28.67

The system was rolled out to the following Retained Galway stations during the first six months of 2008 – Ballinasloe, Gort, Portumna and Inismore. The rollout of CAMP West system to the entire West region Fire Services will be completed in the first quarter of 2009, when the system is finally rollout to Galway City Fire Service.

In addition, the CAMP system was fully utilised by the ambulance Service during 2008. This resulted in a further 69,000 calls being created and managed by the vision Computer system.

Community and Enterprise

The Community & Enterprise Directorate of Mayo County Council provides a range of important and innovative interventions and services within the Local Government system. The section promotes and facilitates inclusive and integrated development and empowers communities through the promotion of new approaches to Community Development and community involvement. Community & Enterprise also leads and facilitates the *County Development Board (CDB)* process on behalf of the Council and the Interdepartmental Government Task Force on Local Integration.

Some of the highlights of the areas of work covered by the Community and Enterprise Directorate in 2008 include:

- Continuing to lead the roll-out of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy to the local level. In 2008, the Community & Enterprise section continued to work with the various agencies in the County working to address social exclusion to bring a more integrated approach to their work;
- Stimulating and promoting the image of County Mayo through the attraction of quality sports and cultural events. Community & Enterprise works with other agencies and bodies such as the Tourism sector organisations and community, heritage and arts groups to maximise the impact of bringing significant events to the County. In 2008, Community and Enterprise played a key co-ordinating role in relation to this regard;
- The continued roll out of the Community Futures Initiative and the development of an innovative approach to addressing community needs through collaboration with the *Inspiration Station*. Other Community Forum highlights included a ‘Dealing with Conflict’ course and a ‘Volunteering Seminar’ with Seamus Caulfield as guest speaker;
- The roll out of the Smoke Alarm project which has an essential social inclusion element, facilitating contact with elderly, often vulnerable, people living in isolation;

Mayo County Development Board

Some of the highlights of the work carried out by Mayo County Development Board in 2008 include:

- Organisation of the second Mayo Science & Technology Festival. This event built on the success of the inaugural Festival in 2007 and generated significant interest among participating schools and brought huge crowds to the Family Open Day in Castlebar. The objective of the Festival is to increase the level of interest among Mayo students in science, technology and engineering-related subjects at Leaving Certificate and Third Level;



The NUI Galway Faculty of Science stand at the Mayo Science & Technology Festival Open Day

- The start of a review process to consider progress made by the CDB in delivering the 2005-2008 Implementation Plan, which will result in the launch in early 2009 of a new Action Plan to cover the 2009-2011 period;
- The launch and continued development of the Mayo Ideas Lab which aims to make Mayo a centre of excellence for a model of development that embraces innovation in all its forms to enhance the unique enterprise environment within the County. Key areas of Ideas Lab work included working with local industry to promote increased emphasis on R&D, piloting innovative initiatives and developing additional appropriate linkages between local industry and regional third-level educational institutes;
- Ongoing delivery of the Mayo Walking Strategy. This has entailed the further development of the walking product in County Mayo, through support for a partnership approach involving local authorities, local communities, the local development sector, relevant sectoral interest groups and statutory agencies.

Mayo Sports Partnership

Background

The Sports Partnership 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. These include the Buntús Pre-school and primary programmes, Child Protection in Sport Workshops, Active Leadership Programme, Women in Sport initiatives, Challenge Projects and National Action Plan against Racism initiatives. The Partnership also identifies local projects which are grant aided through its Special Participation Initiative Grant scheme and supports volunteer training through its training grant scheme.

The Sports Partnership office managed by Sports Co-ordinator Charlie Lambert also contains Administrator Andrea Farrell, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Ray Mc Namara and Community Sports Project Worker Anne Ronayne.

Adventure Sports Plan for Mayo

A major drive to promote Adventure Sports in Mayo is to be launched this year by Mayo Sports Partnership. This initiative comes on the back of an action contained in the Mayo Sports Partnerships strategic plan 2006 - 2009 and is backed by key partners on the Sports Partnerships board. Members of the board include Mayo VEC, GMIT, Mayo County Council, FAS and the Mayo Education Centre who are already involved in this promotion. At the tail end of 2008 a thorough consultation process which involved public meetings and submissions by interested parties took place and a draft plan has been prepared. The input by agencies such as the aforementioned and other partners such as Failte Ireland, Leader Companies, Local Adventure Centres, National Governing Bodies and private organisations highlight the co-operation which is happening locally to bring the adventure sports agenda forward.

Mr Pat Stanton, Chairman of Mayo Sports Partnership, stressed the importance of the promotion of adventure sports in his presentation of the Partnerships Annual Report 2008. *“It would be our hope that adventure sports would become available at a community level and information on events / training would become more widely accessible. This would have benefits for local tourism as well.”* Mr. Stanton stated.

Mr. Stanton also particularly acknowledged the ongoing work of the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer and the Community Sports Project Worker noting the huge amount of work done in disadvantaged areas. He also praised Mayo County Council and County Manager, Mr. Des Mahon, for hosting the Partnership and providing it with key resources in order to carry out its work during this challenging environment.

The Childrens Disability Sports Club set up in Breaffy Sports Arena one of the many initiatives developed through the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer



Other Significant Achievements in 2008

- Launching of the ‘Building Communities through Sport and Recreation Project’ Programme of activities now up and running in 3 pilot areas ie Erris, Ballyhaunis and Balla.
- The development and implementation of Phase 1 and 2 of the very successful ‘Be Active 55’ Older peoples project in leisure centres in partnership with Go for Life, Leisure Centres and the company seven seas.



The development of the Be Active 55 Activity Project in 2008 provided opportunities for older people to participate in a social setting.

- Hosting of a very successful ‘Erris Festival of Sport’ in Oct 2008 which included a team adventure course challenge, activities for young people and older people as well as a day for activities for people with a disability. 248 participants attended over this two day event.
- Co-hosting of a very successful seminar by legendary Athletics Olympics coach from America Mr John McDonnell on 19Nov08, over 130 people attended.
- Successful and significant contributions to projects, either financially or in kind, by partner organisations such as H.S.E. West, Mayo VEC, Udarás, Mayo County Council, G.M.I.T., County Childcare Committee, Disability Organisations and N.G.B.s
- Review document published utilising the SPEAK monitoring and evaluation software package commissioned by the Irish Sports Council
- 22 activity projects were funded through our Special Participation Grant Scheme. 8 other activity projects were funded from the Mayo County Councils Disability Strategic Plan funding.
- Further expansion of the Women in Sport projects through Active Women Project 2008 and the Mayo in Motion Walking Month in partnership with Anna Connor the walking officer.
- 100% delivery of Buntús Generic Programme for National School teachers with successful follow-on of sports specific modules and have started retraining for new teachers/refresher course.
- The Sports Partnership contribution towards GMITs Orienteering Initiative in Moore Hall which provided participation opportunities for schools.
- Development and launch of a strategy for involvement of people with a disability in sport and recreation this year.
- Completion of a very comprehensive volunteer training programme in 2008.

Looking ahead to 2009, Mr Stanton said *“Going forward the current economic environment will provide many challenges for us but with people having more time on their hands will also provide many opportunities for participation in sport and other community activities. We will continue to provide quality participation opportunities for all evidence of these type of opportunities are contained in this annual report and much credit must go to the Sports Co-ordinator Charlie Lambert and his staff. Many challenges lie ahead but continued co-operation by all stakeholders in the county will meet these demands into the future.”*

The Sports Partnership is situated at the Cedar Building (beside Roadstone) Moneen, Castlebar however if you need more information contact the Partnership at 094-9047025 or e-mail msp@mayococo.ie



Catheoirleach Cllr Joe Mellet pictured launching the Primary School Playground Marking Project at Knockrooskey N.S. Westport

Mayo County Childcare Committee

In general terms, 2008 was a year which presented great change and challenges for Mayo County Childcare Committee (Mayo CCC) both locally and nationally.

Locally, Mayo CCC continued to carry out its primary role of supporting and informing childcare services in the implementation of the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) at a local level. This was achieved in a number of different ways which will be detailed later in this report, however this included the continuation of the Project Evaluation Sub Committee, the Mayo County Childcare Forum, Childcare Provider Network meetings, Information sessions and workshops, training opportunities, individual support meetings with childcare services and childminding initiatives.

At a national level, the biggest challenge encountered by Mayo CCC was the introduction of the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS). This resulted in a lot of unplanned work for Mayo CCC. Mayo CCC tried to deal with the uncertainty which followed the implementation of CCSS, by holding information sessions, using the local media, supporting childcare services to complete necessary forms, and answering individual questions.

At the start of 2008, Mayo CCC had prioritised 4 main areas of work

1. Effective processing of the €3.5 million Capital Grant Indicative budget for Mayo
2. Effective implementation of CCSS
3. Effective Implementation of the Childminding Initiative (including Grant Scheme)
4. To continue to build on the positive work carried out in 2007 especially in regards to the Mayo CCC childcare providers networks.

Looking back over what Mayo CCC achieved during 2008 it shows that these priority areas were met.

The Mayo CCC development workers worked extremely hard and diligently to process grant applications from childcare services (Private, and Community) from all over Co. Mayo. The total amount of capital funding requested by childcare services exceeded the 3.5 million allocated to Mayo CCC in its indicative budget. Therefore difficult decisions had to be made by Mayo CCC. The development workers worked very effectively to provide the Mayo CCC members with accurate information and to assist in this difficult decision making process. This task was successfully achieved, within the requested timeframe, when Mayo CCC submitted its portfolio to Pobal and the Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), with 18 applications recommended for funding within the 3.5 indicative budget and also 4 applications placed on a reserve list.

The Capital Grants portfolio was submitted to Pobal and the OMCYA on the 27th June 2008. On the 1st July the CCSS was officially implemented for childcare services that had previously been funded under the staffing grants structure. In practice Mayo CCC found that we had just achieved one major piece of work by processing the capital

grants and then within a matter of days Mayo CCC were faced with another major piece of work.

The implementation of CCSS had many difficult features to it. These features included financial planning with services, developing fee payment policies which complied with CCSS, dealing with negative media coverage and parent perceptions of CCSS, and dealing with fears of staff and management relating to their perceptions of their funding levels. However, despite this the Mayo CCC development workers in particular worked very hard to assist childcare services to implement CCSS effectively. This could be seen by the fact that only 2 services (out of a possible 63) in Mayo did not send their CCSS returns to the OMCYA by the end of 2008. The work the development workers had put into this resulted in Mayo CCC achieving its priority of implementing CCSS.

Mayo CCC also continued to implement the Childminding Initiative including the processing of 14 grants of €1,000 to 14 childminders.

Looking back over 2008 it is encouraging to note a number of successes. The fruition of many years work could be seen in the opening of 5 more new purpose built childcare centres across the county (located in Kiltimagh, Killawalla, Brickens, Mayo Abbey, and Aghamore).

Mayo CCC also, successfully delivered 9 workshops regarding the national quality framework 'Siolta'.

Mayo CCC also collaborated successfully with Mayo County Council to deliver the first 'Road Safety Day' for childcare services. The day was run on the 14th of March and was called the 'Beep Beep Day'. Mayo CCC identified and purchased many road safety materials designed specifically for pre school age children. These included a set of books and CD which described the adventures of '*Salman and Friends*' as they negotiate many difficult dangers on the road, a work book for pre school leaders to use alongside the stories also a copy of the CD 'the safe cross code' and child sized 'reflective vests'.

Childcare services were provided with training by the Mayo CCC in how to use these materials and how to organise events on the day. Over a hundred services engaged in the event and Mayo CCC received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event.

As mentioned earlier Mayo CCC launched a re developed web site. This is proving to be a major success. The web site provides easier access to vital information to childcare services and parents. Information is presented in an easily accessible way which is cutting down on our use of paper, which in turn is more environmentally friendly and cost effective. Mayo County Council provided great support to Mayo CCC in terms of financial support, expertise and guidance for this project.

The success of the 2nd annual Mayo CCC Childcare 'Recognition Event' gave a much needed lift to many childcare services in Mayo. These services had a year where among other things they had to struggle with new childcare regulations, new funding arrangements in the form of CCSS and the development of Siolta. All of this change had to be dealt with by staff, voluntary management committees and private business people while at the same time they were required to continue to deliver a quality

childcare service. So, Mayo CCC saw the importance of simply saying well done, thank you and to acknowledge the effort that had been delivered by the childcare services.

Members of Mayo County Childcare Committee Staff and Committee pictured with dignitaries at the Childcare Recognition Event.



Mayo CCC would also like to acknowledge the work and effort of the Committee. Their support and guidance is always appreciated by staff. We would like to especially

acknowledge the work of our chairperson, Majella Gibbons whose skill and dedication has been a source of great support and encouragement to all the members of the Mayo County Childcare Committee staff.

Mayo CCC would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by the Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and Pobal during 2008. Our most frequent contact was with Claire Forrestal from Pobal and Emma-Jane Morgan, Darragh O' Doherty and Moira O' Mara from the OMCYA. Thanks again.

Mayo CCC has continued to grow and develop during 2008. As an organisation it is now well established within the county and it is our hope and expectation to build on this effort during 2009.

Mayo County Enterprise Board

Review of Board Activity for 2008

Selective Financial Intervention

Since it was established in 1993, Mayo County Enterprise Board has approved just over €8.4 million in grant aid in favour of some 594 micro-enterprises throughout the County. To-date over €6.7 million has been paid out by the Board.

The provision of this support has assisted micro enterprises within the County in the creation of **1,314 full-time jobs**, as revealed in the annual employment survey undertaken in November 2008. This represents an increase of just over 1% on the 2007 figures.

During 2008 a total of **€443,850** was approved in favour of **24 projects**, with a job creating potential of **66 full-time jobs**.

During the same period grant payments totalling **€554,920** were made to **28** separate projects located throughout the county. This represented an increase of 36.9% over 2007.

Entrepreneurial Development and Capacity Building

Since the County Enterprise Board was established in 1993 it has provided business and management training to 3,599 persons in County Mayo.

In 2008 Mayo County Enterprise Board received an allocation of €266,000 towards the delivery of its Soft Support Programme. This allocation has enabled the Board complete a number of programmes initiated in the year 2007 and also undertake an extensive programme of training and support in 2008. In all 344 persons availed of the business training and advisory supports provided by Mayo County Enterprise Board during 2008.

Among the main initiatives undertaken were:

Programme	Participants
Start your Own Business Programme	59
Managing Finances Programme	48
Marketing Programme	18
Human Resource Management Programme	17
Operations Management Programme	11
One to One Business Advice & Mentoring	46
E-Commerce Support	30
New Product/New Market Programme	11
Computerised Accounts Training	19
One Day Workshops	86

Student Enterprise

The Board received a special allocation of €22,500 towards the delivery of a series of boot camps on the subject of entrepreneurship for second level students.

The response was unprecedented with 479 students from 14 second level schools in the county taking part.

In addition the Board also continues to promote the National Student Enterprise Awards to second level schools throughout the county. In 2008 five schools took part. Scoil Muire agus Pdraig, Swinford represented Mayo in the senior section at the National Finals in Tullamore. Our representatives in the junior section, Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh attained third place nationally.

Arts Service

The county Arts service is firmly based on the principles of quality, access, inclusion and long-term value. The service includes the following areas: information, promotion, advice, programming, planning and policy. It covers all art forms: music, visual arts, drama, dance, film, community arts, festivals and public art. The effectiveness of the service is maximised through networking and strategic partnerships, with emphasis on the integration of arts into everyday life.

Arts Information, Promotion and Advice

This advisory service is availed of by over 230 community groups, artists and arts organisations which regularly seek advice about arts events and sources of funding for their projects and programmes.

Arts Programme 2008

Residency Programme:

Extensive work was completed through the residency programme in 2008

- Mayo County Council supported residency programmes for the Sonas Festival, Claremorris Open Exhibition, Scoil Ácla and in Sight of Raftery Festival.
- John Fox and Sue Gill were artists in residence for Bealtaine, working with Mayo Artsquad (see Mayo Artsquad below)

Mayo Arts Squad:

Established in 1997, Mayo County Council's Arts Squad has continued to provide excellent training in community arts skills for fifteen participants (from a wide variety of backgrounds) annually. In 2008 the Arts Squad worked extensively with festivals throughout the county, with community groups and with people with disabilities.

In 2008, internationally renowned artists, John Fox and Sue Gill were Bealtaine Artists in residence, working with the Artsquad on a major project which involved all of the Artsquad participants, artswokers from Mayo



Storytelling, New Ground, Bealtaine Residency Event, Rural Training Centre, May, 2008

A

wonderful event, New Ground was produced at the HSE Rural Training Centre on May 18th.

Art in Education Programme:

- In 2008, the arts office carried out 15 six week co-funded arts programmes in schools throughout the county.
- In Association with the Mayo Education Centre the Music Instruments for Children in Primary and Post-primary Schools Schemes continued successfully in 2008, with support workshops being offered through the arts office. Over eighty schools have now availed of this resource.
- **Mayo County Council School's Exhibition Programme:** There are two exhibitions from the Mayo County Council collection which were collated especially for primary schools. Support workshops are also provided through the arts office by artists included in the exhibitions and education packs are available.

Force 12:

This annual writer's weekend was held in Belmullet, directed by Jessie Lendennie and attended by over 80 writers. The weekend is based around a programme of readings by professional guest writers and writers' groups. Guest writers included Maurice Harmon, Lorna Shaughnessy, Seamus Cashman, Máighréad Medbh, Gerald Dawe, Dave Lordan, Joe Woods, Frank Golden, Geraldine Mills, Kevin Higgins, Susan Millar Du Mars, Anne Le Marquand Hartigan and Patrick Cotter.

Older Persons Arts:

Bealtaine: Mayo County Council Arts Office run an extensive, interactive programme for older people throughout the county during the month of May, to mark the annual



festival which celebrates creativity in older age. In 2008 there were nine major events, 48 workshops and four twelve week projects. Over 2,000 older people benefited.

*Bealtaine Launch,
Welcome Inn, May 2008*

Artists Mentoring & Networking Programme:

Since 2004, six visual artists have been working on a weekly basis in Westport, Achill, Ballina, Swinford and Claremorris, mentored by artist Deirdre Walsh. The programme is nationally recognised and continues to provide weekly workshops for older people in the county and networking opportunities for the artists involved.

Public Art & Visual Art:

% for Art: New works completed 2008 include:

1. *Knockthomas Keys*, by Rory Breslin, Castlebar
2. *5 Days around Glenhest*, by Allie Kay, Glenhest
3. *Points of View*, by Remco de Fouw, Ballyhaunis
4. *Planting the Seeds for Tomorrow in Bunnacurry*, John Rowlands, Achill
5. *Planting the Seeds for Tomorrow in Curraun*, John Rowlands, Achill
6. *Untitled*, Paul Mosse, Achill Fire Station
7. *Paperworks*, Lucy Hill, Castlebar Library, Castlebar.

Mayo County Council Collection: The Mayo County Council Collection was augmented by the purchase of the following artworks:

1. *Did Germany Put the Sun There*, Thomas Brezing
2. *It has the untidiness of a real event*, Thomas Brezing
3. *Western Limits*, Will O’Kane
4. *Absorption*, Maria Clarke

Theatre:

Mayo Youth Theatre: Through the promotion and support of quality youth theatre, MYT provides access to drama for those aged 14 - 22. With 25 young members MYT continued to flourish in 2008 with weekly workshops and two productions in Ballina; *Into the Woods*, in April and *The Nightmare before Christmas* in December.

Music:

Summer Music Series: Another excellent series of county-wide music events which brought quality music to Westport, Castlebar, Charlestown, Ballyhaunis, Louisburgh,



Ballina, Achill, Inishturk and Belmullet. Over 2,500 attended. Performances included; Mary Mc Parlan, The Rough Deal String Band, The Callino Quartet, The National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, Iarla O’Lionnaird & friends, Blazin’ Fiddles, Méta Méta, MaSamba and No Crows.

Méta Méta, Summer Music Series, Louisburgh Community Hall, July 2008

Whistleblast Quartet: This partnership project (funded by the Arts Council, National Concert Hall and Mayo County Council), successfully completed fifteen interactive music education programmes in Mayo this year. Each programme culminated in a performance for the wider community, including the children who had been involved.

Community Music Project: Initiated in 2004, this community music initiative is funded by Mayo County Council and Mayo VEC. The project encourages people of all ages to become involved in music, often using instruments which may have been left unused in their attics. The project is facilitated by musician John Hoban. In 2008 groups were facilitated in Derrada, Keenagh, Achill and Westport. Participants included disabled people and refugees.

Youth Arts Programme:

The sixth county-wide EXCEL Youth Arts Programme, focusing on the needs of 13 – 20 year olds was run in November 2008. There were six masterclasses, eight workshops, eight open workshops and two major events. Approximately 1,000 young people benefited. One highlight of the 2008 programme was the production of a youth inter-cultural film in Castlebar, in partnership with the Galway Film Centre.



Film-making project, Castlebar NYP, EXCEL Youth Arts Programme, November 2008

Publications:

Force 12, 2005, Book and CD

Arts Grants



Máighréad Medbh reading at Force 12 Writer's Festival, Eachleim, June 2008.

The Arts Office provides a wide variety of 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
- Music Recital Scheme

- Artists Bursaries
- Mayo County Council & Liam Walsh Artists Award

Networking & Partnerships

Partnership Projects:

A number of arts organisations receive annual funding on a partnership basis with Mayo County Council. The professional contribution of these organisations towards the strategic development of the arts in the county is recognised and supported by Mayo County Council: The Linenhall Arts Centre (Castlebar), The Heinrich Boll Cottage (Achill), Yew Tree Theatre Company (Ballina), Ballina Arts Events (Ballina), Custom House Studios (Westport), Feile Iorras International Folk Arts Festival (Belmullet), Ballinglen Arts Foundation (Ballycastle) and Áras Inis Gluaire (Belmullet Arts Centre).

Other Partnerships:

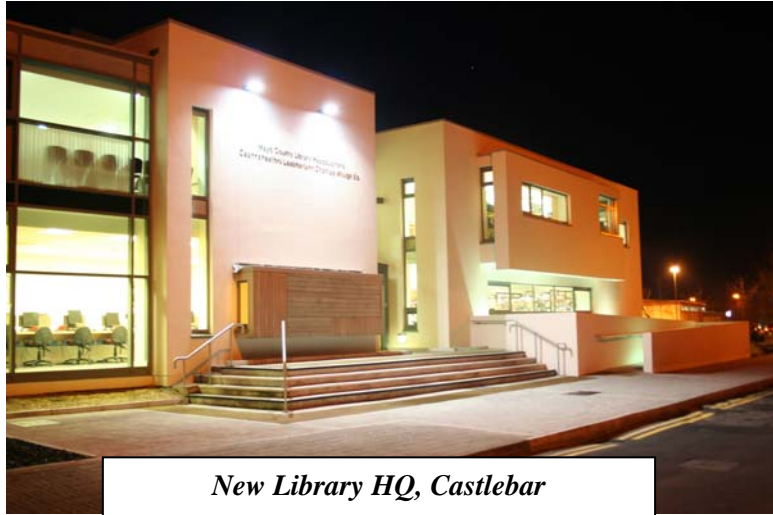
Partnerships with other agencies are crucial to continued outreach and success. The Arts Service has developed good working partnerships with: Western Care Association, FÁS, Health Service Executive Western Area, Age & Opportunity, The Arts Council, Mayo Education Centre & Schools, Sacred Heart Hospital, Community Development Projects, Mayo VEC, Údarás Na Gaeltachta, Irish Writer's Centre, Irish Music Rights Organisation and Neighbour Youth Projects among others.

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.

Mayo County Library Service

In 2008, Mayo County Library lent over half a million books to 25,000 members. In addition the library provides a school library service, a family history service, and a wide ranging programme of cultural events every year. In June 2007 a national survey of library users was carried out. The most prominent finding of the research was how widely libraries are used. During just one week in March there were almost 5,000 visits to public libraries around the county. This would mean that Mayo libraries are attracting 260,000 visits per year which is far in excess of any other cultural or heritage organisation in the county. Overall Mayo Library service was rated as good or very good by 91% of respondents.



Accessibility

Mayo libraries are used by many disadvantaged groups annually– these include groups from *Rehab*, the Irish Wheelchair Association, Adult Learning groups and active retirement associations. The library service also provides wheelchairs in all its larger branches.

Cultural Programme

Mayo Library runs an extensive cultural programme which is expanding annually. In 2008 over 300 events were held in libraries in the county. Highlights included:

National Library Week

National Library week took place in March. The aim of the week was to promote books and reading. A number of events were held in the libraries of Mayo including:

Nell McCaffrey author and journalist – reading in Castlebar Library

Money Matters, talk by the Financial Regulator in Ballina Library

Flower Arranging demonstration in Ballina library

Childhood Nutrition and Obesity, talk by Mary Bourke, dietician in Castlebar and Ballina Libraries,

Gearoidin Breathnach, author presented storytime as gaeilge in Ballina and Claremorris Libraries

Sorcas Quircas by the Galway Circus Project in Castlebar library
Bad Winds' photography exhibition on Hurricane Katrina in Ballina Library
The Big Melt – *The phenomena of Global Warming and the implications for Ireland'* a presentation by Andy Wilson, in Ballina Library

Bealtaine Festival

The Festival of Bealtaine is a month-long celebration of creativity in older age. Numerous events were held in libraries in the county including:

An evening of music, songs and stories from County Mayo with Joe Byrne of MWR in Castlebar library

Alice Taylor – talk and reading in Castlebar Library

Favourite poems we learned in School- reading by Thomas Walsh in Kiltimagh Library

Intrigue of the Miniature An introduction to ceramics, paintings, Dutch cabinet houses, Faberge eggs, doll houses, miniature books, in Ballina Library.

Antique Jewellery with antiques expert, Phyllis McNamara in Ballinrobe and Westport libraries.

John Quinn: “A personal narrative of a time worth recording” talk in Claremore’s and Ballina Libraries.

Mayo Science and Technology Festival

To mark Mayo Science and Technology Festival in November the library ran Ready, Set, Bio! a series of workshops that introduces a hands on approach to science in the classroom. The library also presented Focus on Forces, a workshop which is part of the RDS Science Live Series.

Margaret Burke Sheridan Anniversary

This is the 50th anniversary of the Castlebar born diva Margaret Burke Sheridan's death in 1958. An exhibition on her life and music was sponsored by the Cultural, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs SPC and run in the Linenhall Arts Centre in April. The exhibition was then donated to the library service and was shown in Castlebar library throughout the summer. A new CD of Margaret Burke Sheridan's music will be launched in Castlebar library as part of a live broadcast by Lyric FM in December 2008.

EDGE08: From Wave to Oblivion

The EDGE series is a writers’ residency programme run jointly by Ballina Arts Centre and Mayo County Library. It comprises a week-long programme of readings, workshops and talks. In 2008, the focus was on punk music and writing.

Mayo’s Favourite Poem

To celebrate National Poetry Day on October 2nd the library ran a competition to discover “What is Mayo’s favourite Poem. The competition generated a huge response with *Cill Aodáin* by Ráifteiri being voted at number one; *If* by Rudyard Kipling in second place and “*He wishes for the cloths of Heaven*” by Yeats in third. The library

also held a bi-lingual reading by poet Louis de Paor and a poetry evening in Castlebar Library.

Other Cultural Events

Castlebar Library

'**The Busby Babes**' an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Munich Air Disaster

Archbishop Gilmartin and the Emerging Irish Free State lecture by Fr Kieran Waldron.

Launch of the *Columbia Jail Journal* by James Monaghan.

Sean Kelly, talk by the former president of the GAA

Ordnance Survey of Ireland Demonstration of new mapping technology

Aisling Molloy Award & Exhibition Launch,

Launch of **A day in the life** by Brid Ni Cheallaigh

Garda Community and Personal Display & Advice Centre in Library.

Cill Aodain and No-where Else. Book Launch by poet Terry McDonagh, and artist Sally McKenna..

Mongolian Scarf Exhibition.

Launch of Force 10 Magazine by author Dermot Healy.

Filming in Local History section for 'BBC **Who do you think you are?**' programme

Film screening of '**The Iron Wall**' documentary

Open University briefing sessions

Soupers and Jumpers: the Protestant Missions in Connemara 1848-1937 a talk by Miriam Moffett

"What a Few Can Do". A photographic exhibition by Elaine Ryan, which explores the work of Irish missionaries in Tanzania and Kenya

Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies, exhibition on Moore's life and music

The Battle of Tourmakeady by Captain Donal Buckley –book launch

Ballina Library

Ballina Music Circle meets monthly in the local library

Creative Writing Courses by author Helen Falconer

Burma Action Ireland Photographic Exhibition.

McVeigh Art Exhibition

F.R Higgins Exhibition

An Tain Bo Flidhais – book launch

In Her Shoes – exhibition by Mayo Women's Refuge

Irish Girl Guide exhibition

Big Brother/Big Sister Mentoring exhibition

Ballycastle Women's Art Group Exhibition

Landscape painting Classes

Mayo Wildlife Photography Exhibition

Omaha Beach Exhibition

Launch of Exhibition & visit from American Ambassador to Ireland

Westport Library

Art Exhibition by Norbert Fleischmann,

Art Exhibition by Karen O Reilly

Westport Civic Trust Schools Exhibition
Margaret Meaney Art Exhibition
Carrowbeg College mixed media exhibition.
Rice College art exhibition
Mongolian Scarf Project exhibition
Tir na nOg playschool art exhibition
Westport Garden and Heritage - Civic Trust exhibition
Reading by Brian Keenan - Westport Arts Festival –

Other Events:

Achill Healthy Ageing Day in April – Achill library
Book launch in Achill Library by
Mayo Roscommon Hospice Christmas card launch – Ballinrobe Library
Art Exhibition displaying a selection of work by local artists in Achill Library
Claremorris Film Society meets monthly in Claremorris Library
Photography On The Move, a Photographic Exhibition by Monica Flanagan in Crossmolina Library
Book clubs are run in most branches.

Eachtraí Culturtha:

Le h-aghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge I mi Mharta, eagraíodh eachtraí eagsula tre mhean na Gaeilge I leabharlanna tríd an chontae.

Ina measc bhí:

Ceol Tradisiúnta - Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Údar Gearoidin Breathnach – Clár Chlainne Mhuiris agus Béal an Átha

Scéalta agus Caint le Sheila Mc Donnell –Béal a' Mhuirthead

Blas Drámaíocht Físicúil le Eilís Nic Dhonnacha -Caisleán a' Bharraigh, Béal an Átha agus Báile an Róba

Filíocht as gaeilge le Richard White

Leabhar na nÓg – Cathair na Mart

Oíche Gaeilge le Des Cafferky, na cleamairí agus aíonna áitiúla. -Acaill

Una ni Chuinn ag léamh sa leabharlann – Cathair na Mart

Comórtaisí do pháistí scoile - Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Taispeántas Leabhar Gaeilge – Cathair na Mart

Tráth na gCeist agus comórtas dathadóireachta –Béal Átha hAmhnais

"Ciorcal Craic" .Comhra, amhran agus an cupan tae - Crois Uí Mhaoilíona

Le h-aghaidh Chumainn Merriman Scoil Geimhridh bhí seoladh leabhar agus léamh filíochta i gCathair na Mart freisin. I 2008 d'fhoilsigh an leabharlann paimflead I nGaeilge agus Polannais ag cur síos ar na seirbhísí atá le fail. In 2008 the library launched a brochure in Irish and Polish outlining its services.

The library also supports numerous festivals and cultural initiatives throughout the county including:

- The Mayo Folklore Society
- The Westport Arts Festival
- The John Healy Weekend

- The Admiral Browne Project
- The Sogroo Festival Charlestown
- The Sonas Festival in Louisburgh
- Mayo County Child Care Committee
- Mayo Women's Refuge
- Kiltimagh Raiftieri Festival
- Crossmolina and Knockmore Pride Of Place Entries

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 80 events attended by over 3000 children including:

- Visits by international renowned children's writers Karen McCombie, Keith Charters, David Donohue and Billy Teare.
- An animal magic show
- Puppet shows
- Bike safety demonstration
- Printing workshops

This is the place I like Best

This year children from Ballyhaunis and Castlebar participated in a unique project to tell their own stories in a series of workshops. The project resulted in a groundbreaking children's book, written and illustrated by 320 children that provides a unique glimpse into the lives, aspirations and experiences of Ireland's children. *This is the place I like Best*, is an enchanting collection of thoughts, comments, poems, jokes and illustrations reflecting Ireland's new cultural and religious diversity.

Other children's events included:

Summer Reading Clubs for children were organised in Crossmolina, Claremorris, Castlebar, Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis. The children were challenged to read at least 10 books over the summer. Many read up to twenty books and received certificates.

The Biggest Book in the County – made by children in Ballyhaunis library

Library tours for school children are run in most branches

Storytelling with Niall de Burca in Crossmolina Library

Spring Onion Theatre puppet show during The Crossmolina Community festival.

Chomhairle na nog meet with library staff to offer their views on the service

Spooky story time – Ballina library

ICT Initiatives

Irish Tourist Association Survey for Achill Goes Online

In the 1940s the Irish Tourist Association carried out a survey of tourist attractions on Achill Island. This survey contains descriptions of Achill under various headings: Topography, Geology, Antiquities, History, Sports clubs, Accommodation and facilities

in seaside resorts. The material consists of handwritten forms, photographs taken during the survey and sketches of typical houses and implements used in farming and fishing. The survey is particularly interesting in that it provides a snapshot of life in the area at a specific time in the 1940s. Mayo County Library has now digitised this material and made it available on the library website and on the national cultural portal, www.askaboutireland.ie

Books in Your Pocket

In 2008 Mayo County Library introduced Digital Audio Books which allow you to listen to a book anywhere. These are books stored on a compact player that is small, light and portable. Its user-friendly features make it also suitable for people with failing sight or visual impairments

WIFI

Wifi is now available in many library branches. This facility allows members of the public to use their own laptops to work on the Internet in libraries.

BorrowBooks

An online library loans service which, for the first time, allows Mayo readers to borrow books from anywhere in Ireland continues to be hugely popular.

FÁS eCollege

Mayo Library is a partner in a pilot scheme to provide FAS courses online on eCollege.

Computers for the Elderly

A series of Introduction to Computers classes are held in most library branches as part of the Bealtaine festival. Adult Learning Groups also use the libraries in Castlebar, Ballina, Belmullet and Claremorris weekly to learn basic computer skills.

Heritage Projects

In Humbert's Footsteps

To mark National Heritage Week the Library produced **In Humbert's Footsteps** an exhibition to commemorate the 210 anniversary of the 1798 rebellion. It contains over 40 unique artefacts mostly family heirlooms most of which have heretofore never been exhibited. These include bayonets, coins, pike heads, French buttons, a French sword from Ballina and rare French and British



newspapers. This exhibition which was opened by Minister Eamon O Cuiv, attracted huge visitor numbers and has also been displayed in Ballina and Belmullet. It was featured on RTE's Nationwide and has being invited to travel to France in 2009.

Other events for Heritage Week included:

A bat walk and talk in Westport Library; a Talk and Slide Show on Harry Clarke windows in Ballinrobe Library; two talks on the Archaeology of Ballina in Ballina library and an exhibition on **Michael Davitt** in Aras Inis Gluaire, Belmullet.

Mayo Genealogy Online

Mayo County Library, in conjunction with the North and South Mayo family History centres, has initiated 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. The service was enhanced with additional baptism and birth records in 2008

Folklore Recording Project

Mayo library initiated a project to record on DVD the folklore, memories and history of the Irish speaking people of the Mayo Gaeltacht areas in 2006. Over 30 hours of film of interviews have now been carried out. The library produced a DVD on marriage and death customs in 2008. This project was funded by the EU *Culture 2000* programme.

Donations

Facsimiles of the Baptismal Registers of the Methodist Church:
Castlebar, Belmullet, Westport in the 19th century
Donated by Rev. Cathal Duffy, Castlebar Christian Fellowship.

Localised Pasts and Presents: Critical viewpoints on the making of County Mayo's commemorative heritages. M. A. thesis by Michael Quinn, Castlebar. 2006.
Donated by the author.

Album of 24 sketches dated 1848 by Sandham Symes. Scenes include Glendenning Monument Westport, Westport House, Ballina, Castlebar Gaol, Pontoon and Moyne Abbey.

Resident Magistrate John C. Milling by Donal Buckley. Article on the killing of a Resident Magistrate in Westport in 1919 including facsimiles of related documents.
Donated by the author.

Carrowbeg Parish of Kilcolman – Some local history by Martin Duggan.
Donated by the author.

The expansion of the O'Donel estate Newport, County Mayo 1785 – 1852. M.A. Thesis 2002 donated by the author Peter Mallowney, Newport.

Statements relating to the War of Independence by participants donated by James Reddiough.

Cultural Change on the Mayo Coast: The Currach and It's Environment, a Case of Survival in a Changing World. PHD. Thesis by Gerard Flynn, Foxford 2008.

Index to Castlebar Parish Magazine 1971-2007 donated by Alan King, Castlebar Library.

A Short History of Castlebar Gasworks donated by Alan King, Castlebar Library.

A collection of material relating to the Maypole Colliery Disaster 1908
Donated by Mayor of Wigan.

A report ordered by the House of Commons that gives details of the three National Schools located in Ballindine in 1858 – donor wishes to remain anonymous
Modern Practical Plumber in 3 vols, by Ac Martin 1932 donated by John D Clark
Beyond faith and adventure: Irish Missionaries in Nigeria donated by Irene C. Lynch,
author

Acquisitions

The library purchased over 20,000 books in 2008 including the following:

Westport Rate Book 1914-1917

Minute book of Ballina Town Commissioners 18 October 1879 to 5th September 1892.

David and Goliath or the complete victory of a Mayo Hedge-School pupil over Sir Thomas Dross a souper Knight by Hugh Joseph O'Donnell Esq., Burrishoole 1853.

Ireland: It's evils traced to their source by the Revd. James R. Page, formerly of Newport and Castlebar 1836.

An authentic report of the discussion which took place in the Roman Catholic Chapel at Easkey in the County Sligo between three Roman Catholic priests and four Protestant ministers on the indiscriminate reading of the Bible, on the right of private judgement in it's interpretation and on making it the sole rule of faith 1825.

Copy of settlement on the marriage of the Right Honourable the Earl of Arran and Miss Elizabeth Marianne Napier, dated 26th February 1838.

Michael Davitt Centenary Celebrations 1946 – six photographs.

All for Ireland League Membership Card issued to C. P. Kelly., Castlebar c.1910

A collection of manuscript and printed documents relating to the Land League and boycotting in County Mayo 1880-1890.

Framed photograph of Michael Davitt including a note with his signature and message
Hoping you are well / yours truly / Michael Davitt.

Denyirs Irish Monthly March 1902: Book of the month Ireland's Appeal to America by
Michael Davitt.

A Letter to J.A. Lawson by Rev. Edward Nangle 1857.

Truth About the Land League, Its Leaders and its Teaching by H.O. Arnold Foster
1883.

Finn Varra Maa by T.H. Nally 1917.

Medical Inspection of Connaught by John Crampton 1819.

John McDonald : Diary of the Parnell Commission 1890.

Digital Acquisitions

The Western Journal 1977 to 1983 in digital searchable format.

The Ballina Herald 1927 to 1962 in digital searchable format.

The Ballinrobe Chronicle 1866 to 1903 in digital searchable format.

Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society 1900-2003.

Statistical Survey of County Mayo, 1802

The Landed Gentry of Ireland 1899

Taylor and Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland 1783

Pigot's Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1824

Slater's National Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1846

Mr. Tuke's Fund for Assisted Emigration, 1882-5

The Parliamentary Gazzetteer of Ireland 1846

Traveller's Guide Through Ireland 1794

School Library Service

The School Library delivers a service to 180 National Schools including 82 schools designated as disadvantaged. A specialist service for Language and Learning Support teachers was prioritised in 2008. The Teacher Resource Collection now encompasses a greatly expanded range of topics intended to satisfy the professional needs of both mainstream and Special Needs teachers. An online catalogue of this special collection has now been made available on the Mayo Library website.

Reading Development Project

The School library service launched a unique Reading Development Project to improve the reading levels of children who have been diagnosed with particular language and reading difficulties and have reading levels below their chronological age. The project is run in partnership with the HSE Speech & Language Therapy Dept. in Castlebar. The first phase of this initiative will record and document any changes to the literacy levels of the children participating. It is hoped to assess qualitative as well as quantitative changes in the children's approach to reading, books and libraries in

general. NUIG have adopted this innovative project as part of their research in their speech and language department.

Jackie Clarke Library

The Jackie Clarke Library & Archives continued to be listed and catalogued throughout the year. Additional items were acquired during the course of 2008. Research was undertaken on provenance of items. Research was also undertaken on the architectural history of the Provincial Bank which will house the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives. Contact with academics and Irish Studies Departments both in Ireland and abroad was established during the year. Applications for funding were undertaken from various state agencies.



Provincial Bank, Ballina

Heritage

The Mayo Heritage Office promotes enhanced levels of awareness and understanding, leading to a greater appreciation and conservation, of the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Mayo. The ongoing implementation of the *County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006-2011* contributes to the fulfilment of our commitments under the National Heritage Plan, the National Biodiversity Plan and the National Climate Change Strategy.

Mayo County Council allocated a budget of €100,000 towards Heritage Plan Projects in 2008, 50% of which is recoupable from The Heritage Council. A total of €90,500 funding was obtained from The Heritage Council in 2008 towards the implementation of the Heritage Work Programme: €65,000 was obtained under the Heritage Plan Fund, €17,000 under the Biodiversity Fund and €8,500 was obtained under the Biodiversity Programme.

The Heritage Work Programme undertaken in 2008 included:

1. Successful implementation of the Year 3 work programme of the *County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006-2011*. Projects completed include:

Habitat Mapping

Habitat mapping was carried out in and around 9 towns in Mayo, including Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Castlebar, Charlestown, Killala, Kiltimagh, Swinford and Westport. The aim of this project is to compile baseline information on the location and condition of habitats in and around these towns. This information is important to inform future planning policy and conservation policies and to raise awareness.

Survey of Burial Grounds.

An audit of all graveyards in the county was carried out in 2008. This audit provides the baseline information on the condition of these sites, providing a basis for planning the appropriate management and conservation of all Burial Grounds within the county. It will also assist the council in providing appropriate guidance to groups involved with the management and care of these sites. A gazetteer of all the county's graveyards will be available online.

Preparation of Conservation Management Plans for

- St Mary's Church and Graveyard Hollymount,
- Ballyheane Graveyard and Nunnery
- Kilcummin Graveyard
- Balla Rest house and 'Tobermurry' Holy well

The aim of the Conservation & Management Plans is to draw up frameworks for the heritage management of these sites. A holistic examination of the sites was undertaken to ensure that a full and broad understanding of the sites informs the policies put forward in the plans. While the Conservation & Management Plans are specific to the sites under consideration, the ultimate aim of the project is to raise awareness of the heritage management issues surrounding graveyards and recorded monuments, and to draw up guidelines to deal with general issues confronting those intending to undertake graveyard/Recorded Monument projects.

Railway Heritage Survey

An inventory of railway heritage was undertaken during 2008. The information obtained will be used to inform County development Plan policies and to ensure that the most significant elements of our railway heritage can be protected from unsympathetic development. This inventory is timely in view of the importance of this aspect of our heritage, the ongoing upgrading and maintenance works and potential future developments regarding Mayo's railway infrastructure.

Preparation of Booklet on Habitats and Species of Mayo

Mayo is one of the most diverse landscapes for habitats and species in Ireland, reflecting its geographical position on the western seaboard, its varied topography, geology and the effect of land-use patterns. These include peatlands, coastal habitats, lakes and rivers, woodlands and grasslands. These habitats support a myriad of plant and animal species, some of which are of special significance to Mayo. A manuscript has been prepared highlighting the importance and richness of natural heritage in Co. Mayo. This publication, aimed at the locals and visitors alike celebrates the unique natural heritage and landscape diversity of Co. Mayo.

Mayo Biodiversity Plan

In 2007, an ecologist was appointed to undertake the necessary consultation and research to produce a pre-draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Mayo. An ecologist was appointed in October 2008 to bring the pre-draft County Mayo Biodiversity Plan 2008-2013 to draft stage. This involved (1) a review of the consultation undertaken to date (2) review of the pre-draft plan (3) consultation with the Mayo Biodiversity Working Group to agree and prioritize the actions to be included in the plan. The draft Plan will be presented to the Culture, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs SPC for consideration in 2009.

- 2. Under the Mayo Biodiversity Action Programme a number of projects were undertaken:**

Mayo Wildlife Photography Competition

Over 200 entries were received into this competition. A selection of the entries received were displayed in a **Wildlife Photography Exhibition** which was held in the Foyer of Aras an Chontae during Heritage Week

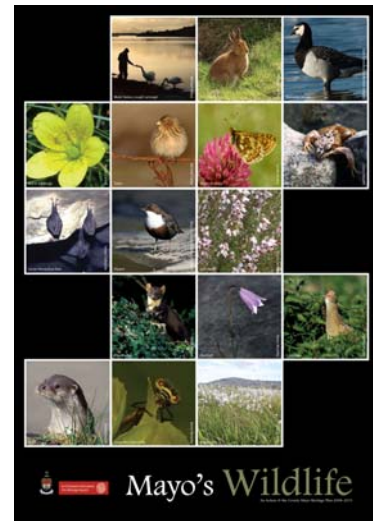


Wildlife Photography Exhibition, Aras an Chontae, Heritage Week 2008

Mayo Wildlife Poster

The winning entries along with a selection of other wildlife photographs were compiled into a

Mayo Wildlife poster that was distributed to all the schools, libraries, Council offices and heritage centres/museums in the county.



Control of *Gunnera tinctoria* on Achill Island and Clare Island

The work on the *Gunnera tinctoria* (giant rhubarb) control project, which was initiated in 2006, continued in 2008 and aimed to build upon the research gained in previous years. The main aims of the project was to identify means of control and to determine whether habitat creation is a viable option once the plant has been removed. A programme to eradicate this invasive plant completely from Clare Island was also initiated. A funding application has been submitted to the Heritage Council Biodiversity Fund to continue this project in 2009.

Heritage Week Events 2008

Over 30 events were held throughout the county for Heritage Week 2008, including, talks, heritage walks and craft demonstrations. Events held include:

Wildlife Photography Exhibition

- Bat walk and Talk, Westport
- Information talk on *Gunnera* on Achill Island
- Guided walk of Mulranny Machair sand dune system, highlighting the biodiversity and conservation works undertaken.

Mayo Heritage Website

The Mayo heritage website is continually updated and expanded with information on heritage in the county, details of project being undertaken and heritage events.

Mayo Golden Mile Competition

The Mayo Golden Mile Competition was held again in 2008; local communities were encouraged to enter a mile stretch of rural road, which is judged on cleanliness, biodiversity and wildlife management, safety for walkers and community effort.

Mayo Heritage Calendar 2008

A Mayo Heritage Calendar 2008 which contained images of stained glass windows by various artists throughout the county.

Other areas addressed by the Heritage Officer include:

- Input into the preparation of the County Development Plan
- Input into Heritage Policy of Local Area Plans
- Input into Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects
- Provide support and advice to Development Control
- Support the Planning Enforcement Section, when requested
- Provide advice to Road Design Section as requested
- Provide advice to the public in relation to protected structures
- Advise public and council staff on heritage related matters
- Provide advice and assistance to community groups, Rural Social Scheme supervisors and participants, Tidy Towns Groups in relation to Local Heritage Projects
- Promote Heritage Council Local Heritage Grant Scheme 2008, meet and advise community groups on applications as required
- Promote Heritage in Schools Scheme

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Information Technologies

In recent times many reports have been written about the need for Public Sector reform particularly the OECD report “Towards an Integrated Public Service” and more recently the task force report “Transforming Public Services”. The emphasis of these two reports is shared services, and the e-enablement of services. Mayo County Council is fortunate that these objectives have been part of their strategy for some years and we are now in a better position than most Local Authorities to deliver on these objectives.

Information Technology in an organisation the size of Mayo County Council is the key enabler to better service delivery. In 2008 a secure Extranet www.mymayo.ie was developed for the business customer. This is a secure portal where members of the public use pin and password to view personal information and to make payments for services, as you would in on-line banking. This development work was recognised by winning the *Innovating Government Awards*.

This web site will be the portal for all services going forward. Major development work on an online planning system and other related planning matters is at an advanced stage and should be available early in 2009.

Mayo County Council continues to be the only local authority in Ireland to receive ISO 27001 certification. Having first achieved this standard in 2007, Mayo has maintained this certification in 2008 which demonstrates its high levels of security, integrity and system availability which enable us to support excellent staff and customer services internally and online.

Websites

Mayo County Council maintains and updates fifteen websites for the varied services we provide. In recent weeks we won the Innovating Government Awards in the category Service to Customer. This is one of many awards the web team have won in recent years.



The NDA (National Disability Authority) have been involved with the multi-disciplinary Access Group in Mayo County Council and as a result all our websites have been audited by the NDA and very detailed policies and procedures put in place in relation to alternative formats for various publications. Also two members of staff have been trained in Irish Sign Language and are available to assist customers as required. Mayo County Council websites are accessible with most content pages attaining conformance rating Double A with WCAG 1.0.

Broadband

Construction of the Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN's) for the towns of Claremorris, Ballinrobe and Knock Airport have recently been completed and we are currently working with eNet to raise awareness and promote broadband availability and use in Mayo.

Human Resources

Worklife Balance

Mayo County Council appreciates the need for employees to balance their working/domestic lives and have therefore introduced a range of policies available to all employees to achieve a work-life balance.

These range of options include

- Parental Leave
- Force Majeure Leave
- Work-Sharing
- Paternity Leave
- Career Breaks
- Maternity Leave
- Adoptive Leave
- Flexitime
- Term Time
- Carers Leave
- Study/Exam Leave

Equality in Mayo County Council

We in Mayo County Council are committed to providing a service that is accessible and relevant to all our customers, accommodates needs and aspirations specific to particular groups of customers and seeks equality of outcome

Mayo County Council is committed to providing equality of opportunity in all employment practices. It is the Local Authority's policy that all staff and potential staff have equality of opportunity.

New Employees 2008

Patrick Munnelly	General Operative
Padriag McHale	General Operative
Martin McLoughlin	General Operative
Sinead McCool	Manager Jackie Clarke Collection
Patrick Corcoran	Assistant Engineer
Lorna Judge	Assistant Planner
Oonagh Kellegher	Oifigeach na Gaeilge
Ray McNamara	Sports Inclusion Development Officer
Paula Connaughton	Assistant Planner
Anne Ronayne	Community Sports Development Project Worker

Angela Gannon	Assistant Planner
Henry Calpin	General Operative
Martin O'Grady	Assistant Engineer
Brian Smyth	General Operative
Sean Forkan	General Operative
Mark Basquille	General Operative
John Heneghan	General Operative
Augustine O'Toole	General Operative
Eileen O'Connor	Clerical Officer
Aga Callaghan	Clerical Officer
Christine Colgan	GIS Tech Grade 1
Anne-Marie McGing	Assistant Arts Officer
Orlagh Heverin	Assistant Arts Officer
Jacqueline O'Boyle	General Officer
Patricia Cunningham	Emergency Control Operator
Tara Walsh	Emergency Control Operator
Karen O'Neill	Emergency Control Operator
David Mellett	Executive Engineer
Karen Gill	Clerical Officer
Siobhan King	Library Assistant
Brid Dawson	Assistant Engineer
Laura Higgins	Clerical Officer
Mary Luby	Clerical Officer
Sharon Connolly	Clerical Officer
Sinead Bourke	Clerical Officer
Carmel Kiernan	Photograph Scanner
Peter Gill	Executive Parks Superintendent

Promotions 2008

Gaynor Seveille	Public Arts Coordinator
Anna Connor	Walking Development Officer
Paddy Mahon	Director of Services
Kevin Moylette	Foreman
Patrick Keane	Ganger
William McDonnell	Ganger
Michael Ruane	Ganger
John Nestor	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Mairead Cannon	Graduate Health & Safety Officer
Pat Gallagher	Senior Executive Technician
Michael Hegarty	Senior Executive Technician
Barry Ryan	Executive Technician
Walter Hughes	Executive Technician
Darren Forde	Executive Technician
Helen Neary	Technician Grade 1
Jacqueline O'Hora	Technician Grade 1
Reg Cowie	Technician Grade 1
Killian Farrell	Technician Grade 1
John Maughan	Procurement Officer

Interview Boards

There were 35 Interview Boards in 2008 made up of 75 male and 27 females.

Retirements in 2008

Mary Mc Hugh	Administrative Officer
Michael Mc Hale	Clerk of Works
John Clark	Chief Technician
Gerry Swords	Clerical Officer
John J Connor	General Services Supervisor.
Thomas Huane	General Operative
Padraig Brown,	Deputy Foreman
Kevin Fanning	General Operative
Michael Oliver	Ganger
John Mc Manamon	Ganger
Martin C Moran	General Operative
Christy Joyce	Caretaker
John Gallagher	Ganger
P.J. Mc Nicholas	Labourer
Martin Keane	Ganger
Joe Moran	Labourer
Michael Staunton,	Waterworks Caretaker
John Regan	Plant Operator
John Egan	Plant Operator

General Purposes

Higher Education Grants

Third level grants continue to provide vital and essential assistance to Mayo students both inside and outside the country.

New grants awarded	375
Renewals	909
Total benefiting	1,284

Total expenditure for Higher Education Grants for 2008 was in excess of €6.24m.

Freedom of Information

The total number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act for 2008 was 50.

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, a Plan that each employee has an input into in its preparation and execution.

The expenditure on the Training and Development of staff in 2008 exceeded €3.9m, which represents 6.75% of the payroll costs and a total of 4,131 training days.

Performance Management & Development System (PMDS)

PMDS has now been rolled out in all Mayo Local Authorities. Annual reviews continue to take place, guided by the original PMDS roll out model. The implementation of PMDS in the local authority sector is a major change programme in relation to its scale and in relation to culture change. It was introduced with full trade union support under Sustaining Progress and thereafter in the Towards 2016 agreement. The purpose of the PMDS is to integrate both Team Development Plans and Personal Development Plans into the policies and aims of each local authority contained within the Corporate Plan framework. The incorporation of both a team and individual focus is very appropriate to the work of local authorities. The emphasis on effective people management will result in improved performance and better service to our customers.

Third Level Courses Completed by Staff Members in 2008 :-

Certificate in Local Government Studies

Lily O'Malley / Orla Hughes / Catherine Fitzpatrick / Liam Rabbitte /
Mark Rooney / Des Hannick / Grainne dePaor / Aine Regan / Veronica Molloy /
Margaret McHugh / Aisling Brennan / Carol Gilmartin / Claire Conlon /
Lisa Lyons / Lisa Irwin / Mary Mitchell-Mulgrew / Julie Graham /
Maria McLoughlin / Liam Scott / Vincent O'Boyle / Catherine Costello /
Yvonne Geraghty.

Certificate in Counselling Skills

Sandra Denning

Certificate in Employee Assistance & Social Support

Breege Griffin

Certificate in Public Procurement

Kenneth Morley

Certificate in Management Development

Teresa Melia / Robbie Maguire / Pat Staunton / Pdraig Brogan /
Kevin Keegan / Larry Walsh / Joe Moran / Paul Hyland.

Diploma in Local Government Studies

Eileen Kavanagh / Claire Ryan / Breege Tuffy-Gordon / Mary Lynn /
Lisa Ruane / Niamh Coy / Marie Langan / Eileen Corcoran.

Diploma in Computer Studies

Aileen McAndrew

Diploma in European Union Studies

Paul McDermott

Diploma in Finance

Trisha Feerick

Diploma in Irish

Denise O’Grady / Cathy Gallagher / Marian O’Malley / Catherine Fitzpatrick /
Mary O’Malley / Mary Murphy / Eleanor Freyne / Laura Heneghan /
Mary Duffy / Dylan Brennan / Fiona Biggins / Helen Greene /
Therese Heneghan / Imelda O’Donnell.

Higher Diploma in Highway Technology

Mark O’Donnell

BA in Public Management

Mary Walsh / Maureen McGee Garvey / Marcella Moran.

Bridging Course for BA in Local Government Studies

Johanna Gormley

Bridging Course for Diploma in Computer Studies

Neal Higgins

Bachelor of Business Studies (IT Stream)

Neal Higgins

Degree in Business Studies

Mark Healy

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture

Noreen Hennigan

Leadership in Local Government Programme

Mary Killoran-Coyne / Martina Hughes.

MA in Archaeology

Dwayne Jordan

MA in Environmental Protection

Helen Neary

MCSE 2003 Certification

Neal Higgins

MSc in Software & Information Systems

Mark Healy



Maureen McGee, Marcella Moran, Mary Walsh, who were conferred with BA in Public Management

Entertainment and Associated Expenses

During 2008, Mayo County Council incurred expenditure of €4,225.05, under Section 76 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Local Workplace Partnership Committee

Workplace Partnership is now embedded in Mayo Local Authorities, and is seen more and more as the way we do our business. It is generally accepted as the way forward and the best way of effecting organisational change, on a consensus basis. The importance of Partnership in the workplace is underlined in the latest Social Partnership

Agreement *Towards 2016*. The guidelines and direction for meaningful consultation for employees and unions in the area of change, is now underpinned by the Employee Information and Consultation Act 2006, and by various department circulars regarding the consultation process. In this area Mayo Local Partnership Committee have implemented the Handling Significant Change protocol for the four Mayo Local Authorities. In this regard Senior Management, Partnership Members, and Senior Union officials meet a number of times each year to discuss the Change Agenda going forward. Current Partnership topics include the consultation process in relation to Water Services Capital Projects, Strategy for Machinery Yard and the ongoing review of PMDS.

Official Languages Act, 2003

County Mayo boasts the country's third largest Gaeltacht population, it is incumbent therefore, on the Local Authority to play an active role in the promotion and development of the Irish language. The Council is committed to ensuring an improved availability, and a higher standard of public services through Irish. In improving services through Irish, the Council has continued with the implementation of the Official Languages Act 2003 by providing information for staff regarding the Council's obligations in this regard. The objective of the Act is to increase the visibility and availability of bilingual service options through continued improvements in the quantity and quality of public service provision through Irish.

Mayo Local Authorities Language Scheme was agreed with the Department of Rural, Community and Gaeltacht affairs and came into effect on 22nd December 2006. The three year scheme, will expire in December 2009. The language scheme details the Council's commitment to implementing a bilingual policy throughout the County Council on a phased basis. It encompasses a broad range of projects and statutory obligations including translation, maintaining and developing bilingual websites, bilingual application forms and information leaflets, and ensuring the Council provides its services to key groups such as Gaelscoileanna, schools in the Gaeltacht etc., through Irish. This scheme impacts every section of the Council and Town Councils.

The Council is in contact with the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga on a continuous basis regarding compliance with the provisions of both the Official Languages Act 2003 and Mayo Local Authorities Language Scheme 2006-2009.

In 2008, 10 members of staff were awarded a Diploma in Irish by Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, NUIG.

The Council has completed major translation work on its website, which became available in fully bilingual format during the year. The website is fully navigable in both official languages, and work is ongoing to ensure that the site is kept up to date. The website was shortlisted for an Irish Language eGovernment Award, sponsored by Foras na Gaeilge.

An Irish Officer was appointed in 2008. The Officer works to promote Irish within the Council and with the general public. Irish language events were organised in co-operation with the Library Service, the Arts Office and the County Development Board. Events included readings in Leabharlann Acla & Bhéal an Mhuirthead during the Children’s Book Festival, “Teanga & Teicneolaíocht” – a language and



Poetry Reading with Louis de Paor

technology seminar in Béal an Mhuirthead during the Science and Technology Festival, and a poetry reading with Louis De Paor in Castlebar on National Poetry Day.



Éanna Ó Brádaigh from Apple Computers who participated in the Teanga and Teicneolaíocht Seminar

image of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht.

The Council continued to work in partnership with Údarás na Gaeltachta, launching the “Scéim Éadán Siopaí” scheme in Gaeltacht Iorrais, an initiative which encourages businesses to embrace their setting in the Gaeltacht of Iorras and use the language as a key element of their business identity. The Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta also cooperated on the ‘An Baile Beo’ competition, 14 community groups from the Mayo Gaeltacht participated in this initiative, which aims to enrich the

The Council has continued to support the work of Gnó Mhaigh Eo, an organisation founded to illustrate the economic value of the Irish language to businesses in Mayo. Of the seven awards presented to the Westport Tidy Towns Committee this September, the “Tidy Towns le Gaeilge” award was particularly welcome as an acknowledgement of the hard-work and commitment of the Westport Tidy Towns Committee, Westport Town Council and Gnó Mhaigh Eo to promoting a bilingual community in Westport.

Working towards Universal Accessibility

Mayo County Council continued to be very active in improving accessibility of our environment and services for people with disabilities in 2008.

Over the course of the year the Disability Implementation Plan was finalised. This sets out our plans to progressively address accessibility both of our public buildings and our external environment over the coming years.

We consider that consultation with disabled organisations is an issue of considerable importance. In this regard a Disability Forum, which consists of representatives of the disabled organisations in County Mayo, meets under the auspices of Community and Enterprise. Consultation is further enhanced with joint meetings of the Access For All committee and the Disability Forum. A number of meetings took place in 2008 which proved to be very beneficial to all concerned.

A considerable number of our offices have now been fitted out with hearing induction loops to assist those with hearing difficulties carry out their business with dignity and ease. Evacuation chairs have been provided in a number of our public offices with 1st and 2nd floors to assist wheelchair users in the event of an emergency.

Training in accessibility and service provision for people with disabilities continued in 2008 with courses in physical accessibility, mental health awareness, equality, and literacy having been provided.

Street improvement works were carried out with many controlled and uncontrolled crossings having been provided. These improvement works will be of benefit to everyone with or without disabilities.

In 2008, Mayo County Council were very proud to have received a National Disability Authority Excellence through Accessibility award at “Excellence” level for the Belmullet Civic Offices. This is the highest



attainable level of the award and Mayo County Council is the first public body to have received it at this level in Connaught. This, together with other awards received,

including three Excellence through Accessibility awards at “Quality” level in 2007, demonstrates the level of commitment the Council and its staff have to providing accessible services to people with disabilities.

Tourism Projects

Photos of the Achill Cycle Hub which was funded by Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland and became operational in 2008.



Photos of the Westport Cycleway along the disused railway between Rice College and High Street Westport. The route forms part of a bigger Westport Cycle Hub. The project which cost €337,000 was funded by Fáilte Ireland and Mayo County Council and was constructed in 2008.



Photos of the construction of the Cycleway between Belclare and Croagh Patrick. The project which cost €350,000 was funded by Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland and constructed in 2008. The cycleway forms part of the Westport Cycle Hub.





Photo of the National Coastal Walk at Rosbeg Westport. The walkway cost €350,000 and was funded by Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland during 2008.

Photos of the upgrade works at Croagh Patrick Carpark which cost €150,000 and which were funded by Fáilte Ireland and Mayo County Council during 2008.



Contact Numbers

HEADQUARTERS:

**Áras an Chontae,
The Mall,
Castlebar.**

Tel (094) 9024444
Fax (094) 9023937
Email secretar@mayococo.ie
Website www.mayococo.ie

AREA OFFICES:

Mayo Motor Tax Office	(094) 9047600
Castlebar	(094) 9024444
Westport	(098) 50400
Newport	(098) 41456
Ballina	(096) 76100
Swinford	(094) 9251132
Also	(094) 9251495
Claremorris	(094) 9371508
Also	(094) 9371285
Claremorris Housing Office	(094) 9362954
Ballinrobe	(094) 9541029
Ballinrobe Housing Office	(094) 9541111
Béal an Mhuirthead	097) 81004

FIRE BRIGADE & SERVICES:

Fire Brigade Headquarters
Humbert Way
Castlebar
Tel (094) 9021211
Fax (094) 9024137
E-mail fire@mayococo.ie

Fire Brigades (in case of emergency)
Ballina, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Béal an Mhuirthead, Castlebar, Charlestown,
Claremorris, Crossmolina, Gob an Choire, Kiltimagh, Swinford, Westport 999 or 112

COUNTY LIBRARY:

Mayo Library Headquarters
John Moore Rd.
Castlebar
Co. Mayo

Tel (094) 9047922
Fax: 094 9026491
E-Mail: librarymayo@mayococo.ie
Web: www.mayolibrary.ie

Branch Libraries:

Castlebar Library	
Tel	(094) 9047959
Fax	(094) 9026491
Acaill	(098) 20910
Ballina Library	(096) 22180
Ballinrobe Library	(094) 9541896
Ballyhaunis Library	(094) 9630161
Béal an Mhuirthead Library	(097) 82374
Charlestown Library	(094) 9255934
Claremorris Library	(094) 9371666
Crossmolina Library	(096) 31939
Kiltimagh Library	(094) 9381786
Louisburgh	(098) 66658
Swinford Library	(094) 9252065
Westport Library	(098) 25747
Foxford Library	(094) 9256040
Clare Island	(098) 29838
Kilkelly Library	(094) 9367758

MAYO CHILDCARE COMMITTEE:

Chambers House, Ellison St, Castlebar (094) 9047010

SWIMMING POOLS:

Castlebar Swimming Pool	(094) 9021357
Ballina Swimming Pool	(096) 70506
Claremorris Swimming Pool	(094) 9371313

WATERWORKS CARETAKERS:

Acaill	(098) 45185
Balla	(094) 9365008
Ballina	(096) 32313
Ballindine	(094) 9364276
Ballinrobe	(094) 9541029
Ballycastle	(096) 43106
Ballyhaunis	(094) 9649026
Bangor Erris	(097) 83436
Béal an Mhuirthead	(097) 84646
Bonniconlon	(096) 71146
Charlestown	(094) 9254633
Claremorris	(094) 9362416
Crossmolina	(096) 31396
Cong	(094) 9546068
Foxford	(094) 9256333
Kilkelly	(094) 9367071
Kilmaine/Shrule	(093) 33436
Kiltimagh	(094) 9381392
Knock	(094) 9381742
Lough Mask / Treatment Plant	(094) 9544029
Louisburgh	(098) 66266
Newport/Mulranny	(098) 36181
Swinford	(094) 9251898
Westport	(098) 21295

TOWN COUNCILS:

Ballina	(096) 76100
Castlebar	(094) 9023350
Westport	(098) 50400

CIVIC AMENITY SITES:

Derrinnumera	(098) 41632
Rathrooen	(096) 24055/(096) 75959