

Mayo County Council Annual Report 2009



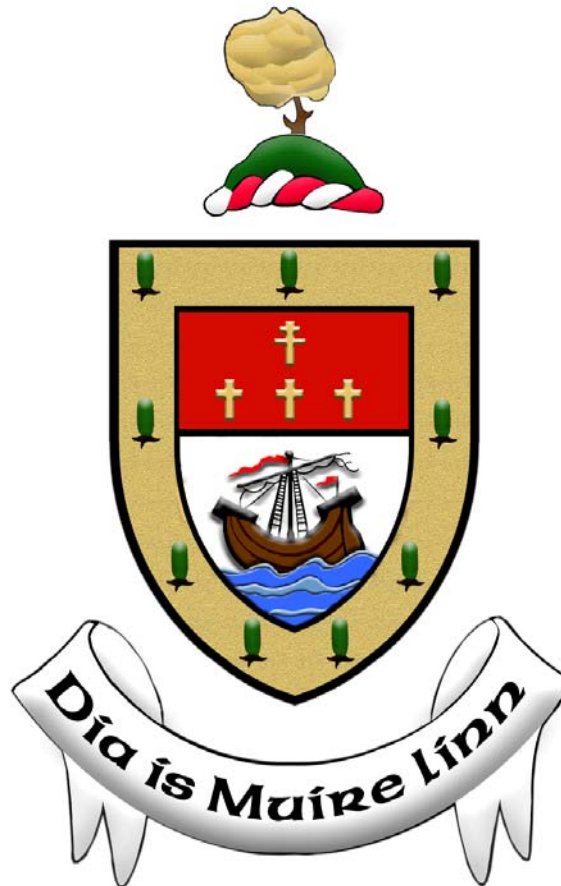
See end of report for details of photographs

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Mission Statement

“We work to improve the quality of life for people living in Mayo and enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place in which to live, work, invest in and enjoy.”



Message from Cathaoirleach, John Cribbin



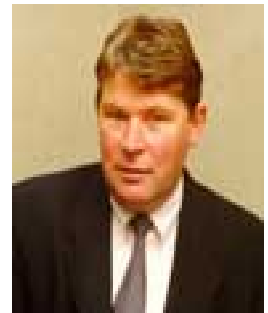
The 2009 Annual Report is hereby enclosed and gives details of the range of activities engaged in by Mayo County Council during 2009.

In many ways, 2009 was the most challenging year in living memory in Mayo County Council. As a result of the economic downturn and the reduction in the public finances, Mayo County Council had to seek to maintain services with considerably less resources than has been available in the past.

The Council while coping with the reduction in resources, has been careful to ensure that on one hand that those who are most in need are protected, and at the same time, that County Mayo will be well positioned for the upturn which is bound to follow. This will hopefully result in services being maintained and improved in order to enhance the quality of life for everybody living and working in our county.

2009 was also an election year which has resulted in 10 new Councillors being elected to Mayo County Council. Following the local elections, appointments have been made to the various Strategic Policy Committees and statutory bodies for which the Council is responsible. A new Corporate Plan was adopted in December 2009 and will be implemented during the life of the Council.

2009 was also a year of change and the greatest single event was the retirement of *Des Mahon, County Manager*, at the end of November. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Mahon for almost 20 years of dedicated service and commitment to Mayo County Council and I wish him and his family every success and happiness in his retirement.



I would also like to thank the staff of Mayo County Council for their loyalty and commitment during 2009 and look forward to their continued co-operation and support.

Members of Mayo County Council

Electoral Areas



Ballina Electoral Area



Cllr. Gerry Ginty
(NP)



Cllr. Michelle Mulherin
(FG)



Cllr. Jarlath Munnely
(FG)



Cllr. Annie May Reape
(FF)



Cllr. Eddie Staunton
(FG)



Cllr. Seamus Weir
(FG)

Castlebar Electoral Area



**Cllr. Cyril Burke
(FG)**



**Cllr. Frank Durcan
(NP)**



**Cllr. Blackie K. Gavin
(FF)**



**Cllr. Henry Kenny
(FG)**



**Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne
(NP)**



**Cllr. Eugene McCormack
(NP)**



**Cllr. Al McDonnell
(FF)**

Claremorris Electoral Area



**Cllr. Michael Burke
(FG)**



**Cllr. Tom Connolly
(FG)**



**Cllr. John Cribbin
(FG)**



**Cllr. Richard Finn
(NP)**



**Cllr. Patsy O'Brien
(FG)**



**Cllr. Damien Ryan
(FF)**

Belmullet Electoral Area



**Cllr. Rose Conway-Walsh
(SF)**



**Cllr. Gerry Coyle
(FG)**



**Cllr. Michael Holmes
(NP)**



**Cllr. Micheál McNamara
(FF)**

Swinford Electoral Area



**Cllr. Eugene Lavin
(FG)**



**Cllr. Jimmy Maloney
(FF)**



**Cllr. Joe Mellett
(FG)**



**Cllr. Gerry Murray
(SF)**

Westport Electoral Area



**Cllr. Margaret Adams
(FF)**



**Cllr. Peter Flynn
(FG)**



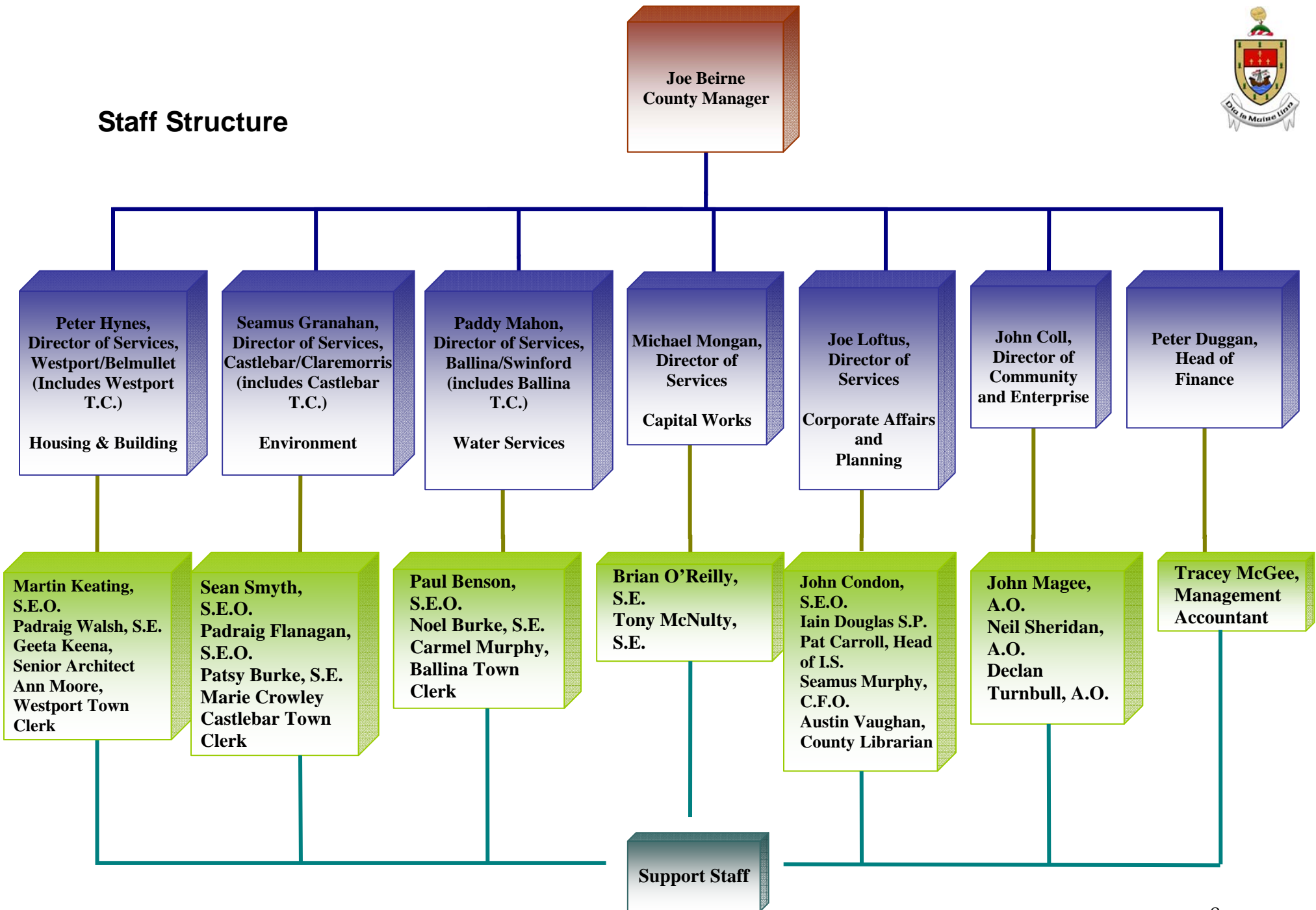
**Cllr. Austin F. O'Malley
(FG)**



**Cllr. John O'Malley
(FG)**



Staff 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 2009. 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 2009.

Strategic Policy Committees

SPC	COUNCILLORS	REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSING	Cllr. Eddie Staunton, Chair Cllr. John Cribbin, Cllr. Gerry Coyle, Cllr. Brendan Heneghan, Cllr. Annie May Reape, Cllr. Frank Durcan, Cllr. Gerry Ginty	Kieran Mulhern, Community Forum Francis Brennan, Community Forum Padraig Heverin, ICTU Helena McElmeel, Chambers of Commerce
CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HERITAGE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS	Cllr. Al McDonnell, Chair Cllr. Peter Flynn, Cllr. Eugene McCormack, Cllr. Joseph Mellett, Cllr. Peter Clarke, Cllr. Margaret Adams, Cllr. Cyril Burke	Mary G. Duffy, Community Forum P.J. Lynn, Community Forum, Tony Deffely, ICTU Joe Queenan, Chambers of Commerce
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION	Cllr. Jarlath Munnely, Chair Cllr. Gerry Coyle, Cllr. Patsy O'Brien, Cllr. Ollie Gannon, Cllr. Michael Holmes, Cllr. Jimmy Maloney, Cllr. Blackie Gavin	Stephen Meenaghan, Community Forum Eddie Lavelle, ICTU Margaret Tallot, Environmental Pillar Brian Bourke, Chambers of Commerce
WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE	Cllr. Eugene Lavin, Chair Cllr. Tom Connolly, Cllr. Austin Francis O'Malley, Cllr. Johnny O'Malley, Cllr. John O'Malley, Cllr. Blackie Gavin, Cllr. Rose Conway-Walsh	James O'Malley, Community Forum Brendan O'Mahony, IFA Lucy Weir Bingham, Environmental Pillar Ray Gilboy, Chambers of Commerce

<p>PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES</p>	<p>Cllr. Michelle Mulherin, Chair Cllr. Eugene McCormack, Cllr. Michael Burke, Cllr. Ger Deere, Cllr. Al McDonnell, Cllr. Damien Ryan, Cllr. Gerry Murray</p>	<p>Seamus McCormack, Community Forum Mary Muldoon, Environmental Pillar John O'Donnell, IFA Patricia Calleary, Chambers of Commerce</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND AGRICULTURE</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Flynn, Chair Cllr. Seamus Weir, Cllr. Myles Staunton, Cllr. Henry Kenny, Cllr. Micheál McNamara, Cllr. Richard Finn, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne</p>	<p>Johnny Groden, Community Forum Michael Biggins, IFA Margaret Leahy, Environmental Pillar Billy Heffron, Chambers of Commerce</p>

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.

Housing Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee held a number of meetings throughout the County in 2009, including in Ballyhaunis in May 2009, which coincided with the official opening of the second phase of Tooraree Housing development.

Topics dealt with by the outgoing Committee over the course of the five year term, included:

- The adoption of a local authority Tenant Handbook
- Review of the Essential Repair Grants and the Disabled Persons Grants Schemes
- The naming of Housing Developments
- Sustainability in Housing

- Review of Housing Action Plan
- Refurbishment Programme
- Land Management Strategy
- Capital Programme
- Rental Accommodation Programme
- The Home Choice Loan
- The Building Energy Rating (BER)

Among the achievements of the SPC Committee were:

- Adoption of Nuisance and Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Adoption of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 - 2013
- Policy on the Scheme of Letting Priorities

Following the Local Elections in June, a new Committee was elected. The incoming committee held its first meeting on 10th November in Castlebar. It has decided to prioritise the following areas for consideration over the course of 2010:

- Capital Programme
- Settlement Policy
- Sustainability
- Housing Management.

Cultural, Education, Heritage & Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

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 **twice** during 2009 and, following Local Elections in June 2009, Cllr Al Mc Donnell was appointed Chairman of the Cultural, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee and held it's **inaugural meeting** on 29th September 2009.

During 2009, the following issues were considered by the SPC members, including:-

- Draft Customer Care Charter for Mayo Local Authorities.
- Promotional DVD for Local Authorities.
- World Heritage Sites Presentation
- Mayo County Council's Draft Corporate Plan – Working Together 2010-2014.
- Action Plan for Cultural, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee 2010-2014.

Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

This Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions in 2009.

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.

Water Supply & Sewerage Strategic Policy Committee

Two meetings of the Water Supply & Sewerage SPC were held during 2009 under the directorship of Mr. Paddy Mahon.

The goal of this SPC is to provide access to the people of Mayo to the best possible water services throughout a process of continued improvement in service delivery.

The committee considered and dealt with the following items amongst others:

- Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012
- Drinking Water Regulations
- County Mayo Strategic Rural Water Plan
- Small Schemes Programme

Planning, Economic Development and Emergency Services

As the Local Authority elections took place in June 2009 only two meetings of the Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting took place in 2009.

At the first meeting held on 2nd March, 2009 Mr. J. McGovern, West Regional Authority, gave a presentation on the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines. It was agreed that Mayo County Council would make a submission on the Regional Planning Guidelines in

relation to: Knock Airport SDZ, The Gas Pipeline and the inclusion of Castlebar/Ballina/Westport/ Hub.

Submissions in relation to the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme were considered and the scheme was put before the full Council for adoption. The Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by Mayo County Council on 9th March, 2009.

Following the June Local Elections the new Committee met on 13th November, 2009, chaired by Cllr. Michelle Mulherin. Cllr. Mulherin gave an overview of the main issues to be considered by the S.P.C. during her term as Chairperson; these included employment, services, tourism including agri-tourism, key development considerations; energy security and food.

Mr. J. Loftus, Director of Services, gave a presentation on the new Corporate Plan and a Resolution was passed "That Mayo should become a net exporter of energy by 2020".

Ms. Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage Officer, gave a presentation on the Draft Bio-Diversity Plan and it was agreed that it would be put on display for a period of six weeks for public consultation after which it would be considered further by the Strategic Policy Committee.

Environmental Policy and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee

This committee which comprises of elected members and members of the business and farming communities.

The Committee met on 4 occasions and discussed inter alia

- Bio-security Plan for Lough Mask
- Backyard Burning
- Environmental Enforcement
- Progress on the Western River Basin Management Draft Plan
- Green Schools Developments

Payment to Members of Mayo County Council and Non-members of Mayo County Council in 2009

Please see links below to access this information:

[PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS 2009.xls](#)

[CONFERENCES MEETINGS 2009 \(BREAKDOWN\).xls](#)

[BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES ABROAD 2009.xls](#)

[PAYMENTS TO NON COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2009.xls](#)

Statements of Donations and Election Expenses at the Local Elections on 5th June 2009

Please see links below to access this information:

[Ballina LEA](#)

[Belmullet LEA](#)

[Castlebar LEA](#)

[Claremorris LEA](#)

[Swinford LEA](#)

[Westport LEA](#)

[Designated Persons](#)

Donation Statements by Members of Local Authority

1st January 2009 – 31st December 2009

Please see links below to access this information:

[**Ballina Electoral Area**](#)

[**Belmullet Electoral Area**](#)

[**Castlebar Electoral Area**](#)

[**Claremorris Electoral Area**](#)

[**Swinford Electoral Area**](#)

[**Westport Electoral Area**](#)

[**Retired Councillors**](#)

List of External Bodies on which Mayo County Council are formally represented by Councillors in 2009

	<i>2004 – June 2009</i>	<i>July 2009 – date</i>
Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees	<i>Cllr. P. O'Brien</i>	<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>	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir, E. McCormack, E. Lavin, C. Burke, D. Ryan, M. Adams, G. Murray (3 yrs) and M. Kilcoyne (2 years)</i>
EU Monitoring Committee	<i>Cllr. E. Lavin</i>	<i>Cllr. E. Lavin</i>
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, E. Lavin and D. Ryan</i>	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, E. Lavin, and D. Ryan</i>
Mayo County Enterprise Board	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Munnely, J. Mellett and M. McNamara</i>	<i>Cllr. T. Connolly, J. Mellett, C. Burke and M. McNamara</i>
Board of the South West Mayo Development Company Ltd.	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley, P. O'Brien and M. Adams</i>
Board of Meitheal Mhaigh Eo Teo	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin and J. Maloney</i>	
Board of Comhar Iorraís (LEADER) Teoranta	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and M. McNamara</i>	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and M. McNamara</i>
Board of Ballinrobe Racecourse Committee	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>	<i>Cllrs. M. Burke and D. Ryan</i>
Board of the Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar	<i>Cllr. J. Mee</i>	<i>Cllr. E. McCormack</i>
Board of the Fr. Patrick Peyton CSC Memorial Company Ltd.	<i>Cllrs. M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>	<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>Cllr. M. Mulherin and A. M. Reape</i>
Board of the Custom House Studios Ltd., Westport	<i>Cllr. John O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllr. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
GMIT Castlebar Liaison Committee	<i>Cllr. H. Kenny</i>	<i>Cllr. H. Kenny</i>
Board of Belderrig Research and Study Centre	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and Johnnie O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and A. McDonnell</i>
Consultative Committee of Knock International Airport	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and M. Carty</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Board of Directors of Clare Lake Development Committee	<i>Cllr. T. Connolly</i>	<i>Cllr. T. Connolly</i>
Board of Maghu's Castle / Kiltimagh Indoor Fun Park	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin and J. Maloney</i>	<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>	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett, E. Lavin, J. Maloney and A. McDonnell</i>
Board of Lacken Sports and Recreation Centre	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton and A.M. Reape</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and M. McNamara</i>
Board of Knockmore / Rathduff Recreation and Resource Centre	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A. M. Reape</i>
County Tourism Committee	<i>Cllr. M. Mulherin</i>	<i>Cllr. John O'Malley</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>	<i>Cllrs. P. Flynn, John O'Malley and J. Maloney</i>
Board of the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company Limited, Dublin	<i>Cllr. J. Mellett</i>	<i>Cllr. J. Mellett</i>
Local Authority Members Association	<i>Cllr. C. Burke</i>	<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>	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley, P. O'Brien, T. Connolly, P. Flynn and D. Ryan</i>
Local County Rural Water Monitoring Committee	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien, A.F. O'Malley and D. Ryan</i>	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley, P. O'Brien and A. McDonnell</i>

County Mayo Heritage Forum	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee, H. Kenny, E. Lavin, J. Munnelly, P. McHugh and M. Adams</i>	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, J. Munnelly, E. McCormack, M. Burke, M. Adams and M. Holmes</i>
Ballycastle (Mayo) Enterprises Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly, E. Staunton, M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle, J. Munnelly, M. McNamara and R. Conway-Walsh</i>
Louisburgh Holidays Pcl.	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley, John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>	<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>	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, E. McCormack and A. McDonnell</i>
Claremorris Swimming Pool Committee	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Cribbin and P. McHugh</i>	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, P. O'Brien, D. Ryan and R. Finn</i>
Castlebar Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee and S. Bourke</i>	<i>Cllrs. E. McCormack and B.K. Gavin</i>
Claremorris Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, J. Cribbin and M. Carty</i>	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>
Swinford Sports Complex Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllr. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Crossmolina Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, S. Weir and Johnnie O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllrs. E. Staunton, S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>
Charlestown Swimming Pool and Recreational Company Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin and J. Maloney</i>
Kiltimagh Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. E. Lavin, J. Mellett, T. Connolly and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett, E. Lavin, J. Maloney and R. Finn</i>
Ballintubber Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, H. Kenny and A. McDonnell</i>	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke, H. Kenny and A. McDonnell</i>
Cushlough Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and M. Adams</i>	<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>	<i>Cllrs. E. McCormack, C. Burke, H. Kenny, B.K. Gavin and A. McDonnell</i>
Ballina Swimming Pool Advisory Committee	<i>Cllrs. M. Mulherin and A.M. Reape</i>	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A. M. Reape</i>

Lecanvey Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Barnacarroll and Cuiltibo Enterprises Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Cribbin, T. Connolly, E. Lavin and M. Carty</i>	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, E. Lavin and D. Ryan</i>
Killasser Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Mellett and J. Maloney</i>
Westport Sports Complex	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Michael Davitt Museum	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and A. McDonnell</i>
Manulla Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke and S. Bourke</i>	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke and B.K. Gavin</i>
Sportlann, Ballinrobe	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>	<i>Cllrs. M. Burke and D. Ryan</i>
Killala Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and Johnnie O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly and A.M. Reape</i>
Aughagower Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Comhlucht Forbartha Bheal An Mhuirthid Teo	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and T. Quinn</i>	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle and M. McNamara</i>
Louisburgh Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and F. Chambers</i>	<i>Cllrs. A.F. O'Malley and M. Adams</i>
Bonniconlon Community Centre Limited	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>	<i>Cllrs. S. Weir and A.M. Reape</i>
Ballinrobe Enterprise Limited	<i>Cllrs. P. O'Brien and D. Ryan</i>	<i>Cllrs. M. Burke and D. Ryan</i>
Co. Mayo Vocational Education Committee	<i>Cllrs. J. Mee, J. Cribbin, E. Staunton, T. Connolly, P. O'Brien, J. Munnelly, F. Chambers, P. McHugh and M. McNamara</i>	<i>Cllrs. J. Munnelly, E. Staunton, A.F. O'Malley, P. O'Brien, G. Coyle, T. Connolly, M. McNamara, B.K. Gavin and R. Finn</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>	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly, S. Weir, A.F. O'Malley and A.M. Reape</i>
Mayo Local Sports Partnership	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and M. McNamara</i>	<i>Cllrs. H. Kenny and B.K. Gavin</i>

Mayo Energy Agency Limited	<i>Cllr. J. Munnelly</i>	<i>Cllr. M. Mulherin</i>
Board of Fionntar Comhraic Teoranta	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle, E. Staunton, T. Quinn and Johnnie O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllrs. G. Coyle, E. Staunton, M.McNamara and M. Holmes</i>
Western River Basin District Advisory Council	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and Johnnie O'Malley</i>	<i>Cllrs. John O'Malley and J. Maloney</i>
Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly and J. Maloney</i>	<i>Cllrs. T. Connolly and B.K. Gavin</i>
Castlebar District Policing Forum	<i>Cllrs. C. Burke and A. McDonnell</i>	
Board of Comhar na nOileán Teo		<i>Cllr. H. Kenny</i>
Board of Mayo North East Leader Partnership Company Teoranta		<i>Cllrs. S. Weir, M. Mulherin and J. Maloney</i>
Abbey Trust, Ballyhaunis		<i>Cllrs. J. Cribbin and D. Ryan</i>

Service Indicators

Figures for Service Indicators were not available at the time of preparing this Annual Report.

Roads Transportation and Safety

Introduction

An efficient road transportation system provides the necessary infrastructure to support economic and social development of a region. Mayo County Council in 2009 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 2009 a total of €36m 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:

National Primary Roads	135.0kms.
National Secondary Roads	271.0kms.
Regional Roads	622.0kms.
Local Roads	<u>5,325.0kms.</u>
Total	6,353.0kms

Funding of €11.34m was received from the National Roads Authority for the National Road network, whilst €20.3m was received from the Department of Transport for the Regional and Local roads.

The Council itself provided €4.4m for the Road network in the year.

National Primary Roads:

The grants for the **National Primary Roads** for 2009 were broken down as follows:

NP Major Planning & Design:

N5 Charlestown By Pass	€3,495,000
N5 Westport to Bohola	€2,544,784
N26 Ballina - Bohola Phase 2 (Planning & Design)	<u>€ 750,000</u>
	€6,789,784

Pavement & Minor Improvement:

NP Pavement Surfacing Works	€ 480,000
	€ 480,000

The grant for **National Primary Maintenance** totaling €945,138, were broken down as follows:

Winter Maintenance	€ 200,000
Bridge Maintenance	€ 23,500
Surface Dressing	€ 159,905
Ordinary Maintenance	€ 466,533
Route Lighting	€ 95,200

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

Schemes at Planning Stage:

- *N5 Charlestown By-pass (Swinford–RN Co. Boundary)* [18.2 kms]

The N5 Charlestown Bypass was officially opened in November 2007 and the allocation of €3.495 is for the completion of land acquisition and to making the final payment to the contractor.

- *N.26 Ballina/Bohola - Phase II* [18.4kms Dual Carriageway]

The Public Enquiry for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this scheme was held in February 2008 but no determination has yet been made by An Bord Pleanala. If a positive decision is received in the near future, the pre-contracts can proceed in 2009 with the main Design/Build contract going to tender in 2010 if the necessary funding is made available by the National Roads Authority.

- *N.5 Westport to Bohola* [40kms 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.

The Preferred Route for the scheme was approved by Mayo County Council at the March Meeting of the Council. The scheme has also successfully gone through the National Roads Authority's Peer Review process.

- *N.17 Charlestown Bypass (Knock to Tobercurry) & N17 Knock Bypass to Ballindine*

No grant has been received for these schemes for 2009 and therefore, further work on these schemes has been deferred.

- *N17 Claremorris to Tuam*

This scheme is being handled by the Galway National Road Design Office and will be progressed to the Preferred Route Stage within the next few months.

National Secondary-Majors [Planning & Design]

The grant for these schemes at €200,000 compares with last year's allocation of €425,600. This level of grant will allow for design work to continue on the Ballinrobe Bypass, Ballyhaunis Bypass, Ballina to Crossmolina Road and Ballina Relief Road. The detailed position on each of the national secondary schemes is set out hereunder:

- *N26/N59 Ballina By-Pass*

The Preferred Route for this scheme has been approved by the Members of Mayo County Council. The scheme was the subject of a National Roads Authority (NRA) Peer Review in March 2009.

- *N59 Ballina/Crossmolina Route*

The emerging Preferred Route for this scheme was presented to the public in May 2008. The final Preferred Route has been selected and was the subject of a Peer Review by the NRA in March 2009. The Route will be presented to the Members of Mayo County Council for approval later this year.

○ *N5/N59 Westport Southern Relief Road*

The Constraints Study for this scheme is complete and some work has been done in developing route options. The NRA allocation does not include for further work on this scheme in 2009.

○ *N60 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 by the NRA 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 was the subject of an NRA Peer Review in March 2009 and the final route will be presented to the Members of Mayo County Council for approval later this year.

○ *N60/N83 Ballyhaunis Bypass*

The emerging Preferred Route for this scheme has now been put on public display. The scheme will now be the subject of an NRA Peer Review and will then come before the Council for approval.

National Secondary Roads:

The 2009 **National Secondary Improvement Grant** of €1,791,000 was primarily for pavement works and safety measures on the Secondary Network and works were undertaken at the following locations:-

National Secondary Safety Measures:

N59 Bangor-Bellacorick	€ 30,000
N84 Ballinrobe Town	€ 50,000
N84 Ballyheane	€ 96,000
Regional Road Safety Engineer	<u>€165,000</u>
Total	€341,000

NS Majors:

Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Ballina-Crossmolina & Ballina Relief Road	<u>€ 200,000</u>
Total	€200,000

Pavement & Minor Improvements:

Mulranny Village Pilot	€ 100,000
NS Pavement Surfacing Works	<u>€1,150,000</u>
Total	€1,250,000

The **National Secondary Maintenance Grant** for 2009 was €1,316,460 broken down as follows:

Winter Maintenance	€ 235,000
Bridge Maintenance	€ 40,000
Resurfacing	€ 320,003
Ordinary Maintenance	€ 639,057
Route Lighting	<u>€ 82,400</u>
Total	€1,316,460

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

Specific Improvement Grants were allocated for the following schemes:

Brookhill, Claremorris	€ 15,000
Cross to Headford	€ 500,000
Newport Rd., Castlebar	€ 400,000
Barnadearg, Ballina	€ 550,000
Achill Sound Bridge	€1,300,000
Bohola to Kiltimagh	€ 450,000
Kilbroney Killala	€ 120,000
Cuilmore Phase II	€ 200,000
Knock Airport Access	€ 85,000

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.

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

Local Improvement Schemes (L.I.S.)

The 2009 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 €124,000 was received in 2009 in respect of a programme of signposting on the regional road network. The programme takes account of the Official Languages Act, 2003, in respect of Gaeltacht locations.

Public Lighting

Mayo County Council operates and maintains approximately 8,500 public lights throughout the County. The estimated cost of operating the Public Lighting System for 2009 was €1,082,000.00. This is part financed by an NRA grant of €177,600.00.

Maintenance

Public lighting maintenance & repair services have been provided to date to Mayo County and the Town Councils by ESB Contracts (ESBC). Mayo County Council has a contract in place, which includes the Town Councils, until the 31st December 2010 with ESBC. However ESBC has now been sold to Airtricity Utility Solutions (AUS). These contracts will be assigned to AUS and they will provide maintenance services from the 1st December 2009.

Currently a Code of Practice is being developed by the County & City Managers Association (CCMA) and ESB to allow private contractors access to the ESB network to maintain public lighting. When this is completed the Council will be tendering the public lighting maintenance contract. The Council hope to be in a position to do this towards the middle of 2010.

Energy

Public lighting energy was previously supplied by the regulated public electricity supplier (PES) ESB Customer Supply. The energy contracts were tendered earlier this year and awarded to Energia from the 1st July 2009 to the 31st December 2010. Energia offered a saving in excess of 10% of the PES rate and are supplying 100% green energy to our public lighting.

An allowance is to be included in 2010 for a DUoS charge increase. DUoS charges are distribution use of system charges which are paid by all electricity customers for using *ESB Networks* distribution system. This increase is to finance the capital costs of upgrading the public lighting network associated with *ESB Networks* national low voltage distribution system upgrade.

To continue to provide a quality public lighting service significant investment will be required by Mayo County Council in the coming years. The Public service obligation (PSO) as determined by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is set a zero for 2010.

Road Safety

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

Road Safety Awareness for 2009 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 Road Safety Authority 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	10
2009	10

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 2009, while a number of other schemes were under construction.

Schemes under Construction in 2009

1. Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme (Wastewater Treatment Plant) DBO
2. Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme
3. Ballina Main Drainage Scheme
4. Countywide Water Conservation Project
5. Non-Domestic Water Metering Project



Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme

In October 2009, Mayo County Council submitted a **Water Services Needs Assessment** to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for inclusion in the Department's upcoming Water Services Investment Programme (2010 – 2012), subject to affordability over the next number of years. Details of the Needs Assessment are set out below.

(Note: A number of Schemes / Contracts listed below are not exclusive to just one category, for ease of cross referencing, Schemes/Contracts **Coloured in red** have already been listed in a higher Category on this Prioritised Table of Needs).

Contracts at Construction	Start Const.	Est. Cost (€)
Ballina Main Drainage Scheme & SWO (Additional Works)	Substantially complete	23,850,000 & 600,000 (SWO)
Castlebar Environs SS	In Progress	51,000,000
Countywide Water Conservation Phase II	In Progress	5,000,000
Achill Sound Sewerage	In Progress	7,400,000
Category 1: Water Conservation Proposals		
<i>Contracts to progress to Construction</i>		
Water Conservation Stage 3 Rehabilitation Works – Contract No. 1 – Wherrew Rising Main	2 Months following DEHLG approval	1,300,000
<i>Schemes to advance through Planning</i>		
Water Conservation Stage 3 Rehabilitation Works - Contract No.2 – Rehabilitation	2011	5,000,000
Water Conservation Stage 3 Rehabilitation Works - Contract No. 3 – Lead Pipe Replacement	2010	1,000,000
Category 2: Works required to respond to ECJ Judgments		
<i>Contracts to progress to Construction</i>		
Lough Mask Ext. Srah To Westport	2010	22,000,000
Lough Mask Ext. To Kiltimagh	2011	7,200,000
<i>Schemes to advance through Planning</i>		
Lough Conn – East Mayo	2013+	500,000

Category 3: Environment/Public Health Objectives		
<i>Contracts to progress to Construction</i>		
Kiltimagh SS WWTP	2010	3,750,000
Lough Mask Ext. Srah To Westport	2010	22,000,000
Lough Mask Ext. To Louisburgh	2011	6,800,000
Lough Mask Ext. To Kiltimagh	2011	7,200,000
<i>Schemes to advance through Planning</i>		
Cong Water Supply	2010	1,500,000
Belmullet SS WWTP & Advance Works	2011	7,730,000
Killala SS WWTP & Advance Works	2011	5,950,000
Sludge Hub Centre	2012	7,000,000
Newport SS	2011	5,200,000
Kilmaine Water Supply	2012	3,000,000
Claremorris SS Storm Water Overflow at Mayfield	2010	1,000,000
Lough Conn – East Mayo	2013+	500,000
Foxford Treatment Plant & Advance Works	2013+	6,100,000
Charlestown Treatment Plant	2013+	3,100,000
Ballina Ext. To Bonniconlon	2013+	2,300,000
Kiltimagh Collection Network	2013+	5,450,000
Belmullet Collection Network	2013+	4,270,000
Killala Collection Network	2013+	3,050,000

Foxford Collection Network	2013+	3,900,000
Newport Collection Network	2013+	3,800,000
Charlestown Collection Network	2013+	900,000
Lough Mask Ext. To Newport & Mulranny	2013+	9,000,000
Category 4: Works to support Sustainable Development of Gateways, Hubs and Employment Creation		
<i>Contracts to progress to Construction</i>		
Lough Mask Ext. Srah to Westport	2010	22,000,000
Ballina Storage & Mains	2011	3,800,000
<i>Schemes to advance through Planning</i>		
Castlebar WWTP Upgrade – Stage 2	2013+	3,500,000
Claremorris WWTP Upgrade	2013+	3,000,000
Ballyhaunis WWTP Upgrade	2013+	3,000,000
Ballina Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	2013+	3,800,000



Moygownagh Sewerage Scheme

Small Schemes/Clár Programme

SCHEMES COMPLETED IN 2009

Moygownagh Sewerage Scheme

SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2009

The Neale Sewerage Scheme

Cross Sewerage Scheme

Mayo Abbey Sewerage Scheme

SCHEMES TO COMPLETE IN 2010

The Neale Sewerage Scheme
Cross Sewerage Scheme
Mayo Abbey Sewerage Scheme

SCHEMES TO COMMENCE IN 2010

Crossboyne Sewerage Scheme
Cong Water Supply Scheme
Knockmore Sewerage Scheme

The programme put forward for 2010 is dependant on funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Clár and Mayo County Council.

SCHEMES AT PLANNING STAGE (IN-HOUSE)

Carracastle Sewerage Scheme
Ballyglass Sewerage Scheme
Closhreid/Ballinasally Sewerage Scheme Extension
Aughleam Sewerage Scheme
Bunacurry Sewerage Scheme (Outfall)
Attymass Sewerage Scheme
Clare Island Sewerage Scheme

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 providing new Treatment Plants, replacing critical mains and installation of consumer meters.

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

Bundle No. 1:

The first bundle of 13 no. Schemes for improvement of water treatment facilities using the D.B.O. process is complete.

Thirteen 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, Belderrig and Fahy/Kilmaclasser. All of these Treatment Plants have now been commissioned.



Ballycroy Group Water Scheme Treatment Plant.

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.
- Killasser GWS Co-operative Society Ltd.

3 No. Advance Works Contracts for the replacement of Critical Mains and the installation of Stopcock Boxes are completed.

Treatment System Services Limited has been awarded the main DBO Contract. Work is in progress with commissioning of all the Plants expected by end 2010.

In 2009 the allocation for DBO was €8,300,000.

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 €1.4million was granted to Mayo County Council for Take-over of Group Water Schemes in 2009.

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. 486 applications have been received to date.

6. NEW SCHEMES / UPGRADING OF EXISTING SCHEMES

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED	
Straide	Bofield

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS	
Mayo Abbey Cullintra	Monard Currykirwan

SCHEMES TAKEN-IN-CHARGE IN 2009	
Brize Corclough West Frenchbrook South Kilquire/Ardkill Manulla	Rathgranagher Rathnamagh Roxboro Hollymount

Wastewater Discharges (Authorisation) Regulations 2007

During the year 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency issued Discharge Licences for 6 No. wastewater Treatment Plants at Ballina, Castlebar, Westport, Ballindine, Ballycastle and Achill Island.

Applications for Discharge Licences for an additional 32 No. Wastewater Treatment Plants were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency over the same period.

Non- Domestic Water Services 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. 2009 is the second year of all Non-Domestic customers been charged Water & Sewerage charges on a volumetric basis. 97% of customers are now metered with the remaining customers to be metered shortly. A dedicated office was set up dealing solely with Water Services Charges and water conservation. To date this office is processing almost 20,000 bills per year. Customers can now pay their Water Services Charges in any Mayo County Council office, or online. In conjunction to the new online payments facility, all customers can also monitor their water consumption and meter readings, and manage their accounts through a new web interface set up on the Mayo County Council Website

Water Conservation

Phase 2 of the water conservation project commenced in December 2008, and includes the remaining schemes not dealt with under phase 1 of the project. These schemes are predominately located in the southern half of the County; the largest scheme been the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme. To date all the District Metering Areas

have been designed, and bulk meters are currently been installed. The bulk of the leak detection activities will commence in 2010. To date the savings in water achieved in the schemes covered under Phase 1 of the project have been maintained. An application for funding to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, for the Rehabilitation of over 40 kms of water mains identified in the first phase of the project is currently being prepared.

Our Environment.... Awareness....Enforcement.....Protection...

The Environment Section is tasked with the enforcement of environmental legislation, the implementation of EU directives and regulations, national and regional policies and the raising of awareness/education of environmental issues with the general public.

Highlights in 2009 included:-

- The installation of the 100th bring bank recycling centre at Kilmovee. The county has achieved a 36% increase in the recovery of glass.
- The launch of anti litter awareness campaigns through the 'Car Bin' and 'Cigarette 'n' Gum pouch' projects
- Participation in the Gum Litter Awareness Campaign
- Domestic waste recycling has reached 35% in the County
- Expansion of the pilot scheme of textile banks from 20 to 40 recycling banks
- Increased participation in the Green Schools Programme
- The introduction of CRM, which is a customer relations based system designed to provide an efficient and effective way of policing, investigating and analysing improper environmental conduct.

Environmental Awareness

Environment Awareness is an integral part of the role-out of the current Connaught Waste Management Plan. Environment Awareness is focused on all sectors of the community – school children, young adults, householders, business and community groups.

School programmes

Mayo County Council has continued to promote environment 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 2009 and schools were offered compost bins and other promotional and awareness information. Several other school based projects took place during 2009 such as



*The 'Food We Eat' project –
growing our own food organically.*

- Magic Shows
- Music/dance/drama shows
- National Spring Clean
- The Food We Eat Programme
- Christmas Decoration Competition

Green Schools

To date there are over 160 schools registered for the Green Schools Programme in County Mayo and 116 schools have achieved Green School status. Thirty two of the schools are now working on the fourth theme of the programme which is currently being rolled out – the travel theme.

A pilot of a new theme of the Green Schools Programme covering Biodiversity commenced in nine Mayo Schools in 2009. The Green School's programme has undoubtedly played a major role towards increasing environmental awareness among pupils, teachers and parents of the registered schools. In 2009, Mayo County Council, in partnership with the County Childcare Committee, held a Green School's information briefing for childcare providers throughout Mayo.

Business and Community Environmental Awareness

Information presentations have been delivered to many community groups and voluntary groups during 2009. These presentations involve the delivery of information about Recycling Centres, Bottle Banks, the principles of “**Reduce, Reduce, Recycle**”, composting, shopping for the environment, and 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 programmes.



Environmental information days were held during Fresher's Week in GMIT and also during the Environment Health and Safety Weeks in Allergan Pharmaceuticals and Ballina Beverages.

Mayo County Council ‘Car Litter Bin’ Campaign

In November 2009, Mayo County Council launched their car litter campaign at Belmullet Civic Offices. The campaign which aimed to increase awareness to the problem of litter thrown from vehicles by passing motorists, involved hundreds of free car litter bins being distributed to the public by Mayo County Council.

The campaign involved the motor tax offices of Belmullet, Castlebar and Ballina. Any member of the public who used the motor tax facility in these Offices was given a free car litter bin. The car litter bins carry the slogan “*Bin your Litter, Recycle your Waste, make Mayo a Magic Place*” which was a winning slogan in Mayo County Council’s Cleaner Community Awards.



Launch of Mayo Council’s Car Litter Awareness Campaign

Gum Litter Awareness Campaign

The incorrect disposal of chewing gum is a significant issue for many local authorities. It is an important and emotive issue for local residents and irresponsibly disposed of chewing gum is costly

to remove.

Promoting a behavior change among gum droppers through local campaigns helps create a cleaner, more attractive local area that residents, visitors and businesses can enjoy. Mayo County Council continued throughout 2009 to promote awareness to chewing gum litter. Gum pouches for the safe disposal of gum along with awareness posters were distributed through the schools and business community.

Launch of Mayo County Councils Cigarette litter campaign with the support of the Mayo Branch of the Vintners Association in Teach O’Hora’s Bar, Kiltimagh.



Mayo County Council's Cigarette Litter Awareness Campaign.

A new anti-litter campaign commenced in 2009 targeting cigarette litter. Posters and free pocket ash trays were distributed to community groups, pubs and hotels. Posters with the hard hitting message “*Is your butt worth €150?*” were also distributed throughout the County.

Mayo County Councils Dog Litter Awareness Campaign



Mayo County Council's dog litter campaign continued in 2009 with the distribution of poop scoops and the distribution of a new dog litter poster. Poop scoop stations are also available on all blue flag beaches for the disposal of dog poop.

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 Aras an Chontae, Castlebar. Composters are offered free to all schools. Mayo County Council sold 279 composters to households in 2009 with over 6000 units in circulation.

In partnership with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council and Crossmolina Tidy Towns Committee a Composting Workshop was held in Crossmolina in April 2009. As organic waste accounts for one third of general waste collected from households and sent straight to landfill without segregation this Workshop proved to be very popular and was well attended by the general public and community representatives. The Workshop also discussed ways of improving our gardens for the benefit of the local environment and wildlife, contributing to the well being and quality of life of the local community and gardens at home.

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean is Ireland's biggest anti-litter campaign. It encourages people from all walks of life to take pride in their local environment and to take action against litter. The campaign runs throughout the whole month of April and relies on the wonderful support from volunteers nationwide. There was a 12% increase nationally in participation in this Campaign in 2009. In County Mayo **288** community groups/schools participated in An Taisce's National Spring Clean in April.

All schools and community groups were invited to participate in the Spring Clean Campaign and all registered groups were issued with bags, gloves and litter pickers to assist them in their litter clean ups.

Recycling/Bring Banks

Under the Waste Management Plan there is clear 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 2009, just over 2,926 tonnes of glass and a further 95 tonnes of aluminium cans were recycled from public sites.

The 100th bring bank site was established in Kilmovee in November 2009. Funding is available from the Environment Fund to help offset the cost of operating civic amenity sites and bottle banks.

The pilot scheme of 20 textile banks has been very successful and to further encourage recycling of clothes, it is the Council's intention to tender for a full service throughout the county in early 2010.



Local residents recycling in Kilmovee.

100th Bring Bank Site

In November 2009, Mayo County Council joined with the community of Kilmovee in the official opening of the 100th bottle bank site in the County. Mayo County Council has now 100 locations where the public can recycle glass bottles, jars and drink cans free of charge.



Official opening of Mayo County Councils 100th bottle bank in Kilmovee

Mayo Business Awards

The Mayo Business Awards is a major business event in County Mayo, incorporating the Chambers of Commerce in Ballina, Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, Claremorris, Erris, Swinford and Westport as well as 2,500 businesses. Mayo County Council was pleased to be the sponsor of the Mayo Business Award “Environmental Category” for the seventh year in succession.

The Clew Bay Hotel, Westport, Winner of the Environment Category of the Mayo Business Awards 2009.

Christmas Campaign

In January 2009, a Christmas card recycling campaign was ran to coincide with the Christmas tree recycling campaign. Derrinnumera Recycling Centre and Rathreen Recycling Centre were also promoted as Mayo’s Green Christmas centres over the Christmas period. In December 2009, a very successful Christmas Decoration Competition was run by Mayo County Council whereby primary school children were encouraged to make decorations from “waste” materials.



Administration and Implementation of Grant Schemes

- **Anti-Litter & Anti Graffiti Grants 2009**

This grant scheme is aimed towards organisations that are planning a project to target anti-litter or anti-graffiti measures. Organisations are invited to apply for grant aid to co-fund public education and awareness initiatives on the subject of litter and graffiti. Eighteen applications were received in 2009 for consideration for funding. Funding has been allocated to all of these organisations for Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti projects.

Description of Project	Participants & Target Audience	Outcome (e.g. volume of litter collected, educational & awareness impacts, materials produced/distributed etc.)
Club Vario Youth Project “The Pathfinder Project”	7 – 18 year olds	Anti-litter and anti-graffiti awareness campaign – competition, calendars, t-shirts with slogans. Sculpture to be erected at entrance to Estate “Litter Free Zone, Please Keep Greenhills Estate Tidy”.
Erris No Name Club “How Could You Stick It?”	Teenagers and general public in the Erris/Belmullet Area	Specific awareness campaign on chewing gum litter in the area. Radio programme to broadcast on the issue, poster competition and public day of awareness in Belmullet wearing t-shirts, caps to promote the message.
Crossmolina Tidy Towns Anti-Litter Awareness Project	All age groups in Crossmolina	Anti-litter campaign to encourage people to use car-bins, provision of awareness stickers, puppets, storytelling and talks in the 3 local schools – competition for slogan – winning slogan on hi-viz jackets. Specific campaign to raise awareness on cigarette and chewing gum litter in the town. Purchase of gum & smoke pouches. Open evening of information. Production of flyer, formation of “Village Care Team”. Posters designed by children – regular competitions for new slogans
Bangor Erris Tidy Towns “Village Litter Care Team”	Local businesses, householders and school children	
Ballina Town Council “The L-Factor Song Competition”	12 local national schools	Schools compose anti-litter theme song/rap. Public performance in sports & leisure centre. Funding used for promotion of competition and for prizes.
Foroige – Castlebar N.Y.P. “The Bridge – Joining Youth & Community”	10 – 18 year olds	Project aimed to promote civic responsibility & community spirit in youth in Castlebar. Through regeneration of a derelict, littered and graffitied area of Castlebar (road bridge adjacent to Tesco). Involvement by youth will develop such skills as project management and design and promote true community spirit and ownership on the issue of litter and graffiti in public spaces.

Club Inferno “Litter – its effect and what can I do?”	9 – 16 year olds	Youth from Millview Crescent together with Community Development Officer to carry out an anti-litter awareness & education programme in the Estate. Education on the dangers posed to animals and wildlife, visit to recycling centre, poster design and production of fridge & bin magnets with anti-litter message.
The Neale Heritage & Development Committee “Anti Litter Design an Advert Campaign” Cinemobile	Primary school children in The Neale and passing motorists	Anti Litter competition with local school with 5 th & 6 th Class to devise an advert for inclusion in the local newspaper. The advert will be aimed specifically at motorists. This group carry out regular clean-ups and have assessed that 90% of litter picked up emanates from passing motor traffic.
Anti-Litter DVD Castlebar Tidy Towns Committee “Castlebar Tidy”	Teenagers General population of Castlebar	Anti-litter DVD to be screened before 125 films shown in Co. Mayo. Advertising campaign – broadcasts daily on local radio CRCfm. Also, broadcast during community omnibus programme and on the daily lunch time news.
Westport Tidy Towns	Secondary, primary and pre-schools in Westport	Ongoing campaign – targeting all schools, encouragement to participate in Green Schools, production and distribution of a poster /newsletter specifically relating to anti-litter and anti-graffiti.
Sharkey Hill Youth Group “Don’t Be a Fool – Stay Green to be Cool” Kilmaine Village Enhancement Group Kilmaine Litter Awareness Campaign CorrAcla Teo Community “Know Your Litter”	8 – 15 years Local community and school children Pre-schools, primary schools & summer camps	Provision of interactive workshops based around music and drama to create greater awareness around the issue of litter in their community. They will compose a song or a short drama and perform same publicly for the wider community. Anti-litter slogan competition - primary school. Winning slogans to be placed on hi-vis jackets. Children will wear them at weekly clean-ups. Ash bins in the village to target cigarette litter. Campaign to raise awareness of the effects of litter. School competitions to produce posters, calendars, desk-top diaries and mouse pads. Major launch to be promoted on local radio and newspapers.
Westport Family & Community Resource Centre Quay Community Art Project	Youth in The Quay area of Westport	Project involving youth 10-12 years to produce anti-litter poster to be displayed in local businesses and schools. Facilitator x 4 sessions. Also focus on awareness on the environmental impacts of litter and the consequences of littering general.
Abbeystown/Abbeyview Resident’s Organisation Project Abbeystown/Abbeyview	Residents of the Estates, residents of Crossmolina	Project aimed at all residents in both the Estates and the town to become more aware of the issue of litter. The objective is get people involved to teach them the importance of litter awareness, the misconduct of graffiti and the significant of keeping their residential area clean and tidy. In recognition children will receive a “Brownie Badge” and Certificate.

<p>Charlestown Association Tidy Towns Committee</p> <p>Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Project</p> <p>Coiste Cultur Teanga agus Forbartha Thuar Mhic Eadaigh</p> <p>Anti-Litter Campaign with Youth of Tourmakeady.</p>	<p>Dev.</p> <p>Local community of Charlestown</p> <p>General community of Tourmakeady</p>	<p>Litter research study to be undertaken. Education leaflet produced based on the research study. Promotional items such as t-shirts, bags with anti litter message. Also, anti graffiti initiative on derelict buildings in the town. Art images will be drawn to replace the graffiti on these buildings.</p> <p>Anti-Litter awareness programme involving the youth to formulate database of "litter blackspots" in the area for regular surveillance. Competitions for posters/slogans. Workshop to raise awareness for the community.</p>
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• **Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2009**

Local Agenda 21 is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. Mayo County Council received thirty-two applications under this Scheme in 2009. Eligible projects under this scheme support and complement national environmental policies such as those on waste, biodiversity, climate change, air, water, sustainable development etc. The following projects received funding:

Name of Applicant	Project Title	Description of Project
Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection	Protecting and Valuing our Water Resources: Schools Education Program	Schools Awareness Programme on lakes
Irish Peat land Conservation Council	Composting and Wildlife Gardening Workshop	2 Workshops on Composting
Cumann Geata Achla	Community Giant Rhubarb Removal Project	Awareness and Removal of Gunnera
Westport Family & Community Resource Centre	Quay Community Organic Garden	Provision of organic garden for
Westport Allotment Association	Allotments Initiative	Provision of Allotments
Barry Kelvin Moore	Recycle Magic	Puppet Show
Club Vario Youth Project	New Horizons	Environmental Youth Project
Moy Valley Community Services	Elderly Community Project	Vegetable growing for Elderly and Youth
Westport Sustainability Group	Sustainable Transport Project	Report on Sustainable Transport Project for Westport
Cairde le Cheile	Community Organic Garden	Organic Garden for Community

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 €3 per visit.

Landfills

Mayo County Council has two licensed Landfills located at Derrinumera 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 Derrinumera landfill only. 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 Derrinumera. Householders continue to be facilitated at both sites.

Waste going to landfill is currently charged at €145 per tonne (including government levy of €25 which was introduced on 31st December, 2009). A standard bag of refuse to landfill is currently €6.

Waste Permitting

The kerbside waste collection service in the Mayo County Council functional area is provided by private permitted waste collectors who have operated a two bin collection service for residual waste and dry recyclables. In order to achieve the targets of the bio-waste strategy the introduction of a third (brown) bin is being rolled out to ensure separate collection of biodegradable waste. In 2009 the waste collection permits of all kerbside municipal waste collectors in the region were reviewed to ensure the expansion of the service to include the brown bin. The timelines conditioned in the reviewed permits are set out below.

Date	Target
1 st September 2009	10% of households must have a segregated organic collection
1 st September 2009	All commercial, Industrial and Municipal Waste
31 st December 2010	40% of Households must have a segregated organic collection

Waste Collection Permits (WCP)

Mayo County Council as Lead and Nominated authority for the Connaught Region continues to process Waste Collection permit applications for the Region. This involves advice, pre-consultation, amendment, review and revocation of permits. Under the 2008 Regulations Multi-Regional WCPs can be issued by any of the ten waste Management regions nationally to waste collectors who wish to operate in more than one region.

A National network comprising of representatives from all ten waste management regions meet quarterly to ensure consistency across the regions. In 2009 a standard template of conditions for use nationally was agreed and introduced.

Currently there are 465 active waste collection permits with authorization from Mayo County Council to collect various waste streams within the region and of these 22 are Multi Regional WCPs covering up to all ten regions nationally. In addition a further 141 Multi-Regional Waste collection permits have been issued by other Waste Management Regions which authorize Waste collectors to collect wastes in Connaught. Mayo County Council was consulted on these WCP applications and where appropriate has ensured the inclusion of specific conditions to enable implementation of the Connaught Waste Management Plan. Similarly Multi Regional WCP applications to Mayo County Council are circulated electronically to all 33 local authorities for comment.

Each collector is obliged to submit an annual environmental report (AER) detailing types and quantities of wastes collected. This data is analysed and used for the national waste database and Local Authority Service Indicators. A national online system funded by the DEHLG has been completed for Multi Regional WCP holders to submit AER data for 2009. The on-line system will streamline the current time consuming process. In subsequent years the system will require a €1000 maintenance fee.

Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration

Mayo County Council issue and process applications for Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for the County. The application fee which is set out in the Waste Management (Waste Facility Permit and Certificate of Registration) Regulations

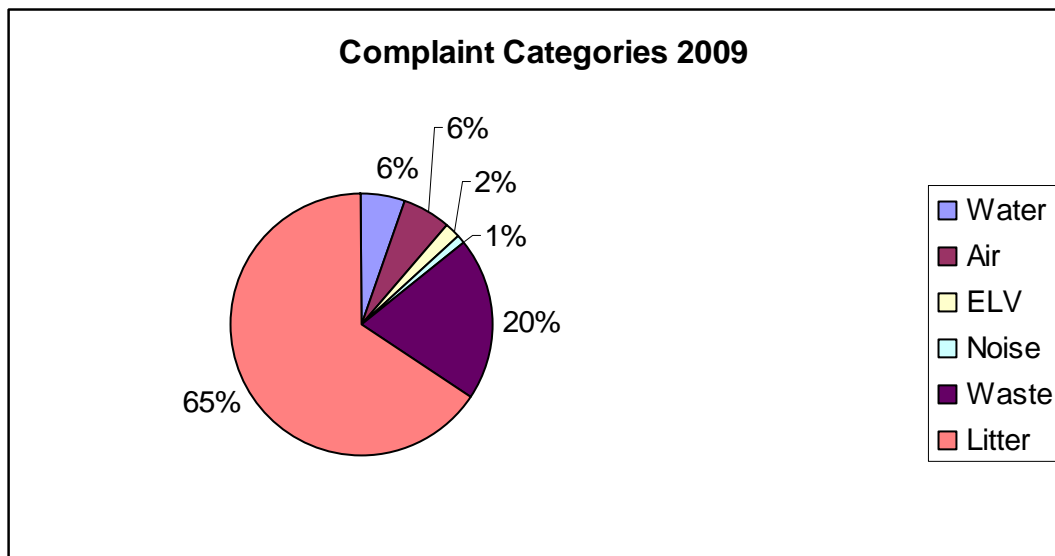
range from a minimum fee of €600 to a maximum fee of €2000. The fee relates to the class of activity being authorised. Thresholds (set out in the Regulations) relate to quantity and type of waste determine whether an application is Waste Facility Permit or a Certificate of Registration. Permits issued under the above regulations may have a five year lifespan and may be reviewed prior to expiry date (there is a fee for review). A valid application must include evidence of planning permission or planning exemption for the proposed activity. There are 34 active Waste Facility Permits in operation at the end of December, 2009.

Environmental Enforcement

Customer Complaints Management System

Great strides have been taken on awareness of environmental issues and communities are diligent in reporting illegal behaviour as is evidenced by the **1319** calls registered to the Environmental Complaints System in 2009.

87% of those complaints were resolved through the work of the Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens with the remainder of calls subject to investigation.



Environmental Enforcement Officers

There are three Environmental Enforcement officers dedicated to enforcement of constantly evolving environmental legislation. The 2009 RMCEI plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) included 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.

2009 proved to be a successful year for enforcement of waste legislation with particular emphasis placed by the County's Environmental Enforcement Officers on targeting unauthorised collection, storage and dismantling of end of life vehicles, installation of CCTVs, and implementation of waste bye laws:

End of Life Vehicles (ELVs)

In 2009 an inspection campaign of garages and lands via on the ground inspections and aerial surveillance programme identified a large number of ELV sites. The quantity of ELVs on sites ranged from 2 to 50 with one site having over 120 ELVs. Formal instructions were given to the responsible persons through warning letters and Section Notices under Waste Legislation to have the ELVs collected by authorised collectors for recycling at Authorised facilities.

The correct disposal of ELVs removed the pollution threat to the environment created by the storage of the ELVs in addition to these sites achieving compliance with the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006. The ELV Campaign also incorporated the regulation of Authorised Treatment Facilities.

CCTV at Bottlebank Sites

CCTV was installed at various bottle bank sites around the county in 2009. Warning letters and litters fines were issued by Environment Enforcement Office following viewing of recorded footage. The installing of CCTV and issuing of letters and fines has assisted in reducing litter at these bottlebanks.

Waste bye law inspections

294 Byelaw inspections under the Mayo County Council (Presentation, Collection and Storage of Household Waste and Municipal Waste), Bye-laws, 2007 were carried out by environment enforcement staff throughout the County in 2009. This involved environment enforcement officers calling to doors of householders to establish the method of household waste recycling/disposal. Receipts for bin collection, civic amenity visits and landfill disposal were requested as proof of recycling/disposal. The inspections were worthwhile in creating awareness about the obligation of householders in relation to waste disposal and it also compelled householders to regularise their method of waste disposal.

Checkpoints

13 multi-agency checkpoints during 2009 were carried out with the cooperation of the gardai and other participants (inspectors from of the Social Community and Family Affairs, Customs, RSA, HSA, Roscommon County Council) throughout the County. For Environment Enforcement Mayo County Council the road checkpoints involved checking that those involved in waste collection were in compliance with appropriate waste legislation and specific waste collection permit conditions. The highly visible checkpoints also created awareness of the need to comply with waste collection legislation. There was also close co-operation from neighbouring councils and agencies.

*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 National Tidy Towns Competition 2009, Mayo claimed a total of seven awards, including Ireland's Tidiest Large Town; Westport, Bronze Medal Award; Murrisk and a Gum Litter Taskforce Award; Bangor Erris. The Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey of An Taisce saw Ballina and Castlebar maintain their 'Clean to European Norms' standards and achieve 38th and 40th place respectively out of 60 towns surveyed.

In general, the measures of the Mayo County Council Litter Management Plan 2007 to 2009 were attained. Strict enforcement of litter legislation was a priority, resulting in the issue of numerous on-the-spot litter fines and collection of in excess of €18,500. Litter fines during 2009 exceeded 250 and revenue from court action amounted to approximately €8,000. Cooperation with community groups, local businesses and residents committees continued throughout 2009 and the participation in locally organised litter awareness competitions such as the Litter League and Cleaner Community Awards demonstrated the consistent interest and enthusiasm within the local community. Throughout the year, all litter awareness, prevention and control initiatives were fully supported by Mayo County Council.

Mayo County Council Litter Management Plan 2010 to 2012 has recently been drafted and is due to undergo a consultation process with voluntary and representative bodies in the near future.

Litter Action League

2009 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 30 groups participating in 2009. 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 500 - 1000)
Group C	Large Villages (populations <500)
Group D	Smaller Villages/Communities

Group A	Winner	Crossmolina
	Runner Up	Ballyhaunis
Group B	Winner	Bonniconlon
	Runner Up	Mulranny
Group C1	Winner	Partry
	Runner Up	Clogher
Group C2	Winner	Belcarra
	Runner Up	Islandeady
Group D	Winner	Polranny
	Runner Up	Kilkeeran

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 2009 competition had five categories as follows:

- 1. Environmental Endeavour Award*
- 2. Best Kept Housing Estate*

3. *Best Kept School*
4. *Best Kept Burial Ground*
5. *Special Merit Award*

The winners under each category for 2009 were as follows:

Environmental Endeavour Award

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 st | Aughagower |
| 2 nd | Charlestown |
| 3 rd | Ballyhaunis |

Best Kept Housing Estate

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | Castlecourt, Ballina |
| 2 nd | Aisling Drive, Ballyhaunis |
| 3 rd | Barr na hAille/Lui Na Greine, Claremorris. |

Best Kept School

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st | Gortjordan National School |
| 2 nd | Newtownwhite National School |
| 3 rd | Glencastle National School |

Best Kept Burial Ground

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st | Addergoole Burial Ground |
| 2 nd | Ballindine Burial Ground |
| 3 rd | Roundfort Burial Ground |

Special Merit Award

2009 saw the introduction of this award which is given for outstanding positive contribution to a community's surrounding environment. The winner of this award for 2009 was Club Vario, Greenhills Estate, Ballina.

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 six additional beaches in 2009, by meeting the criteria for excellent bathing water quality and responsible Environmental Management for the following beaches:

Ballycastle	Silverstrand
Portacloy	Aughleam
Whitestrans	Srah

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 was on public display until 22nd June, 2009. The final plan is due to be published by the end of February, 2010.

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 continues to actively implement the provisions of the legislation and have finalised a number of sites from the current register that will be subject to compulsory acquisition proceedings in early 2010.

The number of sites on the register stands at 84 at year end.

Swimming Pools

Mayo County Council is directly involved in the operation of 6 swimming pools in the County. In conjunction with the 2 town councils, pools are operated in Castlebar and Ballina while grants are made to swimming pool committees for the annual operations at Kilmovee and Ballaghadereen.

The Council is also involved in the maintenance of the swimming pool at the O' Dwyer Cheshire Home which is now available on a limited basis to the public.

A new leisure facility to replace the old swimming pool in Claremorris was completed in 2009 and is operated by the former swimming pool committee in conjunction with Mayo County Council. This wonderful new complex provides a major boost to the leisure facilities in Claremorris and its hinterland.

The Council is paying the loan charges as part of its contribution to this new facility.

Veterinary Department

The aim of Mayo County Council Veterinary Department is to work with local Food Business Operators to help them achieve and maintain the highest standards of food safety. We are actively involved in combating zoonotic diseases i.e. diseases transmittable between animals and humans. The Service is also responsible for the areas of Dog Control, Horse Control, and we also have a direct input into the elimination of Notifiable Diseases. We also play an advisory role to the planning and environmental functions of the Council. In these ways, the Veterinary Department actively contributes to Mayo County Council's goal by making the county an even safer place to live, visit and work in.

Food Safety

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

There are 10 Small Meat-Manufacturing Premises within the County which produce a range of products including bacon products, sausages, black and white puddings, luncheon rolls and cooked hams, minced meat and cuts of chicken. They supply local shops and supermarkets, along with manufacturing products for other Food Business Operations around the county. Some are now considering supplying international markets. All small meat-processing premises are inspected and monitored on a regular basis.

There are 16 abattoirs in the County and they employ 33 licenced slaughtermen. The veterinary staff carries out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection on every animal slaughtered in these abattoirs in Co. Mayo, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene. In 2009 there were 2073 cattle, 17230 sheep, 76 pigs and 9 goats slaughtered in those Mayo abattoirs.

Mayo County Council Launch Innovative Safe Food Logo.

Mayo County Council Veterinary Department highlighted the achievements of the award-winning Mayo Meat Producers with a celebratory night held at Aras an Chontae on the 5th November, 2009. The awards were presented in recognition of the high standards in food safety consistently maintained in our local abattoirs and meat processing plants. The turnout on the night was exceptional and included many County Councillors and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Teagasc, Leader and other business groups. Food Safety consultants and auditors also attended. Speakers included Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Cribbin, Mr. Jim Higgins MEP, Mr.

Des Mahon, County Manager, Ms. Cathy Waddell, Local Authority Veterinary Inspector, Mr. Sean Kelly, Food Business Operator.

The night was a major success. Mayo consumers can be assured that, where they see the Mayo County Council “Safe Food” logo displayed, what they are purchasing is quality safe food. So look for the logo on shop-windows and on food-vehicles!



Back row: Cllr Seamus Weir, Cllr Al McDonnell, Anthony Heffernan, Ger McGreal, Tom Dempsey, Val McGreal, Sean Kelly, Seamus Joyce, Seamus Hawkshaw, Martin Calvey, Willie Moore, Martin Maloney, Paddy Reilly. Middle row: Cllr John O'Malley, Cllr Eddie Sweeney, Cllr Michael Burke, Cllr Annie May Reape, Cllr Margaret Adams, Tom Carr, Tony Carolan, Pat Carolan, James McHale, Gerry Joyce, Mohammed Javied Iqbal, Cllr Micheal McNamara, Cllr Michael Holmes, Cllr Peter Flynn Front row: Cllr Michelle Mulherin, Cathy Waddell, Cathy Gallagher, Des Mahon (County Manager), Jim Higgins (MEP), Cathaoirleach Cllr John Cribben, Donal O'Mahony (FSAI), Paul McDermott, Cllr Eugene Lavin, Cllr Michael Kilcoyne

Dog Control Service

In Mayo the Dog Control Service is provided directly by Mayo County Council. Mayo County Council has responsibility for implementing the Control of Dogs Acts and Regulations. Our main responsibility is for safety of people and protecting people's property (e.g. livestock) from out of control dogs

The ***Dog Warden, Fiona Murphy***, carries out the duties underlined in the Control of Dogs Acts 1986 and 1992 and relevant regulations. She checks for dog licences and deals with queries in regard to dogs e.g. stray dogs or restricted breeds.



On the spot fines are issued by the dog warden for failure to produce a dog licence or for having a dog out of control. There were 37 fines issued during 2009. Failure to pay a fine will lead to prosecution in the District Court

Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 are in place which require specific breeds of dogs to be securely muzzled and to be kept on a leash when in a public place. Such dogs at all times must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on it.

Guard Dog Regulations require an owner of guard dogs to have them registered and implanted with a permanent identification. Application forms for Registration and ID marks for Guards Dogs can be obtained from ISPCA Head Office, National Animal Centre, Derryglogher Lodge, Keenagh, Co. Longford.

Under the above Regulations any person/company using guard dogs are required to register the kennels with Mayo County Council.

Mayo County Council would like to remind dog owners that they can now licence or renew their dog licences on line at www.mayococo.ie. The system requires a valid email address and valid debit/credit card. Licences can also be purchased from the offices of Mayo County Council or at any Post Office in the County.

It is the policy of Mayo County Council to rehome as many dogs as is possible. The dogs are vaccinated, micro-chipped and temperament tested before going to their new owner. The Council provide a Dog Shelter at Murneen, Claremorris.

Housing and Building

2009 has been another challenging and busy year for the Housing Service in Mayo County Council and the three Town Councils of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport. The continuing turmoil in the housing market, the uncertainties on the financial front, including a reduction in Capital allocation announced and implemented in April, and the growing numbers on the Council's waiting list, all contributed to a demanding year for Housing Services in the County at large. The year saw a significant move away from Affordable Housing with an eighty per cent drop in the number of applications for Affordable Housing received by the four Housing Authorities. Dealing with Affordable units developed under the 1999 Scheme and acquired under the Part V procedure was one of the significant challenges faced during the course of the year.

There was a significant increase in the level of activity under the Grants Schemes operated by the Authorities, comprising the;

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

A total of four hundred and forty five grants were paid during the year, while two hundred and twenty seven grants were approved, and a further eight hundred and fifty four applications are currently awaiting approval.

The emphasis during the year was on very tight financial management of scarce resources. These resources were directed, in discussion with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, at the completion of existing schemes. Consequently the number of starts achieved in 2009 was relatively low and significantly more emphasis was placed on the provision of accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme which continues to be successfully rolled out throughout the County.

In 2010 the emphasis will again be on very tight financial management, with attention being focused on directing scarce resources to maximise benefits for those most in need. The management of the Grants Schemes and the introduction of some form of prioritisation system will be a priority for the year, as will the continuation of the Refurbishment Programme in Local Authority developments throughout the County. The Rental Accommodation Scheme will continue to provide significant numbers of units of accommodation, and we will look to introduce the Leasing Scheme being promoted by the Department during the course of the year. We will continue, subject to the provision of adequate resources, to develop small, mixed tenure, cluster schemes in the smaller towns and villages where suitable property is not available to lease. The four Housing Authorities will continue to provide an extensive range of support services for those most in need, and additional emphasis will be placed on management of our existing developments and dealing with the issue of anti-social behaviour. The roll out of

Traveller accommodation, as outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013, will continue to be a priority during the coming year.



Foxford Housing

Knock Housing



CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009

The Housing Construction Capital Programme for 2009 was delivered as part of a rolling multi-annual programme covering the years 2008 – 2011. As part of the Housing Action Plan review process Mayo County Council meets with the Department of Environment twice a year to discuss the housing programmes. These meetings facilitate a review of the financial and housing output for the year and also outline the parameters within which the Housing Investment Programme should be prepared, for the coming years.

All new Housing Developments delivered in 2009 were integrated, mixed tenure schemes with Affordable Units or Serviced Sites being provided side by side with units for Rent. Where possible our developments also incorporated 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 continue to provide smaller ‘cluster’

type housing developments in the rural towns and villages throughout the County. This policy has delivered some significant gains for rural Mayo particularly when integrated with our Town & Village Enhancement Programme, and is a policy which will continue to be promoted during 2010.

The multi-annual programme for 2009 saw a significant reduction in the level of activity throughout the County compared to previous years. Housing Capital Allocations for 2009 were adequate to meet existing construction commitments, and only permitted a limited number of ‘new starts’ mainly in the Rural and Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

Completions 2009

The following **Completions** were achieved in 2009:

Social Housing - directly provided housing units, including schemes
 Rural houses, extensions, special works and acquisitions .. **112 No.**
 The completions for the County at large are detailed in the Table below.

Affordable Housing - including units developed by Mayo County Council as part of the
 Capital Programme and units provided under Part V: .. **26 No.**

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 No.**

Mayo Completions 2009

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Ballina Town Council					4	4
Ballina Electoral Area	Killalla 1	2	1	-	-	4
Swinford Electoral Area	-	-	-	2	3	5
North East Region	1	2	1	2	7	13

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Castlebar Town Council	Saleen 39	-	-	-	-	39
Castlebar Electoral Area	Glenisland 3 Mayo Abbey 5	-	-	-	-	8
Claremorris Electoral Area	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Region	47	-	-	-	-	47
	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Westport Town Council	Tubberhill 33	-	-	-	-	33
Westport Electoral Area	-	1	-	-	-	1
Belmullet Electoral Area	Doohoma 9	6	1	2	-	18
West Region	42	7	1	2	-	52
Total Completions	90	9	2	4	7	112

Starts 2009

The following **Starts** were achieved in 2009;

Social Housing - directly provided housing units, including schemes rural houses, extensions, special works and acquisitions .. **23 No.**

The Starts for the County at large are detailed in the following Table.

Mayo Starts 2009

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Ballina Town Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ballina Electoral Area	-	1	-	-	-	1
Swinford Electoral Area	Laveymore 5 Charlestown	-	-	2	3	10
North East Region	5	1	-	2	3	11

	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Castlebar Town Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castlebar Electoral Area	-	1	1	-	-	2
Claremorris Electoral Area	-	1		-	-	1
South Region	-	2	1	-	-	3
	Schemes	Rurals	Exts	SWIL	Misc	Totals
Westport Town Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westport Electoral Area	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belmullet Electoral Area	-	6	3	-	-	9
West Region	-	6	3	-	-	9
Total Starts	5	9	4	2	3	23

Housing Developments **under construction** and due for completion in 2010 include;

- **Kilmeena** – a mixed development incorporating 10 social units, 4 affordable private sites and a Community Centre.
- **Knock** – a mixed development of 5 social and 5 affordable units.
- **Midfield** – a development of 7 social units.



*Saleen Development, Castlebar
Mixed Tenure development of Social & Affordable dwellings*

This development also incorporated a large purpose-built playground and ‘kick around’ area for older children.



Affordable Housing

2009 Affordable Housing

In 2009 under Part V the following units were acquired as Affordable Housing

Location	Units
Ballina Electoral Area	3
Ballinrobe Electoral Area	0
Castlebar Electoral Area	0
Claremorris Electoral Area	3
Westport Electoral Area	3
Total	9

1999 Scheme

Location	Units
Ballina Electoral Area	0
Ballinrobe Electoral Area	0
Castlebar Electoral Area	2
Claremorris Electoral Area	5
Westport Electoral Area	10
Total	17

Twenty six units of accommodation were provided in 2009 under Part V and the 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme. The Private housing market has changed significantly over the last twelve months, resulting in weaker prices and few, if any, Part V units arising for the foreseeable future. The Council will continue to support applicants purchasing accommodation through the Housing Loan Scheme.

Voluntary Housing

Voluntary Housing activity during 2009 delivered 38 units of accommodation spread throughout the County. This exceptional level of completions for the voluntary sector demonstrated the level of partnership that exists between the local voluntary housing organisations and the Council.

There are a further 125 units of accommodation at the planning stage which can be advanced as the resources required are made available:

The Department also recognises the valuable contribution made by these housing bodies in providing housing for many 'special needs' groups and has indicated that Voluntary Housing projects which are 'well advanced' and are to be funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme, should be prioritised by the Council for investment in 2010.

Voluntary Housing Completions 2009	
Irishtown	12 units
Keel, Achill	6 units
Mayo Abbey Voluntary Housing Association	12 units
The Cedars, Castlebar	1 units
Gurteens, Ballina	4 units
Western Care, The Paddocks, Westport	3 units
Total	38 units

Schemes at Planning Stage 2009 / 2010	Units
Ballina Mayo Mental Health	12
Ballinrobe Vincent De Paul	14
Belmullet Irish Wheelchair Ass.	29
Foxford Vincent De Paul	12
Glenamoy VHA	10
Mayfield Clar IRD	36
Swinford Mayo Mental Health	12
Total	125

Refurbishment Programme

- Long Term Voids:** In the Budget for 2009, a special provision was made for dealing with long term voids during the course of the year. A total of **€50,000** was invested throughout the County, with the additional funding coming from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. There are still areas to be dealt with and a similar provision is included in the budget for 2010.
- Refurbishment Programme 2000 – 2009:** Mayo County Council initiated a major Refurbishment Programme of all Housing stock in 2002. The Programme will see approximately **€15m** invested in the housing stock through 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.
- Schemes:** 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

TYPE	NO OF UNITS	STATUS	COST €
RURALS	95	On Site	2,294,690
SCHEMES	60	On Site	593,600
	75	At Survey	(675,000)*
TOTALS	230		3,563,290

*Estimate based on previous works.

SWINFORD ELECTORAL AREA

TYPE	NO OF UNITS	STATUS	COST €
RURALS	75	Complete	870,049
SCHEMES	159	Complete	873,654
TOTAL	234	-	1,743,703
N.E. REGION	464	-	5,306,993
OVERALL			

WEST REGION**BELMULLET ELECTORAL AREA**

TYPE	NO OF UNITS	STATUS	COST €
RURALS	174	90% Complete	3,182,519
SCHEMES	89	At Survey	924,000
TOTAL	263	-	4,106,519

WESTPORT ELECTORAL AREA

TYPE	NO OF UNITS	STATUS	COST €
RURALS	71	95% complete	1,252,000
SCHEMES	49	At Survey	441,000
TOTAL	120	-	1,693,000
WEST REGION			
OVERALL	383	-	5,799,519

SOUTH REGION**BALLINROBE ELECTORAL AREA**

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

CASTLEBAR ELECTORAL AREA

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

CLAREMORRIS ELECTORAL AREA

TYPE	NO OF UNITS	STATUS	COST €
RURAL	44	On Site	800,000
SCHEMES	40	On Site	1,500,000
	35		
TOTAL	119	-	2,300,000
S.W. REGION			
OVERALL			3,158,000

TOTAL FOR THE COUNTY	No. of Units	Total Cost
	1,076	€ 14,264,512

Grants Schemes

The Council operates the new Grants Schemes, comprising;

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

The Council received an allocation of **€2,775,834** for Housing Grants for the year. Due to the demand for grants, a subsequent allocation of **€663,750** was received, bringing the total allocation for the year to **€3,439,584**.

As can be seen from the tables, a total of 445 grants were paid to date at a value of **€3,439,584** and 227 grants were approved during the year. Despite this high level of expenditure and approvals, a further 854 applications are currently awaiting approval.

Housing Grant Schemes	Grants Approved	Grants Paid	Value €
Housing Aid for Older People	58	247	1,970,674
Mobility Aids Grant	152	160	782,898
Housing Adaptation Grant	17	38	686,012
TOTAL	227	445	3,439,584

A review of the scheme is currently underway by the DOEHLG and is expected to be completed early in 2010. It will be necessary to provide a mechanism to target the available resources at applicants with the greatest need.

Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

In line with the 'Governments National Climate Change Strategy' and 'Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities' a key objective of all new schemes delivered by the Mayo Local Authorities is to provide energy efficient and sustainable homes throughout the County.

Building design for sustainability requires:

- Locating dwellings close to shops, schools, workplaces etc.
- Optimising the energy performance of the dwelling and reducing CO2 emissions.
- Optimising the use of renewable materials in the construction process.
- Reducing the consumption of natural resources.
- Designing for flexibility thus facilitating future adaption of the dwelling to meet the changing needs of the occupants.

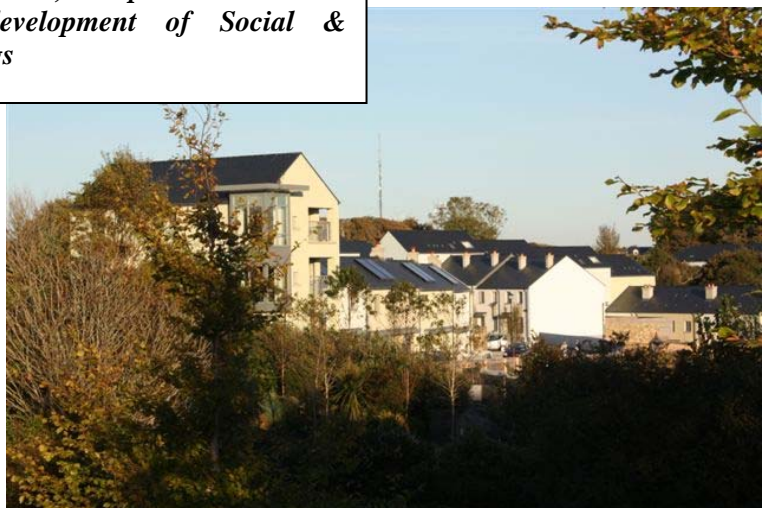


*Tubberhill Development, Westport
Mixed Tenure development of Social &
Affordable dwellings*

Energy efficient measures included in the recently completed mixed tenure development at **Tubberhill** in Westport - a sustainable pilot project support by SEI, include:

- Optimum orientation
- Increased insulation,
- Heat storage through thermal massing

- Solar Panel water heating
- High efficiency gas fired central heating systems
- Air-Tight & Heat Recovery Ventilation systems.



An average **Building Energy Rating (BER)** of **B1** has been achieved throughout the development of 43 units. The BER is a label containing the energy performance of the dwelling.

It is an objective scale of comparison for the energy performance of a building ranging from A1 to G. It is rather like the A to G rating for a household electrical appliance like your fridge. A-rated homes are the most energy efficient and G the least efficient.

BERs will mean that anyone buying a house will be able to check the energy performance of the house and get an indication of the annual running costs. Actual energy usage will however, depend on how the occupants operate the house.

The building designs of **One-off Rural House** units are currently being reviewed in terms of performance to meet the new residential energy efficiency targets of the proposed Building Regulations Part L 2010. A minimum Building Energy Rating of **A3** is the target set for rural houses constructed in 2010.

Remedial Works Scheme

Under the Remedial works Scheme, which was introduced in the mid-1980s, capital assistance may be made available to local authorities to fund major refurbishment works to groups of their rented dwellings which they cannot fund from their own resources. These dwellings fall into the following categories:

- Those with serious design or construction defects;
- Run-down urban estates.

Dwellings purchased from a local authority may also be included in a project where the local authority considers that their inclusion is necessary in order to avoid an unacceptable or incongruous result to the refurbishment of the estate.

Mayo County Council has secured funding under the above RWS to carry out a major refurbishment of the existing **Parkview Estate in Charlestown**. This development consisting of the upgrade of 23 existing dwellings and the construction of 6 new dwellings, will also include significant environmental works. The scheme will go to tender early in 2010 and will commence on site by mid year.

Traveller Accommodation

Significant progress has been made in the provision of Traveller accommodation in Mayo over the past five years. During 2009 Mayo County Council has accommodated six families with accommodation directly from their housing stock and a further three families have been accommodated by Ballina Town Council.

Mayo County Council, through the Traveller Accommodation Liaison Officers, has continued to assist and support families in securing private rented accommodation, with a further forty units being secured in 2009. The RAS Scheme, which is operated by Mayo County Council, has also provided accommodation for seven Traveller families.

The RAS Scheme, which is operated by Mayo County Council, has also provided accommodation for seven Traveller families.

Mayo County Council, through the Traveller Accommodation Liaison Officers, has continued to assist and support families in securing private rented accommodation, with forty units being secured in 2008 and a further forty six units being secured in 2009.

	Unauthor- ised Encamp- ments	Own House With MCC Assistance	Own House Without MCC Assistance	Group Housing	Halting Site	Sharing With family in any of the other categories	Voluntary Housing	Private Rented
Nov 2007	28	30	1	7	6	9	7	90
Nov 2008	*28	32	4	10	7	7	8	123
Nov 2009	**17	33	4	10	3	9	9	169

* Of the twenty eight families residing in unauthorized encampments in 2008, eighteen had returned to the County in the previous twelve months.

** Of the seventeen families residing in unauthorized encampments in 2009, fourteen had returned to the County in the past twelve months.

- Group Housing
- Group Project consisting of four units of accommodation at Laveymore, Charlestown is due to commence in 2010;
 - Development at Bog Road, Ballinrobe – Construction of three Houses and refurbishment of two existing houses has been completed.

Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 – 2013

The Traveller Accommodation Plan 2009 – 2013 was adopted in March 2009. The estimated number of units of accommodation required to meet the needs of the Traveller Community for the period 2009 – 2013.

Mayo County Council intend to use the following methods of accommodation to meet the projected targets for additional units of accommodation required in the period 2009 – 2013 to accommodate Members of the Travelling Community:

- Privately owned and financed;
- Local Authority developed accommodation;
- Private Rented accommodation;

- Rental Accommodation Scheme accommodation;
- Accommodation developed by Voluntary Groups.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) Meetings

In 2009 the Mayo Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on three occasions in February, March and April. Meetings were Chaired by Councillor Paddy McGuinness.

The Committee discussed a number of topics and issues at these meetings including the 2008 Traveller Census, Private Rented Accommodation, review of the LTACC Programme 2004 -2009 and priorities for the LTACC Programme 2009 -2013. The Committee also worked actively on the preparation and adoption of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 of which a total of eleven submissions were received and considered by the Committee and the concerns raised were addressed and modifications included in the current Programme.



Development at Bog Road, Ballinrobe

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, details as follows -:

Tenant:	Security of Tenure; Improved choice; Improved quality & standard of accommodation; RAS tenants will <u>not</u> 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 Mayo Local Authorities in July, 2006 and a dedicated unit has been established to oversee the successful delivery of project. The RAS unit currently comprises 3 full time staff, with a technical support as required.

To-date (mid December 2009), Mayo County Council have assumed responsibility for **691** units (**312** from Voluntary Sector & **379** from Private Sector). There are currently **1,352** long-term recipients of rent supplement within Mayo, all of whom will have 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 **(1)** confirm their eligibility for RAS, **(2)** to establish their areas of preference and **(3)** 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.

Other Housing Services 2009

	WEST REGION		NORTH EAST REGION		SOUTH REGION			
	Westport	Bel-mullet	Ballina	Swin-ford	Clare-morris	Ballin-robe	Castle-bar	Total
Affordable Applications Received	9	0	0	4	4	0	19	36
Affordable Houses Allocated	7	0	3	1	6	0	6	23
Housing Loan Applications	6	15	5	8	2	1	4	41
Housing Loan Approvals	6	10	3	4	1	0	1	25
Shared Ownership Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shared Ownership Approvals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reconstruction Loan Applications Approvals	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	5
Special House Improvement Loans Approvals	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Tenant Purchase Scheme Applications	2	24	12	14	4	5	10	71
Tenant Purchase Schemes Sales	2	7	2	1	1	0	0	13
Totals	32	60	28	32	18	6	41	217

Architects

The Architects Department is a multi-discipline office, providing a centralised design, management and consultancy service to all departments and regional directorates of Mayo County Council.

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

- ✓ Architects
- ✓ Engineers
- ✓ Architectural technicians
- ✓ Horticulturalists
- ✓ Clerks of Works
- ✓ Clerical staff

The Capital Works Programme of Mayo County Council can be both extensive and varied and involves the Architects Department in the delivery of new Local Authority Housing developments, Civic Offices, Fire Stations and Libraries throughout the County. In more recent times emphasis has been placed on Remedial Works Schemes and Refurbishment/Conservation projects within the County.

Other areas of increasing involvement include:

- Provision of Playgrounds, Parks & 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
- Heritage Surveys
- Town & Village Enhancement Programme.

Capital Projects

NEW AREA OFFICE'S - Claremorris

2009 saw the completion of new Civic Offices in Claremorris which are now providing a state of the art local service facility for the town and environs.

Consulting Architects: SJ Kelly & Partners.



NEW PUBLIC POOL & LEISURE CENTRE - Claremorris



Claremorris also saw the completion of a state of the art new Pool and Leisure Centre on D'Alton Street, which opened to the public in September 2009. The new development which stands on the site of the former pool incorporates a competitive 5-lane pool hall and fully fitted gym facilities.

*Consulting
Newenham
Associates.*

*Architects:
Mulligan &*

Housing Programme 2009

An important function of the Architects Department is in facilitating the provision of Local Authority Housing throughout the county.

This involves Public Consultation with local communities, sourcing and acquisition of suitable development sites, the design, costing and tendering of appropriate housing projects and subsequent on site management and supervision of the works to completion and ultimately handover to the tenant.

A key emphasis in our housing programme for 2009 was on delivering more energy efficient homes resulting in lower running costs for our tenants. The 43 unit mixed tenure housing development at **Tubberhill** in Westport was one such development which was also co-funded by SEI.



Housing development at Tubberhill

Other housing schemes completed in 2009 included an Infill Townhouse at **Kilalla**, 5 house mixed tenure development at **Glenisland**, 9 house units at **Doohoma**, 59 unit mixed tenure development in **Saleen**, Castlebar and 21 unit mixed tenure development in Mayo Abbey.



Housing development at Doohoma

Housing development at Saleen

On-going Housing projects due for completion in 2010 include developments at

**Knock, - 10 Units,
Kilmeena – 10 Units & Community
Centre.
Midfield – 7 units.**

Housing project initiatives to commence in 2010 include developments at –

**Remedial Works Scheme (23 units) and 4
new Builds in Parkview, Charlestown.
Traveller accommodation (5units) in Laveymore, Charlestown.**



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.

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. The scope of the works involved include the following:

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

Mayo County Council in association with the Newport Community group has successfully applied for funding under this Neighbourwood Scheme for works recently completed at **The Quay, in Newport.**

Playgrounds

Following on from the success of Mayo County Council’s Playgrounds Initiative, which has seen the establishment of many fine playground facilities throughout the county, similar developments were undertaken in 2009 at **Saleen, Knockthomas, Balla, Kilalla, Charlestown, Ballyhaunis and Keel.**



*Playground at
Saleen,
Castlebar.*



The old **playground on the Sandy Banks in Keel** was removed and totally reconstructed in 2009. The total cost of the project was in excess of €130,000. The project was funded by Mayo County Council, MFG Meitheal Forbartha na Gealtachta and Comhlacht Forbartha Āitúil Acla. The playground was opened by Dara Calleary, T.D., and Minister for Labour Affairs in November 2009.

Works commenced in 2009 on the construction of a **Multi Use Games Area at The Friary Grounds Ballyhaunis**. The total cost of the project will be in excess of one €170,000 and is due to be officially opened in April 2010.

The facility, which is a state of the art covered structure, will be the first of its kind ever constructed in Western Europe and will cater for a large range of ball games.

The project was funded by Mayo County Council with grant assistance from the Sports Capital Programme and was carried out in partnership with the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust.



Ballyhaunis Multi Use Games Area - Schematic



Ballyhaunis Multi Use Games Area – Under construction

Town & Village Enhancement Programme 2009

In 2009, town and village enhancement works as part of the Town & Village enhancement programme were carried out in **Pearse Street Ballina, Shrile Road Kilmaine, Quay Newport and Ballycroy village.**

The scope of works involved varied from a total Street refurbishment scheme in Pearse Street Ballina, to landscaping approach roads in Kilmaine village, to the construction of a picnic area and a new entrance to the Princess Grace Park at the Quay Newport, to the extension of the public lighting scheme and new footpaths and landscaping in Ballycroy Village.

Photograph below shows the construction of new sand stone walls in the village of Ballycroy.



New wall construction in the village of Ballycroy.

Ballina Town Parks

In 2007 Ballina Town Council approved a strategy to enhance residential areas in the town. The Council approved funding for the construction of two parks in high density housing areas - one in **Greenhills Estate** which has 197 houses and approx 800 residents and the other in **Cluain na Rì**, a new mixed housing development consisting of 71 houses and approx 300-residents. In 2008/09 both parks were developed to a high standard and are now open to residents from the estates and neighbouring areas.

The main aim of the projects was to provide areas of recreation and civic amenity to densely populated areas of Ballina, especially areas which have a high population of young children. All ages are catered for in these parks and in the Greenhills estate seating areas have been provided where older people can enjoy the nearby riverside views. Ballina Town Council has received very positive feedback in relation to these projects from the local community.

Work has also commenced on a fourth park in Ballina at Mercy Park and there are plans for the development of similar parks on the Killala road and at the Quay.



Cluain na Ri Park, Ballina.

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 2009 –

- ‘Colour Vortex’ by Allie Kay, Carrakennedy NS
- ‘Fabulous Beasts, I, II and III, by Alice Maher, Ballina Library.
- ‘Following the Whitethorn’ DVD by Michael Fortune, Ballinrobe.

‘**Fabulous Beasts**’ by **Alice Maher**, 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 Ballina.

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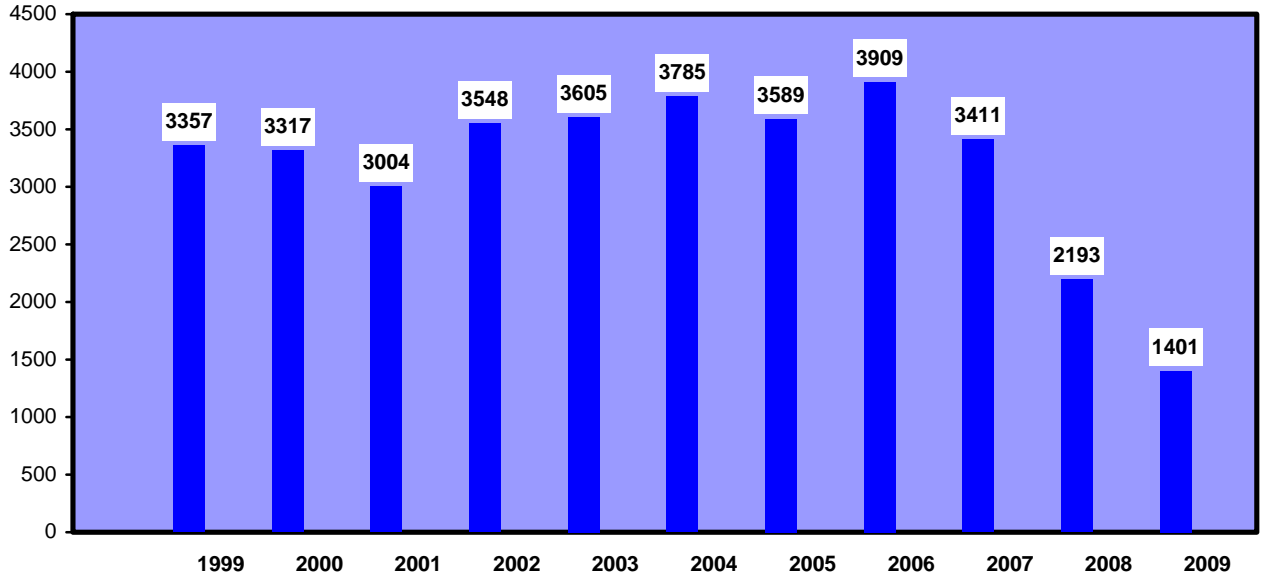


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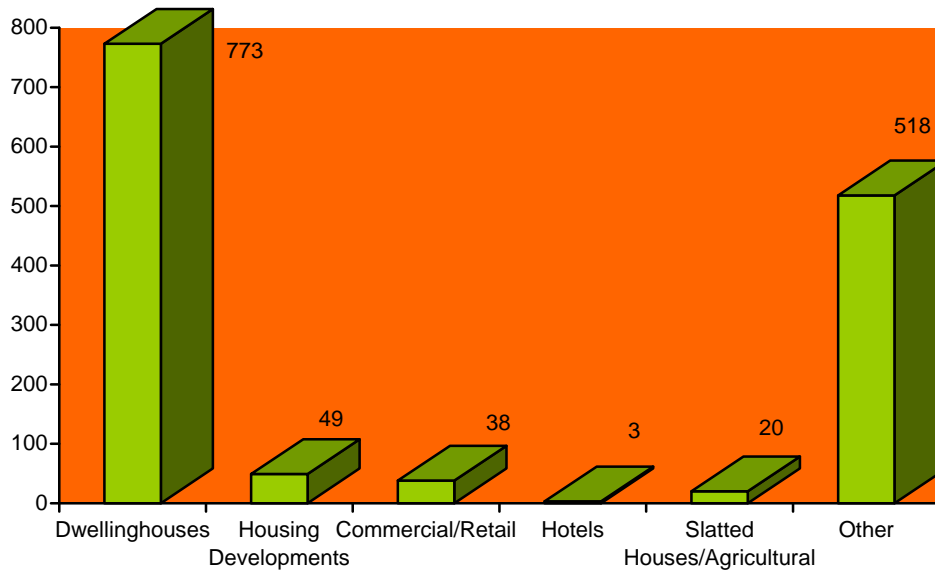
‘Colour Vortex’ by artist **Allie Kay**, a community based public art project, which in ‘the making brings together the children, teachers and the wider community’.

Planning and Development

Planning Applications 1999 - 2009

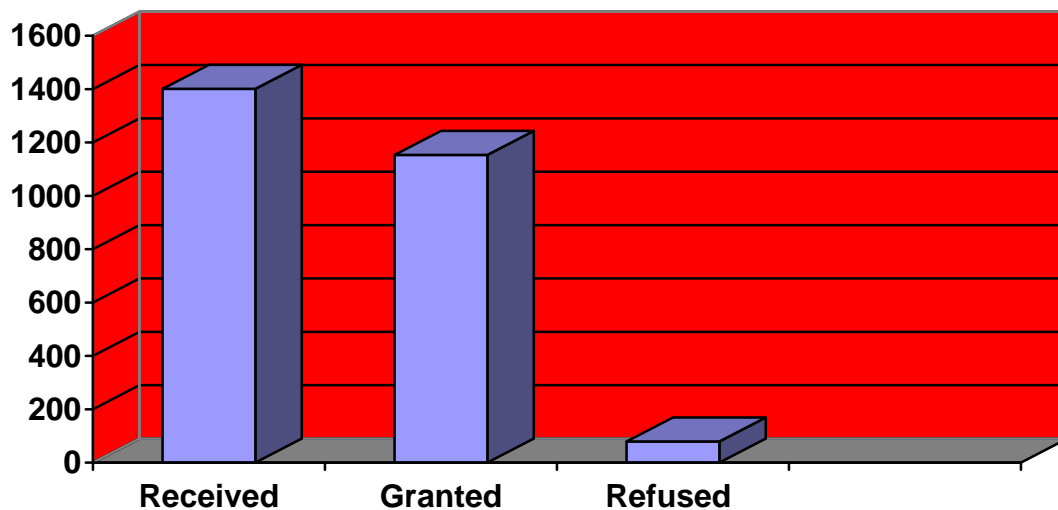


Breakdown of 2009 planning applications



Planning Decisions 2009

Applications Received	1401
Applications Granted	1153
Applications Refused	79



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 2009.

County Development Plan

Mayo County Council received a Ministerial Direction on the County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on 16th September, 2009. The new Direction revised the areas in which planning restrictions apply and the County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was amended accordingly.

Local Area Plans

Swinford	Adopted January 2009
Kiltimagh	Managers Report to be prepared early 2010. 28 Submissions received.
Charlestown	Amendments to Draft Plan on public display early 2010.
Ballyhaunis	Plan to be adopted early 2010.
Ballinrobe	Plan to be adopted early 2010.

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.

2009 saw the implementation of accepting planning applications and submissions online. Currently five agents are taking part in the on-line application scheme. It is hoped by June 2010 all agents will be submitting on-line applications. Mobile iPlan for Engineers and NavPlan for Planners and Engineers are also currently being worked on this will be of great benefit cutting down on travelling time to locate sites.

In 2009, Mayo County Council's Planning area of the website had more than 2 million hits—more than 3,400 visits per week. This figure is down 20% on previous years figures.

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 2009 was €51,000.00. An additional €10,200.00 was allocated towards the end of 2009, giving a total allocation of €61,200.00 for 2009. Grants totalling approximately €61,900.00 were paid out by Mayo County Council in 2009 under the Conservation Grant Scheme.

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 from Mayo County Council.

Mayo County Council's Revenue Department deals with the collection of:

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

Commercial Rates

In 2009, 2,718 rate demands were issued with €10.85 million collected. 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 levies charges for water supplied for non-domestic purposes, such as agricultural, commercial and industrial. Consumers are billed on a metered charge basis. A new water services charging structure commenced in January 2008.

Total amount of billed customers in 2009 was 6600 approx. Water Charges collected in 2009 amounted to €5.59 million

Housing Rents

Mayo County Council has approximately 2130 housing rent accounts. The total amount of rents collected in 2009 amounted to €3.73 million.

Housing Loans

Mayo County Council has approximately 1450 housing loan accounts. The total amount of housing loan charges collected in 2009 amounted to €3.15 million. The total number of redeemed accounts in 2009 was 81.

Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge

The Minister of Finance in his budget for 2009 introduced a charge on Non Principal Private Residences. Following on from this the Local Government (Charges) Act, 2009 was passed by the Oireachtas in July 2009 which introduced a charge of €200 on all Non Principal Private Residences.

This charge applies to all Residential Properties in the state that are not occupied as the owner's Principal Residence. Examples of chargeable properties include Rented Properties, Holiday Homes and Vacant Properties.

The administration and collection of the charges is operated nationally, on a shared services basis, by the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB). The LGCSB have developed a website (www.nppr.ie) which includes information on the charge as well as a system for registration of properties and payment of the NPPR charge online. It is estimated that circa €1.6 million will be collected in Mayo (including Town Council areas) in respect of this charge for 2009.

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.

Financial Management

The Council seeks to improve Financial Management by:

- On-going monitoring, management and control of the Council's financial resources.
- Ensuring value for money in all the Council's activities.
- Strengthening the role of internal audit and continually reviewing internal control procedures to ensure propriety and transparency in all the Council's activities.
- Maximising 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.

Procurement

In October 2008, Mayo County Council established a Procurement section under the Department of Finance's National Public Procurement Policy Framework directive. A new Procurement Officer was appointed and formulated a new Corporate Procurement Plan for all Mayo Local Authorities and also produced a Corporate Procurement Policy for the following five years.

The Procurement section conducted an overview of the existing procurement structures, policies, procedures, systems, processes, skills and capabilities within the four Mayo Local Authorities, making recommendations for change in a number of areas.

It carried out an analysis of Mayo County Council's procurement spend and identified a number of opportunities to deliver value for money, organisational and financial efficiencies and made a number of recommendations that continue to achieve procurement improvements.

It is well recognised that the tightening up on public procurement has an important part to play in the control and reduction of public expenditure. In March 2009, the Government approved the establishment of a national operations unit for public procurement of goods and services: the National Public Procurement Operations Unit (NPPOU), which is based in the Office of Public Works in Trim.

The objectives of the NPPOU are:

- To establish national framework arrangements to allow all central Government Departments and Offices, agencies and non-commercial bodies to acquire a range of commonly procured goods and services more effectively, efficiently, and with better value for money. During this initial stage, the NPPOU has already overseen savings in the order of approximately €30 million across the public sector;
- To provide professional procurement advice to central government and the non-commercial public sector;
- To develop targeted and accredited procurement training and education measures; and
- To develop further and enhance the web-based eTenders system.

The context of the NPPOU's establishment is the Government's conviction that reform of the structural and operational frameworks for public procurement of goods and services will deliver savings in public expenditure by:

- concentrating and leveraging the huge buying power of public authorities in markets for goods and services; and by better supply chain management, which would incentivise existing SMEs and locally based businesses to compete effectively and cooperate with larger suppliers in the public procurement market;
- obtaining administrative efficiencies from the elimination of tendering for similar goods and services by a wide range of public service bodies;

- more professional public procurement practices, which would generate long-term benefits for the Exchequer and the businesses supplying goods and services;

Delivering better public services requires a willingness to innovate. Mayo County Council will constantly be on the look-out for innovative ideas; learning the lessons not only from those at the forefront elsewhere in the public sector, but also in the private, and voluntary and community, sectors. Innovation does not just mean new technology, but new ways of doing things, new partnerships and new approaches.

Motor Tax

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

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

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

An online contact service is provided at motortax@mayococo.ie.

A renewal of Motor tax online service also available to customers. This service can be used for the renewal of tax on private vehicles, motor cycles and agricultural tractors.

The table set out hereunder shows the level of usage of the motor tax service both in the local offices and online. The use of the online service continues to grow from year to year which reflects the user friendly nature of the service.

	2009 Local	2009 Online
No. of New Registrations	1765	
No. of Tax discs issued	94229	36925
No. of drivers Licences issued	13020	
Arrears Receipts	7106	2354
CRW's	12975	
Duplicate Registration Certs	1670	
Miscellaneous	487	
Total Issues	129,487	39,279
Total Income	€21,714,420	€8,961,433

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

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>Applications Received</i>	<i>Applications Invalid</i>	<i>Decisions Made</i>	<i>Granted (With conditions)</i>	<i>Granted (Without conditions)</i>	<i>Applications Refused</i>
2009	172	2	139 *	134	5	0
2008	239	2	253	225	27	1
2007	313	4	277	248	28	1

* 4 Local Authority developments included in this figure.

The Council also 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:

Year	Commencement Notices		
	<i>Applications Received</i>	<i>Applications Valid</i>	<i>Applications Invalid</i>
2009	579	565	14
2008	994	921	73
2007	1366	1277	89

Fire Prevention Officers also carry out inspections under Section 24 of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. This legislation covers the licensing of public houses, hotels, dance halls, clubs, restaurants, gaming and lottery premises etc. In 2009, the Fire Prevention Section dealt with 247 licensing applications.

The Council also undertakes inspections of buildings under the various Acts and is continuing with their programme of random inspections of places of public assembly, in co-operation with An Garda Síochána, 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 under the Fire Service Change Programme was to place a greater focus on fire safety, particularly the area of community fire safety. Mayo Fire Service has always promoted fire safety awareness through organised community events.

This year Mayo Fire Service participated in an inter agency ‘Keep Safe’ Roadshow. The event was designed to promote safety awareness by involving school children in a series of interactive scenarios. The fire safety message was conveyed by educating the children of the dangers of fire in their own home and by demonstrating the risks associated with domestic fires.

Mayo Fire Service also took part in an



information day titled “Keeping Children and Young People Safe”. The event was run by the Mayo Child Protection Committee. The event consisted of Mayo local community and State services providing advice and information on a range of services, with the overriding theme of keeping our children and young people safe. Mayo Fire Service participated in the event in conjunction with over 20 local, voluntary and state services, and operated an information stand providing information and advice on fire safety.

Fire Service Operations

The Council currently employs approximately 121 fire fighters in 12 fire stations and 2 first-aid fire fighting units located around the County. These fire fighters deal with, on average, around 1200 incidents annually ranging from chimney fires, house fires, bog/forest fires, road traffic accidents, rescues, chemical spills and flooding. In 2009, Mayo County Fire Service attended 1203 incidents, down 1% from 2008. A breakdown of the responses to incidents is given in the table below.

Details of Incidents	2007		2008		2009	
Number of fire attended by brigades		713		673		732
In own area	687		651		706	
In other fire authority area	26		22		26	
Special Services Incidents		283		356		294
Road traffic accidents	164		243		194	
Water pumping / flooding	23		14		13	
Rescue of persons from water	10		5		6	
Other non-fire rescues	22		7		11	
Hazardous substances in transit	42		50		35	
Miscellaneous	22		37		35	
False alarms		175		186		177
Malicious	64		51		63	
Good intent	111		135		114	
Total number of incidents		1171		1215		1203

The 1,203 incidents in 2009 resulted in 1,326 fire brigade responses, i.e. actual fire brigades attending incidents. The 2009 figure represented a slight decrease from that recorded in 2008, as shown below.

	2007	2008	2009
Number of Fire brigade Attendances	1323	1336	1326

Fire Service Appliances

The Council took possession of one new Class B water tender vehicle in 2009. This appliance went in operation with the Ballinrobe Fire Brigade fleet. The new appliance stems from the continuous fire appliance fleet upgrading programme in the County, funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



Fire Service Retirements

1. Micheal O'Brien – Station Officer with Crossmolina Fire Brigade, retired 8th February 2009 after 39 years of service
2. John Philbin – Squad Leader with Louisburgh Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 31st March 2009 after over 40 years of service
3. Frank Chambers – Assistant Squad Leader with Newport Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 31st March 2009 after 35 years of service
4. Michael Kelly – Squad Member with Ballycastle Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 30th June 2009 after 31 years of service
5. Frank Devaney – Squad Leader with Foxford Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 30th June 2009 after 31 years of service
6. Michael Comer – Station Officer with Swinford Fire Brigade, retired 30th June 2009 after almost 42 years of service
7. Brian Egan – Squad Leader with Knock Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 30th September 2009 after 35 years of service
8. Chris Mannion – Squad Leader with Balla Hose & Ladder Unit, retired 1st October 2009 after 31 years of service
9. Michael J. Lyons – Driver / Mechanic with Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, retired 31st October 2009 after 29 years of service
10. Mike Griffin – Firefighter with Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, retired 8th December 2009 after 32 years of service

CAMP West

The CAMP West Regional Communications Network and Service were rollout to Galway City Fire Service in March 2009. This completed the final stage of the CAMP system rollout. The system is now fully operational in all the Fire Authorities in the region. The CAMP West mobilisation software and communications network is now being fully utilised by the Ambulance Service of counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, in their control centre located at St Mary's Hospital Castlebar.

The total call volume for CAMP West Control Centre in 2009 was 40,591 calls. The Table below compares the call volumes year on year since 2006.

	2007	2008	2009	% Increase
Incoming Calls	14905	17566	21547	17.85%
Outgoing Calls	10586	15234	19044	43.91%
Total	25491	32800	40591	28.67%

There was an increase of about 17.85% in incoming call volume activity over that recorded in 2008. Much of this increased activity is explained by the addition of Galway City Fire Station into the CAMP West system. This call volume activity resulted in just over 6400 station turnouts to 5,753 separate fire-brigade emergencies throughout the region during 2009.

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 Enforcement Unit for Planning and Building Control deal with unauthorised developments and building control issues. The number of cases where warning letters issued under Section 152 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 during 2009 was 143. A summary of the activities of the Section for 2009 is as follows:

Description of Activity	Total
Number of complaints investigated	237
Number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	78
Number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	102
Number of Enforcement Procedures taken through Warning Letters	143
Number of Prosecutions	0
Number of Enforcement Procedures taken through Enforcement Notices	7
Number of files currently with the County Council's Solicitor	34

Mayo Civil Defence

Mayo Civil Defence is a voluntary organisation comprising of approximately 80 volunteers providing support to emergency services and local communities with highly trained members whose activities are valued by local communities and front line emergency services. The strength of the organisation lies in its voluntary ethos and commitment to purpose with its members willingly and freely giving of their time and expertise.

Mayo Civil Defence is committed to maintaining an environment that allows its members to carry out their duties, displaying a positive and professional image that reflects well on the organisation at all times.

Mayo Civil Defence expenditure budget for 2009 was €185,589. This is part Grant Aided by the Civil Defence Board / Department of Defence.

Mayo Civil Defence Resources

Volunteers	80
Vehicles	11
Boats	2
Command and Control Unit	1



All members receive training in the following areas:

- Pre hospital emergency care
- Auxillary Fire Service
- Communications
- Rescue
- Water Rescue –Boat
- Welfare – Humanitarian services
- Search Management

- Radiation Emergencies

Highlights of Activity in 2009

Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) Qualifications

Mayo Civil Defence has now fully converted to the PHECC system of Pre hospital emergency care qualifications with volunteers being trained at the following levels in conjunction with the Civil Defence College, Roscrea.

- Cardiac First Responder
- Occupational First Aid
- Emergency First Responder
- Emergency Medical Technician

Community Support Activity

During 2009 Mayo Civil Defence attended 93 community events ranging from Equestrian sports, community festivals, adventure races and also supported pilgrims on Croagh Patrick on their July pilgrimage.

During the Big Freeze December 2009, Civil Defence Volunteers provided Humanitarian assistance to members of the public in conjunction with Mayo County Fire Service and the Health Service Executive.

Volunteers also assisted in 2 searches for missing persons in the Mayo area at the request of the An Garda Siochana



Search Dog

County Exercise – Achill Island June 2009

As part of our local training plan we conducted a very successful exercise at Keem Bay and Cloughmore, Achill which involved all aspects of Civil Defence Services. In which 30 members were involved, The exercise was visited by Civil Defence Board and Executive members as well as members of Mayo Fire Service and

Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Inspectors in which all aspects of the exercise were highly commended.



Mayo Civil Defence win National Title

Mayo Civil Defence claimed the national title at the National Exercise, which was held in Drogheda in October 2009 in a simulated Major Emergency Incident. All exercises were on or beside the River Boyne. The team was involved in 4 sites which included Boating, Fire Fighting, Heights Rescue and Casualty. All sites were marked on communications, leadership, practical skills and Health and Safety. Mayo Civil Defence as part of Team Alpha were awarded the national title.



Winning Team

Mayo Civil Defence – Website

Mayo Civil Defence maintains its own website with news and general information available to the general public and members by visiting www.mayocivildefence.ie

Community & 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 2009 included:

- Further development of the Rural IT programme. Funding was received from the Benefit Programme (Dept Communications, Energy & Natural Resources) and was used to train 160 people in the use of ICTs. These people were drawn from the following target groups; older people, people with disabilities, Karen Burmese, isolated rural dwellers, unemployed and lone parents. Agreement was reached with the Leader / Partnership companies to further develop this initiative;
- The delivery of a programme of activities with Comhairle na n-Óg, which meets regularly at the same time as the County Council. A presentation was made to Mayo County Development Board highlighting the key challenges facing young people in Mayo today. There was also representation from the Comhairle at the national Dáil na nÓg;
- Co-ordination of the roll-out of the Fiontar Chomhraic Fund which was established as a response to the closure of the ESB power station at Bellacorick. There was significant interest in the Fund which aims to stimulate enterprise development in areas affected by the closure;
- 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* initiative;
- Community & Enterprise facilitated the election of Community sector representatives to the new integrated LEADER Partnership companies over the Summer 2009. These community reps were drawn only from organisations registered with Mayo County Community Forum.

Mayo County Development Board

Some of the highlights of the work carried out by Mayo County Development Board in 2009 include:

- Publication of the 2005-2008 Review & 2009-2012 Implementation Plan. This plan identifies 13 key challenges for the Board over the next three years. Priority actions include:
 - Exploring how supports can be focused on the development of renewable energy technologies;
 - Developing a pilot initiative on creativity and innovation for the innovators and entrepreneurs of the future. This action will be piloted in a number of after-school facilities and in a number of national schools (see www.mayocdb.ie for further information);
- The further development of the Mayo Science & Technology Festival. One of the key inclusions in the 2009 Festival was the *Mayo 2040* event which highlighted key technological trends and presented some ideas as to what life in Mayo might be like in 30 years time. The emphasis was on identifying possible opportunities for Mayo businesses in creating a part of that future;



Picture shows children engrossed in one of the exhibits at the Mayo Science & Technology Festival Open Day held in Castlebar in November. Over 3000 people attended the Open Day, which featured a wide range of exhibits, demonstrations and interactive shows.

- The Ideas Lab is continued its work in the areas of supporting the innovation agenda with local industry, local animation, product development support, assistance with R&D funding applications, etc. Key Ideas Lab priorities in 2009 included:
 - GMIT Higher Certificate in Business in Enterprise
 - New Opportunities Roadshow
 - Development of Pilot Entrepreneurship Project for Education Sector
 - Ideas Event for Science Week
 - Digital Media Training
 - ICT for Schools initiative
 - Engineers Week events
- Ongoing delivery of the Mayo Walking Strategy. There are now a total of 84 Recreational Trails developed throughout the County under the leadership of County Mayo Walking Partnership Group. This Group consists of representatives from Mayo County Council, the local LEADER Companies, Mayo Sports Partnership, Coillte,

Teagasc, Mayo CDB, and Údarás na Gaeltachta. Information, Descriptions and Maps has been compiled for all of the newly developed trails. This information is currently available from the following websites: www.mayowalks.ie, www.failteireland.ie/walking and www.coillteoutdoors.ie A Mayo in Motion Promotion took place during the month of June. As part of the initiative, an Introductory Walking Leader Training Workshop took place. A total of twenty-two individuals participated in this workshop. Each of the participants organised scheduled walks along some of the newly developed trails. A total of sixty-seven walks were organised and were listed as part of this promotion.

Mayo Sports Partnership

Background

Established in 2004 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. 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.

New Sports Plan

Following the successful delivery of the inaugural plan for sport in Mayo 2006 -2009 the Mayo Sports Partnership is about to embark on the development of a 2nd blueprint for sport development in the county. A recent review of the current plan saw that 95% of actions were delivered on with major progress delivered in the areas of disability sport, training and education, community sport, women's participation in sport / recreation, promotion of participation opportunities and fostering collaboration amongst key agencies / organisations. The board of the Mayo Sports Partnership comprises of key agencies such as FAS, HSE, VEC, GMIT, Leader Companies, Mayo County Council, Udaras, Mayo Education Centre as well as community and sporting representatives

Cllr Henry Kenny-Chairman of Mayo Sports Partnership stressed the importance of fostering collaboration and partnership amongst local agencies, organisations and other stakeholders while speaking on the 2009 Annual Report. "In the current economic climate it is vital that we pool resources to meet the challenge of providing quality opportunities for people to participate in sport and recreation. Particular focus needs to take place amongst unemployed people encouraging them to invest in positive mental and physical health" Cllr Kenny stated.



Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council Cllr Joe Mellett with other stakeholders pictured at the launch of the plan for the promotion of adventure sports in March 2009

Significant Achievements in 2009 Included

- Developing and launching a plan for the “Promotion of Adventure Sports” in County Mayo.
- Further expansion of the Be Active 55 activity initiative into community and sports centres throughout the county. Targeted at older people it is now available in 10 different locations.
- Facilitating 2 festivals of sport fun days in Ballyhaunis and Westport which were attended by approximately 1200 people.
- Facilitating the establishment of 5 Meet and Train groups in Claremorris, Westport, Castlebar, Ballina and Swinford.
- 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
- 29 activity projects, throughout the county, were funded through our Special Participation Grant Scheme.
- Further expansion of the Women in Sport projects through Active Women Project 2009, Mayo in Motion Walking Month, Gaelic for Girls in Ballyhaunis, Fit4Work Initiative in Mayo County Council, Mayo VEC, GMIT and the HSE.
- Co-facilitation of new Badminton Clubs in Claremorris, Balla and Ballyhaunis. 3 new underage rugby clubs in Claremorris, Belmullet and Ballaghadereen. 2 Inclusive Gymnastics clubs in Westport and Castlebar.

- Reformation of the Mayo Sports Forum and election of a new board of the Sports Partnership 2009 - 2014
- Highlighting the achievements of the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, including participation opportunities for 470 people with a disability, through the production of an annual report for stakeholders.
- Approx 80 volunteers trained in disability awareness.
- Completion of a very comprehensive volunteer training programme in 2009 including the 2nd John Mc Donnell Seminar attended by 110 volunteers / coaches etc.

Westport Festival of Sport, organised as part of the Gaelforce Weekend in August 2009, proved to be a tremendous success with over 800 people participating in many events such as the above



Looking ahead to 2010, Cllr Kenny said “Involvement in physical activity encourages positive thinking and wellbeing. We would like to see Mayo people from all age groups and categories engage with their local clubs / organisations / facilities and get out there and ‘Be Active’

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



Fit4Life, where people of all ages and abilities meet to train on a social setting, is now well established in 5 areas / athletic clubs throughout the county with plans to extend it into communities in 2010

Mayo County Childcare Committee

During 2009 Mayo CCC had 6 main areas of work prioritised

1. Effective implementation of the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) scheme.
2. Effective implementation of Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS)
3. Continued effective processing of approved Capital Grants to childcare services in Mayo
4. Effective Implementation of the Childminding Initiative (including Grant Scheme)
5. Effective Implementation of the Parent & Toddler Initiative.
6. To continue to build on the positive work carried out in 2008 especially in regards to providing support, information and training to childcare services and in particular information to parents, in order to progress the development of quality childcare provision.

Looking back over what Mayo CCC achieved during 2009 it shows that these priority areas were met.

The Mayo CCC development workers worked extremely hard and diligently to process 145 grant applications from childcare services (Private, and Community) from all over Co. Mayo for inclusion into the ECCE scheme. This work required a lot of administration work and clarifying issues as they arose with childcare services, parents, Pobal and the Office of Minister for Children & Youth Affairs. However, the Mayo CCC Development and Administration workers, worked diligently to provide accurate information and support to all involved.

Mayo CCC workers also completed a number of support visits to 95 childcare services and other types of supports such as information sessions, training, e mails and phone. These supports provided childcare services with the necessary information and guidance to assist them in meeting their commitments under their contracts with Pobal and / or the OMCYA, and also to be in a position to apply for entry into the ECCE scheme.

Specific supports were also provided to childcare services that were in the process of building new childcare facilities.

Also training, networking and information supports were also provided to ensure the effective implementation of the Childminding and Parent & Toddler Initiatives.

Some specific examples of projects completed by Mayo CCC include

- 42 Childcare Workers Attended 1st Aid Training
- 30 Childcare Workers Attended Buntús Start Training
- 13 Childcare Workers Attended School Age Childcare
- 39 Childcare Workers Attended 'Creative Arts' Training

- 27 Childcare Workers Attended ‘Health & Safety’ Training
- 33 Childcare Workers Attended Human Resource Training
- 33 Childcare Workers Attended Financial Training
- 27 Childcare Workers Attended Employers Responsibilities
- 44 Childcare Workers Attended ‘Parenting Positively’ Workshop

- 40 Childcare Workers Attended ‘Working with Autism’ Workshop

- 13 Childcare Workers Attended School Age Childcare Training Workers Attended Road Safety Workshop (Beep Beep!) (see picture to right)



- 40 Childcare
- 52 Childcare Workers Attended Green Flag Workshop
- 60 Childcare Workers Attended Grand Parents Initiative Workshop (see picture below)
- 72 Childcare Workers Attended Management & Support Meetings (2)



- 14 Childcare Workers Attended Large Scale Capital Managers Network
- 71 Childcare Workers Attended

- ‘Interactions’ Workshop
- 106 Childcare Workers Attended ‘Involving Parents’ Workshop
- 24 Childcare Workers Attending Siolta Support Workshops (2)

Some Facts & Figures

Number of Childcare Places in Mayo 1999	1,283
Number of Childcare Places in Mayo 2009	2,733
Number of Childcare Services in Mayo 1999	79
Number of Childcare Services in Mayo 2009	176 (52 childminders)
Number of Capital Funding Applications approved by Mayo CCC under the National Childcare Investment Programme (Dec 08)	22
Number that went on to be Approved by Office of Minister for Children	22
Total funding approved for Mayo up to June 2009	€26,669,614
Number of new purpose built Childcare Facilities opened in 2007 supported by NCIP	4
Number of new purpose built Childcare Facilities opened in 2008 supported by NCIP	6
Number of new purpose built Childcare Facilities opened in 2009 supported by NCIP	4
Number of new purpose built Childcare Facilities to be opened in 2010/2011 supported by NCIP	8

Mayo CCC would see the successful local, administration of the ECCE scheme in Mayo as the biggest success of 2009. The administration of 147 applications from 127 childcare services, the information provision to parents, childcare services, Pobal and interaction with OMCYA placed quite a strain on the resources of Mayo CCC, however, the staff and Committee rose to this challenge and successfully completed the administration of this landmark scheme during 2010

These new developments were exciting and challenging and Mayo CCC look forward to meeting these and other new challenges in a positive manner during 2010.

Mayo County Enterprise Board

Review of Board Activity for 2009

Selective Financial Intervention

Since it was established in 1993 Mayo County Enterprise Board has approved just over €8.8 million in grant aid in favour of some 628 micro-enterprises throughout the County. To-date over €6.9 million has been paid out by the Board.

The provision of this support has assisted micro enterprises within the County in the creation and retention of **1,127 full-time jobs**, as revealed in the annual employment survey undertaken in November 2009.

During 2009 a total of **€115,930** was approved in favour of **34 projects**, with a job creating potential of **68 full-time jobs**.

During the same period grant payments totalling **€243,396** were made to **25** separate projects located throughout the county.

Entrepreneurial Development and Capacity Building



Mayo County Enterprise Board has since 1993 provided business and management training to almost 4,000 persons in County Mayo.

Training Workshop organized by Mayo County Enterprise Board.

In 2009 Mayo County Enterprise Board received an allocation of €280,208 towards the delivery of its Soft Support Programme. This allocation has enabled the Board complete a number of programmes initiated in the year 2008 and also undertake an extensive

programme of training and support in 2009. In all 324 persons availed of the business training and advisory supports provided by Mayo County Enterprise Board during 2009.

Among the main initiatives undertaken were;

Programme	Participants
Start your Own Business Programme	75
Managing Finances Programme	30
Marketing Programme	16
Human Resource Management Programme	15
One to One Business Advice & Mentoring	46
E-Commerce Support	35
New Product/New Market Programme	18
One Day Workshops	<u>89</u>
	324



Participants on Marketing Training Programme

Student Enterprise

The Board organised and delivered of a series of boot camps on the subject of entrepreneurship for second level students to encourage them to look at setting up their own business as a career option.

The response was unprecedented with 668 students from 16 second level schools in the county taking part.

In addition 192 students from 5 schools participated in the National Student Enterprise Awards at county level. Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh represented Mayo in the senior section at the National Finals in Tullamore. Our representatives in the junior section, Our Lady's Secondary School, Belmullet received a national award for best display.

Arts Service

The county Arts service was set up in 1989 and 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.

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

Arts Information, Promotion and Advice

This advisory service is availed of by over 250 community groups, artists and arts organisations which regularly seek advice about arts events and sources of funding for their projects and programmes. Furthermore, the Arts office advises on grants for artists and Arts Acts grants which are available annually to any community or group wishing to run their own Arts-based event.

The arts office also circulates an email bulletin on a monthly basis updating activities that may be of interest to local communities and individuals. The update carries Mayo County Council Arts Service information, county wide and national information regarding arts events and opportunities. This is an important focal information point for people working in the industry.

Arts Programme 2009

Mayo Arts Squad

Established in 1997 with FÁS support, 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 2009, the Arts Squad worked extensively with festivals throughout the county, with community groups, intercultural groups and with disabled people.

Installation, (New Ground 2), Feile na Tuaithe, May 09.

Gathering Ground, New Ground 2:-

This work was a development of the New Ground event in 2009 and involved Mayo Artsquad working with local community arts workers and other groups including Castlebar Active Retirement, members of the Karen community, members of the Luisne project etc. This event was part of Feile na Tuaith at the National Museum of Ireland, Country Life, Turlough.

Art in Education Programme:

The Arts Service offers six week co-funded arts programmes for national schools in the county, across all art forms: music, drama, dance, creative writing, visual art.

- In 2009, the arts office carried out 8 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 2009, 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. These exhibitions are on loan to schools for up to six months. Support workshops are also provided through the arts office by artists included in the exhibitions and specially designed education packs are available for teachers and pupils. In 2009, the exhibitions went to four schools.

Literature

Force 12 Writer's Festival:

This annual writer's weekend was held in Belmullet, directed by Patrick Cotter 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 Billy Ramsell, Claire Wigfall, Paula Meehan, Theo Dorgan, Liz O'Donoghue, John Corless, William Wall. The writer in residence was Éilís Ní Dhuibhne.

All-Ireland Poetry Day:

Mayo County Council Arts Office, Library Service and Oifig na Gaeilge presented an evening of poetry with Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill & Geraldine Mitchell in Castlebar Library on October 1st as part of All Ireland Poetry Day 2009.

Arts for Older People

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 2009 there were four major events, 8 recitals/ readings and nineteen workshops, (dance, storytelling, visual art, drama, music). Events were held in twenty six locations and over 2,000 older people benefitted. There were three screenings of Michael Fortune's film, Following the Whitethorn, which was produced under the public art programme. A national seminar, **ENVISAGE** – an

exploration of place, was also held in Castlebar (a partnership initiative between MCC Arts Office, Bealtaine and Inspiration Station).



Bealtaine Launch, Welcome Inn, May 2009

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:

Mayo County Council has been one of the leading and most proactive Local Authorities in drawing down and using the % for Art scheme. Since 1989 over 67 commissions have been undertaken.

New works completed 2009 include:

1. *Colour Vortex*, by Allie Kay, Cushlough N.S.
2. *The Last Detail*, by Declan Breen, Charlestown N5
3. *Following the Whitethorn*, by Michael Fortune, Ballinrobe
4. *Fabulous Beasts 1,2 and 3*, by Alice Maher, Ballina Library
5. *Another Grain Consuming Unit on a Hill in East Mayo*, by Dermot Seymour, Charlestown Library
6. *A Bigger Splash!* by Mark Cullen and Tim Redfern, Claremorris Pool



Paperworks, Lucy Hill, Castlebar Library



Colour Vortex, Allie kay, Carrakennedy NS,

Mayo County Council Collection

Every year, work is purchased through exhibitions within the county including paintings, batik, prints, small sculptural works, photographs etc. The works from the collection are hung in public buildings and are often loaned for exhibitions in Arts Centres and other contexts in the county.

Theatre:

Mayo Youth Theatre:

Initiated in 1999, 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 2009 with weekly workshops and a production in Ballina.

Music:

Summer Music Series:

Each July, the Arts Service provides a series of nine free concerts for the public. These are programmed in churches, community halls and open spaces, in order to promote diverse quality music, develop audiences for live music and provide access for communities.

In 2009, another excellent series of county-wide music events brought quality music to Westport, Castlebar, Charlestown, Ballyhaunis, Louisburgh, Ballina, Achill, and Belmullet. Over 2,500 attended. Performances included; Irish Baroque Orchestra, The David Munnelly Band, Emer Mayock, Donal Siggins & Jean Michel Veillon, The Sick & Indigent Song Club, Elizabeth Cooney & Remond O'Toole, Ebony Steel Band, Mick Flannery and Matt Molloy, John Carty & Arty McGlynn.



Matt Molloy, John Carty & Arty McGlynn, Summer Music Series, Ballyhaunis, July 2009

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. The response from schools and communities has been tremendously positive.

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 2009 groups were facilitated in Derrada, Keenagh, Achill and Westport. Participants included disabled people and refugees.

Youth Arts Programme:

The Arts Service runs a youth arts programme in November annually, which specifically addresses the needs of teenagers. Specialist provision and masterclasses are offered to groups already involved in the arts: orchestras, choirs, bands, students wishing to pursue a career in theatre or visual art, drama groups etc. Also opportunities to try out a new art form are provided. Approximately 1,000 young people benefit annually.

Disability Arts Programme:

Mayo County Council Arts Office is very proactive in the area of disability and the arts. A number of long-term, equality-based projects are funded annually.

LUISNE

The LUISNE project is a visual arts project which began in 2004. The purpose of this project is to provide quality artistic experience for a group of service users of the Crann Mór Resource Centre operated by the Western Care Association. The project is funded by Western Care and Mayo County Council, with administrative and other supports



Luisne Workshop

provided by TACÚ. In 2009 a website was developed, www.artluisne.com, a major exhibition was held in the Linenhall (with catalogue) and two smaller exhibitions followed in Ballina and Foxford.



Damien O'Connor, MCC Disability Arts Co-ordinator at the Altered Images exhibition, Ballina.

ALTERED IMAGES:

A major, groundbreaking visual arts project developed by Mayo County Council in partnership with South Tipperary County Council and the Irish Museum of Modern Art, supported by the Arts Council. The partners presented a new and unique approach to exhibiting visual arts. Altered images is an interactive exhibition which toured to South

Tipperary, Mayo and will be in IMMA, Dublin in 2010.

Using an innovative approach - including audio descriptions, three dimensional interpretations of paintings, sound art and an interactive website (www.alteredimages.ie) – the project attempts to engage new audiences for the first time, using a multi sensory approach. The catalogue for the exhibition was also produced in accessible formats (audio CD, Braille, large print).

ARTS & DISABILITY NETWORKING PILOT:

In a developmental partnership, The Arts Council, Mayo County Council Arts Office and Arts & Disability Ireland worked together in 2009 to deliver a pilot programme for Arts and Disability. The programme has delivered a number of strategic goals including:

1. Disability Equality training for all arts venues in the county, and all staff working in arts venues, followed by the development of practical plans which encourage the use of venues by disabled people, both as audience and as artists.
2. Disability Equality training for artists who work with or wish to work with groups of disabled people.
3. OSKA BRIGHT film festival for learning disabled people visited Mayo in December 2009, with film screenings and workshops.
4. The Lawnmower's, a learning disabled theatre company visited Mayo in November and carried out peer-learning workshops and worked with theatre practitioners nationally who have experience in this area.

Culture Night:

In 2009, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and Templebar Cultural Trust extended an invitation to Mayo County Council to participate in Culture Night. In a unique take on the event, Culture Night in Mayo was county wide. Participating in the evening were Áras Inis Gluaire in Belmullet, Ballina Arts Centre, Ballinglen Arts Foundation in Ballycastle, Custom House Studios in Westport, Linenhall Arts Centre in Castlebar, The Jackie Clarke library & Archives and the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. Over 1200 people attended the events programmed on the evening.

Culture Night at the Jackie Clarke Library & Archive, Ballina, 2009



Publications 2009:

New Ground Lost Seeds, documenting the Artsquad Bealtaine residency 2008, with John Fox and Sue Gill.

ARTS GRANTS:

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

- Arts Acts Grants (19 grants ranging from €250 to €5,000)
- Visual Arts awards (4 exhibition assistance and 14 materials assistance awards)
- MCC Tyrone Guthrie Awards (2 awards)
- Amateur Drama Awards (1 award)
- Music Recording Assistance Awards (2 awards)
- Mayo County Council & Liam Walsh Artists Award (1 award)

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

The work and contribution of professional arts organisations through the county towards the strategic development of the arts in the county is recognised and supported by Mayo County Council. Organisations such as The Linenhall Arts Centre, The Heinrich Boll Cottage, Yew Tree Theatre Company, Ballina Arts Centre, Custom House Studios, Ballinglen Arts Foundation and Áras Inis Gluaire provide access to high quality eclectic, vibrant and diverse programmes across the county.

Other Partnerships: Partnerships with other agencies are crucial to continued outreach and success. The Arts Service has developed good working partnerships with: other LA arts offices, 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.

Mayo County Library Service

Introduction

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest. Samuel Johnson

Today we know, more than ever, that market forces cannot create either a good society or a happy society. At a time when the state is taking more off its citizens than ever, the public library is a place where it is giving back. Libraries inform citizens, break down boundaries, level the playing field, nourish creativity, open minds, help build communities and preserve the past.

In 2009 Mayo County Library lent over half a million books to 25,000 members. This represents an increase in usage of almost 10%. The library also provides a school library service, a family history service, and a wide ranging programme of cultural events every year. In addition new services such as downloadable books, a FAS eLearning service, online newspapers and a HSE reading scheme have been added during the year. A new library for Swinford will also commence construction in 2010. Mayo libraries are attracting 260,000 visits per year which is far in excess of any other cultural or heritage organisation in the county.

Cultural Programme

Mayo Library runs an extensive cultural programme which is expanding annually. In 2009 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:

- *The Irish Tourist Association Survey - Achill a tourist destination in the 1940s.* A talk by archivist Brigid Clesham in Achill Library
- *Down Memory Lane: favourite poems and memories from school* with author Thomas F. Walsh in Westport and Ballinrobe Libraries
- *Tracing Your Family Tree* with the Mayo Family History Centre, in Ballina Library,
- *Healthy Eating on a budget for the over 55's* facilitated by the Home Management Advisory Service, HSE West, in Ballyhaunis Library

- “*The Curious Case of the Mayo Librarian*” by author Pat Walsh in Castlebar and Ballinrobe Libraries,
- *Revolutionary Women* – a talk on role of women from 1916-1923 by historian Sinéad McCool in Westport Library
- *People and Places: Local Studies in the Library* –a talk by with Local History Librarian Ivor Hamrock in Castlebar Library



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 held a stand at the Science Week exhibition at the TF Royal Hotel.

Healthy Reading Scheme

In 2009 the library launched the **Mayo Healthy Reading Scheme**. This is an initiative designed to guide individuals in their choice of self-help book which can then be used in tandem with treatment made by a health professional. This scheme is an initiative developed by the HSE and Mayo County Library. The books in the scheme have been recommended by health professionals to assist with a variety of emotional or psychological problems including bereavement, depression, relationship problems, parenting and self esteem. There is still a significant taboo attached to mental health difficulties – the simple presence of books relating to mental health issues in a public library, available and accessible to all can help reduce this stigma, and raise awareness of such issues.

Straight Talking

In October the library launched *Straight Talking*, a series of talks by well known Irish people. Speakers ranged from Dr T.K. Whitaker, the architect of the modern Irish economy to Jack O Connor the Kerry football manager. Others speakers included Helen Dillon on gardening, John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison and Sylvia Meehan.

Other Cultural Events

Castlebar Library

- Five Art Exhibitions held throughout the year.
- Regular computer sessions for the Adult Learning Network, the Probus group, the Active Aged group and REHAB students
- Mayo Young Scientist Award winners display
- Launch of *Paperworks* by Lucy Hill, an artwork commissioned under the Percent for Arts Scheme.
- Heartsmart CROI Screening Programme,
- Mayo Small Holders Association meetings and talks
- Book Launch, “Sin Fein and the Politics of Left Republicanism” by Eoin O’Broin
- Information Evening for The Open University
- Mayo Camera Club Exhibition
- Local History Seminar with Western Regional Section of the Library Association of Ireland
- Bi-lingual reading by poets Nuala Ni Dhonaill and Geraldine Mitchell
- Reading by Eilís Ní Dhuibhne
- An Taisce Green Schools Exhibition.
- Filming in the library as part for new RTE documentary series *The Limits of Liberty*
- **Launch of *At Five in the Afternoon*, book by Michael Murphy**
- Mayo People of the Year Launch.



Ballina Library

- Launch of *Fabulous Beasts* by artist Alice Maher commissioned under the Percent for Arts Scheme.
- Four arts exhibitions held in library
- Mayo Wildlife Photography Exhibition
- Creative Writing Courses by author Helen Falconer
- Ballina Music Circle meets monthly in the library
- Bees & Bee-Keeping a talk by the Mayo North Garden & Flower Club
- The Stitch & Bitch Knitting Circle meet every Tuesday night in the library
- Lenten photography exhibition by Trocaire
- The Active Retirement Musicians group use the library as a venue to practice

- Launch of the *One Book, One Ballina*, reading project
- Presentation by the Office for Internet Safety for parents
- Ballina Healthy Heart Day - free health screening provided by the HSE in the Library
- Gaelscoil na Ceithre Maol had an information evening for parents in the library.
- Reading by poet Mark Chaddock
- ‘A Rambling Tour of Dear Old Ballina’ – book launch by Terry Reilly
- Green Schools Exhibition launch.
- VEC committee meeting was convened in the Library
- The ‘Peace, Love & Hope Quilt Project’ - as part of the Ballina Street Festival
- The HSE Early Intervention Service ran an information evening for parents for children with suspected disabilities.
- Free computer courses for Over 55’s in the library
- Veterans of World War 2 DVD collection launch.
- Meeting of the Institute of Engineers in Ireland (Western Branch) and presentation on the new Salmon Weir footbridge
- Open meeting for traders by Ballina Chamber of Commerce to arrange a Christmas Shopping Festival.
- ‘What kids should do in an emergency’ talk by Mayo Civil Defence Officer.
- ‘Code of Ethics’ course for officers of sports clubs - Mayo Sports Partnership
- “Follow the Whitethorn” a film by artist Michael Fortune
- Mayo Arts Mentoring Programme 2009 Exhibition
- Photographic exhibition by North Mayo SPCA

Westport Library

- Westport Civic Trust Schools Exhibition
- In Humbert’s Footsteps, Exhibition
- Launch of poetry CD by Richard White
- Photographic exhibition by Stephen O’Brien
- Carrowbeg College, Art and Design PLC course end of year show
- Elsie Higgins, art class exhibition
- Art exhibition Tir na nOg playschool
- Covie Week, “Old Westport exhibition ‘”
- Mobility Week Exhibition- connecting mobility to a healthy environment.
- Age Action art exhibition as part of Westport Arts Festival.
- Westport Garden and Heritage - Civic Trust exhibition

Other Events

- Story hours for children and book clubs are run in most branches
- *Achill Healthy Ageing Day*– Achill library
- "A Night of Carols"- Ballinrobe Library
- Launch of CD "The Adventures of Championship Man" by Liam Horan - Ballinrobe Library
- Launch of Plaque in honour of John King-Ballinrobe Library

- Talk and slide show on St Mary's Church of Ireland by Averil Staunton
- Launch of musical The Pirate Queen by Ballinrobe Musical Society.
- Art Exhibition by Shania McDonagh, Claremorris Library

Eachtraí Culturtha

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

Ina measc bhí:

- Braener dramaíochta - Caisleán a' Bharraigh agus Cathair na Mart
- Seoladh leabhair le Colman O'Raighaillaigh- Clár Chlainne Mhuiris
- Leitheoireachta le Colman O'Raighaillaigh – Caisleán a' Bharraigh
- Leitheoireachta le Art O Suillebhain - Clár Chlainne Mhuiris agus Béal an Átha
- Leitheoireachta le Grace Wynne –Béal a' Mhuirthead
- Filíocht as gaeilge le Richard White- Cathair na Mart
- Thug an scríbhneoir Re O'Laighleis ceard-lanna i Caisleán a' Bharraigh, Béal an Átha agus Cathair na Mart
- Blas Dramaíocht Fiicsuil -Acaill
- Leitheoireachta le Eithne ní Ghallchobchair - Béal an Átha
- Una ní Chuinn ag léamh sa leabharlann – Cathair na Mart
- Comórtaisí do pháistí scoile - Caisleán a' Bharraigh
- Café Club le Gnó Mhaigh Éo - Béal an Átha
- Taispeántas Leabhar Gaeilge – Cathair na Mart
- Tráth na gCeist agus comórtas dathadóireachta –Béal Átha hAmhnais agus Caisleán a' Bharraigh
- "Ciorcal Craic": Comhra, amhran agus an cupán tae - Crois Uí Mhaoilíona
- Thug an laeabharlann bronntanas leabhar do gach naoinraí sa chontae.
- Gaeilge le do Pháistí- Crois uí Mhaoilíona:

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
- Ballyhaunis Pride Of Place Entry

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 internationally renowned children's writers
- Puppet shows
- A flea circus
- First Aid demonstration
- Writing workshops
- Library Quizzes

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 Longest 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.

ICT Initiatives

Mayo Newspapers Online

The library launched the Mayo Newspaper Archive On-line this year. The entire *Western People* from 1889, *The Ballina Herald*, *the Ballinrobe Chronicle* and *The Western Journal* are now available online.

Irish Tourist Association Survey Online

In the early 1940s a survey was conducted in County Mayo on a parish by parish basis in an effort to promote tourism in the West of Ireland. The surveyors' files are now preserved in the library. One of the largest files relates to the parish of Achill. It includes information regarding the history and topography of the parish, sporting provisions, holiday amenities, photographs, local industry and general information about the various villages. The survey is now also available online at www.mayolibrary.ie.

Digital Audio Books

In 2008 Mayo County Library introduced Digital Audio Books which allow members to listen to a book anywhere. These are books stored on a compact player that is small, light and portable. They are 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.

FÁS eLearning at the Library

‘FÁS eLearning at the Library’ is a new programme that allows people to learn in their own home or in the library. The aim of the Programme is to upskill participants in IT skills. A facilitator is available in the library to deliver workshops and support learners to progress through a suite of online courseware. The programme is open to all learners (over 18 years) and is free of charge and is available in Ballina, Castlebar and Swinford libraries.

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.

Mayo Genealogy Online

Mayo County Library, in conjunction with the 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 2009.

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.

Acquisitions

The library purchased over 20,000 books in 2009 including the following:

- *The apparitions at Knock. Also the official depositions of the eye-witnesses prepared and edited by John MacPhilbin 1904.*
- *Copies of the summonses and notices served upon Messieurs Healy, Davitt and Quinn in recent proceedings against them in the court of the Queen’s Bench, Dublin. 1883.*
- *The rocks of the Tourmakeady district (County Mayo) by Charles Irving Gardiner 1909.*
- *Addergoole, native parish of Archbishop MacHale with original poems by Rev. J. F. Lavelle, Addergoole.*

- *A list of all subscriptions received for the Achill purchase fund and also the seventeenth report of the Achill Mission 1850.*
- *The sanction of a creed. A short account of murders and attempts at murder in Ireland since the institution of the Irish National Land League.* Published by the Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union 1888,
- *Amhrain Ghaedhilge an Iarthair / Gaelic songs of the West* collected by Michael Timony 1906.
- *Letter of his grace the most Rev. Dr. MacHale Archbishop of Tuam to the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Tuam,* 1861.
- *Salt Air* by F.R. Higgins. Limited edition 1923.
- *An act to confirm Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board for Ireland relating to the towns of Ballina and Lurgan* 1882.
- *An act to repeal an act entitled "An act for the improvement of the River Moy"* 1860.
- *An act for authorising the sale of certain estates in the counties Galway and Mayo devised by the will of John, the late Lord Clanmorris*
- *A number of Acts to enable the Great Northern and Western Railway Company to extend their railway to Castlebar, Westport, Ballina and Killala* 1837 to 1883
- *Census Search Forms 1841/51 for Mayo* -on microfilm.

Donations

- Seamus Murphy collection of Republican material – donated to the Jackie Clarke Library
- *The history and architecture of Rosturk Castle, Rosturk, County Mayo* by Fintan Masterson. B. A. Dissertation 2009. Donated by the author
- *The genealogy of the Anglo-Norman Lynches who settled in Galway* by Paul McNulty 2009. Donated by the author
- *The Achill Mission and Estate: A Protestant enterprise in Catholic communities* by Tarso Matsuo. Hosei University, Tokyo 1997.
- *Manuscript documents of the late Fr. Patrick J. Burke of the Columban Fathers, formerly of Castlebar.* Contains diaries and reports written by Fr. Burke during his period as a correspondent covering the Korean and Vietnam wars. Donated by his niece Ms. Mary Morrissey, Cave, Ballyhaunis.
- *The Killing Snows: A story of the Irish Famine* by Charles Egan. A novel set in County Mayo donated by the author.
- *Birth & Vaccination Registers for the East Mayo area* – donated by Matt Cassidy, Charlestown,
- *A History of Claremorris Town Hall,* donated by Michael Reidy, author.

School's Library Service

The School Library Service continues to deliver a service to 178 Mayo National Schools including 63 DEIS schools serving disadvantaged communities. With the Dept. of Education's announcement that it is cutting resources to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) sector in schools, the School Library's SEN Service to teachers and children experiencing literacy difficulties was prioritized in 2009. The need and demand for this area of the service far outstrips supply as evidenced by a further 54% increase in SEN resources lent to schools between 2008 and 2009.

In keeping with this goal to facilitate increased literacy levels in Mayo, the collaborative literacy focused intervention project between Mayo County Library and the HSE West Speech & Language Therapy Service has continued to develop and expand. In 2009 an NUIG research project studying this unique reading development partnership produced an extremely positive report. A joint Library & HSE information evening for parents and teachers of children experiencing language and literacy difficulties took place in Castlebar Library.

Jackie Clarke Library

During 2009, the Jackie Clarke Library and Archives went on show to the public for the first time. An exhibition was on display at Ireland West Airport Knock from July to September 2009. A month long display of items and guided tours of the Library and Archive took place at Ballina Library during the month of September. The official opening of this promotional month was during National Heritage Week. During the month 67 tours took place and 1,079 people visited the collection. The event resulted in 122 bed nights for the local economy.

On Culture Night on 25th September there was a special screening of the Jackie Clarke film collection in association with the Irish Film Archive as well as a filmed reading of the 1916 Proclamation by actor Stephen Rea.

Key items from the collection were conserved during 2009 and a special display case was made to house the treasures of the collection. There were a number of donations during 2009 including the Seamus Murphy collection which includes material from the offices of the Republican Press Ltd. Manager Sinéad McCool gave lectures to a number of groups around the country and published a number of articles on the collection.

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 fulfillment of our commitments under the National Heritage Plan, the National Biodiversity Plan and the National Climate Change Strategy.

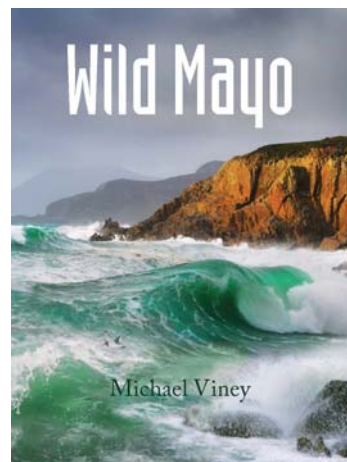
Mayo County Council allocated a budget of €100,000 towards Heritage Plan Projects in 2009, 50% of which is recoupable from The Heritage Council. A total of €65,150 funding was obtained from The Heritage Council in 2009 towards the implementation of the Heritage Work Programme: €31,200 was obtained under the Heritage Plan Fund, €21,250 under the Biodiversity Fund and €12,700 was obtained under the Biodiversity Programme.

The Heritage Work Programme undertaken in 2009 included:

Successful implementation of the Year 4 work programme of the *County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006-2011*. Projects completed include:

Publication of Wild Mayo

Mayo's landscape, renowned for its scenic beauty, is one of the most diverse in the country, reflecting its geographic position on the western seaboard, its varied topography, geology and the effect of land-use patterns. It is comprised of a rich tapestry of habitats including 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. *Wild Mayo*, written by Michael Viney and edited, compiled and produced by the Heritage Office of Mayo County Council, highlights the importance and richness of natural heritage in Co. Mayo. This publication, aimed at locals and visitors alike celebrates the natural heritage and landscape diversity of County Mayo.



Local Heritage and Living Landscape Course

Mayo County Council in partnership with South West Mayo Development Company, with support from the Heritage Council, piloted a *Local Heritage and Living Landscape Course* in the spring of 2009. The aim of the course was to raise awareness of local heritage, promote best practice in heritage conservation and management and to encourage and facilitate the development of community-based heritage projects, The

focus of the eight-week course was on the importance of identifying appropriate ways to ensure long-term benefits for communities and landscape in their interaction with the natural, cultural and built heritage.



The course was attended by representatives of nine communities in south west Mayo and ran over eight evenings, with two Saturday field trips. A diverse range of heritage topics was explored in the course ranging from the cultural and historical value of churches and graveyards to gateposts and shop fronts to potato ridges and house styles. Techniques for recording local and natural heritage, and recognition of landscape type

together with its impact on both human habitation and biodiversity, were covered by lectures delivered by experts in their fields. The two fieldtrips were particular highlights, which included visits to Hollymount Church and Graveyard and Partry House to the shores of Lough Carra and the surrounding woodland.

An integral part of the course is that each community was required to plan and undertake a local heritage project within their community. To ensure that projects will be viable and sustainable, it is essential for them to be embedded within the communities. Course participants have been implementing these heritage projects within their own communities with the aim of fostering an interest in and recognising the importance of local heritage and landscape. A heritage evening was held on Tuesday, 3rd November 2009 in Breaffy House Hotel to give participant communities an opportunity to showcase their project proposals, which was attended by over 90 people. Awards were made to communities based on the quality of their project proposal, community involvement and impact and innovation.

*Local Heritage & Living
Landscape Course
Participants at Course
Heritage Evening*

**Industrial Heritage Survey
of the County**

An inventory of the county's industrial heritage was undertaken during 2009, with support from the Heritage Council. This survey followed on from previous surveys undertaken of



specific elements of Mayo's industrial heritage (Mayo Historic Bridge Survey and Bellacorick Power Station, 2006 and Railway Heritage Survey, 2008). The information obtained will be used to inform County Development Plan policies and to ensure that the most significant elements of our industrial heritage can be protected from unsympathetic development. This survey will be based on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), cartographic (OS 6 inch maps) and historical sources. This survey will form the basis for future field survey in the county. A searchable Industrial Heritage Database has been compiled and the sites have been digitized for inclusion on the Mayo County Council GIS system. The data collected was analysed and the key issues relating to industrial archaeology in Mayo and Ireland have been assessed in a local and national context.

Mayo Shop Front Booklet

A booklet has been produced depicting traditional shop fronts in Mayo. The aim of this booklet is to explore the richness of Irish building traditions and to raise awareness of good design principles, and promote the application of these principles in the design of contemporary commercial developments in our towns and villages. Remaining excellent examples of traditional shop fronts have been identified in towns and villages throughout Mayo. These shop fronts have been photographed, recorded and details their compiled along with a history of the building into the booklet. A diagrammatic introductory panel depicting characteristic elements of traditional building design e.g. symmetry in proportions and fenestration patterns, discreet signage has been included. The text for this booklet will be prepared in-house by the Mayo County Council Architects section in conjunction with the Heritage Officer. This booklet will be distributed to businesses throughout the county and will be available from Mayo Local Authority Offices.

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 was presented to the Culture, Education, Heritage and Corporate Affairs SPC for consideration in 2009 following which it was placed on public display for a period of 6 weeks. It is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised in 2010.

Under the Mayo Biodiversity Action Programme a number of projects were undertaken:

1. Biodiversity training for Local Authority Staff

A key action of the draft Mayo Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014 is to develop a biodiversity training programme for Local Authority staff to ensure that biodiversity is integrated into the role and function of the local authority, including in the formulation of Development Plans and Local Area Plans, development control, infrastructure delivery and maintenance and other services. This training programme was developed in 2009 and will be delivered to staff in

early 2010. In order to assess the specific needs of the Council, an audit was carried out of key services delivered by Mayo County Council prior to the development of the training programme. This project is funded by the Heritage Council through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund. Developing the training programme involved consultation with key staff within various departments and sections of Mayo County Council and the three Town Councils.

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

In 2009, Mayo County Council, in partnership with the National Botanic Gardens obtained funding from the Heritage Council to undertake an intensive programme of *Gunnera* control on Clare Island. Mayo County Council has been involved in research on the control of *Gunnera* since 2006 and has targeted this invasive plant at a number of locations on Achill, followed by site rehabilitation. Significant areas of Clare Island have also been invaded by *Gunnera*. In 2009, an intensive programme of control of *Gunnera* on Clare Island was undertaken. Clare Island was considered an ideal location to undertake an intensive control programme due to the reduced possibility for reinvasion due to its offshore location. This project attracted widespread publicity and featured on RTE television news bulletins during September.



Treating Gunnera on Clare Island



River before treatment



River after treatment

Gunnera control demonstration events were also organised at Blacksod and Achill, which attracted over 100 people. The aim of these events was to practically demonstrate the most effective way of treating and controlling the plant.

Heritage talks and Heritage Week 2009 events

- Talk on Mayo's Landscape & Natural Heritage, Castlebar by Cillian Roden, Ecologist and Naturalist
- Talk on Garden Birds, Crossmolina, by Wendy Stringer, BirdWatch Mayo
- Information talk on Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*), Mulranny
- Information talk on Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*), Achill Island
- Talk on the history and archaeology of Kilcummin Church and Graveyard, Kilcummin by Richard Crumlish, Archaeologist
- Exhibition of Harry Clarke Windows Foyer, Mayo General Hospital

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 Heritage Calendar 2009

A Natural Heritage of Mayo Calendar 2009 was published. The calendar which contained images of landscapes, wildlife and flora of the county, aimed to highlight the diversity of habitats and species in the county.

Other areas addressed by the Heritage Officer on an ongoing basis include:

- Input into the preparation of the Local Area Plans
- Preparation of Appropriate Assessments of Local Area Plans as required under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
- 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 owners and occupiers of protected structures
- Advise public and council staff on heritage-related matters
- Provide advice to Mayo Leader Companies on heritage issues.
- Provide advice to community groups undertaking "Graveyard clean-up" schemes
- 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 Programme and provide advice to community groups on applications as required
- Promote Heritage in Schools Scheme

Information Communication Technology

Adopting Information Communication Technology is the one key component that will enable Irish Local Government to reform and deliver the kind of services a modern society requires in the 21st century. It does however require a coordinated effort from both local and central government to move together.

Mayo County Council is implementing the changes required to meet our obligations under the “Towards an Integrated Public Service” and “Transforming Public Services” reports from the OECD and Government task force respectively but we find that systems which interact with outside organisations are not always able to do so.

In 2009, we have developed a number of key systems which e-enables some old legacy systems, as well new customer focused on-lines systems that allows the public access to information as well as the ability to pay on-line.

GIS Services:

Our GIS (Graphical Information Systems) staff assisted Water Services in making wastewater treatment returns to the EPA. A saving of almost €50,000 accrued to the Council because the reports were not outsourced as was the case in most other Local Authorities

GIS staff deployed the gPlan system to allow members of the public to view the location of Planning Applications on a map of the County.

Internet/Intranet Services:

Our Web Team developed an online Planning Submission and Planning Application system becoming the second local authority in Ireland to offer these services online. The online Planning Application system is in pilot phase, but will be rolled out early in 2010. This is expected to yield substantial savings in staff processing time per application as well as significant cost savings to Planning Agents. The Web Team have also

- Extended our online payment options to include Rates and Traffic Fines. WEEE payments and Town Council payments are expected to be added in 2010.
- Began deployment of a Customer Relationship Management system to the whole Council. This system will help to ensure that all customer enquiries/complaints/service requests are dealt with in a timely manner. The system is expected to be deployed to the rest of the Council in 2010.
- Started deployment of an in-house Travel and Subsistence system which will allow for better monitoring of staff travel as well as reduce the staff time needed to process claims.

- Deployed a new intranet which should help improve internal knowledge sharing between departments.

Training:

Our Training Team provided training to more than 60 staff members in the Agresso financial management system. This has resulted in better use of the system and will enable better reporting and monitoring of corporate spending. Training and equipment was provided to more than 30 community and voluntary groups in Mayo under the Benefit grant scheme from the Department of Communications and Natural Resources. This enable groups to provide ICT training to people in their communities and has already resulted in more than 500 people in Mayo receiving training thanks to the work of participating groups.



Minister Conor Lenihan visited Mayo in June to receive direct feedback about our programme and we were highly commended for our work under the programme.

ISO 27001:

The IT Section managed to retain ISO27001 certification in 2009 making us the only Local Authority in Ireland to hold such a distinction. The objective of the standard itself is to "provide a model for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, maintaining, and improving an Information Security Management System". We first achieved this standard in 2007.

Network:

On the direction of CMOD the sectoral agreement for the purchase of all Microsoft products and licences is to be discontinued on the expiry date of the 23rd October 2009. It has been agreed by the LGMSB and the LGCSB that each LA would buy out at an agreed rate whatever Microsoft software licences were installed at that time. To support this process we had to embark on a server consolidation program. This involved virtualising our physical server environment using VMware technology. This will result in lower costs for licensing, power and hardware as well as achieving high availability on critical servers.

A disaster recovery site has been established and tested in the backup server room in the annex to the main building. This will guarantee ICT business continuity for the organization in the event of a major disaster in the main building.

Broadband:

The Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN's) for the towns of Claremorris, Ballinrobe and Knock Airport are to have a two year warranty inspection by Magnum Opus Limited. The Kiltimagh MAN's was recently lit by a 150Mb wireless connection by Westnet. We assist and advice Hutchison 3G Ireland Ltd's (H3G) who are involved in the rollout of the National Broadband Scheme.

Human Resources

Retirements from Mayo County Council in 2009

Gerry Costello	Staff Officer
Patrick Commons	Senior Executive Officer
Francis Forde	Assistant Staff Officer
Padraic Lyons	Assistant Staff Officer
Sean Walsh	Technician Grade 11
Charles F Walsh	Senior Executive Engineer
Patrick Conneely	Staff Officer
Desmond P Mahon	County Manager
Anthony Reidy	Senior Executive Engineer

John Fleming	Dog Warden
James G Freyne	Driver
Michael Duffy	Ganger
Patrick Ronayne	Waterworks Caretaker
Patrick F Devane	General Operative
James Breslin	Ganger
Michael Gillespie	Plant Operator
Patrick Melody	Ganger
Thomas Noel Mannion	Assistant Foreman
John Geraghty	Ganger
Harry Loftus	Craftworker Foreman
Michael Keane	General Operative
Michael Mc Hale	General operative
Thomas Mc Gowan	Labourer
Martin Burke	Ganger
Michael Lavin	Ganger
John Duggan	Ganger
John Lavin	Foreman
John Joe Dunleavy	Ganger
John Nestor	Plant Operator
Michael Cronnolly	Foreman
Thomas Grealis	Ganger
Patrick Stephen Cawley	General Services Supervisor

Fire Service

Michael O'Brien	Station Officer
John Philbin	Squad Leader
Frank Chambers	Ass Squad Leader

Frank Devaney
Michael Comer
Michael Kelly
Brian Egan
Chris Mannion
Michael J Lyons
Mike Griffin

Squad Leader
Station Officer
Squad Member
Squad Leader
Squad Member
Driver Mechanic
Firefighter



Function and Presentation to Jim Breslin, Ganger, Ballina Area, in the Ramada Hotel, Ballina, on Friday, 28th March 2009

Picture includes: At the back - Mrs. Theresa Durkin, District Executive Engineer, who made the Presentation, Mr. Eddie Dwyer, G.S.S., Teresa and Jim Breslin.

Jim Breslin & Theresa Durkin.



A function was held in Hiney's Upper Deck on Friday, 4th December 2009 and presentations were made to mark the retirements of three Gangers from the Ballina Area – Paddy Melody, John Duggan and John J. Dunleavy. A presentation was also made to Pat Kinhart, in memory of his brother, John Kinhart, Foreman, who died suddenly earlier in the year.



*Front, from left: Paddy Melody, John J. Dunleavy & Pat Kinhart
Back: Noel Burke, Senior Engineer and John Duggan*



*Front, from left: John Duggan, Paddy Melody, John J. Dunleavy, Pat Kinhart and Bernadette Coleman
Back, from left: Sean McGowan, G.S.S., Noel Burke, Senior Engineer, Eddie Dwyer, G.S.S., Michael Timlin, G.S.S., Cllr. Eddie Staunton & Cllr. Gerry Ginty*



Michael Cronnolly (outdoor staff), who retired from Swinford Area in 2009. He is pictured with Luke O'Malley, Noel Burke and his wife, Evelyn.

Recruitment 2009

In 2009, two competitions held. There were two interview boards made up of five males and 1 female. Promotions/Appointments arising from above interviews-

John Kennedy	Station Officer (Swinford)
Michael Brennan	Sub-Station Officer (Swinford)

Neasa Gannon	Assistant Fire Officer
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Promotions/Appointments 2009, resulting from interviews held in 2008

Rose Doherty	Civil Defence Officer
John Walsh	Civil Technician (grade 1)
Fiona Murphy	Dog Warden
Michael Dalton	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Patrick Sweeney	Assistant Chief Fire officer
Owen Fitzpatrick	Emergency Control 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:	667
Renewals:	946
Total benefiting:	1,284

Freedom of Information

The total number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act for 2009 was 97.

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 2009 exceeded €2.9m, which represents 4.75% of the payroll costs.

Third Level Courses Completed by Staff Members in 2009

Certificate in Local Government Studies

Aga Callaghan / Damien Glackin / Catherine Maughan / Patrick Morrison /
Alan King / Valentina Molloy / Colette Gaffney / Robert Coyne /
Mark McDonnell / Darren Forde / Barry Ryan / Enda Casey / Muredach Tuffy /
Darragh McHugh / Tim Ganley / Helen Neary / Jacqueline O'Hara / Ann Ronayne / Anne
Byrne

Certificate in Counselling Skills

Mary B Conway

Certificate in Management Development

Kevin Cooke / Anna Connor

Diploma in Local Government Studies

Cathy Jennings / Julia Graham / Fiona Campbell / Grainne de Paor

Diploma in Computer Studies

Liz Morrissey

BA in Human Resource Management

Cora Kilcoyne

BA in IT Management – Bridging Course

Stephen Carolan

Bachelor of Business Studies (IT Stream)

Neal Higgins

Bachelor of Social Studies in Housing & Community Studies

Rosemary Doyle

Rosemary Doyle who was conferred with a Bachelor of Social Studies (Hons) in Housing and Community Studies by UCD in June 2009.

MA in Archaeology & Ancient History

David Loftus

MA in Environmental Science

Marie Langan

MEngSc in Sustainable Energy

Iarla Moran

MSc in Emergency Management

Tony Shevlin

PgDip MSc in Environmental Toxicology & Pollution Monitoring

Maria O'Connell



Register of Electors/Edited Register 2009/2010

The following are the statistics for the 2009/2010 Register and Edited Register of Electors, 2009/2010 as at 1st February, 2009:-

Part I

1.	Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
	Mayo	95,466	97,991
	TOTAL	95,466	97,991

2.	European Parliament Constituency	European Electors	Potential European Electors
	North-West	98,297	853
	Total	98,297	853

3.	Local Electoral Areas	Local Government Electors
	Ballina	18,476
	Béal an Mhuirthead	13,330
	Castlebar	22,498
	Claremorris	20,500
	Swinford	13,292
	Westport	11,943
	Total	100,039

4.	Borough or Town Council	Local Government Electors
	Ballina Town Council	7,503
	Castlebar Town Council	7,630
	Westport Town Council	3,475
	Total	18,608

Part II – Postal Voters							Part III – Special Voters
Dáil Constituency	Gardaí	Defence Forces	Diplomats	Physically Disabled	Occupation etc.	Prisoners	Special Voters
Mayo	11	95	2	122	12	2	267
Total	11	95	2	122	12	2	267

Part IV – Edited Register

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors	European Electors	Local Electors
Mayo	8,772	9,416	9,503	10,083
Total	8,772	9,416	9,503	10,083

Part V - Postal Voters on Edited Register							Part VI – Special Voters on Edited Register
Dáil Constituency	Gardaí	Defence Forces	Diplomats	Physically Disabled	Occupation etc.	Prisoners	Special Voters
Mayo	2	17	0	8	1	0	12
TOTAL	2	17	0	8	1	0	12

Part I - Supplement to Register of Electors, 2009/2010

The following are the statistics in relation to the Supplement to the Register of Electors, 2009/2010:-

Local Electoral Area	June, 2009	Oct., 2009	Total 2009
BALLINA	590	72	662
CASTLEBAR	781	101	882
CLAREMORRIS	1282	68	1350
BELMULLET	364	53	417
SWINFORD	440	39	479
WESTPORT	477	64	541
TOTAL	3934	397	4331

June, 2009 - Local Elections

Oct., 2009 - Referendum - Nice Treaty II

Part II – Supplementary Postal Voters							Part III – Supple- mentary Special Voters
Month	Gardaí	Defence Forces	Diplomats	Physically Disabled	Occupation etc.	Prisoners	Special Voters
June, 2009	7	9	0	161	127	0	8
Oct., 2009	0	1	0	18	2	0	0
Total	7	10	0	179	129	0	8

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 2009. Over the year training has been provided to Council staff in awareness and provision of services to people with disabilities. Our libraries have purchased Digital Audio Books which are invaluable to people with impaired sight or reading difficulties. A number of Mayo County Council websites have been audited to ensure they meet accessibility criteria.

Our public offices have now been provided with hearing induction loops to assist people with impaired hearing carrying out their business within Council offices with dignity and ease. Where necessary, evacuation chairs have been provided to enable wheelchair users be evacuated from the upper storey's of our public offices in the event of an emergency.

A public awareness programme was launched under the title "Park Smart Mayo". This is a public awareness initiative promoting the proper use of pedestrian footpaths and disabled parking spaces and highlighting the implications of obstructing these spaces. It was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Councillor John Cribbin, on 22nd September 2009.

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.

Over the year Ballina Swimming pool was upgraded. A new accessible front porch with associated ramping, sliding outer doors and automatic interior doors has been provided. The facility has also been provided with a new separate unisex changing room with fold down bed for people with severe disabilities, shower facilities, and accessible gate from the spectator's gallery. The works on the swimming pool have resulted in the creation of a pool facility that is now accessible to people with disabilities.

In Kilkelly a link from new town car park to Main Street has been provided. This involved the construction of a complex ramp system. New accessible spaces within the car park were provided.

In Belmullet a new footpath complete with accessible ramp was constructed along the canal linking the docks and Davis Street. Road crossings have been provided at the bridge and school.

In Ballyhaunis road crossings and accessible parking spaces complete with dropped kerbs were provided throughout the town.

A raised controlled crossing point was constructed at Newtown in Castlebar to provide the pedestrian with a safe accessible means of crossing a very busy junction.

Oifig na Gaeilge

The Irish Language Office fosters and promotes the use of Irish in County Mayo and assists in the development and implementation of Mayo Local Authorities' bilingual policy.

Mayo is a Gaeltacht County with a vibrant Irish speaking community. The Gaeltacht areas of Iorras, Acaill and Tuar Mhic Éadaigh are rich in folklore, writing, music, historical and archaeological sites and most importantly, are areas of the spoken Irish language. The Council is committed to the protection of the County's unique and linguistic heritage, and to the promotion of Irish as the community language in its Gaeltacht areas.

There is also, a significant Irish speaking community outside of the Gaeltacht areas, with over 44% of the County's population describing themselves as Irish speakers in the most recent census.

Official Languages Act, 2003

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, and providing Irish Language Training to staff. 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. The Official Languages Act impacts every section of the County and Town Councils.

Mayo Local Authorities Language Scheme 2006-2009

Progress has continued during 2009 on the implementation of the Council's language Scheme which was agreed with the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and came into effect on the 22 December 2006. 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 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. The scheme is in the process of being reviewed and it is expected that a new 3 year scheme will come into effect in 2010.

A survey of individuals and organisations who have regular dealings with Mayo County Council, which was conducted as part of the consultation process prior to the drafting of

the new scheme, showed that while the demand for services through Irish has been relatively low, 66% said they would request a service in Irish if they knew it was available, and 89% said they would like to use their Irish more often. Both this survey and the staff survey, where 67% said they would like to have the opportunity to provide services through Irish, demonstrate a high level of goodwill towards the language.

Cultural & Language Events

Oifig an Gaeilge has continued to provide and promote opportunities for people to meet and speak Irish, with the aim of forming a network of Irish speakers across the County. A series of monthly ‘Lón Gaeilge’ or Irish Lunches was held in Castlebar and Ballina, these lunches have proven very successful, offering Irish speakers, Irish learners and those who rarely use the Irish they have a chance to use their ‘cúpla focal’ in a relaxed, informal setting.

Oifig na Gaeilge supports the County-wide network of ‘Ciorcal Comhrá’ or Conversation Groups who meet on a weekly or monthly basis, and has organised events for all the different Irish groups and learners to come together, such as a walking trip in Tuar Mhic Éadaigh and a Christmas Party.

In March ’09, Oifig na Gaeilge began compiling and distributing a monthly e-newsletter, informing people of Irish language and cultural events throughout the county from conversation groups to music sessions to guided walks to film screenings, summer camps for children, Gaeltacht courses for adults, along with other stories of interest, employment and funding opportunities. With over 600 subscribers to the newsletter service, it has helped in the development of a countywide network of Irish speakers. The newsletter service is also a useful resource for Gaeltacht and Irish Language Organisations and Community Groups who wish to publicise their events and programmes.

Oifig na Gaeilge assisted the Arts Office and Library Service in organising a number of bilingual events:

- Readings with local children’s writers Colmán Ó Raghallaigh & Art Ó Súilleabháin in Castlebar & Claremorris Libraries during Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Physical Drama Workshop in Leabharlann Acla & Bhéal an Mhuirthead to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Reading with Éilis Ní Dhuibhne, Force 12 writer in residence in Castlebar Library
- Workshop with the Children’s writer and illustrator, Gwyneth Wynn in Leabharlann Acla & Bhéal an Mhuirthead to celebrate the Children’s Book Festival
- Poetry reading with Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill on National Poetry Day in Castlebar Library

Gaeltacht & Irish Language Organisations

The Council has continued to work in partnership with Údarás naGaeltachta, on the “ScéimÉadán Siopaí” scheme i nGaeltacht 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; in May of this year 3 Mayo based community groups scooped the top awards:

- Comharchumann Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile Eachléim won the title of Best Community Organisation
- Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla came third in the Best Community Organisation category
- Coiste Pobail Thuar Mhic Éadaigh won the award for Best Voluntary Committee

Oifig na Gaeilge worked closely with Togra Mhaigh Eo de Chonradh na Gaeilge in 2009 organising a Book Club in April, monthly meetings were held in Castlebar and Westport.

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.

Other areas addressed by the Irish Language Officer include:

- Provide information to the public in relation to Irish language events, classes etc.
- Provide support to Irish Language, Gaeltacht and Community Groups as required
- Input into Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects
- Provide support and advice regarding translation service providers
- Liaise with translation service providers
- Liaise with Mayo Regional Training Centre re. Irish Language Training
- Promote Foras na Gaeilge’s Grant Schemes, meet and advise community groups on applications as required

Contact Details

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Castlebar.**

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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
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
Rathroen	(096) 24055/(096) 75959

Details of Photographs on Cover

1. Ballina Pedestrian Bridge 2009
2. Shraheen National School in *Snow* (courtesy of Bernie Coleman, Ballina Area Office)
3. River Moy & St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina (courtesy of Bernie Coleman, Ballina Area Office)
4. Charlestown Playground which was constructed which was constructed during 2009 under the Council's Social and Economic Fund and made available to the public in December 2009.
5. Roundfort Wastewater Treatment Plant.