



JUNE, 2023

Highlights

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Executive Report

KEVIN KELLY



Update on commencement of the Enhanced Grant Scheme on Defective Concrete Blocks

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the commencement of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme on the 3rd July 2023.

The Council’s role is changed significantly and will involve the validation of applications, administration of the scheme and the issuing of payments. The role of Engineering, Technical assessment and Compliance is now the remit of the Housing Agency and/or the homeowners Competent Building Professional.

It is intended that the Council will rely on the professional certifications provided by the HA and the homeowners Competent Building Professional when carrying out its functions.

Under the new Enhanced Scheme, the homeowner engages a competent Building Professional to complete a Building Condition Assessment (BCA) on the dwelling, incorporating a non-invasive visual survey to determine if the damage is consistent with the use of defective concrete blocks and meets the damage threshold as set out in the regulations. There is no requirement in the Enhanced Scheme for the homeowner to do sampling, testing, laboratory report and chartered engineers report.

On completion of the survey, the Competent Building Professional will determine if the dwelling has met the damage threshold. The next step is the completion of an application form, accompanied by associated proofs and submission to the Local Authority.

Once a new application is submitted and the Council is satisfied that it meets the validation requirements of the Enhanced Grant Scheme, it will be referred to the Housing Agency for engineering/technical assessment and recommendation on eligibility, the approved remediation measures and amount of grant payable.

Applications which have been not received Confirmation of Eligibility (Stage 1 Approval) under the previous 90/10 scheme now fall within the remit of the Housing Agency for Engineering/Technical Assessment under the terms of the Enhanced Scheme.

In parallel with the Transitional Arrangements the Council will also be accepting new applications under the Enhanced Scheme with validation ongoing in advance of referral to Housing Agency for Engineering and Technical Assessment.

The Council appreciates that this is difficult for all applicants and their families and thank them for their continued patience and co-operation at this time.





Directorate Highlights

Roads

N5 Westport – Turlough scheme officially opened by An Taoiseach on 15th June. Contractor will continue to complete outstanding works on side works / accommodation works, verge trimming etc.

Additional Restoration Improvement funding of €1,474,921 provided by Dept. of Transport.

Architects

Currently have 153 social housing units at various stages of construction throughout the County.

Architects Dept received a special commendation for their social housing scheme in Hollymount as part of the RIAI Awards.

Heritage:- Public consultation commences on Draft Castlebar Biodiversity Plan.

Housing: - Housing acquisitions Expressions of Interest. – 126 submissions received.

Dates to Note

Official Opening of the N17/R320 Lisduff Junction – to be held on 28th July 2023.

Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Scheme announced 3rd July 2023.

Westport a designated Rent Pressure Zone from 28th June 2023

Roads & Housing SPC – Sept (TBC)

Housing, Roads, Architectural Services and Service Development

TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- Construction works on going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in August 2024
- N26 / N59 Ballina By-Pass is at Phase 2 route option stage. Options selection report is being compiled. Scheme to proceed to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation in Q3 2023.
- N59 Newport – Derrada scheme to proceed to tender in Q2 2023.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford scheme to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection in Q3 2023.
- N58 Foxford By-Pass Strategic Assessment Report being re drafted and will be submitted to TII.
- N60 Manulla scheme to proceed to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation in Q3 2023
- Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and will be finalised by Q3.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.
- Consultant working on Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Approval to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection requested from DoT.
- Design report submitted to TII for N60 Brickens re alignment at railway overbridge. Awaiting approval from TII.

Housing

The 2023 target is 151 units and projects are currently underway to meet this target.

HAP & RAS (June 2023)

- 10 No. delivered under HAP
- 9 No. delivered under RAS

Total of 1953 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of June.

Leasing (June 2023)

- 6 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Total: No. 371 households currently supported under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness – 31 No. homeless presentations (June 2023.)

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

To date: -

346 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

332 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility have been issued

97 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and 96 approved to date

95 Stage 3 Grant stage payments have been made.

Croi Conaithe - 188 applications received

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 20 active applications

Buy& Renew - active 56 applications



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

Local Authority Climate Action Plan Workshop held for the Members 29th June 2023.

Laura Dixon, Climate Action Co-Ordinator spoke on Mid-West Radio at the launch of the 'Ours to Protect' initiative.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:

Water & Air team:

15 complaints received (May)

14 Inspections carried out with 9 Enforcement actions taken (May)

1 Discharge Licence application being processed.

11 Planning files referred (May)

The 2023 Bathing Water Season commenced on 1st June with pre-season monitoring completed in May. Efforts focused on maintaining existing 12 Blue Flags and 6 Green Coast awards for the period and investigating potential pollution sources at other beach locations.

Environmental Awareness:

National Food Waste Recycling Week 5th – 11th June. Public awareness events were held in Baxter Healthcare Castlebar, Swinford and the Silverbridge Shopping Centre, Claremorris (Tesco).

Four x GAA Green Clubs Information Events were held in Castlebar, Kilmaine, Crossmolina & Charlestown in partnership with Mayo GAA. Subsequent follow-up talks have taken place with individual GAA Clubs throughout the County also.

14 x WEEE (waste electrical & electronic equipment) collections were held throughout the County in June, including Clare Island.

Green Flag Raising Event in Dooagh NS on 19th June (achievement of 7th Green Flag).

Bonfire Night 23rd June - Bonfire Awareness carried out on social media platforms and advertising through local newspapers.

Waste Management Training with staff of the Castlebar Leisure Centre.

Paint Reuse Training to be carried out by the Rediscovery Centre with Civic Amenity staff on the 30th June.

Waste Permitting and Enforcement Update:

The enforcement team attended a course on the implementation of the Solid Fuel Regulations Anti-Dumping Initiative Projects are getting under way;

1. The Bonfire Night/Bulky Waste Project saw bulky waste collections in remote areas of the county. The waste team were out monitoring bonfire sites across the county, arranging removal of 'waste' bonfires.

2. A rope access team have been engaged to undertake a clean-up of a cliff face in Achill this month.

A member of the team attended national working group meetings on furthering the 'Codes of Practice' for the use of Mobile Recording Devices and CCTV for waste enforcement.

WATER CONSERVATION:

Public Mains Rehabilitation Projects:

- Works continue on the replacement of approx. 1200m of problematic pipeline at Eden, Knock.

Public Find and Fix Project Work Areas:

- We are also "Finding and Fixing" leaks on the public water mains in the Ballinrobe/Ballyhaunis areas and in the Knockmore, Ballina area.

RURAL WATER:

Schemes at Design & Tender:

- Tenders currently being assessed Derryvohey/PBKS and Dooyork Group Schemes
- Murrisk CWC - Additional funding being sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and Uisce Eireann to commence the Construction.

Schemes at Construction:

- Extension of Johnstown / Lavellyroe GWS and network upgrade to connect to the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme.
- Extension of Killgalligan GWS to connect to the Erris Regional Water Supply Scheme
- Network upgrades to Derry GWG nearing completion.

Dates to Note

- Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign in Mayo cinemas.
- Leave No Trace/Love This Place social media campaign.
- SPC Meeting date to be confirmed in July.
- The Mary Robinson Conference takes place from 5th – 7th of July, which Mayo County Council is a partner in.



Directorate Highlights

- FOI Requests: 10
- Insurance PL Claims: 9
- Ombudsman Cases:
 - 1 new Case
 - 1 closed Case
- Total Calls Answered: 4241

Road Safety

- Interim Road Safety Officer Appointed
- Road Safety Radio/Social-Media campaign ahead of the Mayo/Dublin Game

Dates to Note

Planning, Human Resources, Communications & Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



Human Resources

New Appointments in June 2023

- 1 Physical Activity for Health Officer, 1 Work-placement, 1 Branch Librarian, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Driver/Plant Operator, 1 Electrician, 1 Executive Architect, 1 Architect Technician, 1 Beach Lifeguard

Promotions

- 2 Assistant Staff Officers, 1 Executive Architect Technician

Competitions Advertised in June 2023

- Childcare Co-ordinator, Creative Communities Engagement Officer, Retained Firefighters-Belmullet, Retained Firefighters-Ballinrobe, Retained Firefighters-Charlestown

Screened/Shortlisted

- Senior Executive Technician, Assistant Architect, Childcare Co-ordinator

Interviews held

- Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Co-ordinator, Assistant Planner, Executive Planner

Retirements in June 2023

- 3 General Operatives, 1 Clerical Officer

Planning Data for June 2023

- E Planning Applications: 56
- Hardcopy Applications: 65
- Total Planning Applications: 121
- Decisions to Grant: 86
- Decisions to Refuse: 3
- Forthcoming Decisions: 144
- Formal Preplanning Applications: 11
- Appointments at Planning Clinics (14/06/2023 & 28/06/2023): 53

Corporate Communications/Dispora/Oifig na Gaeilge/Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruptions, water repairs, recruitment.
- Media Responses to local and national Media Queries. Co-ordination of corporate Advertising.
- Draft Annual Report 2022 process completed.
- 45 Staff ID Cards printed for distribution.

Press/Social-Media/Publicity Campaigns

Your Council Day June 2023 – N5 Opening – Bathing Water Identification Call Out- Funding ORIS – Minister Naughton launches Fit Sticks trails – Older People’s Council Information Day – Kiltimagh Velo Rail Project opened – Energy Efficiency Grants for Business – Mayo take top prize at National Enterprise Award – Professor Tomás Ó Maille legacy recalled.

Oifig na Gaeilge

- Bilingual exhibition on folklorist Professor Tomás Ó Maille brought to Mayo in coordination with the University of Galway, with public lectures held in Westport Library and Ceathrú Thaidgh in the Erris Gaeltacht.
- Compliance, translation and event support provided to National Roads Office, Sláinteare Health Communities, Environment, Architects, Westport-Belmullet MD and Tourism, Recreation and Amenity.

Official Events Co-ordinated/supported by Communications

N5 Official Opening – Fit Sticks Trail Launch – Visit of HE Argentine Ambassador Ana Laura to Foxford to celebrate the 246th Anniversary of Admiral Browns birthday – Kiltimagh Velo Rail opening – Council meeting in Knockmore

Development Contributions Scheme adopted and effective from 30th June 2023.



Directorate Highlights

- Minister Hildegard Naughton officially launched the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Fitsticks Trails in Achill on 22 June.
- The Kiltimagh Velo Rail featured in the Irish Independent on 24 June and on the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk on 26 June.
- Barra Best, BBC Travel Journalist, participated in a media fam trip of Clew Bay, Inishturk, Clare Island & Achill Island on 9-11 June.
- Funded by the Disability, Participation and Awareness Fund, Dormant Accounts and MCC, the Sensory Cubbie located in the Belmullet Library was launched 22 June.
- Poet & Swinford native Martin Dyer named Mayo Decade of Centenaries Writer in Residence for 2023.
- Eamonn Ceannt's Uilleann Pipes were on loan to the Jackie Clarke Collection from the Curragh Military Museum in association with the Connacht Fleadh 2023. A lecture on the life of Ceannt was delivered by his grand niece Mary Gallagher on June 27

Dates to Note

- The compilation of the LCDC, Local Development Plan 2023-2027 for County Mayo is at an advanced stage and is due to be submitted to the Department by 14 July for evaluation.
- Pride of Place judging has been confirmed for the 29-30 August. The 3 groups in Mayo are: Aghamore Integrated Community Campus, The Butterfly Garden, Swinford and Community Café in Ballyhaunis.
- EOI closing date for 2023 ORIS Measure 1,2 and 3 is 28 July 2023.

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place 21 June - 3 projects supported.
- The Network Ireland Mayo Businesswomen of the Year awards, supported by LEO, took place 9 June. Winners will represent Mayo at the national finals in Sept.
- Businesses from Mayo, Roscommon & Galway participated on trade development visits to Liverpool & Brussels in June with excellent feedback.

Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- National Play Day event funded by DCEDIY held 8 July, Ballina.
- Sports Ability Week took place 19-25 June, 28 events, over 400 participants.
- €79,600 allocated to 101 clubs / community organisations in Mayo through the Partnerships 2023 **Re-turn to Sport** small grant scheme.
- 47 Mayo groups were allocated €17,120 in total funding for initiatives including walking, keep fit classes, swimming, cycling and equipment for bowling / boccia.
- Hearth Project, Art for Older people at home supported by Creative Ireland in association with Mayo Arts Service commenced in the first week in July.
- Delivered Collaborative action with ATU for Mayo Baby Week including support in organising and promotion of Summer Picnic for Early Years Educators.
- Organisation and delivery of Always Children First Child Safeguarding training to 10 Early Years services, 10 June 2023.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Phase 1 - Asset Renewal Works completed on the Great Western G/way, involving: path reinstatement, drainage & fencing improvements over a 4.2km section of G/way between Westport & Newport & at a section between Newport & Mulranny.
- Closing date for Submissions to An Bord Pleanála re proposed Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities at Keel was 7 July.
- Stakeholder engagement & site monitoring is ongoing for the development of a Visitor Management & Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Keem Bay.
- The DRCD announced details of the 2023 ORIS scheme on 1 June, [Click Here For Further Info](#)

Library Services

- From 8 June, children starting school in Sept 2023, can collect a free bag of books from their local library. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the DRCD, & the DCEDIY as part of the First 5 Strategy.
- The Marie Keating Health Unit held a cancer information day at Castlebar Library on 8 June. A specialist nurse answered any queries the public had.
- Mayo Baby Week took place 12-15 June - events in Castlebar & Ballina Libraries.
- Ballina Library hosted a number of events including: family friendly LGBTQIA+ story time for children as part of Pride celebrations on June 17 and 2 children's events on June 28 as part of Connacht Fleadh 2023.
- Coffee morning in Castlebar & Ballina libraries 14 June for Men's Health week. Irish Cancer Society, Mayo Recovery College and Mayo Mental Health in attendance.
- Psychotherapist Michael Ryan gave a talk to parents and care givers on 15 June on 'anxiety-based school avoidance'. 49 attended the talk which was in conjunction with Mayo Autism Camp and funded by Healthy Ireland at your library. A bilingual exhibition and talk celebrating the life of folklore collector Tomás Ó Maille opened in Westport library on June 21.
- Summer Stars Reading Challenge was launched at Castlebar Library on 17 June. 603 people visited the library in Castlebar on that day alone.



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

Directorate Highlights

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Dates to Note

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Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2023 Adopted Budget
 Five months ended 31st May 2023

APPENDIX A
 FINANCIAL REVIEW JULY 2023

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp. To Date May-23	Budget 2023	Remaining 2023	% Spent 2023	Inc. To Date May-23	Budget 2023	Not Rec'd 2023	% Rec'd 2023
A	Housing and Building	9,827,593	24,035,722	14,208,129	41%	9,836,877	23,804,700	13,967,823	41%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	12,718,794	49,856,825	37,138,031	29%	9,157,977	41,526,728	32,368,791	22%
C	Water Services	6,319,251	17,713,680	11,394,429	39%	7,846,798	21,369,276	13,522,478	37%
D	Developmental Management	6,487,449	14,174,044	7,686,595	49%	2,503,545	4,616,955	2,113,410	54%
E	Environmental Services	7,410,508	17,859,861	10,479,353	41%	2,426,185	6,132,349	3,706,164	40%
F	Recreation and Amenity	5,859,533	13,117,245	7,257,712	45%	2,166,095	4,230,700	2,062,605	51%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	823,888	1,980,731	1,156,843	42%	296,089	693,533	385,464	44%
H	Miscellaneous Services	5,342,163	12,510,708	7,168,544	42%	534,061	1,170,424	8,256,363	43%
J	Central Management Charges	10,376,592	24,972,897	14,596,275	42%	591,335	1,000,000	908,665	43%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	15,991,378	37,741,570	23,034,680	45%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	6,814,728	20,975,346	12,080,619	42%
	GRAND TOTAL	66,165,750	176,551,693	111,385,932	37%	65,184,678	176,551,681	111,367,003	37%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection May-23	Collected May-23	Arrears May-23	Collected %
Rents	4,588,535	3,442,477	1,146,058	75%
Rates	40,837,466	14,157,091	26,680,375	35%
Housing Loans	1,963,351	1,335,955	627,396	68%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
	25	8,326