



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



JULY 2024 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Roads

Funding of €145,000 received from TII for upgrading traffic lights on the N59 / N26 in Ballina

Funding allocation of €63,560 confirmed from TII for upgrading of pedestrian crossing on the N26 in Foxford subject to design report approval.

Housing

Vacant Homes Office and Castlebar MD facilitated a well-attended Public Information Meeting in May 2024 targeting property owners of vacant/derelict properties and property owners who were interested in improving the energy performance of a building.

Affordable Housing

Expressions of Interest in the towns of Castlebar and Westport for Building Contractors and Housing Developers have been advertised. Closing date 20th September 2024.

First Home Scheme: The ceiling for Mayo has been increased to €350,000.

Architects

Achill Sound – 20 housing units
Contractor on site

Heritage

Mayo Wetland Field Survey Ph 3
Westport/Belmullet MD commenced.
Audit of Oral Heritage Collections for Mayo commenced.

Dates to Note

CPO published for N60 Breaffy
Active Travel and Safety Scheme:

Ballina – Castlebar – Westport
Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility with an online public consultation event undertaken.

Housing - Official opening of housing development at Lios na Circe, Castlebar by Alan Dillon, Minister of State, at the Department of Housing, Local Gov & Heritage on 5th July 2024.

5th July – Housing Meeting with DHLGH & Mayo Co. Co Officials

Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- Local Transport Plan for Castlebar has been finalised with plans for Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q3 2024. Active Travel schemes in Ballinrobe and Killala progressing.
- Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Approval received from DoT to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection
- N59 Newport – Derrada: Scheme has proceeded to the tender phase. Tender assessment to be undertaken during Q3 2024.
- TII approval of the Strategic Assessment Report for N58 Foxford Transport Project has now been received.
- Belclare to Murrisk Greenway Scheme at Emerging Preferred Route Option stage and work continues on refining the preferred route.
- Options Selection report being compiled for Great Western Greenway – Newport Town scheme.
- Design works on – going for National Road safety projects.
- Works substantially complete on pavement schemes on N5 Ballyvarry to Bohola and N59 Ballina.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.
- R313 Glencastle scheme currently at land acquisition stage with construction due to commence in Q3/ Q4 2024.
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Q3 2024.
- Works substantially complete on the installation of traffic lights on N84 in Ballinrobe.

Housing

HAP & RAS (June 2024)

9 no. properties delivered under HAP in June 2024.

4 No. property delivered under RAS in June 2024

Total of 1,873 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end June 2024.

3 no. properties delivered under the Short-Term Leasing Programme in June 2024.

Homelessness

10 homeless presentations in June 2024.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme at end of June 2024

383 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received.

341 Stage 1 Approved

191 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received.

185 Stage 2 Approved

23 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes

Croi Conaithe Grant – 344 approved (30 grants issued); 138 in progress.

Repair and Leasing – 27 active leases, 24 applications for 75 units;

Buy & Renew – 88 active applications;

URDF – 58 properties in the approved programme.



Directorate Highlights

Mayo County Council selected as SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Champion 2024-2025

Launch of Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan May 13th

Mayo awarded 12 Blue Flags and 8 Green Coast Flags for 2024



Dates to Note

Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Environmental Awareness:

- National Food Waste Recycling Week took place the first week of June.
- Working with the businesses in Achill Island on a project to encourage reusable cups.

Climate Action:

- A Climate Action Plan implementation workshop was held in May with the Mayo County Council leadership team. Work is currently progressing on 60% of actions.
- The Pathfinder project for energy reduction on 4 MCC buildings has gone to tender.
- The evaluation process for the Community Climate Action fund has been completed by Mayo County Council and is now with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for approval.
- ISO 50001 Energy Management training and corresponding actions are progressing with mock evaluation to be held in October.
- All Mayo County Council Energy Use data has been submitted to SEAI ahead of the July Monitoring and Reporting deadline.

Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- The Enforcement team continue to participate in the Multi-Agency Checkpoints with additional joint inspections taking place at mutual premises of interest.
- 11 project applications were submitted under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, with 9 approved for funding (€104,859).
- Enforcement officers carried out surveillance and inspection across problematic areas in the lead up to Bonfire night.
- 2 new Certificate of Registration applications, 3 new Waste Facility Permit applications and 1 review Waste Facility Permit application has been received.
- Members of the team will take part in a site visit with other Local Authorities to see the new National End-of-Waste Criteria for Recycled Aggregates in action.

SDG Update:

Mayo County Councils work plays an important role in delivering on all 17 SDGs. In our year as SDG Champion, we aim to raise awareness of the goals, provide training and clearly identify and promote how our work aligns to the SDGs. See www.gov.ie for info.

Veterinary:

- Dog Wardens commenced door to door checks for licences and microchipping on 1st July Achill, Knockmore, Attymass and Louisburgh scheduled for July.

Derelict Sites

- 11 Compulsory Purchase Orders and Vesting Orders completed for Derelict Sites in 2024.

Community Fire Safety:

Our Community Fire Safety team continued their proactive engagement with local communities in joining forces with Castlebar Rotary Club and EI Electronics to promote the importance of smoke alarms in the community. This joint venture, held in Tesco/Dunnes car park Castlebar, was held to raise awareness about fire safety and encourage the use of smoke alarms in every home.

Civil Defence:

Training-

- Missing Person Search Responder
- Boat Sonar Operator in conjunction with Roscommon Civil Defence
- Major Emergency Management West Region - Primary and Voluntary Response Agencies Seminar, Galway

Operations-

- Our Community Support Unit continues to attend and support community and sports events across the county throughout the summer months.
- Our Search and Rescue/Emergency Response Unit has responded to a number of requests for support from An Garda Síochána at missing person searches both locally and on a regional basis.

Register of Electors

Total Electorate for Local Elections was 113,428.

The total included 5,273 Balancing List Electors (formerly Supplement)

374 Postal Voters and 225 Special Voters.

Water Safety

The Beach Lifeguards commenced duty on 1st June 2024 for weekends only in June (incl. Bank Holiday). They will be working full-time from 1st July to 1st September 2024 inclusive.



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for June 2024

Applications Received:	111
E Planning Applications:	62
Hardcopy Applications:	49
Decisions to Grant:	65
Decisions to Refuse:	7
Forthcoming Decisions:	156
Formal Preplanning App:	9

Appointments at the 5 Planning Clinics on 5th June and 19th June is 52

Governance & Customer Service

FOI Requests:
15 and 1 internal review

Insurance PL Claims:
7

Ombudsman Cases:
1 new case – 1 case closed.

Total Calls Answered:
3881

Dates to Note

Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs



CATHERINE McCONNELL

Human Resources

New Appointments in June 2024 - 4 X Clerical Officers, 1 x Temporary Clerical Officer, 1 x Assistant Arts Officer, 1 x Senior Staff Officer, 1 x Manager of Jackie Clarke Collection, 3 x Part-time Seasonal Lifeguards, 1 x Retained Fire Fighter

Promotions –

1 x Executive Engineer (Acting post to 31/12/2024), 1 x Staff Officer, 1 x Branch Librarian
Competitions Advertised – Assistant Staff Officer

Shortlisted/Screened –

IS Project Leader, IS Technical Support Officer, Dog Warden, Website Media Digital Officer, Graduate Planner

Interviews held -

Traffic/Litter Warden, Biodiversity Officer, Craftworker Gardener

Retirements –

1 x Ganger, 1 x Executive Architect, 1 x Branch Librarian

Training Data for June 2024

93 Retained Firefighters attended in-person Dignity at Work Training.

44 indoor staff participated in the following training courses:- Grade 6 Building Line Manager Capacity Programme; Excel; Personal Safety at Work & Dealing with Difficult Customers; Benefit in Kind & Expenses Training; Quality Customer Service Training; Fire Warden Training; Courtroom Skills;

29 outdoor staff participated in a number of training courses:

Training Centre Update:

A total of 2,119 attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Centre Courses for the months of January 2024 with 2,868 training days.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge/Road Safety

Public information updates. Media responses to local and national Media queries. Production and circulation of publication depicting 5-year delivery of Mayo County Council 2019-2024

Oifig na Gaeilge

Successful delivery of Lá Mhaigh Eo event celebrating heritage, dance and sean-nós singing in the Iorras Gaeltacht as part of Mayo Day, Translation, event and compliance support provided for Arts, Tourism, Library Service, Planning, Corporate, Architects, Environment and MDS

Road Safety

The Mayo Road Safety Office in conjunction with the Castlebar Community Gardai held an informative Road Safety Talk with the Ukrainian residents in Ballinafad House on Friday 31st May 2024. Bike Week took place from the 11th to 19th May 2024. Cycling events were organised by local community groups and clubs, Mayo Sports Partnership and the Bike Week Steering Committee. Also, Mayo County Council Road Safety, Smarter Travel Offices, An Taisce Green Schools, Gardai, community councils, and cycling groups all over Mayo.

Official Events organised/supported by Communications.

Launch of the Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan, Supported the Housing Department with a Mayo County Council Vacant / Derelict Homes Public Information Meeting, Managed a welcome and presentation for Professor James Walsh.

Supported the Admiral Browne Society Event – Argentina Day

Press Releases/Social Media/Publicity campaigns issued by Communications

Mayo County Council Selected as a SDG Champion for 2024-2025

Mayo County Council are partners to host an All-Island learning workshop focused on exploratory creativity and co-creation of communicate climate risks.

Protect Dunes Campaign, Mayo Company Wins Category at National Enterprise Awards.

Mayo County Council announces 20 beaches awarded flags at An Taisce, Africa Day Mayo 2024.

National Enterprise Awards Final

National Award for Belmullet students at Enterprise Final.

Dog Licence Inspections, Mayo's Wild Atlantic Way, Community Recognition Fund

Anti-Litter Fund. Bonfire Night environment promotional video



Directorate Highlights

- Official Launch of First Ballinrobe Community Futures Plan, 15 June.
- 30 events to take place 24–30 June for MSP **Sports Ability Week** showcasing inclusive activities for people with a disability.
- MSP **Summer Calendar of Events 2024** and **June Newsletter** now available online for viewing.
- Healthy Mayo worked with the HSE to roll out Men's Health Week (10–16 June) with a Health Screening event at Castlebar Library.
- Culture Night Event Fund – open for applications until 27 June.
- **Cruinniú na nÓg** took place on Sat. 15 June with 63 activities taking place across the county.
- **1190 Adults and 280** students from National & Secondary schools visited the Jackie Clarke Collection in June.
- 2 Game-making workshops with Corrib Coding for Kids held on 11 June in Ballina Library.
- Ballina Heartfulness held a morning of Mediation, Yoga & Sound Baths on 22 June in Ballina Library.
- Picture exhibition for the Mary Robinson Climate Change Conference on display in Ballina Library from 4 June to 14 June.
- Azhar Khan Shinwary presented an afternoon of Inspirational talk and poetry about his native Afghanistan in Ballina Library

Dates to Note

- MSP **Childrens Summer Tri Camp** at Bertra Beach Westport from 15 – 17 July now open for bookings
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2024: Cat 1/2/3 Target Area – expected to open July 2024.
- Newly appointed Child Minding Development Officer with Mayo County Childcare to work on the Túsla registration of childminders and rollout of the National Child Minding Action Plan.
- **Little Library Bag** for children starting school with each child starting school in Sept receiving a school/friendship picture book to keep picture book to keep.

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Cytidel, who are supported by LEO Mayo, were winners of the Innovation Award at this year's National Enterprise Awards held at the Mansion House on Thurs 23 May.
- The Network Ireland Mayo Businesswomen of the Year Awards, sponsored by LEO Mayo, took place in Breaffy House on 6 June.
- The LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place on 25 June with almost €140k committed to 5 projects.
- Business Advisory Clinics took place in Ballina, Claremorris, and Westport in early June.

Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Mayo County Childcare rolled out 2 Communities of Practice sessions with 22 participants on 19 June 2024; focus on wellbeing of Educators & best quality practice.
- 25 Childminding Development Grants have been appraised, processed, and approved in June. Payment of the grants will commence shortly.
- Mayo LGBTI+ Network led by Mayo County Council supported Mayo Pride 2024 held in Westport from 31 May to 2 June. A collaboration of partners supported various elements including the Marquee for the weekend.
- Artsquad in Mayo have been approved for new 3-year scheme (annual contract).

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Funding of €895,974 approved by the DRCD under ORIS. Projects incl: **Wild Atlantic Way Ceide Coastal Path:** €200k for the development of a 15km coastal trail to connect Downpatrick Head with the Ceide Fields; **Raheen Wood Biodiversity Trail:** €200k for the development of a biodiversity trail to adjoin the existing woodland trail. Elements will including a raised board walk, paths, a bike parking area, seating, recreation, and education. **Martin Neary Woodland Trails:** €200k to allow for further enhancement of the path and expansion of the trailhead. **Belmullet Tidal Pool:** €295,974 to carry out further works at the tidal pool to include access improvements, provision of shelters and signage.
- **Keem Bay:** A Beach Ranger is now in place for the summer season.
- **Outdoor Recreation Plan:** The DRCD approved funding of €30k to enable the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County.
- **European Tourism Trade Event:** Representative from the Tourism Dept participated at overseas tourism trade events in Cologne & Milan with Ireland West Airport, Tourism Ireland, the 7 LA areas and 21 industry representatives from across the region to promote the twice weekly flights from both Milan (Bergamo) & Cologne to IWA.

Town Regeneration

- Continuing engagement with Killala Town Team to deliver identified priorities.
- Successful Community Information & Update event in Killala. Abridged Killala Town Centre First plan produced.
- Continuing engagement with Ballyhaunis Town Team. Initial scoping, mapping and needs analysis of Ballyhaunis.

Library Services

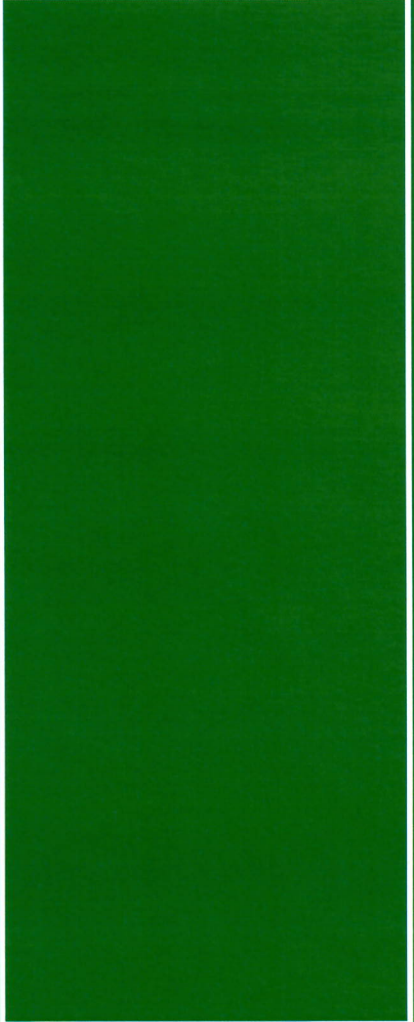
- **Health Fair** took place in Castlebar Library as part of Men's Health Week on Thurs 13 June, with blood pressure checking by Croí, a talk on preventing cancer, a CPR demonstration and health information stands. More than 500 people attended.
- **Summer Stars Reading Challenge** launched at all Mayo branch Libraries which encourages children to read a number of books over the summer months.
- **Infant Mental Health** week took place from 10–16 June with workshops including a multi-sensory arts experience for babies and their parents, a talk on preparing for parenthood by Dr. Teananne Garavan and a baby weaning workshop



Financial Management, Information Systems & Motor Taxation

PETER DUGGAN

Directorate Highlights



Dates to Note



Mayo County Council

APPENDIX A
FINANCIAL REVIEW JULY 2024

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2024 Adopted Budget Five months ended 31st May 2024

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		€'000 To Date	€'000 Budget	€'000 Remaining	% Spent	€'000 To Date	€'000 Budget	€'000 Net Recd	% Recd
A	Housing and Building	13,468,830	28,725,722	15,256,892	29%	12,980,416	27,450,186	14,481,356	47%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	1,420,000	4,420,000	3,000,000	21%	9,130,330	46,028,186	36,487,856	20%
C	Development Management	6,062,981	19,437,281	13,384,290	31%	7,744,510	23,490,255	15,745,746	33%
D	Environmental Services	8,530,865	18,505,758	10,455,598	44%	3,749,383	8,158,620	4,407,237	48%
E	Recreation and Amenity	6,152,375	21,803,717	13,272,851	39%	2,836,715	8,090,650	5,253,935	35%
F	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	834,413	14,675,534	8,523,159	42%	2,336,302	5,501,500	3,165,198	42%
G	Miscellaneous Services	6,532,353	2,083,989	1,229,976	40%	2,75,409	5,541,721	406,312	37%
H	Central Management Charges	16,782,135	16,782,135	9,239,742	41%	5,678,425	13,441,521	8,614,571	41%
J	Rates	10,985,521	20,582,639	15,397,315	42%	18,546,291	44,860,815	28,114,524	41%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	9,282,578	22,230,186	12,987,808	42%
GRAND TOTAL		73,275,489	201,537,376	128,281,907	35%	73,288,878	201,537,376	128,248,497	36%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

Category	Total for May-24 collection	Collected May-24	Average May-24	Collected %
Rents	4,653,138	3,705,032	948,106	80%
Rates	42,832,304	20,816,618	22,015,685	49%
Housing Loans	1,959,728	1,345,882	613,846	69%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Category	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
	2	187

4. Significant Variance against Budget

Category	€'000
Housing Rental Leasing	105
Emergency Accommodation	-100
Leisure Facilities (Lough Linnagh)	110
Payroll	1,433
Grants	222
Other	8