



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



MAY 2024 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Architects:

Tenders received for Achill Sound - 20 units.

Mount Street Claremorris started on site – 6 Units.

Heritage

Medieval Mayo - Churches and Abbeys book launched at Ballintubber on 28th March.

MCC community heritage grants scheme advertised.

Funding secured under community monuments fund for 5 projects.

Conservation

Tender issued for Walsh Street Barracks under the Historic Towns Initiative 2024.
HeritACT Ballina.

Representation and Presentation at 1st General Assembly Workshops at University of Patras, Patras, Greece.

Dates to Note

Vacant/Derelict Homes Public Information Meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th May between 5.30pm and 8.30pm at Castlebar Scout Den & Community Centre, Lannagh Rd., Castlebar, F23PF59. Short Presentations will take place at 5.30pm and again at 7pm

Conservation

Launch of HeritACT Project Stories and Values Survey online & Public Engagement for HeritACT Survey at HeritHUB, Ballina Library.

Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- N59 Newport – Derrada: Scheme has proceeded to the tender phase. Construction expected to commence in Q3 2024
- Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. Public consultation currently taking place.
- 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.
- Preferred Route Public Consultation for N60 Pollavaddy to Balla Active Travel Scheme was held on 23rd April 2024.
- Design works on – going for National Road safety projects. Design report for N5 / R320 junction to be submitted to TII in Q2 2024.
- Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q2 2024. Active Travel schemes in Ballinrobe and Killala progressing.
- 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 2024.
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanála in Q2 2024.

Housing

HAP & RAS (April 2024)

7 no. properties delivered under HAP and 2 no. properties delivered under RAS in April 2024.

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

Homelessness

12 homeless presentations in April 2024.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme (as at 30/04/2024)

373 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received.

341 Stage 1 Approved

181 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received.

179 Stage 2 Approved

17 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes

Croi Conaithe Grant – 490 applications received; 302 approved (26 grants paid); 142 in progress.

Repair and Leasing – 27 active leases, 29 applications for 89 units;

Buy & Renew – 79 active applications;



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

Register of Electors

Nominations for Local Elections 2024 opening from 12 noon the 11th May to 12 noon the 18th May 2024

The Closing date for Postal & Special Voting is 11th May 2024

The Closing date for New Registration and updates to the Register is 20th May 2024

April was National Spring Clean Month – 160 registrations in County Mayo

Dates to Note

Annual Green Schools Awards Ceremony on May 14th in Mc William Park Hotel, Claremorris

Launch of Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan 13th May 2024

Blue Flag and Green Coast announcements 20th May 2024

Environmental Awareness:

- Farming features in local print media.
- Waste Management feature in local print media.
- Environment Message Campaign Midwest Radio
- School visits undertaken – Colaiste Tourmakeady, Roundfort National School, Crossmolina, Mount St. Michaels, Claremorris.
- Composting Workshop at Ballyhaunis Community Garden.
- Composting With Schools Programme – event at St. Anthony’s Special School, Castlebar.
- Food Waste Awareness Event/ Brown Bins in Belmullet with support of local Tidy Towns Committee.
- Claremorris TT – launch of Anti-Litter Project on 30th – ‘Vote with Your Butt’ cigarette litter awareness.

Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

The Enforcement team continue to participate in the Multi-Agency Checkpoints, with checkpoints taking place at two locations in April.

The team are currently working on project applications as part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative. 9-10 project applications will be submitted, and if successful will help to support Local Authority measures in tackling illegal waste activity.

The team continue to monitor the pyrite demolition projects ongoing in the county to ensure proper disposal of affected blocks.

The team have begun the Annual Return validations, across 75 Waste Collection Permit holders, and 64 Waste Facility Permit/Cert of Registration holders.

Veterinary: John Condon, Director of Services and Paul McDermott, Veterinary Inspector attended the initial Dog Control Stakeholder Group meeting held on 27th March 2024.

Climate Action:

- Evaluation process for the Community Climate Action fund has begun.
- Training and implementation of ISO 50001 Energy Management System has begun including signing of Energy Policy.
- Beaches and Dunes for Climate Adaptation stakeholder training held in Keel, Achill on 28th April.
- The final community event was held in Louisburgh as part of EU Shared Green Deal.

Retained Fire Service

Following a successful Recruitment drive, including an open day, the Fire Service successfully recruited 20 Fire Fighters who commenced their 3-week Firefighting skills course in Castlebar on the 15th April. The course, run on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group, with a total of 24 participants is the first of its kind in the country.

WATER CONSERVATION:

Public Mains Rehabilitation Projects:

We have completed the replacement of 2900m of water mains in Ardagh, Ballina. Next project, due to start at beginning of May, is the replacement of approx. 2300m of existing problematic water mains located in the Townlands of Knockanelo and Farnascullogue, Ballina.

Public Find and Fix Project Work Areas:

We have 2 No. crews working at “Finding and Fixing” leaks on the public water mains in the following areas: (1) Crossmolina (2) Rural area of Knockmore/Ballina and (3) Kilmaine/Cong. After that works will commence in the rural areas of Claremorris.



Directorate Highlights

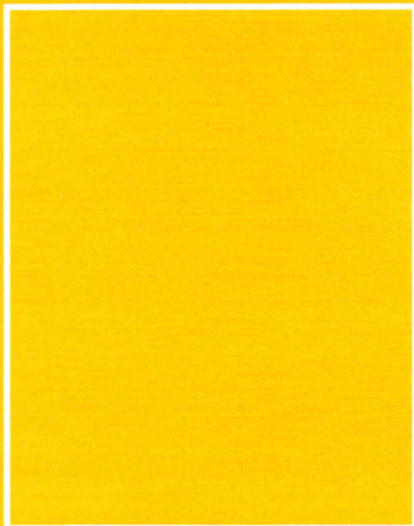
Planning Data for April 2024

Applications Received: 129
 E Planning Applications: 77
 Hardcopy Applications: 52
 Decisions to Grant: 80
 Decisions to Refuse: 8
 Forthcoming Decisions: 109
 Formal Preplanning App: 12
 Appointments at Planning Clinics on the 10th April 2024 and 24th April 2024: 57

Work is completed on our new €2.9m outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar



Dates to Note



Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



Human Resources

New Appointments in April 2024 - 1 x General Operative, 15x Retained Firefighter, 1 x Exec Planner, 1 x Site Tech

Promotions - 1 x Senior Executive Engineer, 1 x Staff Officer, 1x General Services Supervisor (Machinery Yard)

Competitions Advertised – Administrative Officer (Grade VII), Craftworker Gardener, Biodiversity Officer, Website & Digital Media Officer, Graduate Planner

Shortlisted/Screened – Sports Development Officer, Temporary Beach Ranger

Interviews held - Beach Lifeguards, Project Manager Strategic Development Zone Ireland West Airport Knock, Wholtime Station Officer, Manager of the Jackie Clark Collection, Climate Action Regional Coordinator

Retirements – 1 x Clerical Officer

Training Data for April 2024

73 indoor staff participated in the following courses: - IAT Roads Engineering; Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures Training; IOSH Safety, Health & Env for Construction Site Managers; Project Supervisor Construction Stage – PSCS; Grade 7 Programme; Time Management; Competency Based Interview Training; HR Employment Law Conference

146 outdoor staff participated in the following training courses: - Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness; Chainsaw Training for New LA Operatives-C&G; Paver Training; Road Opening & Reinstatement Refresher; Abrasive Wheels-Consaw; Ride on Roller Foundation; Driver CPC Module 3 (MRMET); Driver CPC Module 2; Safe Use of Pesticides and Herbicides-professional users; Basic First Aid; Safe Pass; Tractor & Hook Training; Pavement Surface Condition Index - Rural & Urban Flexible; Driver CPC Module 5; Driver CPC Module 4; Banksman; First Aid Response Refresher

Training Centre Update: A total of 1,409 attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January 2024 with 1,950 training days.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

- Public Information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, water repairs, recruitment.
- Media responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising.
- Mayo Day Preparations Belmullet
- Mayo Day Preparations Chicago
- Home to Mayo 2024
- Annual Service Delivery Plan preparation
- Service Delivery Projects preparation
- LGMA Focus Group on customer service.
- Home To Mayo
- Mayo Day
- Increased cost of Business Grant and Funding (CLAR, Community Heritage Grant)
- Ploughing Championship opportunity for Local Businesses
- Mayo.ie West of Ireland Womens Mini Marathon
- Public Consultation

Oifig na Gaeilge

Preparations and publicity for Puball na Gaeilge Irish Language Event at Mayo Day. Event and translation support provided to Communications, Mayo Arts Services, Community and Integrated Development, Climate Action, LAWPRO and MD offices.

Road Safety

The new Road Safety Officer, Frances Mitchell, took up her role with Mayo County Council in April.

The Mayo County Council/AXA Road Safety Road Show took place on 11th April in the Travellers Friend Hotel in Castlebar which was attended by over 1600 students from schools across Mayo. Social Media campaigns for Road Safety.

Governance & Customer Service

FOI Requests: 18
 Insurance PL Claims: 9
 Ombudsman Cases: 1 new case - 0 closed
 Total Calls Answered: 4162



Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Directorate Highlights

- Business Advisory Clinics in Ballina, Claremorris, and Westport between 2 & 4 April.
- Interviews arranged for Beach Ranger Keem Bay on 7 May.
- 'Living with a Fairy' show for children in Ballina Library
- Ballina Library hosted a Watercolour Painting Event on World Art Day on 15 April.
- Easter arts & crafts sessions & Easter egg hunt Castlebar Library
- Jackie Clarke Collection welcomed 428 students in April who took part in Mapping, Ballina Historic Treasure Hunt, Story Telling, Spring Planting, Famine, 1798 and Discovery Trail Workshops.
- 49 story times took place in branch libraries and preschools during April as part of the Spring into Storytime national programme.
- Martin Sheridan Sports Bursary Scheme for Elite Sportspeople closed 10 May.
- CLAR 2024 is open for expressions of interest until 15 May 2024.
<https://www.mayo.ie/community/funding/clar2024>
- Seeking Pride of Place nominations from Community Groups, contact murphym@mayococo.ie
- TCF on Mayo.ie [Town Centre First Mayo](https://www.mayo.ie/town-centre-first-mayo)

Dates to Note

- Collaboration with IWAK, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland & other local authorities to participate in a West of Ireland European Roadshow in Cologne & Milan 10 June-15 June
- Category 1/Category 2/Category 3 Target Area of the Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2024 expected to open June/July 2024.
- EOI from community/voluntary groups for swimming Infrastructure /Equipment Grant open from middle May through MSP. Limited with a potential allocation approximately €30,000.
- Africa Day, at Ballinrobe Racecourse on Sat 25 May .

Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place on 10 April - 2 projects supported.
- Start Your Own Business, financial management, and social media training programmes and workshops took place throughout the month and the Spring training programme schedule is available to book online on LEO website.

Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Mayo successfully secured funding of €835,432 for 3 projects under TVRS 2023.
- MSP Return to Sport Small Grant Scheme open for applications, closing date 10 May.
- Marathon Kids Jamboree Event hosted by David Gillick, former Olympian at Lough Lannagh on Fri 26 April. Over 200 Children from 8 Primary Schools participated.
- Local Authority Integration Team commenced outreach clinics to support residents in Breaffy Woods & the Arena IPAs accommodation centres with information and guidance to access services: 2 clinics have been held & 21 people supported.
- Festival of Change event took place over two days in North Mayo venues exploring ideas and arts practices relating to Art in the Landscape.
- Arts Service Grants & Awards assessment panel have been convened.
- Delivered The Wild Wellbeing Coastal Food Adventure programme in Achill through Sláintecare, Healthy Communities.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- LGMA Tourism Conference held in Killashee House Hotel on 18 & 19 Apr. The theme "Tourism-Leading the Change", a Presentation on the Great Western Greenway – a Sustainable Destination was part of a session titled "Sustainable Tourism & Destination Development".
- The Ballina MD approved Part 8 Planning for development of the Ceide Coastal Trail.
- A total of 17 Festivals & Participative Events have been approved funding supports under Fáilte Irelands Regional Festivals & Participative Events Programme 2024.
- 19 April 2024, MCC received a letter of offer from the DRCD for a total of six Measure 1 Schemes under the ORIS. Projects approved: Brickens Toms Lane Trail, Old Head – Louisburgh Trail, Cross Beach Access, Carrowteige Loop Walks, Breaffy Loop Walk Kincon and Disability & Fishing Access at Urlaur Lake. €30,000 per project approved.
- 5 April 2024, the DRCD approved funding of €30,000 towards the cost of developing a County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Town Regeneration

- Continuing engagement with Killala Town Team to deliver priorities in TCF Plan.
- Engagement with Ballyhaunis to build Town Team and initial scoping exercises.

Library Services

- A Series of Talks for older members of the community ran in Castlebar Library in conjunction with Age Friendly Mayo. Over 140 people attended the series.
- Mayo Library Development Plan 2024 -2028 launched by Minister Dara Calleary in Castlebar Library on 15 April.
- World Poetry Day 25 April - The Jackie Clarke Poet in Residence Martin Dyar was live on Tommy Marren to promote his project on the Decade of Centenaries; he also gave readings at Ballina Library & displayed a selection of his poems and poetry.
- Numeracy skills maths homework classes run with MSLETB in Castlebar Library.
- 3 Fighting Words creative writing workshops for teenagers run in Castlebar Library.
- Launch of **Impressions and Expressions** Art Exhibition, showcasing artwork by members of the Ukrainian community in Pontoon opened in Castlebar Library.
- Poet & Dramatist Terry McDonagh running creative writing sessions with Kiltimagh Women's group throughout the month.