



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING



Housing, Roads and Service Development

TOM GILLIGAN



Directorate Highlights

Architects:

Stage 1 Approval received for 66 new social dwellings at Cheshire Homes Ballina. Certificate of practical completion issued for 50 new dwellings at Rehins Fort, Ballina.

Heritage:

Kill Abbey and Knockatemple Church conservation works ongoing under Community Monuments Fund. Mayo Field Names Pilot Recording project – 3 workshops held with communities of Inishturk, Shrule-Glencorrib and Blacksod. Mayo Wetlands Project – site surveys and reports completed for 30 sites.

Conservation:

Conservation works completed under the Built Heritage Scheme at Church of the Holy Family, Kiltimagh, Robe Villa, Ballinrobe and St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina, Historic Structures Fund works at Holy Trinity Church, Westport.

Dates to Note

Roads SPC Meeting with TII on 22nd November.

2024 Safety Improvement Works proposals submitted to DoT.

2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme proposals submitted to DoT.

2024 / 2025 Community Involvement Scheme proposals submitted to DoT.

2024 Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works proposals to be submitted to DoT by 13th November.

Roads:

- N26 / N59 Ballina By -Pass. Options Selection Report is being finalised and scheme proceeding to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: scheme to proceed to tender subject to TII approval in November.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford: scheme proceeding with appointment of Consultants for Phases 2 – 4 to bring scheme from options selection to the planning phase.
- N60 Manulla scheme: now proceeding to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.
- Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q4 2023. Westport LTP currently at public consultation.
- R313 Glencastle scheme currently at land acquisition stage.
- Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Approval to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection requested from DoT.
- Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report being finalised.
- Design works on-going for National Road safety projects. Feasibility and Options report for N5 / R320 junction scheme at Swinford approved by TII scheme will now proceed to design and planning phases with construction in Q1 2024.
- Land acquisition and detailed design is proceeding for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.

Housing:

In October 2023, the following were delivered:

HAP & RAS (Oct- 2023)

- 11 No. delivered under HAP.
- 1 No. delivered under RAS.

Total of **1948** active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of October 2023.

Leasing (Oct- 2023)

- **20 No.** house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness 12 No. homeless presentations, (October 2023)

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

To date: -

350 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received.

332 Stage 1 Approved.

126 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and **122** approved to date.

11 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes Croi Conaithe - 320 applications received, **159** approved, **149** in progress.

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 20 active leases & **27** applications for **80** units

Buy & Renew - 66 active applications.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

Climate Action:

- MCC Draft Climate Action Plan was presented to the October Council meeting and is now finalised, and the Mulranny DZ Climate Action Plan was presented to the Westport Belmullet October MD meeting for noting prior to public consultation. The plan will go to public consultation using the Consult portal in the first week of November.
- Laura Dixon presented Climate Adaptation in Mayo as a case study at the first annual EPA Climate Ireland Adaptation Network seminar in Dublin on October 26th.
- MCC participated in the NTA Smarter Travel workplaces Walktober challenge.

Fire Safety Week: There was huge public interest in Fire Safety week (9th - 15th Oct) which was reflected in the large attendances at our open days at Westport, Ballinrobe, Charlestown & Belmullet Fire Stations.

Training: Mayo Fire Service successfully ran a 3 week QQI Level 6 Firefighting Skills Course on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group (25th Sept to the 13th of Oct) with 18 participants from various Fire Authorities.

Dates to Note

Meeting of the Environment, Climate Action, Agriculture & Emergency Services S.P.C. to be held in November.

Energy Awareness day will be held for Mayo County Council staff on November 9th.

Environmental Awareness:

- Cigarette butt Litter Campaign 'Butts Belong in Bins' - Features with print & social media. Midwest Environment Slot: Topics covered cigarette butt litter campaign and advice to businesses on correct waste segregation.
- Circular Living Month Awareness - Social media campaign.
- Biodiversity workshop in St. Joseph's Secondary School
- Composting for Schools Programme online training for selected schools.
- Green Schools Teacher Seminars – 53 schools registered to attend.
- Food Waste Recycling Event for staff of Abbie Westport & distribution of caddies.
- ATU – jobs of the future event.

Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- All Anti-Dumping projects have been completed and all grant claim files submitted to the value of €71,098.
- Officers attended a solid fuel training course and a solid fuel workshop, with a view to enhancing detection and enforcement of non-compliant fuels.
- Staff attended a Historic Landfill Training Day to assist with progress in remediating historic landfills in Co. Mayo
- A member of staff attended an Invasive Species workshop, to contribute to the development of a National Invasive Species Management Plan.

Flood risk management: Scheme completion of the Cois Abhainn /Ashwood, (Westport) flood scheme providing flood protection to 36 properties through the construction of a flood wall, earthen embankment and surface water pumping station. Project cost €1.35million.

Rural Water: Design & Tender Stage: Winters Plant Hire have been awarded the contract for the construction of the Lough Carra and Robeen GWS amalgamation project (€2.7M). Additional funding of €680,000.00 approved by DHLGH. Tenders received for Murrisk Community Water Connection project (circa €8.25M) and have been assessed. Confirmation of approval from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for additional funding received on October 20th. We are awaiting confirmation from Uisce Eireann for additional funding requested to proceed to construction. Planning Permission for Murrisk Community Water Connection granted by MCC Tenders advertised on etenders for the construction of additional upgrade works to Barnacarroil GWS (€1M) to facilitate connection to Uisce Eireann Lough Mask RWSS and to be taken in charge by Uisce Eireann. Tenders advertised on etenders for the construction works associated with the amalgamation of Errew/ Castlehill and Nephin Valley GWS.

Construction Stage: Winters Plant Hire Civil Contractors have completed 90% of the civil works on the network upgrade and inter-connector pipeline to Johnstown / Lavellyroe to enable the GWS to be connected to the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme and to be "Taken in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. (Project cost €1,340,276). Winters Plant Hire Civil Contractors have commenced the network upgrade and inter-connector pipeline to Killgalligan to enable the GWS to be connected to the Erris Regional Water Supply Scheme and to be "Taken in Charge" by Uisce Eireann. (Project cost €911,760). JRP Civil Contractors have co network upgrade works and Uisce Eireann Talking in Charge project (€221,436) to Dooyork GWS. Civil and Mechanical upgrade works completed by Hydro Ltd to the Water Treatment Plants of Tooreen / Aghamore, Midfield and Killaturlley GWS (€ 850,000). These upgrades will improve the quality of the treated drinking water and will enable these schemes to be removed from the DHLGH Remedial Action List. JRP Civil Contractors have been appointed to the Derryvohey GWS amalgamation to PBKS GWS project (€625,000). JPRH have commenced the civil works associated with the amalgamation project.



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for October 2023
Applications Received: 93
Hardcopy 44 & Electronic 39
Decisions on Grant: 85
Decisions on Refuse: 4
Forthcoming Decisions: 115
Formal Preplanning applications: 7
Appointments at Planning Clinics:
57 Clinics on 4th and 18th October

Draft Local Area Plan for Westport published for Public Consultation.
Drop in Information Session held
Closing Date for Submissions – 07/11/23

Official Events Supported by Communications:

Social Inclusion week.
SEAI / Castlebar MD Partnership.

Social Media/Publicity Campaigns
Reuse Month
Cathaoirleach’s Awards.
Home to Mayo 2024 and Diaspora Competition
SEAI.
Housing call outs.

Dates to Note

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Planning, Human Resources, Communications, Information Systems, Corporate Affairs & Architectural Services



CATHERINE McCONNELL

Human Resources

New Appointments in October 2023

1 Assistant Staff Officer, 1 Clerical Officer (Temp), 1 CES Scheme, 1 Creative Communities Engagement Officer, 1 ECO.

Promotions

1 Executive Engineer, 1 Staff Officer, 1 Childcare Co-ordinator.

Competitions Advertised

Machinery Yard GSS, Emergency Control Operator & Public Art Co-ordinator.

Competitions Screened/Shortlisted

Integrated Support Co-ordinator – Integrated Support Worker – Childcare Development Worker – Ganger – Foreman – General Services Supervisor – Emergency Control Operator

Interviews held:

IS Analyst Developer (Grade VI), IS Technical Support Worker (Grade V) & Pool Lifeguard/Swimming Teacher.

Retirements in October 2023

2 Clerical Officers – 1 Assistant Staff Officer – 1 Library Assistant – 1 General Operative

Training Data for October 2023

80 outdoor staff participated in mandatory Climate Action – Delivering Action training.
106 outdoor staff participated in the following: Commercial Vehicle Road Worthiness – Road Opening & Reinstatement Basic – Safe Pass – CSCS Mini Digger – Abrasive Wheels Conway – Manual Handling – Temporary Traffic Management – Inspection & Audit – Safe System of Work Plans Training – CSCS Site Dumper Assessment – Gantry – Crane – Ride on Roller Foundation – First Aid Response – QQI Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations – Chemical Awareness.

142 indoor staff participated in the following: Fire Warden Training – Excel – Beginner and Intermediate – Basic General Ledger Enquiries Training – Personal Safety at Work – Time Management Training.

79 staff attended Menopause in the Workplace Webinar

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment
- Launch of Cathaoirleach’s Awards 2023
- Attendance at Association of Irish and Celtic Festivals Annual Conference
- Co-ordination of Mayo County Council Delegation to Cleveland, Ohio.

Oifig na Gaeilge

- Official Languages Act training sessions delivered to staff.
- Ongoing progress on translation of mayo.ie.
- Compliance and translation support provided to Planning, Finance, Climate Action, Architects, Marine, Communications, Ballina and Swinford-Claremorris M.D.’s.

Road Safety

Road Safety week MWR broadcast from Áras an Chontae.

Launch of winter Hi Vis campaign with over 500 Hi Vis vest distributed County wide.

FOI Requests: 19 New FOI Requests and 2 Internal Reviews

Insurance PL Claims: 7 New PL Claims

Ombudsman Cases: 7 New Cases and 1 closed

Total Calls Answered: 4422



Directorate Highlights

- *EXCEL Youth Arts Programme* in partnership with local arts venues & youth theatres throughout Nov.
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund-Category 3, smallscale capital projects open for applications end Oct/early Nov 2023.
- *Greenway Development Workshop* hosted by Fáilte Ireland in Mullingar on 24 & 25 Oct 23. Mayo & the new section of the Greenway from Achill Sound to Cashel & the Asset Renewal Programme featured strongly.
- Mayo Library received a donation of a bust of Ernie O Malley, made in 1954 by Helen Hooker.
- *Slaintecare Fitstick Trails and Activator walking with poles promotional programme* available on TV Ireland YouTube channel.
- *Autumn Women's Wellness Programmes* starting a new block of classes in Yoga and Pilates.
- **6834** people visited Castlebar Library in October, a record high.
- 'Tales of the Observer'-Exhibition by Milka Koziolok held on 4 Oct.
- *Business Advisory Clinics* held in Ballina, Claremorris & Westport between 24 and 31 Sept.
- *Summer Stars with Cathaoirleach* over 200 children presented with their Certificates of Achievement.

Dates to Note

- CORNERSTONES - Luisne Art Exhibition Linenhall Arts Centre on Wed 15 Nov @12pm.
- Careers Fair 2024, hosted by Mayo LCDC on Sat 20 Jan at ATU.
- Mayo Science and Technology Festival 2023 from 12-19 Nov .
- Mayo Sports Partnerships events <https://www.mayo.ie/en-ie/mayo-sports/news/mayo-sports-partnership-launches-its-autumn-2023-c>
- "Toposopy" Longterm Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Keem Bay. Public consultation day Wed 7 Nov @ 10.30am Achill

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Mayo Ideas Month took place for businesses to inspire growth and spark innovation. Events included Spirit of Entrepreneurship in collaboration with ATU, Building Better Business in the West hosted by the DETE and attended by Ministers Simon Coveney and Dara Calleary. The final event was Meet Mayo, a business-to-business networking event which took place at Ballinrobe Racecourse on Fri 27 Oct.
- LEO Mayo supported a regional event to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day on 19 Oct. The theme was 'Empowering Business Together' and featured speakers and panellists highlighting female entrepreneurs from across the West region.

Community Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Social Inclusion Awareness Week (9- 15 Oct) 40 events in Mayo, Flagship event 'Cairdeas le Chéile' organised by "Mayo Says No to Racism" in Ballina Arts Centre.
- Activator poles programmes for people with COPD and respiratory issues, two pilot courses commencing this month in Belmullet in partnership with local GP and HSE.
- Mayo Sports Partnership allocated €123k to Ballina & Castlebar Outdoor Sports Hubs, Volunteer Supports, Girls Get Active and for Disability Equipment.
- Mayo Sports Partnership teamed up with Mayo GAA for Special Schools All Star Day in the Dome' and for Cul Camp Eile in the COE Began on 31 October.
- The Couch 2-5K launched in 5 locations and Men on the Move Programme in 7 locations across the county with more additions planned over the coming months.
- James Winnett - Community Engagement works in Breaffy, Turlough and Islandeady as part of the N5 Westport to Turlough Road Percent for Art Project.
- Art in the Landscape Commission – Hardeep Sahota and Tim Smith to carry out further research and filming in North Mayo.
- Mayo County Childcare Committee recommended 21 Early Years Educators for the Learner Fund Bursary with an overall value of €15,750.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Phase 2 –Asset Renewal programme for the Great Western Greenway advancing well to continue until the end of Nov 23. Works consisting of path reinstatement, drainage and fencing improvements to the Greenway Network from Westport to Achill Sound.
- **Outdoor Facilities at Carramore** - Tender published to appoint an engineering design team to deliver the construction works. The closing date for receipt of tenders was Friday 27 Oct 2023. No submissions were received. Will need to re-tender.
- Under the DRCD's ORIS 2023 scheme, 4 applications have been prepared and submitted for Measure 2 & 3, closing date for submissions was 27 Oct 2023. Projects submitted include the Wild Atlantic Way Ceide Coastal Path, Raheen Woods Biodiversity Trail, Martin Neary Woodland Trail and Measure 3 Belmullet Tidal Pool.

Town Regeneration

- MCC Officer & LUC Consultants working with Ballina MD, Killala Community Council, Town Team & Communities in the Killala area on the Town Centre First Plan.

Library Services

- Inaugural Comic Fest held 2-7 Oct funded by Creative Ireland in Castlebar Library.
- Breastfeeding Awareness seminar with Stand held on Sat 7 Oct at ATU Castlebar.
- Positive Aging Week held 1-7 Oct. 'Memory Box' funded by Creative Ireland to facilitate groups to evoke memories and create social engagement.
- Space themed workshops held 4 -10 Oct with Deirdre Kelleghan to mark Space Week
- Launch of Crof Blood Pressure Monitor lending project on Tues 24 Oct with free blood pressure checks for the public and monitors on loan from Ballina Library.



Financial Management & 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
Nine months ended 30th September 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW NOV 2023

APPENDIX A

| Service | See To Date | EXPENDITURE | | | INCOME | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | 2022 | 2023 | % Spend | 2022 | 2023 | % Rev'd |
| A Housing and Building | 19,674,717 | 24,035,722 | 4,361,005 | 19,288,277 | 23,894,700 | 4,616,973 | 81% |
| B Roads, Transport and Safety | 33,640,069 | 49,806,825 | 16,210,756 | 27,407,800 | 41,526,728 | 14,118,028 | 60% |
| C Water Services | 12,737,781 | 17,713,080 | 4,975,699 | 15,497,868 | 21,209,276 | 5,817,407 | 72% |
| D Development Management | 13,147,566 | 14,174,044 | 1,026,458 | 4,616,905 | -1,396,300 | -1,396,300 | 129% |
| E Environmental Services | 13,156,898 | 17,889,881 | 4,732,985 | 4,307,310 | 6,132,349 | 1,831,039 | 70% |
| F Recreation and Amenity | 10,441,168 | 13,117,245 | 2,676,077 | 4,231,216 | 4,230,700 | -500,516 | 107% |
| G Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare | 1,489,822 | 1,980,731 | 490,909 | 520,980 | 683,533 | 162,553 | 76% |
| H Miscellaneous Services | 9,486,246 | 12,810,768 | 3,344,522 | 10,784,242 | 14,170,624 | 3,386,182 | 78% |
| I Central Management Charges | 9,486,246 | 12,810,768 | 3,344,522 | 1,259,953 | 1,600,000 | 340,047 | 79% |
| J Rates | 10,000,000 | 24,972,867 | 5,911,932 | 28,109,561 | 37,741,670 | 9,572,109 | 75% |
| Local Government Fund | - | - | - | 15,506,510 | 20,675,346 | 5,168,837 | 75% |
| GRAND TOTAL | 132,821,326 | 176,551,683 | 43,729,263 | 133,235,421 | 176,551,681 | 43,316,259 | 75% |

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

| | Total for collection | Collected Sep-23 | Arrears Sep-23 | Collected % |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Roads | 7,274,991 | 6,255,769 | 1,019,223 | 86% |
| Rates | 40,071,444 | 27,272,005 | 12,779,439 | 68% |
| Housing Loans | 3,033,345 | 2,388,313 | 645,033 | 79% |

4 Significant Variance against Budget

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Housing Grants | €7000 |
| Liaison Facilities (Lough Lannagh) | -255 |
| PEL | 790 |
| Pensions/Gratuity | 180 |
| Other | -290 |
| | -11 |

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Number of days in overdraft | 30 |
| Estimated Interest Incurred | 33,690 |