



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Roads: - Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report being prepared.

Design works on – going for National Road safety projects. Feasibility and Options report for N5 / R320 junction scheme at Swinford approved by TII - proceed to design and planning phases with construction in Q1 2024.

Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Approval to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection requested from DoT.

Additional maintenance funding of €327,175 secured from TII for various National Road maintenance improvements on N26, N59 and N84.

Architects

Tender received for Ballavarry Housing Scheme – 12 units.

Tenders issued to OGP framework for consultants for Duffys bakery(32), The Meadows (12), Cheshire Homes Site Ballina.

Conservation: Consultant appointed for Built Heritage Stocktake.

Procurement & Efficiency

At the end of Q3/2023, Procurement published 88% more competitions than for all of 2022.

Dates to Note

Public Consultation held on 13th September in relation to Belclare to Murrisk Greenway route options.

Public consultation drop in session in Westport Town Hall on the Draft LTP will be held on 23rd October, 2023.

SPC: - Roads & Transportation 5th October, 2023.

Housing, Roads 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 finalised. Scheme now proceeding to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: scheme to proceed to tender subject to TII approval in October.
- 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.
- N58 Foxford By -Pass: Strategic Assessment Report re drafted and submitted to TII for approval.
- N60 Manulla scheme: proceeding to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation in October.
- Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q4 2023.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme. Tender issued for section of pavement overlay works.
- 2024 Safety Improvement Works proposals to be submitted with DoT by 20th October.
- 2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme proposals to be submitted to DoT by 18th Oct.

Housing

In Sept 2023 the following were delivered.

HAP & RAS (Sept- 2023)

- 17 No. delivered under HAP,
- 2 No. delivered under RAS

Total of 1943 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of Sept.

Leasing (Sept- 2023)

- 24 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness - 20 No. homeless presentations (Aug., 2023)

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

To date: -

350 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

332 Stage 1 Approved

110 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and 99 approved to date

7 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes Croi Conaithe - 301 applications received, 146 approved, 16 Closed, 139 in progress.

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 21 active leases & 27 applications for 80 units, 32 applications closed 2023.

Buy & Renew - 66 active applications.

Procurement & Efficiency Review

- Mayo County Council supported Sligo County Council with SICAP Evaluation.
- Procurement Office working the Castlebar Municipal District Office on the Timesheets for process improvements.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

Construction of Crossmolina Fire Station has been completed and the building has been handed over to Mayo County Council. Final commissioning of communications systems to take place shortly.

Fire Service fleet

Mayo County Council have taken delivery of 2 number 4WD Ford Rangers. The vehicles, purchased from Ford, were retrofitted with Vehicle Mounted Signs and other '999' systems by HPMP, Carlow, at a total cost of c. €115,000. The vehicles are 100% capital grant aided and have been put on the run at Castlebar and Westport Fire Stations to augment our response to incidents on the N5 Dual Carriageway.

Dates to Note

Always On October campaign highlighting #CircularLiving which is replacing National Reuse Month.

Jobs of the future event ATU Castlebar.

Fire Safety Week 2023.
9th -16th October 2023
 Theme: "Safer Together".

The Climate Action team coordinated the Sustainable Development Goal week communications as part of EU SDG week, Sept 24th – Oct 1st.

Civil Defence: Operations

Civil Defence have attended 4 emergency call out/search and rescue incidents since June of this year at the request of the primary response agencies. The Civil Defence Community/Event support program for 2023 has continued across the Summer attending 36 sport & community events, approx. 1,500 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Equipment Management System (VEMS)

In 2021 the Department of Defence entered into a contract to develop a new national on-line Volunteer and Equipment Management System (VEMS) for Civil Defence. This system is live since early July 2023.

National Events - members attended and were involved in a National Radiation Monitoring exercise in June in co-operation with the EPA and participated at the National Services Day regional event in Roscommon in September.

Funding Civil Defence in Mayo have received sanction from the Department of Defence for €25,000 towards the replacement and upgrade of its command-and-control unit.

Environmental Awareness:

- GAA Green Clubs & Community Workshop in Balla.
- GAA Green Clubs Workshop for clubs in North Mayo
- Composting in school programme training commenced 27th September.
- Global Citizen Energy Workshop in Bohola N.S. inc. promotion of SDG Week.
- Green Festival Event 29th September.
- Water Awareness Workshop Ballyhaunis Secondary School.
- Waste Management advice session in Kilmeena GAA Club.

Veterinary Department: Ex- Gratia Funding: Since 2011 an allocation for animal welfare has been made available to animal welfare groups. This year an advertisement was placed in the local newspapers inviting applications for funding. Six applications have been received.

Dog Control Service National Seminar 2023: The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) organised a National Seminar for dog wardens and personnel involved in Dog Control on the 7th of September, 2023 in Tullamore. Laura Mulligan, Mayo County Council Dog Warden, made a presentation at this event on "Practical Approach to the legal Seizing of Dogs".

Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- The Enforcement Team have successfully completed 8 of the 9 projects funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative.
- The final project is being arranged and involves the clean-up of illegally dumped asbestos.
- The Enforcement team are undertaking surveillance and inspections regarding pyrite/defective block demolition and management.
- 1 new Waste Facility Permit has been granted and 1 new Certificate of Registration.

Climate Action: Workshops have been held with the leadership team to prepare the Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan. The draft plan will come before the Council on Oct 9th. Over 550 responses were received as part of the pre-draft Climate Action Plan engagement. 92% of respondents worried about Climate Change. Report available.



Directorate Highlights

Wellbeing Committee:

The first meeting of the re-established Wellbeing Committee took place on 21st September. The draft Wellbeing Strategy was agreed for SMT approval. One of the first initiatives to be undertaken is a Staff Wellbeing Survey which will help inform a plan of action for embedding wellbeing across the organisation.

Official Events supported by Communications.

MCC Civic Reception for Gerry Quinn, Cleveland Assisting in the launch of the Achill Greenway extension.

Planning Data for Sept 2023

E Planning Applications: 48
Hardcopy Applications: 57
Total Planning Applications: 105
Decisions to Grant: 61
Decisions to Refuse: 4
Forthcoming Decisions: 132
Formal Preplanning Apps: 11
Filed appealed by An Bord Pleanala: 6
Appointments at 5 Planning Clinics on 06/09/2023 & 20/09/2023: 54

Dates to Note

Planning:

Westport Draft Local Area Plan on public consultation period 26th September until 7th November 2023

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

CATHERINE McCONNELL



Human Resources

New Appointments in September 2023

1 Assistant Architect (Part time), 3 x Clerical Officer (2 Temp), 4 x Retained Fire Fighter, 1 Assistant Planner, 1 Civil Tech 1, 1 Emergency Control Operator, 1 Site Tech 2, 1 CES Scheme.

Promotions - 1 Executive Engineer and 1 A/Senior Staff Officer

Competitions - Integration Support Coordinator (Grade VII), Integration Support Worker (Grade VI), Childcare Development Worker (Grade V).

Interviews held - IS Project Leader (Grade VII)

Training Data for September 2023

79 outdoor staff participated in the following: Roads Services Supervisors Course, Signing, Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks Info Update, Manual Handling, Safe Pass, Working at heights, Confined Spaces-Medium Risk, Driver CPC Module 5, CSCS Health & Safety at Roadworks, CSCS Mini Digger Assessment, CSCS 180-degree excavator assessment and door & guarding Security Course. 147 indoor staff participated in the following: IOSH Safety, Health & Env for Construction Site Managers, Manual Handling, Time Management, Quality Customer Service, Data Protection & Freedom of Information, Professional Services Withholding Tax, Relevant Contract Tax, Trauma Awareness Trauma-Informed Practice in Housing First and Homelessness, Mental Health in the Workplace and MakoData.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising Home to Mayo 2024 Competition global roll out. Various Press Releases.

Oifig na Gaeilge - Launch of Tae agus Plé conversation practice to support staff in improving their Irish Translation services provider onboarded. Event, compliance and translation support provided to various units.

Road Safety

Road Safety working together group convened its first meeting since 2020 on 8th of September with 20 stakeholders attending.

Social Media/ Publicity Campaign: Town and village renewal scheme, Sustainable Development Goals Week, Home To Mayo Competition, Local Area/Local Transport Plans, Architecture at the Edge, Spotlight on Local events/highlights/area information.

Training Centre: A total of 3,493 attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January to September 2023 with 4,911 training days. Work is progressing on our new €2.9m million outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar.

FOI Requests: 17

Insurance PL Claims: 8

Ombudsman Cases: 6 new cases – 0 closed

Total Calls Answered: 4074



Directorate Highlights

The 2023 Blas na hÉireann awards on 29th Sept. in Dingle with 9 finalists from Mayo.

Over 200 children received their certificates for completing the Summer Stars Reading Challenge on 9th Sept. at Castlebar library with Certificates presented by Cathaoirleach Michael Loftus.

4416 people visited Castlebar library between 1st and 22nd Sept, highest number on record.

Dr Michael O'Connor launched his book in Castlebar Library on 14th Sept. entitled 'Criminal Conversation with My wife; Women and the Laws of Men'

LEO Autumn schedule of training programmes underway and can be booked online.

Mayo Sports Partnerships Autumn Calendar. "Get Active" Programme rolled out.

Minister for Sport Thomas Byrne visited Lough Lannagh to learn about the Lough Lannagh Climbing the Wall Project.

The sensory cubbie in Belmullet has had over 500 uses since it was launched in June.

Meeting of Clew Bay Steering Committee took place on 21 Sept.

Dates to Note

'All is Well' by Cathal McCarthy – Percent for Art Commission launch @Tubber Hill Housing. Development on 7th Oct. @ 2pm.

Social Inclusion week 2023 9th - 13th Oct.

Mayo Comhairle na N Oig and Age Friendly Mayo hosting an Intergenerational "Games evening" on Friday 13th Oct. in Castlebar Library.

Outdoor Facilities Carramore - closing date for tenders is Friday 27 Oct 2023.

ORIS 2023 Closing date for submission of applications is Friday 27th Oct. 2023.

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

A meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning & Marine Strategic Policy Committee took place on 13th Sept. in Ballina.

The LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place on 6th Sept, with 5 projects supported.

Business Advisory Clinics taking place in Ballina, Claremorris and Westport between 26th and 29th Sept.

ThinStone Ireland, based in Westport, exhibited their product range at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village.

Community Arts, Sports, Childcare

Audiences across Mayo offered a range of events and activities as part of Culture Night on Sept. 22nd. <https://www.mayo.ie/arts/programme/culture-night>

Mayo Arts Service continuing to deliver its Professional Development Programme with a workshop for local groups entitled Greening Your Venue & Festival.

Mayo Community Futures is seeking new applications from communities who are looking to develop / renew a 5 year action plan communityfutures@mayococo.ie

Mayo County Childcare Committee organised a Sensory play network for childminders in Mayo which was well received. In addition, supports under the National Childminding Action Plan being delivered across the county.

Minister of State for Sport Thomas Byrne TD launched the Castlebar Sports Impact Study on Monday 25th Sept.

Mayo Sport Partnership Newsletter activities and events

<http://mayocountycouncil.newsweaver.com/SportsPartnership/5rd2ngsszng>

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

Phase 2 - Asset Renewal Works commenced on the Great Western Greenway, works will continue until the end of Nov. 2023.

Construction works commenced on the development of the Great Western Greenway through Achill Sound. Work will continue until the end of Feb. 2024.

ORIS 2023, a total of 07 Measure 1 applications prepared and submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. A total of 04 applications will be prepared and submitted of Measure 2 & 3 under ORIS 2023.

The Tourism, Food & Community Strategic Policy Committee took place on Friday the 15th Sept. 2023

Library Services

A talk by Dr Michael O'Connor took place in Castlebar Library on Saturday 26th Aug. and was followed by a re-enactment in The Mall.

A baby weaning talk by HSE dietician Heather Mills took place on Monday 11th Sept. Over 20 parents and their babies attended.

Jim O'Connor gave a group of students from the ATU a talk on Local History services on Wednesday 27th Sept.

AsIam filmed at Castlebar Library on 25th Sept. for footage to use for their APP which will be used across the country to help prepare the for-library visits.

Over 170 children took part in the summer star reading initiative in Belmullet this year. They were rewarded with certificates and goody bags on Sept. 8th

Conservationist Benjamin Van de Wetering delivered a lecture on conservation and protecting your personal artefacts at the Jackie Clarke Collection.

The Jackie Clarke Collection secured its 7th International Green Flag Award and was awarded Heritage Site Status for its walled heritage garden.



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
Eight months ended 31st August 2023

APPENDIX A
FINANCIAL REVIEW OCT 2023

Service Division	Description	Exp. To Date Aug-23	EXPENDITURE		Remaining 2023	% Spent 2023	INCOME		Net Bal'd 2023	% Rec'd 2023
			Budget 2023	Actual 2023			Budget 2023	% Rec'd 2023		
A	Housing and Building	17,605,553	24,035,722	6,430,169	73%	17,228,348	23,804,700	6,575,852	72%	
B	Roads Transport and Safety	27,681,829	49,658,823	22,175,186	58%	22,133,417	41,326,128	19,253,311	53%	
C	Water Services	10,900,021	17,173,680	6,813,159	62%	13,337,234	21,386,276	8,052,041	62%	
D	Development Management	11,333,191	14,174,044	2,940,853	80%	5,018,655	4,616,955	-401,700	109%	
E	Environmental Services	11,720,321	17,889,861	6,169,540	66%	3,849,977	4,281,700	2,246,861	63%	
F	Recreation and Amenity	9,196,347	13,117,245	3,920,898	70%	6,132,349	4,281,700	380,723	91%	
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	1,927,890	1,980,731	653,051	67%	469,453	681,533	215,080	69%	
H	Miscellaneous Services	8,444,692	12,910,708	4,366,015	66%	6,636,306	14,170,424	4,534,118	69%	
J	Central Management Charges	16,992,160	24,972,867	7,980,707	69%	1,110,382	1,900,000	488,618	69%	
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	25,065,549	37,741,670	12,676,121	66%	
		-	-	-	-	13,793,564	20,676,346	6,891,782	67%	
GRAND TOTAL		115,202,094	176,551,633	61,349,538	65%	115,517,856	176,551,631	61,033,825	65%	

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Aug-23	Arrears Aug-23	% Collected
Rents	6,644,964	5,557,857	1,087,107	84%
Rates	40,412,187	25,148,802	15,263,385	62%
Housing Loans	2,789,026	2,123,764	645,262	77%

4 Significant Variance against Budget

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Housing Grants	-252
Leisure Facilities (Lough Linnagh)	525
PEL	294
Pensions/Gratuity	-349
Other Savings	107

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated Interest Incurred
	26	14,606