

April 21

Highlights

Highlights of the Month:

Chief Executive Report

Peter Duggan



Chief Executive Report

URDF Funding – Castlebar Historic Core Reactivation Project.



The Castlebar Historic Core Reactivation project has received approval of **€8.53 million**. This is a public realm project that will stimulate regeneration by redressing the deterioration of underutilised historic properties and back lands that frame the Mall, Castlebar's historic urban core.

The project consists of:

- Public realm works in the Mall, to refurbish and rejuvenate its setting and to provide an enhanced connection to other parts of the town, including the Military Barracks and Ellison Street
- Re-purposing the former Daly's (Imperial) Hotel (built circa 1790) as an innovation hub.
- Re-purposing the former Castlebar Post Office (built circa 1904) as a community youth resource centre.
- Master plan and strategic site assembly at key locations in Castlebar.

In addition, The Castlebar Military Barracks Project has received approval of funding of **€2.5 million**.

These funding approvals will see in investment of **€13.5 million** in Castlebar and this funding can be a vehicle for development and growth and an economic stimulus for the County.

Dates to Note

Upcoming events & meetings to note:



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The Planning statistics for March are as follows:

Applications received - 134
Decisions to grant - 90
Decisions to refuse - 4
Applications in hand - 180
Preplanning applications - 31
Appeals to An Bord Pleanála - 2

FOI statistics for 2021 to- date:-

Jan - 6
Feb - 8
March - 12
Total 2021 to-date – 26

Public Liability Claims

March 2021 - 9

Dates to Note

New Appointments:

- 4 Clerical Officer
- 10 General Operatives
- 1 Work Placement

Promotions:

- 1 Executive Engineer
- 1 GSS
- 1 Senior Exec Scientist
- 1 Ganger
- 1 WW Caretaker G5

Interviews in March:

- Graduates - Border & Western Region
- Executive Architect

3 Campaigns Advertised:

- Administrative Officer
- Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Executive Emergency Communications Officer

Shortlisted:

- Water & Sewerage Caretaker G5 Erris
- Exec Scientist – Environment
- Assistant Staff Officer

Retirements:

- 2 Retirements

Planning, HR, Communications, Information Systems and Corporate Development

Catherine Mc Connell



Library

- Online services are open 24/7
- Hundreds of packs of seeds distributed by library service
- Workhouses of Mayo website to be launch shortly
- Virtual library story sessions – twice weekly
- Virtual Healthy Ireland talks ongoing
- Time to Read ongoing

I.T.

- Steering group established and preliminary systems configuration underway for national ePlanning system implementation – target deployment for Q4 2021.
- Online Recruitment system development completed and deployed to production environment.
- Completed rollout of enhanced security management for remote working VPN solution using multi-factor authentication.
- User testing underway for online payments for housing loans, rents and rate, increasing Mayo County Council's online service portfolio.

Digital Transformation

- Company CRM Project Ongoing:
- Teams Project – Complete for all staff
- Enghouse Customer Contact Centre - Ongoing
- Planning Digitisation Project
- Consultation Portal – Ongoing
- National Services Catalogue
- 99% complete - Delayed by Covid19
- Council & MD Online Meetings via Teams

Corporate Communications

- **Public Information Updates:** Covid-19 daily Public Health messaging •Impact of level 5 Restrictions on Council Services •Traffic Disruption •Water disruption, •Weather alerts •Road Gritting updates • Local Authority Recruitment
- **Campaigns** •Mayo goes Green •Grow it forward • Virtual St Patricks Day • County Development Plan • Keep well Campaign • Castlebar Town Plan •Westport Town Plan • Environment campaigns •Funding call for Clar applications• Writer in Residence opportunity • Earth Hour
- **Media:** Responses issued to Local and National media queries. Press statements/releases issued on a variety of Local Authority matters.
- **Diaspora Engagement** – Production and Delivery of a Virtual St Patricks Day programme www.mayo.ie/stpatricksdays2021.
- **Oifig na Gaeilge** • Translations for adverts, publications and website •Delivery of a range of virtual activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge
- **Road Safety Awareness:** TikTok Mic Drop competition • Rural road safety campaign.

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Water Services, Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture & Emergency Services



John Condon

Environment - Climate Action:

- 20 Mayo communities have submitted Expression of interest in becoming Mayo's initial Decarbonising Zone. Workshops with these communities are ongoing and the deadline for submission of application forms is April 16th.
- Climate Leadership training was provided to all Senior Management and Elected Representatives on March 19th as part of the National LASTNG Climate Action Training Plan.
- Mayo Comhairle na nÓg Climate Conversation was held on March 30th as part of the National Climate Dialogue.

Rural Water:

In February 2021, Mayo County Council submitted a report and revised request for funding to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the proposed Murrisk Community Water Connection (CWC). The proposed CWC will supply over 600 houses with drinking water and is estimated to cost just under €6,000,000.00.

- A network upgrade project to the value of €300,000.00 has commenced on the Glencorrib Group Water Scheme.
- A network upgrade project to the value of €100,000.00 has commenced on the Loughnamon GWS to allow for connection to the public water mains and to be Taken in Charge by Irish Water.
- A network upgrade project to the value of €80,000.00 has been completed on the Drum / Binghamstown Group Water Scheme.
- In March 2021, Mayo County Council submitted a report to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting revised funding of €1,544,757.00 to complete a network upgrade to Cloonmoore / Cloonlavish Group Water Scheme to allow connection to the public mains and to be Taken in Charge by Irish Water.
- Mayo County Council have been selected by the Department as one of eight Local Authorities to take part in a "**Stakeholder engagement in a research project on the governance, supervision, funding and future investment needs of the Rural Water Sector.**" Mayo County Council will be one of the two initial Local Authorities to be involved in the research project.

Emergency Services - Primary School online competition: In what has been a very difficult year for our young children, we recently held an online competition for them with the support and assistance of all national schools, Mayo County Childcare and the preschool providers in the county. Children in various categories were asked to design their own fire engines and we had a lot of fantastic and innovative ideas demonstrated. There were almost 300 entries which made selection of winners very difficult. With the support of Social Media, we were able to show all entries, which have brightened up the walls of HQ for the past 2 weeks, and to publicise the winners online. We were delighted that there was such a huge effort for which we thanked each child who entered with a small Easter treat.

Dates to Note

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Highlights of the Month:

Housing and Architectural Services

Simon Shevlin



Housing

Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme 2016-2021

- Rebuilding Ireland target for Social Housing in Mayo is 708 however Mayo County Council will endeavour to exceed this figure.

Progress on 2016-2021 programme, 566 units have been completed with another 210 in different stages of progress.

HAP and RAS

In March 2021, 20 houses were delivered under the HAP scheme and 3 houses were delivered under the RAS scheme. This gives a total of 2,168 active households supported by RAS and HAP in Mayo at the end of March 2021.

Leasing

In March 2021 under the leasing programme, 2 houses were delivered under LTL. This give a total of 260 households supported under the Leasing Programme in Mayo.

Homelessness

There were 10 homeless presentations in March 2021.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

To date, 79 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications have been received, 70 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Approvals issued, and 8 Stage 2 Grant Approval applications received.

Heritage

Funding secured from Heritage Council under County Heritage Plan Projects Scheme.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund – Application submitted to Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (26th March)

Conservation

Submission of 12 applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 and 5 applications under the Historic Structures Fund 2021 to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Parks

Design work to begin on Inishturk Playground – Approved Leader funding

Dates to Note

Upcoming events & meetings to note:



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- The closing date for applications to the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID is April 21st.

Dates to Note

- 20th April: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning and Marine SPC
- 23rd April: Tourism, Recreation, Food and Community Engagement SPC
- 29th April: interactive workshop for Irish businesses considering Northern Ireland as a target market post Brexit

ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM

John Magee



Enterprise & Investment Unit

- Local Enterprise Week took place from the 1st – 5th March. Spotlight events included Spring Back & Step Forward – building leadership & resilience; Developing your Business Online in a COVID changed world; Smart Tech for Start-Ups and What next for your digital business presence?
- The Student Enterprise Programme County Final took place on the 11th March. Student enterprises from Claremorris, Crossmolina and Ballinrobe will now progress and compete nationally on the 14th of May.
- Brendan Maloney of Skillko, based in Westport, took part in the LITTUS Philadelphia Transatlantic Showcase during St. Patrick's Day week.

Community, Arts, Sports & Childcare

- Project approvals under the Transitional Programme commenced from 1st April 2021. The Programme will bridge the gap between EU LEADER programming periods. The Initial allocation of € 758,279 will support Mayo-led rural development with a key focus on building capacity in communities.
- Allocations have been made under the Covid Emergency Fund round 2. €55,000 has been allocated to groups to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality and to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign.
- Expressions of Interest have been invited under CLAR 2021. Details available on Mayo.ie
- Mayo Comhairle na nÓg rolled out a National Initiative titled 'Counting with Comhairle'. Approx. 750 young people participated in the initiative.
- "Its for Girls" Teenage Campaign which targets 30 minutes physical activity daily leading up to the Virtual 10K currently has 100 participants.
- As services resume Mayo County Childcare committee offer ongoing support to childcare services throughout the County.

Tourism

- Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre attained National Quality Standard (Outstanding Level) from Active Ireland and Best Newcomer Award 2020/2021.
- Greenway infrastructure - planning and design works continuing for projects at Achill Sound, Foxford, Ballina, Turlough Village
- Greenway essential repairs completed on Great Western Greenway at Turlough, Lough Lannagh, Murriveagh, Tiernaur and Tonragee
- Facilities development ongoing at Keem Bay, Ballintubber Abbey, Destination Town and Keel Centre
- Promotion & Marketing –Design of draft plan for Regional Marketing Programme

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Roads

Notification from National Transport Authority of Active Travel Allocation of €3,345,500 for 2021.

TII have approved Strategic Assessment Report for the Ballina Bypass Phase 1. An allocation of €100,000 has been provided in 2021.

Procurement

Small Tool hire tenders conducted - **All suppliers Mayo based.**

Contract awarded for a new Velocity Patcher

RFT 184015 – multi-disciplinary Consulting Eng. Services for public lighting energy project North West tendered. Closing date 2/4/21

Dates to Note

Roads & Transportation
SPC –
18th May, 2021

Finance, Roads & Service Development

Tom Gilligan



Roads

- Capital Maintenance funding of €400,000 secured from TII for schemes on N84 Sauleen Castlebar and N26 Foxford – Ballina at Curragh
- Funding of €199,842 secured from TII for additional maintenance works on the National Road network.
- Construction works ongoing to N5 Westport – Turlough and N26 Cloongullane schemes
- Design work ongoing to the N60 Heathlawn scheme with the aim to go to tender in late 2021
- Design work ongoing for N59 Derrada scheme with the aim to go to tender in late 2021.
- Construction contract procurement continues on the N17/R320 Junction project at Lisduff Claremorris.
- Works ongoing to R312 Glenisland Bridge scheme.
- Works practically complete on the N60 Breaffy – Manulla pavement overlay scheme and works due to commence on the N60 Balla – Claremorris and N17 Charlestown Streets schemes.
- Design works on going for 2021 pavement overlay and safety programmes.
- Climate Adaptation funding submission made to Department of Transport

Procurement & Efficiency

- Conversation repair of Bridges – Nth west rehabilitation Program
- RFT 186452 - 2021 EERP - Expression of Interest / Invitation to Tender for 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme - Co Mayo. Currently being evaluated.
- Invitation to Tender for a Multi-Party Framework Agreement of Conservation Structural & Civil Engineers for Structural & Civil Conservation Engineering Services with the initial contract for the Conservation & Restoration of Ballinrobe Market House, Ballinrobe. Response deadline 31/03/2021
- Eight central competitions (240 mini competitions) conducted for Plant & Machinery Hire, with and without operator. Evaluation completed and forwarded to each MD
- Several competitions for road strengthening works
- Supply & lay of road making materials
- Refurbishment works and extensions to council houses
- Tender for walking poles on behalf of Sports Partnership
- RFT 186302 Lo-cal landfill gas flare for Derrinmera

Finance

- Circular Fin 05/2021 – Extension of Commercial Rates Waiver to Q2-2021.



Mayo County Council

APPENDIX A

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2021 Adopted Budget for month end February 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW FEBRUARY 2021

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp. To Date Feb-21 €	Budget 2021 €	Remaining 2021 €	% Spent 2021	Inc. To Date Feb-21 €	Budget 2021 €	Not Rec'd 2021 €	% Rec'd 2021
A	Housing and Building	2,619,366	19,682,822	17,063,456	13%	2,580,446	19,831,762	17,251,316	13%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	3,258,719	47,892,469	44,633,750	7%	1,414,381	40,820,501	39,406,120	3%
C	Water Services	1,519,377	16,726,566	15,207,189	9%	1,832,859	20,253,755	18,420,896	9%
D	Development Management	2,572,354	13,859,093	11,286,739	19%	795,899	4,187,315	3,391,416	19%
E	Environmental Services	2,226,361	16,396,894	14,170,523	14%	695,232	5,744,900	5,049,668	12%
F	Recreation and Amenity	1,742,084	10,724,014	8,981,930	16%	172,563	3,386,330	3,213,767	5%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	227,315	1,954,527	1,727,212	12%	83,446	588,260	504,814	14%
H	Miscellaneous Services	1,385,738	11,488,138	10,102,400	12%	836,715	7,213,963	6,377,248	12%
J	Central Management Charges	3,277,323	20,444,108	17,166,785	16%	250,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	17%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	5,795,057	34,784,930	28,989,873	17%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	3,476,151	20,856,905	17,380,754	17%
	GRAND TOTAL	18,828,637	159,168,621	140,339,984	12%	17,932,749	159,168,621	141,235,872	11%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Feb-21	Arrears Feb-21	% Collected
Rents	2,288,628	1,188,601	1,100,027	52%
Rates	38,917,335	4,886,869	34,030,466	13%
Housing Loans	1,135,267	512,606	622,661	45%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft
Estimated Interest Incurred	314