

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



HIGHLIGHTING 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Mission Statement.....	6
Vision	6
Corporate Plan	7
Elected Members	8
Municipal Districts	10
Castlebar Municipal District.....	11
West Mayo Municipal District	24
Ballina Municipal District	30
Claremorris Municipal District.....	41
Finance	60
Enterprise and Investment Unit	69
Local Enterprise Office Mayo	70
Arts Service.....	87
Community & Integrated Development.....	98
Mayo County Childcare Committee (Mccc)	101
Mayo Sports Partnership.....	104
Oifig Na Gaeilge	110
Planning & Economic Development	113
Environment	120
Mayo County Library	134
Roads Transportation and Safety.....	140
Mayo County Fire Service	152
Swinford Cultural Centre	164
Motor Tax	166
Water Safety	167
Mayo Civil Defence	169
Veterinary Department	171
Rural Water Section	173
Personnel Department	176
Castlebar Regional Training Centre	179
Procurement Section.....	181
Information Communications Technologies (ICTS).....	186

Mayo Heritage Office.....	188
General Purposes	193
Architects Department.....	194
Strategic Policy Committees	205
Overview of Energy Usage In 2015.....	209
Remembrance - John McNicholas, R.I.P. (1957 – 2015)	211
Appendices	213

INTRODUCTION

2015 was another busy and productive year for Mayo County Council in which we continued to work to deliver on our vision of a County which is Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud.

A number of key projects commenced during the year including the Trans Atlantic Fibre Optic Cable, the Mayo Renewable Power Plant at Killala and our engagement and support for Ireland West Airport Knock in collaboration with six other Local Authorities moved closer to fruition. This report outlines some of the key activities and achievements of the year just past.

Mayo County Council has thirty members elected until 2019 and the Council is chaired by the Cathaoirleach who is elected by the members annually. The Corporate Policy Group and the six Strategic Policy Committees initiate, develop and recommend policy to the Council.

The day to day affairs of the Council are overseen by the Chief Executive who is supported by just under one thousand employees. Each Municipal District has a local office which delivers local services to the people in that district. Each is supported by the Council in cross county services and through the operational services of the Council.

The level of expenditure for the Revenue Account in 2015 was **€139m** with the Capital Account at **€55m**.

Among the many highlights for 2015, a number stand out;

MUNICIPALITIES

The embedding of the four Municipal Districts in Mayo continues to ensure the delivery of effective public services to our communities. In 2015 Municipal districts works included:

- Following Storm Desmond in December, 2015, homes were flooded and villages were cut off. A large number of roads became impassable in the County. Mayo County Council's outdoor staff, local communities, Fire Service and the Civil Defence all provided assistance to persons affected due to flooding. Emergency housing was provided by Mayo County Council for a number of persons whose houses were flooded. The support of the Irish Red Cross, the Army and voluntary groups is greatly appreciated.
- The construction of the greenway through Westport House. This involved the construction of 1100m of new greenway 3m wide at a cost of €300,000. The greenway in Ballina (The Monasteries of the Moy) was also progressed.

ENTERPRISE

May 2nd 2015 saw the Inaugural Mayo Day initiative delivered by the Enterprise and Investment Unit. There was a huge response to the initiative with events and gatherings happening worldwide:

- A total of €490,000 of grant aid was committed to 32 small businesses in 2014;
- 42 new jobs were supported by the Local Enterprise Office through working with a client base of 188 businesses;
- Mayo County Council was the recipient of the 2015 LAMA Award in the category 'Best Economic Partnership' for the work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit.
- A new tourism strategy titled "Destination Mayo - A Strategy for the Future Development of Tourism in County Mayo 2015 – 2020" was adopted by Mayo County Council on the 14th September 2015.

PLANNING

2015 was the first full year in which all applications for the county were processed centrally in Castlebar. It was also the first year since 2006, in which there was an increase in the number of applications received which is up over 10%.

LIBRARY

The Jackie Clarke Collection experienced its busiest year yet in 2015 with 23,358 people visiting the facility, an increase of 9252 from 2014. It appears that by the end of the year numbers will be up by almost 50%. The library continued to be a place of tranquillity and stillness amidst the clamour of the recession.

ARCHITECTS

Construction works commenced on a new Swimming Pool Complex and Outdoor Education Building, at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar.

HOUSING

An additional 128 units of accommodation were added to the total number of dwellings provided by Mayo County Council in 2015 providing a total of 3162 social houses in the county.

It is with great sadness that we extend the sympathy of the entire Council to the family of the late John McNicholas, R.I.P. who passed away at work on 9th June 2015. Ar dheis dé go raibh a anim dhilis.

Finally, we take this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation of all employees, councillors and voluntary groups and thank them for their commitment and dedication to securing our mission, vision and goals during 2015. Ar aghaidh linn le cheile.



Peter Hynes
Príomh Fheidhmeannach

Al McDonnell
Cathaoirleach

MISSION STATEMENT



"Promote the well-being and quality of life of our citizens and communities in Mayo and to enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place in which to live, work, visit, invest in and enjoy".

VISION

"A County that is Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud".

CORPORATE PLAN

Mayo County Council is at the heart of local community, and is a key provider of economic and social development in Mayo. As the democratic leader of the County, we represent the people while delivering vital local services which are central to the quality of life of everybody who lives in, works in and visits Mayo.

As the leading public sector body in Mayo, Mayo County Council also support and facilitate others in the County and nationally who are responsible for key public services. When we deliver our responsibilities, others can deliver their obligations as well.

The Council is central to making Mayo, Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud. This Plan is a key part of our delivering on our commitment to Mayo. In it we set out our mission as the democratic body representing the people of Mayo, what we want to deliver for the people over the next five years, and how we are going to meet our commitments to our communities. This Plan also sets out what we will work to achieve and how we will measure our efforts so that the people of Mayo will see that we deliver effectively on our commitments to them.

Mayo County Council is community centred and people focused. We represent the people through our councillors while our staff is part of the Mayo Community so we want to make sure that everything we do in the next five years makes a positive contribution to the development of Mayo, now and far out into the future.

A successful Mayo needs a successful Council and the Plan sets out how we are going to be a successful Council.

ELECTED MEMBERS

CLAREMORRIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr. John Caulfield



Cllr. Tom Connolly



Cllr. John Cribbin



Cllr. Richard Finn



Cllr. Gerry Murray



Cllr. Patsy O'Brien



Cllr. Damien Ryan

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr. Neil Cruise



Cllr. Gerry Ginty



Cllr. Michael Loftus



Cllr. Jarlath Munnely



Cllr. John O'Hara



Cllr. Annie May Reape



Cllr. Michael Smyth



Cllr. Seamus Weir

CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr. Cyril Burke



Cllr. Lisa Chambers



Cllr. Frank Durcan



Cllr. Blackie K. Gavin



Cllr. Henry Kenny



Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne



Cllr. Al McDonnell



Cllr. Thérèse Ruane

WEST MAYO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr. Rose Conway-Walsh



Cllr. Gerry Coyle



Cllr. Michael Holmes



Cllr. Christy Hyland



Cllr. Tereasa McGuire



Cllr. Paul McNamara



Cllr. Brendan Mulroy

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

County Mayo



CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Castlebar Municipal District has continued to meet the requirements of both Castlebar town and its general area over the year by on the one hand maintaining essential services, while also encouraging competitiveness and growth.

The Municipal District represents the population of the district as a whole which forms the natural hinterland of Castlebar as distinct from the Castlebar Town area which had more limited functional territorial and operational scope.

The elected members of the District are:

Cllr. B. Gavin (elected Cathaoirleach on 9th July, 2015)

Cllr. Cyril Burke

Cllr. Lisa Chambers

Cllr Frank Durcan

Cllr. Al McDonnell (Cathaoirleach from June, 2014 to July, 2015)

Cllr. Henry Kenny

Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne

Cllr. Therese Ruane



Cathaoirleach of Castlebar Municipal District - Cllr. Blackie Gavin

CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEMBERS



In the interest of making Castlebar Municipal District more attractive for the local visitor and investor alike many projects which were underway in 2015 have been advanced significantly during 2015/2016:

- Housing
 - Ongoing acquisition of derelict properties at Spencer Street, Castlebar.
 - Continuation of the remedial works scheme for local authority housing
 - Continuation of the Energy Retrofitting Scheme for local authority units.
 - Painting of local authority properties.

- Town Centre Regeneration
 - Footpath extensions
 - Car park refurbishments
 - Newline widening
 - Curradish and Belcarra road improvements
 - Bridge Street (Elverys) laneway improvements.
 - Rock Square Enhancement
 - Provision of cycle lanes

- Amenities
 - Castlebar new Swimming Pool and Outdoor Pursuits Centre.
 - Turlough Village Enhancement Scheme
 - Belcarra Village Enhancements
 - Kiltimagh playground and leisure park

While funding these projects will continue to be a challenge, Castlebar Municipal District will continue to examine all potential funding options available.

HOUSING

HOUSING GRANTS FOR PRIVATE HOUSES - 2015

Type of Grant	No. Approved	Value Approved €
Housing Aid for Older People	63	145,519.29
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	26	53,951.76
Housing Adaptation for Persons with a Disability	29	195,764.26

HOUSING STOCK

As of 31st December, 2015 there are 389 units of local authority housing within the Castlebar Municipal District broken down as follows:

	No. of Housing Units
Castlebar Town	169
Castlebar Municipal District excluding Castlebar Town	220

Castlebar Municipal District has an annual budget in place to maintain this substantial housing stock.

In recent years the Department of the Environment introduced the Energy Efficiency Programme and the Voids Programme for local authority dwellings. The Energy Efficiency Programme assists local authorities in carrying out works to upgrade the energy efficiency levels in its houses. The Voids Programme assists in returning vacant social housing units to productive use.

The Municipal District Offices located at Aras an Chontae, Castlebar carry out the following housing functions among others: -

- Delivery of the housing construction programme
- Implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Management of the housing waiting list
- Provision of services for the homeless
- Provision of special needs and rural housing
- House Purchase and Improvements Loans
- Collection of housing rents
- Manage the change from Castlebar Town Council and Castlebar Electoral Area to a single Municipal District
- Renovate long term housing voids
- Implement the Energy Efficiency Works Scheme
- Assist local Voluntary Housing bodies

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Castlebar Municipal District has a total of 1,518 kilometres of roadway which is divided between National, Regional and Local Roads as set out hereunder.

National Primary Roads	29kms
National Secondary Roads	49kms
Regional Roads	162kms
Local Roads	1,278 kms

As part of the programme of works, ongoing in 2015 and carried forward into 2016, the following amounts are allocated in the Castlebar Municipal District.

	€	Total
National Primary Roads		
General Maintenance	81,030	
Winter Maintenance	43,600	
		124,630
National Secondary Roads		
General Maintenance	87,306	
Winter Maintenance	42,230	
Pavement & Minor Works	3,221,500	
		3,351,036
Regional Roads		
General Maintenance	274,820	
Surface Dressing	268,642	
Other Works of Maintenance	70,200	
Strengthening/Road Restoration	632,477	
Winter Maintenance	123,517	
Specific Improvements Schemes	700,000	
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	73,775	
		2,143,431
Local Roads		
General Maintenance	828,691	
Surface Dressing	693,418	
Strengthening/Road Restoration	1,358,203	
Local Road Improvements	30,853	
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	68,100	
Community Involvement Schemes	164,365	
Local Improvement Schemes	182,331	3,325,961
		8,945,058

NATIONAL ROADS - CAPITAL PROJECTS

N5 WESTPORT TO TURLOUGH ROAD PROJECT - 27 KMS

The Compulsory Purchase Order and Environment Impact Statement were approved for the Scheme in 2014. The project extends from Westport to East of Castlebar, and includes a new southern bypass of Castlebar. In 2015, Notices to Treat were served on all the affected landowners and the land valuation process began. Archaeological Test Trenching, detailed site investigation and other advance works also commenced on site together with preparation of contract documents for fencing.

The project with a value of €200m was included in the Government's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme in September, 2015.



Archaeological Test Trenching nearing completion on the N5 Westport/Turlough Road

N5/N26/N58 CASTLEBAR TO BOHOLA & SWINFORD TO MOUNT FALCON ROAD PROJECT

Following the An Bord Pleanála decision to refuse planning permission for the proposed N26 Ballina to Bohola Stage 2 in February, 2010, a revised proposal was developed by Mayo County Council to improve the N5 route between Turlough and East of Bohola together with the N26/N58 connection between Foxford and the improved N5 route.

The Emerging Preferred Route corridors for the new N5/N26/N58 Turlough Bohola Project were presented to the members of Castlebar and Ballina Municipal Districts in June, 2015 and adopted at a full meeting of the Council in July, 2015. It is hoped that the N5/N26/N58 project will continue to benefit from investment in 2016.

WATER SERVICES

The complete re-organisation of the water sector nationwide and the establishment of a national water utility was one of the biggest single changes in the local authority sector since the establishment of local authorities in 1898. Irish Water was established formally on the 1st of January, 2014. Local authorities continue to deliver the day to day management and operation of the Water Services Programme in accordance with a Service Level Agreement entered into in 2013 for a period of twelve years from 2014.

Mayo County Council's Water Services assets and liabilities will gradually transfer of Irish Water and for 13 years from 2014, Mayo County Council will operate and maintain Public Water Services on behalf of Irish Water under the terms of a Service Level

Agreement signed by both parties in December, 2013. The next Capital Investment Plan is expected to be published by Irish Water in 2016. Mayo County Council will continue to have a role in the development and delivery of the Capital Investment Plan. Mayo County Council continues to be the Supervisory Body for Group Water Schemes and will administer the Rural Water Programme on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Schemes in Progress

- Breaffy Sewerage Scheme
- Water Conservation Package 2

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Last year an amount of in excess of €20,000 was made available to various community and sporting organisations in Castlebar area for various festivals and events as set out below.

- Dancing at the Crossroads, Castlebar
- Turlough Heritage, Duck Race and Family Fun Day
- Saddle up for Epilepsy, Castlebar
- Kiltimagh St. Patrick's Day Parade
- "Party on the Pitch" Ballyvary Music Festival
- Coiste Cultur Teanga agus Thuar Mhic Eadaigh
- Castlebar St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Castlebar Pantomime Committee
- Castlebar Annual Carnival
- Partry Heritage Festival
- Islandeady Family Sports Day
- Balla Festival
- Mayo International Cup, Milebush Castlebar
- Balla Community Council
- Mayo International Choral Festival
- African Day Celebration
- Bohola Sports Day
- Straide Parish Festival

An excess of €14,000 has been made available to Residents Associations in Castlebar Municipal District in 2015. They are:

- Moat Estate, Balla
- Churchfield, Balla
- Ashling Manor, Balla
- Meadow Park, Castlebar
- Kilkeeran, Partry
- Churchview, Balla

- Goirtin na Coille, Tourmakeady
- Ardchronan, Balla
- Cashel Park, Castlebar
- Rowan Drive, Castlebar
- Leicnin Village, Turlough
- Greenfields, Castlebar
- McHale Road, Castlebar
- Millwood, Turlough
- Oakwood, Bohola
- Foxfield, Snugboro
- Davitt Grove, Castlebar
- Partry Residents Association
- Marian Row, St. Bridget's Crescent, Riverside, Castlebar
- Fortfield and St. Martin's Tce., Castlebar
- Carrownurlaur, Breaffy, Castlebar
- Garryduff Park, Castlebar
- N84 Attavally/Lufferton Residents
- Lios na Circe, Castlebar
- Oakmill Estate, Balla
- College Woods, Balla
- Victoria Place, Castlebar
- An Sruthan, Castlebar

Other Clubs and Organisations who benefited from funding from Castlebar Municipal District in 2015 were:

- Balla Golf Club
- Castlebar Celtic Youths FC
- Castlebar Active Retirement
- Advanced Recovery Mayo Ltd - T/A Mindspace Mayo
- Castlebar Mitchels Ladies GAA Club
- The Family Centre, Castlebar
- Lahardane GAA
- Castlebar Athletic Club
- Bilberry/Lannagh Angling Club, Islandeady
- Balla Tidy Towns
- Castlebar Knitting Group
- Castlebar Social Services Ltd
- Mayo Centre for the Unemployed
- Mayo War Dead Memorial Committee
- Mayo Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance
- Ballyglass Football & Social Club Ltd.
- Both Thola Ladybirds and Brownies
- Islandeady Cycling Club

- Castlebar Mitchels GAA Club
- Castlebar Boxing Club
- Castlebar Celtic Women's FC
- Parke Keellogues Crimlin GAA Club
- Mayo Carers Association
- Partry Athletic FC
- Keenagh Womens Group
- Coiste Pobail Thuar Mhic Eadaigh Teo
- Castlebar No Name Club
- Castlebar Celtic FC
- Ballyvary/Keellogues Development Co.
- Glen Neiphin Mens Shed, Lahardane
- Aglish Boxing Club, Castlebar
- Balla No Name Club
- Castlebar Tidy Towns
- Straide (and district) War Memorial Association
- Ballintubber over 55 club
- Mayo Concert Orchestra and Castlebar Concert Band, Mayo Youth Orchestra
- Castlebar Mitchels Hurling Club
- Bofeenaun Community Centre
- Turlough Community Development Association
- Shraheens Development Committee
- Castlebar Chamber of Commerce
- Ballyheane Tidy Towns
- Keenagh Development Committee
- Mayo Mountain Rescue Team
- Grainne Uaile Sub Aqua Club Ltd.
- Castlebar Rugby Football Club
- CLG Tuar Mich Eadagh (Tourmakeady GAA Club)
- Mayo Intercultural Action
- Partry Afterschool
- Partry Community Council
- Carnacon Community Development Association
- Breaffy GAA
- Castlebar Community Games
- St. Peter's National School Parents Association, Snugboro
- Snugboro United Football Club
- Foroige Islandeady
- Order of Malta, Castlebar
- Friend's of St. Anthony's School, Castlebar
- Castlebar Town F.C.
- Crimlin Community Arts
- Parke Community Hall Ltd.
- Le Cheile Family Resource Centre, Castlebar

- Castlebar Men's Shed
- Turlough Parent, Baby and Toddler Community Group
- Mayo Volunteer Centre, c/o Le Cheile FRC, Castlebar
- Rush Street Traders
- Parke Musical Society, Parke Community Hall Ltd.
- Balla Community Council
- Clar IRD, Claremorris
- Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar
- Castlebar Cycling Club
- Balla Community Resource Ltd.
- Parke Arts & Drama Group
- Yotoshinkai Karate Club, Castlebar
- Kiltimagh Tidy Towns
- Kiltimagh Amenity Park



Presentation to Castlebar Pantomime Group



Switching on Christmas Lights - 2015

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Council have taken in charge a number of private housing developments in recent years. The following road and housing developments were taken in charge in the Castlebar Municipal District area during 2015:

- Victoria Place Castlebar
- Carrowncurry - Willow Grove Estate
- Rathbawn - Brookhaven Estate
- Tullycommons & Carrowbrinogue
- Corraun
- Ballycarra
- Ross East, Castlebar

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND RECREATION AND AMENITY

PHASE 1 - CASTLEBAR SWIMMING POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE, NATIONAL OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING CENTRE

This element involves the construction of a Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre together with a Training Centre for Outdoor Pursuits at Lough Lannagh in Castlebar.

The Swimming Pool incorporates an 8 lane 25m pool along with a learner pool, associated changing facilities, staff and plant accommodation, gym and aerobics rooms and has an area of 3,340 sq.m.

The Outdoor Educational and Training Centre contains wet and dry changing and storage facilities, access to Lough Lannagh, a climbing wall as well as lecture and office areas and has an area of 747 sq.m.

The projected cost of this element of the project is €11,095,235. Funding in the amount of €7,695,000 was approved by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport. The contracts were signed on 16th November 2015 and construction on site commenced in December 2015. The Contractor is P. J. McLoughlin & Sons Limited. The programmed completion is mid 2017.



Approval of funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport



Construction on site

GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY - CASTLEBAR NETWORK

The Great Western Greenway - Castlebar Network extends from the National Museum of Ireland Country Life in Turlough village to Castlebar town, Lough Lannagh, Raheens Woods and onwards towards Westport. The trail offers a pleasant mix of fields, riverside woodlands, small sections of quiet country back roads and urban settings. It is designed for shared use by leisure walkers, joggers and cyclists and is suitable for people with moderate levels of fitness.

The trail extends for 16km in total with the section from Turlough to Castlebar measuring 10kms and the route from Castlebar to Raheens Wood in Islandeady measuring 6kms in total.

Since their completion both sections of trail have proven a huge attraction for locals and tourists alike. As time passes the numbers using the trails will increase substantially as they become established as part of the overall Great Western Greenway route.

The Castlebar to Turlough Village trail was officially opened on 1st May, 2015.



Castlebar to Turlough Greenway

UNDERGROUND BOTTLE BANK - CASTLE STREET

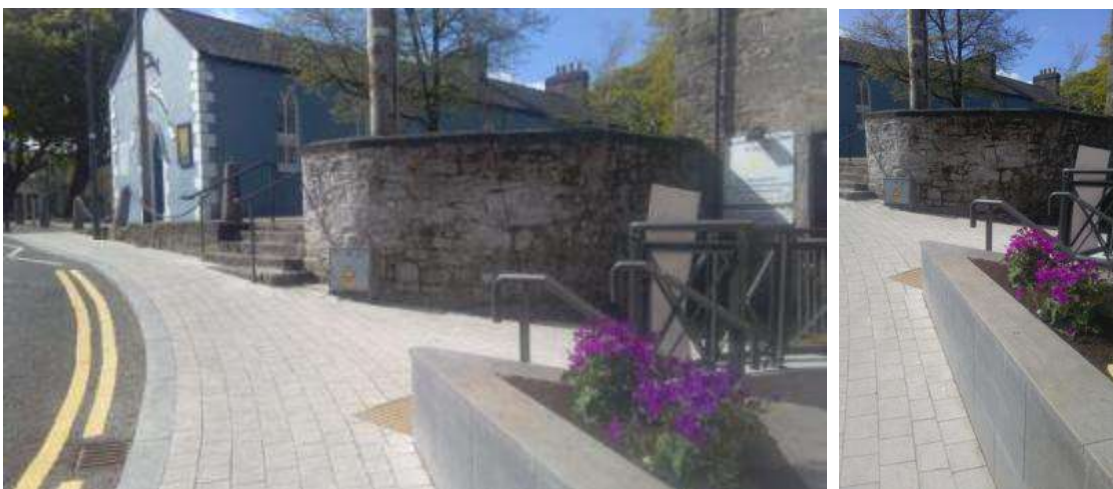


ROCK SQUARE ENHANCEMENT

Enhancement works were carried out at Rock Square, Castlebar in order to link Castle Street to the Mall and to provide a courtesy crossing to facilitate pedestrians to access the Mall proper.

The works have continued with materials and finishes as per enhancement works completed on/about the adjacent Mall.

Rock Square is located at the North West corner of the Mall/Green in the middle of Castlebar town. The square itself is a busy confluence of multiple urban circulation routes as it feeds into and out of Castle Street and the Convent grounds. This area sees an appreciable volume of vehicular traffic, particularly early in the morning and at school finishing times. The improvement works have contributed to a significant enhancement of the area both in terms of user experience and visual amenity.



PROPOSED NEWLINE, RATHBAWN, WATERVILLA & PONTOON ROAD CIVIC SPACE & TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT WORKS, CASTLEBAR, COUNTY MAYO

Part 8 Planning was Published for the above-mentioned works on the 29th July 2008. I report was drafted by the Senior Planner and presented to the Town Council for its meeting on the 16th December 2008.

Part of the Part 8 Planning was approved. The part approved comprised the works at Davitt's Terrace, and Newline. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 3 was 'that the development as proposed be constructed at Newline and Davitts Terrace and be varied so that the road project terminate just before the Sacred Heart Home'.

The works progressed on the Davitt's Terrace Junction, which now gives priority to traffic travelling on the R310 Regional Road. The works on Newline were not able to progress as the Council was not able to purchase all the lands, so approval to proceed to CPO was given by the Cuncy Manager on the 19/11/2013.

On the 19th August 2014 An Bord Pleanala confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order. A grant was received from the DTTAS in 2015 and a Contractor (P&D Lydon Plant Hire Ltd) were awarded the contract to carry out the works in July 2015. The works commenced in September 2015 and were substantially completed by the end of the year. The final Contract value was approx. €420,000 and the project estimate cost is likely to be approximately €835,000.00. Castlebar Town Council contributed €300,000 and the DTTAS gave us Grants of €300,000 in 2015 and €200,000 in 2016.



Newline, Castlebar

WEST MAYO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

WATER SERVICES

IRISH WATER

Irish Water was established formally on the 1st of January 2014. Local Authorities continue to deliver the day to day management and operation of the Water Services Programme in accordance with a Service Level Agreement entered into in 2013 for a period of twelve years from 2014.

An Annual Service Plan for 2015 was agreed between Irish Water and Mayo County Council and this plan details all necessary works to be undertaken to comply with drinking water standards and other, statutory regulations in the water services domain.

Against this background Mayo County Council staff in the West Mayo Municipal District continued to operate and maintain all of the water services infrastructure in the district during 2015. During 2015 the delivery of water services in the West Mayo Municipal District was restructured with the putting in place of a specialized full time team dedicated exclusively to water services in the district.

WATER QUALITY

One new boil water notice was issued in 2015 on public supplies which were as a result of a cryptosporidium incident in Westport. The notice was issued on the 6th May 2015. It was partially lifted on the 26th May 2015 and fully lifted on the 12th June 2015.

WATER SERVICE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Schemes completed in 2015 in West Mayo Municipal District

Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme – Shraah to Westport

Water Conservation Package 4 – Kilmaine, Ballycastle, Taugheen and Ballycastle

Schemes to Commence in 2016(subject to funding)

Belmullet Sewerage Scheme

Inishturk Water Supply Scheme - Upgrade

Minor Programme Schemes

Westport Waste Water Treatment Plant UV Treatment

ROADS

CONTEXT

The road network in the West Municipal District covers a total of 1804km of National, Regional and Local roads and a budget for road works of €11,182,791 was provided in 2014 for the former electoral areas of Belmullet and Westport. The following is a summary of the main roads activities carried out in 2014 in the district.

NATIONAL ROADS – CAPITAL PROJECTS

N5 WESTPORT – TURLOUGH PROJECT

An Bord Pleanála has confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order and approved the Environmental Impact Statement and Natura Impact Statement for that part of the project from Westport to the east of Castlebar and annulled part of the Compulsory Purchase Order for a small segment from east of Castlebar to Turlough. During 2015 Notices to Treat were served on all landowners. Site investigation, archaeological testing and other advance works commenced during 2015 also. The project has been included in the Government's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Programme with an estimated cost of €200m.

N59 WESTPORT TO MULRANNY

A funding allocation of €2.0m was received in 2015. An Bord Pleanála confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order in July 2012. Notices to Treat have been served on all landowners and land acquisition is ongoing. Approximately 50% of compensation claims were settled in 2015.

A grant allocation of €2.0m was received in 2015 which enabled a 2km section of the N59 at Rossow Bends to commence construction. This scheme is a continuation of the Kilbride scheme and construction will be completed in 2016. Funding was also received in 2015 to allow the detailed design to be progressed on the N59 Kilmeena project which involves a further 3km and is an extension of the Rossow Bends scheme.



N59 Rossow Bends under construction

N59 MULRANNY FOOTPATHS

A grant of €1.69m was received in 2015. Phase 1 of the footpath scheme at the western end of the village was completed in 2013. Phase 2 – the middle section - was completed in 2014 and the Compulsory Purchase Order for Phase 3 at the eastern end of the village was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. A contractor was appointed in early 2015 and construction on the final Phase 3 of the scheme is nearing completion.



Mulranny Footpath Scheme

NATIONAL ROADS – PAVEMENT AND MINOR WORKS

Funding totalling €1.3m was received in 2015 which allowed two pavement overlays on the N59 to be completed at Ballyveeney between Mulranny and Ballycroy.

Other minor improvement works carried out on national routes in 2015 included the low cost safety scheme at Carrowbawn where funding of €60,000 was made available to improve vision at the minor road junction. The total national road maintenance budget in 2015 for the West Mayo Municipal District was €196,679 and the winter maintenance budget was €99,860.



N59 Ballyveeney Overlay Project

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The 2015 regional and local roads funding in the West Mayo Municipal District is listed below under its main activity categories

Regional Roads – Maintenance	€ 366,769
Regional Roads – Winter Maintenance	€ 150,596
Regional Roads – Surface Dressing	€ 334,838
Regional Roads – Other Works	€ 116,507
Regional Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€ 770,185
Local Roads – Maintenance	€ 802,353
Local Roads – Surface Dressing	€ 521,973
Local Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€1,462,622
Councillor NOM Allocations (7x€37,500)	€ 262,500
Verge Trimming/Hedge Cutting	€ 25,800
Ineligible Expenditure	€ 141,900
TOTAL	€4,956,043

Specific Bridge Improvements Grants were allocated for the following schemes.

Mount Jubilee Bridge	€395,110
Newport Town Bridge	€139,392

A grant of €436,000 was made available in 2015 to conclude the roads severe weather damage repairs and this allowed the remaining outstanding project to be completed. This involved the construction of a new bridge on the R313 Belmullet to Blacksod road at the Gaisce, the renewal of approximately 500m of road pavement and the installation of new crash barriers. The funds available supported the normal maintenance activities on regional and local roads throughout 2015. The funds resulted in the completion of 46km of surface dressing on regional and local roads in the district in 2015 and the completion of 40km of pavement strengthening works.

The following works were carried out under the Specific Improvement Grant Funding:

MOUNT JUBILEE BRIDGE

The contractor for this project was appointed in early summer 2015 and the project is now nearing completion.



Mount Jubilee Bridge Widening Scheme

Other projects also undertaken in 2015 included the Lecanvey low cost safety scheme for which a grant of €150,000 was made available.



Lecanvey Improvement Scheme under construction

WESTPORT SMARTER TRAVEL PROGRAMME

Works continued during 2015 on the Westport smarter travel pilot project and the most significant development in 2015 was the construction of the greenway through Westport House. This involved the construction of 1100m of new greenway 3m wide at a cost of €300,000.



Westport House Greenway

STORM DAMAGE

Following the storms of January and February 2014 further projects were completed in 2015 on construction and repairs of sea walls and marine structures at the following locations:

- Rosbeg €136,000
- Roman Island €100,000
- Roscahill €50,000
- Dugort €45,000
- Dooagh €122,000
- Foxpoint €330,000
- Newport Quay €80,000
- Roigh €50,000
- Bunnafolly €50,000
- Rinroe €50,000
- Doolough €20,000
- Portulin €120,000
- Blacksod €80,000
- Frenchpark €50,000
- Belderrig €64,000
- Shore Road Belmullet €160,000

In relation to Carrowholly Flood Protection Scheme it is anticipated that this project would commence in mid 2016 subject to all statutory permissions being secured, landowner agreements and funding being available.

A new car park is also under construction at Bertra and will be complete at the end of 2015 at the cost of €190,000



Bertra Car Park under construction



Rosbeg Wall Repairs

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

HOUSING

HOUSING GRANTS 2015

Type of Grant	No. Approved	Value Approved	No. Paid	Value Paid
Housing Aid for Older People	80	€362,711.30	91	€399,334.63
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	40	€141,596.50	49	€150,111.50
Housing Adaptation for Persons with a Disability	17	€171,649.00	12	€99,281.06
Totals	137	€675,956.80	152	€648,727.19

CASUAL VACANCIES

The work programme focused on the complete refurbishment of casual vacancies and the re-allocation of the stock during the year. Overall, 41 no. properties in total within the District were 'Returned to Productive Use' at year end, in conjunction with Casual Vacancy works listed below.

	Renovated & Allocated	Work Underway Complete 2015
Ballina Municipal District	41	41
TOTAL	41	41

OTHER HOUSING ACTIVITY

- 6 no. Housing Units benefited from Mobility related adaptation works;
- Construction works were completed on re-building 2 houses in Ballina urban area as well as on the reconstruction of a third house. One of the units was occupied in time for Christmas, 2015, while the other two properties were subsequently occupied in the New Year.
- Homelessness: 12 no. Homeless Clients had emergency accommodation funded within this District during 2015. In recognition of this escalating issue, Ballina Municipal District reserved two units within our stock (separate locations), and made same ready for occupation, for Emergency Accommodation purposes.

HOUSING LOANS

During 2015, Ballina Municipal District assisted 4 no. families in becoming home owners, under the Council's Housing Loan Scheme. In total 4 no. housing loans were approved within Ballina Municipal District, broken down as follows:

PURPOSE OF LOAN	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals
New Build	0	0
House Purchase	4	€343,900.00
Reconstruction	0	€0
Total	4	€343,900.00

HOUSING STOCK

As of 31st December 2015 there are 599 units of housing stock within Ballina Municipal District, broken down as follows:

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	No of Housing Units
Ballina former Urban area stock	231 + 2
Ballina electoral area stock	185
Swinford electoral area stock transfers	152
Belmullet electoral area stock transfers	29

ACQUISITIONS

Efforts to increase our Housing Stock levels during 2015 resulted in successful Agreements being reached in relation to the acquisition of a further 5 no. units, before the end of the year.

ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY

The road network in the Ballina Municipal District covers a total of 1,491 km of National, Regional and Local Roads. The following is a summary of the main roads activities carried out in 2015 in the district.

National Primary Roads (General and Winter Maintenance)	€178,033
National Secondary Roads (General and Winter Maintenance)	€107,983
Regional Roads	€1,223,551
Local Roads	€3,593,201

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The 2015 Regional and Local roads funding in the Ballina Municipal District is listed below under its main activity categories:

Regional Roads – Maintenance	€234,871
Regional Roads – Winter Maintenance	€96,438
Regional Roads – Strengthening	€493,210
Regional Roads – Surface Dressing	€214,423
Regional Road Other Works	€74,609
Regional Road-low cost safety works	€110,000
Local Roads – Maintenance	€879,815
Local Roads – Strengthening	€1,326,565
Local Roads – Surface Dressing	€473,418
Local Roads – Special Allocation	€220,000
Local Roads – footpath/road works	€69,622

Local Improvement Schemes	€183,416
Councillors Notice of Motion (8x €37,500)	€300,000

Funding of €178,000 was also made available under the NRA's HD/15 scheme for footpaths and lighting on the N59, Sligo Road and a pedestrian crossing on Humbert Street which will enhance road safety at these locations.

The Councillors also agreed to allocate €120,000 from the General Municipal Allocation and €164,365 from the Community Involvement Scheme to fund the construction of a footpath and new lighting from Foxford town to the Railway Station.

There was also a supplementary allocation of €314,864 for the strengthening programme during the year which was used to undertake works to approximately 10km of roads, as follows:

L5114 Knocklehaugh Ballina	€32,000
L1120 Beeleek Road Ballina`	€50,000
L5149 Ardagh School Road	€52,864
L51801 Steelaun North	€45,000
L52924 Dooleague	€45,000
L5374 Carrowliam Beg	€45,000
L1312 / L5349 Old Castle Meelick	€45,000

A National Road pavement scheme was also undertaken to the N59 Ballina – Crossmolina Road at Knockanillaun, measuring 3km in length and costing €900,000.

The Council also commenced construction of a right turn lane at the junction of R314 and turn to Mayo Renewable Power site near Killala and costing approximately €232,000.

The Councils newly purchased flood Barrier was deployed at Cathedral Road, Ballina to prevent the river Moy from encroaching on Cathedral Road.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT



The new Lidl store at Bohernasup, Ballina opened in 2015 and is a welcome addition to the town.

TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES

Work continued on the taking in charge of estates in 2015.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Part 8 proposals were endorsed for the following:

- development of a car park at Church Street, Killala which will commence in 2016;
- construction of a footpath, carriageway improvement, public lighting and ancillary works from the junction of the Bellass Rd on the R318 to Foxford Railway Station;
- Mary Robinson Centre, Emmett St, Ballina.

MARY ROBINSON CENTRE 2013 – 2017

The Mary Robinson Centre for Women Rights and Human Rights will be a museum and educational centre located in Mrs Robinsons birthplace on Emmett Street Ballina. The proposed centre will comprise of the existing 1830's Georgian terrace and a new annex located adjacent on Council lands. The Centre will contain auditoria, classrooms, library and the Mary Robinson Archive showcasing her work as civil rights lawyer, Senator, first female President, United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, UN Commissioner to Central Africa and champion of Climate change, donated by Mary to the people of Ballina.



TWINNING

- A new twinning committee was set up in April 2015 comprising of Cllr's Neil Cruise, Annie May Reape, Gerry Ginty and Michael Loftus.
- A delegation from Ballina attended a festival in Athis Mons in November.
- A reception was also held for visiting dignitaries of from Craigavon and Pittsfield.
- Cllr. Gerry Ginty represented the District at the 'Country Comes to Town' Festival in Portadown on Saturday, 19th September, 2015.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TIDY TOWNS

Ballina, Swinford, Crossmolina, Ballycastle and Bonniconlon continue to do well in the annual tidy town's competitions and the spirit of volunteerism and community spirit displayed by the volunteers is to be commended. In 2015 Ballina Tidy Towns Committee were delighted to have their efforts rewarded when they received the Bronze Award in the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.



Bronze medal is a tidy first for Ballina

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

In spring the annual spring clean of communities took place throughout the district with the cooperation of the council in providing equipment and making arrangements for the disposal of waste.

BURIAL GROUNDS

The Council issued payment of €44,315 to 25 no. committees in 2015 to assist them in the day to day maintenance of the burial grounds. Capital funding for burial grounds was also expended throughout the district during 2015. Works included footpath construction at Kilmurray and Toomore graveyards, essential drainage works at Lisheen Graveyard to alleviate an ongoing flooding issue, repair to boundary wall at Craggagh, and completion of a boundary wall at Ballinahaglish graveyard. In addition support to local committees continued through provision of construction materials at various sites including Bonniconlon and Attymass graveyards.

RECREATION AND AMENITY

PLAYGROUNDS

The maintenance and upkeep of Council managed playgrounds continued throughout 2015, with any necessary repairs being carried out. The following are the facilities in the Ballina District:

Ballina Municipal District	Location	Facility	Coordinates	
			Easting	Northing
Ballina	Tom Ruane Park, Sligo Rd	Playground	525289	819401
		MUGA		
		Tennis Court		
		Basket Ball Court		
		Soccer Pitch		
Ballina	Bunree Rd Neighbourhood Park	Playground	525341	818384
		MUGA		
		Tennis Court		
Ballina	Crossmolina Rd., Neighbourhood Park	MUGA	523822	819135
		Playground		
Ballina	Foxford Rd Neighbourhood Park	Playground	524263	818339
		MUGA		
Ballina	Ardnaree Neighbourhood Park.	Playground	525815	819015
		MUGA		
		Soccer Pitch		
		Tennis Court		
Ballina	Belleek	Synthetic Running Track	525043	819556
Crossmolina	Mullenmore North	Playground	513999	817105
Foxford	Church car-park	Playground	527153	804077
Killala	Town Park	Playground	520341	829827
		MUGA		
		Tennis Court		
Swinford	Brabazon Woodland	Playground	537746	799473
Swinford	MUGA Park	MUGA	537713	798850
		Tennis Court		

MONASTERIES ON THE MOY GREENWAY PROJECT

The Killala Section of the Greenway running from Killala town to Moyne Abbey and comprising of 4.5 km is nearing completion. This section of the project is being funded by Leader. It will eventually link up with the Belleek section of the Greenway, which is now complete.



Urban loop section of the Greenway at Belleek

INFORMATION PANEL FOR THE RIVER MOY

BTTC, in collaboration with Inland Fisheries and Mayo County Council, have provided an Information Panel on the fishing pools and stock in the river. This panel is located alongside the Moy Promenade (opposite the Cathedral).



WW1 MONUMENT 2014, AT GREEN PARK, KILLALA ROAD

The unveiling of the Great War Remembrance Monument in the Green Park, Killala Rd, Ballina took place on the 20th June, 2015. The recently monument is a 100 year tribute to all the Ballina men who fought and died in the British Army in the Great War 1914 - 1918. The design is based on the War Graves Commissions art deco standard monuments of the 1920s and '30s.

The epigraphs at the foot of the monument are in Irish and English:

1914 – 1919

All that we had we gave
 All that was ours to give
 Freely surrendered all
 That you in peace might live

Erected by the people of Ballina in honour and memory of those from the area who lost their lives in World War One.

Let those who come after see to it that their names are not forgotten.



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

In 2013 the presence of Japanese Knotweed, a prolific and deadly noxious invader” weed was discovered in Ballina and district and work has been ongoing since in raising awareness and in eradicating the weed.



Japanese Knotweed

TRADITIONAL FACADES GRANT SCHEME

The Council introduced a Traditional Facades Grant Scheme in October. Business people in the towns of Ballina, Ballycastle, Bonniconlon, Foxford, Crossmolina, Killala, and Swinford can now apply for grant aid to make improvements to their shop fronts. This scheme was previously only available in the former Ballina Town Council area, but with the setting up of the Municipal Districts last year it was decided to offer the scheme to business people in smaller towns in the region.

The Council's architect has prepared maps for the areas that are eligible for grant aid with particular focus on the historic core areas in the towns.

There are a number of initiatives that can be funded, painting, removal of inappropriate signs and advertisement, traditional shop front signing or lettering and traditional window detailing.

SWIMMING POOLS

The Council continues to improve and maintain the public swimming pool in Ballina.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Ballina Arts Centre	€40,000
Ballina Salmon Festival	€25,000
Ballina Quay Regatta	€10,000
French Ballina Weekend	€10,000
St. Patricks Day Festival, Ballina	€5,000
Crossmolina Community Festival	€3,000
Siamsa Straide Street Festival	€3,000
Ballina Food Fleadh	€2,500
Live at the Marquee - Killala Festival	€1,500
Foxford Riverfest	€1,500
Republic of Irelands Strongest Man 2015	€1,000
Foxford St. Patricks Day Festival	€1,000
Swinford Agricultural Show.	€1,000
Bonniconlon Welcome Home Week	€1,000
North Mayo Show Ltd (Ballina Show)	€1,000
Giro De Baile	€1,000
Bonniconlon Show	€1,000
River Moy Half Marathon	€500
Pearse Street Reunion	€500
Mayo Mud Run	€500
Humbert Challenge Triathlon	€500
Cystal Palace Tournament in Belleek Park	€500
An Post Ras(with Ballina Cycling Club)	€500
Ballina One Act Drama	€500
Harvest Festival, Eskeragh, Crossmolina	€500
Midfield Bonfire	€250
Ballycastle/Belderrig Healy Fest	€250
Total Festivals or Events	€113,000

SHARON SHANNON CONCERT

The first ever Concert held in the Military Barracks courtyard took place on 22nd August, 2015, with Sharon Shannon providing thrilling entertainment on the night. This was a sell out concert, and has laid the foundation for more to follow.





The Quay Regatta was revived in 2015

AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE

PIERS AND HARBOURS

The Council was fortunate again in 2015 to receive funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Fishery Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2015 for enhancement works to Killala Pier and Ballina Harbour.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

MEETINGS

13 no. meetings of Ballina Municipal District were held during 2015.

CATHAOIRLEACH AND LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH 2015

Cathaoirleach	Cllr. Gerry Ginty
Leas Cathaoirleach	Cllr. Michal Loftus

NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS

Cllr's Annie May Reape and Gerry Ginty were nominated as Mayo County Council's representatives on the Board of Management of the Parkside Community Development Ltd trading as the Haven Community Childcare Centre.

NEW CHAIN OF OFFICE

A new Chain of Office for the Cathaoirleach of Ballina Municipal District was purchased in 2015.



BALLINA MEN'S SHED

The Council entered into a lease agreement with Ballina Men's Shed in respect of the former Estoria Cinema on Teeling St. The building has been newly painted and renovated and great credit is due to the Men's Shed for progressing this worthwhile project in such a professional manner.



GATEWAY JOBS INITIATIVE

Ballina Municipal District is fully participating in the Governments "Gateway" Jobs Initiative and had 9 participants during 2015.

CLAREMORRIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Claremorris Municipal District Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 15th July 2015.

Cllr. Gerry Murray was elected Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Tom Connolly was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach



HOUSING

The core objectives of National Housing Policy have focused on the principal that every household will have access to secure good quality Housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community.

The key objectives focus on Affordability and Quality of Accommodation, Tenure Options and principals of Sustainable Communities.

In addition to the traditional provision of Local Authority Housing and Voluntary Housing (by Approved Housing Bodies), there has been an expansion of Schemes such as the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI), and Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

These Schemes continue to provide housing assistance (in addition to the Council's Social Housing Stock) during 2015, in order to meet demand for Social Housing. Engagement with the Voluntary/Co-Operative and private sectors in terms of meeting future social housing need is also being strongly promoted. A Capital Assistance Scheme by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, consisting of six houses at Kilmaine Road, Ballinrobe, was approved for design stage during 2015.

In the Claremorris Municipal District Area, Local Authority Housing Services are delivered through Local Authority Offices at:

Kilcolman Road, Claremorris 094 93 72310
Kilmaine Road, Ballinrobe 094 95 41111

HOUSING STOCK

As of 31st December 2015 there were 418 Units of Local Authority Housing Stock within the Claremorris Municipal District.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

This programme was introduced by the Department of the Environment to assist Local Authorities in providing and funding works for upgrading the energy efficiency of tenanted dwellings.

Energy efficiency improvement works i.e. roof insulation; cavity wall insulation and draught proofing were carried out to Local Authority Houses in the Claremorris Municipal District in 2015 in the towns of Ballyhaunis, Ballindine and Ballinrobe.

VOIDS PROGRAMME

The Voids Programme is funded by the Department of the Environment in order to return vacant and boarded up social housing units to productive use.

In 2015 funding was provided for dwellings in the Claremorris Municipal District. Following refurbishment works these houses were made available for letting.

CENTRAL HEATING PROGRAMME

This programme was started in 2015 to provide central heating to older housing stock owned by local authorities. A number of properties were identified in the Claremorris District and works will be carried out during 2016.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING/APPROVED HOUSING BODIES

There are a number of Voluntary Housing Schemes managed by Approved Housing Bodies within the Claremorris Municipal District:

Aghamore Voluntary Housing Association
Brickens Housing Association
Charlestown Elderly Housing
St. Vincent de Paul/Ozanam Trust
Cluid Housing Association, Claremorris
Kilmovee Community Housing
Tooreen Housing Association.
St Vincent de Paul Society, Ballinrobe
Claremorris Voluntary Housing Organisation
Western Care Association, Suaimhneas, Ballinrobe
Western Care Association, Cois Roba, Ballinrobe

Western Care Association, Aisling Gheal, Ballinrobe
Ballyhaunis Social Housing Association
Carracastle Voluntary Housing Association
Clar IRD Claremorris
Clar ICH, Claremorris
Irishtown Housing Association
Knock Shrine Association
Western Care Association, Ballyhaunis

REFURBISHMENT OF PARKVIEW, CHARLESTOWN

This Project has resulted in a reduction in the number of housing units in Parkview Estate from 42 to 35. The overall mix of 35 Tenant/Owner Occupied housing units now have enhanced energy efficiency through the provision of:

- Increased wall and roof insulation
- Insulation to new water tanks and hot water pipes
- Solar panels to suitably oriented units

This project has resulted in a major transformation of a Housing Estate which was in considerable decline, where tenancies could not be allocated or sustained. The Estate is now a much sought after location for those seeking Local Authority Dwelling in the Charlestown Area.



Parkview Charlestown

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

Applications for Grant Aid are accepted under the following Schemes:

- Housing Aid for Older People
- Mobility Aids
- Housing Adaptation for Persons with a Disability

A review of the three Housing Schemes was carried out with the aim of managing the operation of the three Grant Scheme in a more effective and efficient manner. This review led to changes being recommended by the Housing SPC which were implemented from the 1st July 2015.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Mayo County Council has continued to provide for the Accommodation needs of Travellers using the full range of Housing Options available. Very significant progress has been made in this area since the first Accommodation Plan was adopted.



Laveymore Charlestown

RADON TESTING

Mayo County Council provides funding to continue its Radon Survey and Remediation Work in its existing stock.

This has seen the completion of remediation works and re-surveying required for Council Houses in Claremorris Town and in particular at Lui na Greine and Barr na hAille Housing Developments.

Work also commenced on the carrying out of further Radon Surveying in Ballinrobe Town, particularly at Church View in the town. Previous sample surveys carried out in Ballinrobe did not reveal a particularly high level of Radon Gas at the location but as a precaution, the Council surveyed all of its houses in the area and carried out any necessary remediation works required. The programme also advised Tenants of the potential aspects of Radon Works needed to reduce any potential harmful effects

SEPTIC TANKS

With the registration process for septic tanks completed, attention has been focused on ensuring that a yearly programme is initiated to ensure that all Local Authority Dwellings using a septic tank meet the required standard.

An inspection programme will continue until the full extent of the requirements are known. Provision is made in the Budget for a programme of works and this is to continue ensuring that problematic tanks were targeted for remedial works.

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Details of the 2015 Road Works Scheme in respect of the Claremorris Electoral Area is as follows:

NATIONAL PRIMARY ROADS

Route No	Length/Area	Details of work	Cost
N5 / N17	54 km	General Maintenance National Primary Roads	€147,538.00
		Total	€147,538.00
N5 / N17		Winter Maintenance Salt/Gritting	€81,200.00
		Total	€81,200.00

NATIONAL SECONDARY ROADS

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
N60/N83/N84	74 km	General Maintenance National Secondary Roads	€126,807.00
		Total	€126,807.00
N60/N83/N84		Winter Maintenance Salt/Gritting	€63,710.00
		Total	€57,362.00
		Pavement and Minor Works Ballyhaunis / Ballinlough at Coolnafarna	270,000.00
		Kilmaine at Loughanboy	190,000.00
		Total	€460,000.00
		Safety Improvements Kilmaine Road Junction	€30,000.00
		Total	€30,000.00

REGIONAL ROADS - GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
R293/R320/R322/R323/ R325/R327/R328/R329/ R330/R331/R332/R334/ R345/R375/R376	137 kms	General Maintenance Regional Roads	€254,540.00
		TOTAL	€254,540.00
		Winter Maintenance Salt/Gritting	€104,514.00
		TOTAL	€104,514.00

REGIONAL ROADS - RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (SURFACE DRESSING)

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
R327	3,000/20,000 sq m	Logboy	€109,217.00
R331	1100m/7150sq m	Cloonagashel	€39,325.00
R332	1370m/8905 sq m	Turin	€48,979.00
R376	975m/6340 sq. m	Kilgarriff West	€34,857.00
		TOTAL	€232,380.00

REGIONAL ROADS - RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (STRENGTHENING)

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
R320	200m/1300 sq m	Ballintaffy	€44,000.00
R320	1100m/7700 sq.m.	Aghavilla	€192,221.00
R327	100m/650 sq.m.	Carrowneedan	€15,000.00
R332	600m/360 sq.m	Oultains	€80,000.00
R345	820m/4925 sq.m	Ballykine	€123,115.00

R316	495m/3210 sq.m	Kilgarriff West	€80,177.00
		TOTAL	€534,513.00

REGIONAL ROADS - OTHER WORKS - MAINTENANCE

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
R293		Drainage Works @ Brackloon East	€20,000.00
R320		Footpath Works @ Mount St. Claremorris	€5,000.00
R325		Verge Works @ Glentavraun	€12,129.00
R331		Footpath Works @ Main St. Claremorris	€13,000.00
R334		Neale Drainage	€10,728.00
R334		Cong Car Park	€20,000.00
		TOTAL	€80,857.00

REGIONAL ROADS - LOW COST SAFETY SCHEMES

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
R331		Hollymount Junction	€100,000.00
R334		Cross	€13,000.00
		TOTAL	€113,000.00

LOCAL ROADS GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
	1499Kms	Local Roads [OR]	€329,663
		Local Roads [DMG]	€522,449
		Verge Trimming/Hedge Cutting	€27,400

		Ineligible Expenditure	€150,700
		TOTAL	€1,030,212

LOCAL ROADS - LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
LP1511		Footpath at Ballindine	€15,000
LP1506		Footpaths Mayfield	€19,240
LS5659		Footpaths Church Road, Kilmaine	€23,650
LP1331		Footpaths Charlestown	€12,000
LT19047		Footpaths Kilkelly	€11,633
		TOTAL:	€81,523

LOCAL ROADS ROADS - RESTORATION MAINTENANCE (SURFACE DRESSING)

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
LT-55528	750m/3300sq.m	Redhill	€15,000
LS-5559	2160m/8200sq.m	Kilvine	€38,000
LT-59311	1000m/4000sq.m	Aghataharn	€18,000
LT-65321	431m/1730sq.m	Sessiagh	€7,785
LS-5549	2100m/8400sq.m	Ballynabrehon North	€38,624
LT-22115	2295m/8800sq.m	Garryduff	€40,000
LT-55385	1760m/6700sq.m	Cloonboy	€30,000
LT-15032	2245m/8980sq.m	Rockfield	€40,415
LT-55553	40m/400sq.m	Ashford Court	€5,000
LT-16155	810m/2835sq.m	Mocollagan	€12,760
LT-56584	1290m/4515sq.m	Muckrussaun	€20,316
LT-56585	356m/1246sq.m	Muckrussaun	€5,607

LT-16126	1200m/4200sq.m	Rahard	€18,900
LT-56515	2500m/8750sq.m	Ballyjennings	€39,375
LT-66663	2000m/7000sq.m	Ballisnahyny	€31,500
LT-56607	653m/2442sq.m	Knock	€11,042
LT-56597	550m/1925sq.m	Dowagh	€8,660
LT-16131	800m/2800sq.m	Dringeen	€12,600
LP-1916	3110m/15550sq.m	Carrowbeg	€69,975
LS-5918	3249m/11342sq.m	Barcul	€51,039
LS-5337	1355m/4404sq.m	Hagfield	€19,817
LS-5342	485m/1698sq.m	Cloonfeightrin	€7,644
LT-59261	910m/2730sq.m	Cashellahenny	€12,285
	32,049m/121,947sq.m	TOTAL:	€554,344

LOCAL ROADS - RESTORATION MAINTENANCE
(SURFACE DRESSING CLLRS SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS)

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
LT-15126	760m/2700sq.m	Lugboy Demesne	€12,000
LS-5546	1100m/3450sq.m	Cloonmore Lower	€15,500
LT-15048	700m/2400sq.m	Kilcolman	€10,800
LT-55422	380m/1180sq.m	Derrowel (Ballinlough)	€5,300
LT-15032	235m/820sq.m	Carrowbeg	€3,700
LP-1503	430m/1710sq.m	Carrowbeg	€7,700
LT-59461	830m/2800sq.m	Greenwood	€11,672
LT-55535	100m/350sq.m	Lurgan	€1,600
LT-59511	295m/1000sq.m	Faughill	€4,500
LT-59357	470m/1400sq.m	Brackloon East	€6,300
LT-55582	150m/6000sq.m	Levallyroe	€2,500
LT-26162	341m/1195sq.m	Carrowmore	€5,370

LT-16091	800m/2800sq.m	Kilquire Upper	€12,600
LT-56632	610m/2135sq.m	Cahermaculick	€9,608
LT-56661	1000m/3500sq.m	Rostaff	€15,750
LT-26132	800m/2800sq.m	Turloughmore	€12,600
LP-1916	320m/1600sq.m	Urlaur	€7,200
LT-13063	700m/2275sq.m	Cloonmore	€10,238
LT-13056	355m/1171sq.m	Tonroe	€5,229
LT-59261	358m/1074sq.m	Raherolus	€4,833
LT-13044	520m/1560sq.m	Lowpark, Charlestown	€7,020
LT-23053	340m/1700sq.m	Back Streets, Charlestown	€7,655
LT-19065	350m/1050sq.m	Sonvolaun	€4,725
LT-13041	600m/1800sq.m	Hagfield	€8,100
	9784m/33170sq.m	TOTAL:	€192,500

LOCAL ROADS - RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (STRENGTHENING)

Route No	Length/Area	Details of Work	Cost
LS-5545	800m/2800sq.m	Murneen North	€ 40,000
LS-5555	1250m/5000sq.m	Corraun	€75,000
LT-15015	1367m/5000sq.m	Cloonlara	€72,000
LT-55661	1000m/3650sq.m	Ballykinava	€50,000
LP-1512	900m/3600sq.m	Drumbaun	€50,000
LP-1511	900m/3200sq.m	Cuillaun	€83,000
LS-5544	2000m/6500sq.m	Mace Lower	€95,000
LS-5934	2780m/7000sq.m	Cloongawnagh (Kilbrogan)	€100,000
LP-1918	600m/2500sq.m	Addergoole	€40,000
LS-5549	500m/2000sq.m	Drumneen	€32,400
LT-19201	70m/400sq.m	St Gerald's Court	€15,000
LS-5649	700m/2800sq.m	Cloonkerry	€41,000

LT-16141	1000m/3500sq.m	Drumelley	€50,000
LP-1615	2000m/10000sq.m	Glencorrib (Brodullagh)	€150,000
LP-1609	1800m/9000sq.m	Rahard (Kilrush)	€150,000
LP-1613	260m/1430sq.m	Neal Park (Ballywater)	€ 21,213
LT-16140	480m/1920sq.m	Carrownakilly (Kilmalora)	€28,800
LT-56596	175m/630sq.m	Gortaroe	€ 9,450
LP-1916	1428m/7140sq.m	Kilmore	€107,100
LP-1305	1100m/6600sq.m	Tonroe (Tonnagh)	€99,000
LP-1306	1500m/4875sq.m	Botinny	€73,125
LS-5926	1100m/3850sq.m	Cashellahenny	€ 57,750
LS-5342	615m/2153sq.m	Cloonfeightrin	€ 32,288
LS-5337	775m/2919sq.m	Tomboholla	€37,781
LT-13063	390m/1268sq.m	Cloonmore	€19,020
LT-13056	495m/1610sq.m	Cloonmore	€24,401
	25985m/101345sq.m	TOTAL:	€1,553,328

NATIONAL SECONDARY – PAVEMENT WORKS

N60 Ballyhaunis / Ballinlough Road at Coolnafarna Pavement Resurfacing Works (€270,000).



NATIONAL SECONDARY – SAFETY WORKS

N60 Safety Improvement at the Claremorris/Balla Road at the Kiltimagh Junction (R320)



New Traffic Island

REGIONAL ROADS – PAVEMENT WORKS

R320 Claremorris / Kiltimagh Road at Aghavilla and Ballintaffy Pavement Resurfacing Works (€236,221)



R327 KILNOCK BRIDGE

The works entailed demolition and removal of the old bridge which had been propped by acro's for a number of years due to the appearance of large scale cracking of the concrete and corrosion of the steel reinforcement. The works were undertaken by Direct Labour.



Kilnock Bridge prior to construction



Kilnock Bridge newly constructed



Placing of culvert sections

FLOODING - FLOODING IN SOUTH MAYO AREA

Following Storm Desmond in December, 2015, homes were flooded and villages were cut off. A large number of roads became impassable in the Cong, Cross, The Neale areas including the Ballinrobe to Galway Road at The Neale.

The townlands of Creevagh, Beechgrove, Ballyrouke and areas of Hollymount were flooded leaving families unable to leave their homes without assistance.

Mayo County Council's outdoor staff, local communities and the Civil Defence all provided assistance to persons affected due to flooding. Emergency housing was provided by Mayo County Council for a number of persons whose houses were flooded. Financial assistance was provided by the Community Welfare Officer of the Department of Social Protection.



The Neale

Funding of €2,450,000 has been provided by the Department of Transport in 2016 for Road Works to prevent further flooding in the Claremorris Municipal District.



Carrownagower Bridge



Creduff, Ballinrobe

WATER SERVICES

IRISH WATER

The complete re-organisation of the Water Sector nationwide and the establishment of a national Water Utility is the biggest single change to the Local Government Sector since the establishment of the Local Authority System in 1898.

It involved:

- The establishment of a new Water Utility (Irish Water) to take over responsibility for the delivery of Water Services.
- The introduction of a sustainable funding model to support increased investment in Water Services to underpin job creation and statutory compliance.
- The introduction of independent economic regulation of the Water Sector under the Commission on Energy Regulation.
- The introduction of a charging regime for Domestic Consumers

Irish Water was established on 1st January 2014, Mayo County Council's Water Services assets and liabilities transferred to Irish Water in accordance with legislation

enacted. Mayo County Council will operate and maintain the Public Water Services in County Mayo on behalf of Irish Water under the terms of a Service Level Agreement signed.



Ballinrobe Water Towers

Mayo County Council will continue to have a role in the planning of Water Services Investment Programmes and the final decision on the priority of schemes will be made by Irish Water. Mayo County Council Staff in the Claremorris Municipal District continued to operate and maintain all of the Water Services infrastructure in the District during 2015.

WATER SERVICE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

SCHEMES IN PROGRESS IN 2015 IN CLAREMORRIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Water Conservation Package 4 –Taugheen and extension of Lough Mask to Castlerea Environs.

SCHEMES TO COMMENCE IN 2016/2017

Belmullet, Foxford, Charlestown Sewerage Scheme – DBO Bundle

An Annual Service Plan detailing the operation and maintenance of each Water and Sewerage Scheme was also agreed with Irish Water. The plan sets out all necessary works to be undertaken so as to comply with Drinking Water Standards and Statutory Regulations in the Water Services domain.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The emphasis within the Planning Section has dramatically changed from the Planning Control function (processing of planning applications) to assisting development by working closely with Developers, Receivers and Liquidators and by agreeing programmes of work to secure the satisfactory completion of Estates up to a standard to have them taken in charge by the Council.

Mayo County Council have taken in Charge the following Estates in Claremorris Municipal District:

Cluain Aoibhinn,Claremorris
Beechpark Claremorris
St. John's Villas, Claremorris
Cherryvale, Ballyhaunis

Springdale, Claremorris
Kilbeg Claremorris
Carrowmore Drive, Knock
The Lawn, Claremorris

Ard Clare, Claremorris
 Millbrook Close Claremorris
 Old Racecourse Ballyhaunis
 Ashford Court Claremorris
 Claremount Manor Claremorris
 College Green Claremorris
 Abbeyvale Ballyhaunis
 Hazel Woods Ballyhaunis
 Hazelhill Downs Ballyhaunis
 The Maples, Ballyhaunis
 Manor Brook Ballyhaunis
 Grattan Avenue Claremorris
 Grattan Crescent Claremorris
 Grattan Manor Claremorris
 Glendale Claremorris
 Ballinvilla Dunmor Rd Irishtown
 Drumcrest Knock
 Ballymartin Kilmaine,
 Hawthorn Place, Ballinrobe
 Clos Caoin Claremorris
 Manor Quarter Knock
 Carramore Meadows Knock
 An Lantan Ballinrobe
 River View Ballinrobe
 Carraig Dun Ballinrobe
 Cranmore Ballinrobe
 Railway Court Ballinrobe
 Mayfield Court, Ballinrobe
 Hazel Court, Ballinrobe
 Teallach Roba, Ballinrobe
 Sarsfield Manor, Charlestown
 Riverwalk, Charlestown
 Cois Abhainn, Kilmovee

Elm Park, Claremorris
 Rushbrook Claremorris
 Bracklaghboy Ballyhaunis
 Elm Wood Claremorris,
 Lisbaun Claremorris,
 Foxglove Drive Ballyhaunis,
 Hazel Lawns, Ballyhaunis,
 Hazel court Ballyhaunis,
 Esker Pines, Ballyhaunis,
 The Fairgreen, Charlestown
 Churchfield lawns Knock
 Grattan Close Claremorris
 Grattan Park, Claremorris
 Lisnaboley Lane, Claremorris
 Cuairt na Ciarraidhe Claremorris
 Dry Mill Lawns, Irishtown
 An Cladrach Ballinrobe
 Churchfields Shrule
 Ros Clogher Ballinrobe
 Lakeview Claremorris
 Ballinvilla Estate, Irishtown
 Beechpark Claremorris
 St. Ledgers Court Shrule
 Corr & Gort na gCloch, Ballinrobe
 An Geagain Ballinrobe
 Lecka Grove Ballinrobe
 Rathkelly Close, Ballinrobe
 Waterside, Ballinrobe
 Brewery Court, Ballinrobe
 Colemans Court, Shrule
 Sarsfield Crescent, Charlestown
 Culmore Grove, Kilkelly



The Maples MUGA and Cricket Pitch

Walk-in Planning Clinics - Continue to be held each Wednesday morning at Ballinrobe and Claremorris Offices. The Clinics are administered on a first come-first served basis, and they have eliminated waiting times for consultations with Planners. They also reduce the number of telephone and written queries to the Planning Office as the Planners are available for consultations with the public on a weekly basis.

ENVIRONMENT

The Claremorris Municipal District supported participants in the National Spring Clean, Cleaner Community Campaign and Litter Action League during 2015.

The Cleaner Community Campaign is a county wide competition and winners included voluntary groups from

CLEANER COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Category	Results	
No. 1 Bloomin Lovely	Overall Winner: Second Place: Fourth Place:	Partry Ballindine Kilmaine
No.2 Sweep your Street	Winner Second Place	Charlestown Ballyhaunis
No. 3 Best Kept Primary School	Third Place	Cong N.S.

LITTER ACTION LEAGUE RESULTS

Category	Results
Group A	Charlestown
Group B	Overall Winner: Cong Beaten Finalist: Kilmaine Play Off Finalist: Ballindine
Group C1	Play Off Winner: Ballyglass
Group C2	Beaten Finalist: Clogher Play Off Winner: Partry
Group D	Play Off Winner: Kilkeeran

LITHUANIAN MONUMENT AT BOWERS WALK, BALLINROBE

The Lithuanian Flight Monument was erected in 2015 at Bowers Walk, Ballinrobe in memory of the Lithuanian Pilot Felix Waitkus who survived an emergency landing of his aeroplane at Cloongowla, Ballinrobe in 1935 after weather conditions deteriorated during the flight.

Ballinrobe Tourism Board in liaison with the Lituanian Association of Ireland erected the monument in September 2015 during the Lituanian Festival that took place in Ballinrobe town. This project was grant aided by the Councillors Community Fund 2015.



Claremorris Municipal District assist and support Voluntary Groups i.e. tidy towns in keeping their locality attractive and litter free by carrying out street cleaning, clean ups and remedial works.

TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE

The Council support these committees in keeping their localities attractive and litter free by carrying out street cleaning, clean up and remedial works on littered areas and the weekly emptying of refuse bins.

SWIMMING POOLS

Mayo County Council provides grant aid to swimming pool committees for their annual operations at Ballyhaunis, Charlestown and Kilmovee Swimming Pools. The Swimming Pool facility in Claremorris (Claremorris Leisure Facility) is operated by a Local Committee in conjunction with Mayo County Council.

COMMUNITY FUND

Provision was made in 2015 for funding to be allocated by each Councillor for community projects in their area.

Funding was allocated to various groups in the Claremorris Municipal District Area.

Robeen Church – Parking and Roadway - Works involved road widening and construction of car parking facilities adjacent to the church.



Completed Works at Robeen Church



Overall View of Works at Robeen Church

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial operations in the Council with particular emphasis on ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to finance revenue and capital activity. Included among the wide range of services provided by the Finance Section are:

- Financial and Budgetary Control, Cash Flow and Treasury Management
- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Administration of the Financial Management Systems
- Payroll Administration
- Commercial Rates Billing and Collection
- Non-Domestic Water Charges Billing and Collection on an agency basis for Irish Water
- Housing Rents and Loans Billing and Collection
- Payment of supplier accounts
- Cash Receipting
- Administration & Collection of the Non Principal Private Residence Charge

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid by, or to, the Council are complied with.

Mayo County Council operates a Revenue Account to meet the day-to-day costs of the organisation and a Capital Account for the provision of assets such as houses and roads. The level of expenditure for the Revenue Account in 2015 was €139m; where as the Capital Account was €55m.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:-

- Government Grants
- Commercial Rates
- Housing Rents
- Planning application fees
- Non principal private residence charges
- Other goods and services such as Landfill/Civic Amenity Charges, Pay and Display charges
-

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.

COUNCIL BUDGET

The Finance Department prepares the overall Draft Annual Budget in consultation with each department of the Council. The Revenue Budget for the financial year ended 31st December 2015, as adopted by Council, was €127.50m.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Finance Department also prepares the Annual Financial Statement of the Council. The Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2015 was presented to the Members at their statutory meeting on 13th June 2016, and deferred to their statutory meeting on 18th July, 2016.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2015

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

EXPENDITURE BY DIVISION

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2015	2015	2015	2014
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	15,776,486	15,645,031	131,455	709,223
Roads Transportation & Safety	36,849,365	28,496,421	8,352,944	9,738,810
Water Services	19,193,794	20,057,835	(864,041)	(939,262)
Development Management	9,551,913	2,819,607	6,732,306	6,523,098
Environmental Services	17,849,855	10,488,561	7,361,295	7,746,289
Recreation & Amenity	9,761,366	2,517,417	7,243,949	7,214,857
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,155,575	1,209,875	945,700	955,806
Miscellaneous Services	16,232,221	7,440,105	8,792,116	6,060,891
Total Expenditure/Income	127,370,576	88,674,851		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from				
Rates & Local Government Fund			38,695,725	38,009,713

Rates			25,847,673	25,807,879
Local Property Tax			17,171,286	17,492,594
Pension Related Deduction			2,106,427	2,319,750
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			6,429,662	7,610,510
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(6,025,926)	(7,276,333)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			403,736	334,177
General Reserve @ 1st January 2014			(5,059,932)	(5,394,109)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2014			(4,656,196)	(5,059,932)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2015

	Notes	2015	2014
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		389,612,661	387,547,842
Infrastructural		2,987,361,463	2,986,296,803
Community		8,689,944	8,415,434
Non-Operational		57,520,279	57,552,844
		3,443,184,346	3,439,812,923
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	31,331,158	13,121,376
Long Term Debtors	3	68,349,094	68,296,497
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	316,128	291,499
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	16,855,097	55,244,482
Bank Investments		-	-
Cash at Bank		32,007,769	8,435,745
Cash in Transit		195,198	230,929
		49,374,191	64,202,654

Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	81,951,238	71,387,575
		81,951,238	71,387,575
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		(32,577,047)	(7,184,920)
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	103,014,603	119,928,557
Refundable deposits	8	6,720,014	6,943,869
Other		1,325,504	1,005,318
		111,060,121	127,877,745
Net Assets		3,399,227,429	3,386,168,131
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	3,443,184,346	3,439,812,923
Income WIP	2	30,779,709	13,008,785
Specific Revenue Reserve		1,238,512	1,238,512
General Revenue Reserve		(4,656,196)	(5,059,932)
Other Balances	10	(71,318,942)	(62,832,156)
Total Reserves		3,399,227,429	3,386,168,131

FINANCIAL REVIEW

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

The Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ended 31st December 2015 have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) and Accounting Regulations for Local Authorities in Ireland, and the directions of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Annual Financial Statement is subject to external audit by the Local Government Auditor from the Local Government Audit Service whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts, to certify the correctness of the Annual Financial Statement and to submit an Audit Report to the Members of the Council. A copy of the Auditor's Report will be circulated to each Member of the Council when it is received, in accordance with normal practice.

SUMMARY RESULTS

Total Income and Expenditure for the year with a comparison with the previous year are:

<u>Income</u>	2015	2014
	€	€
<i>Revenue</i>	139,620,074	144,698,959
<i>Capital</i>	50,059,895	66,266,947
Total	189,679,969	210,965,906

<u>Expenditure</u>	2015	2014
	€	€
<i>Revenue</i>	139,216,338	144,364,781
<i>Capital</i>	54,955,566	61,674,978
Total	194,171,904	206,039,759

This level of expenditure indicates the on-going extent of day to day service delivery, infrastructural development, together with forward planning and design undertaken by the Council across the County during 2015. It also indicates the significance of the operations of the County Council on the local economy.

REVENUE ACCOUNT

This account covers the everyday expenses of the Council, such as maintenance of housing, roads, water and sewerage schemes, land-use planning, administration and support costs, repayment of loan charges, etc. This account is prepared on a Service and Subservice basis in line with the costing structure which was introduced for all Local Authorities in 2008.

The account may be summarised as follows:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Income	139,620,074	144,698,959
Expenditure	(139,216,338)	(144,364,782)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	403,736	334,177
Debit Balance at 1st January	(5,059,932)	(5,394,109)
Debit Balance at 31st December	(4,656,196)	(5,059,932)

The Local Government Fund Allocation for the 2015 Annual Budget amounted to €17,171,286 (2014 - €17,492,594).

The comparison between the Budget as adopted and the out-turn for the year is:-

	€
<i>Receipts in excess of adopted Budget</i>	12,330,872
<i>Expenditure in excess of adopted Budget</i>	(11,677,330)
	653,542
<i>Deficit L.G/ Fund Pension Levy/ Rates</i>	(249,806)
<i>Surplus for year</i>	403,736

A more detailed report on the variations between budgeted expenditure and income at service level is outlined below.

PRINCIPAL FACTORS IMPACTING ON THE EXPENDITURE OUT-TURN

- Increased expenditure on Roads of €1.15 million due to increase in Grant aided works;
- There was increased expenditure of €803,000 on Operation/Maintenance of Water & Sewerage Schemes. As these costs are recouped from Irish Water, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- There was increased expenditure of €628,000 on loan charges for Water Services Loans. As these costs are recouped from the DECLG, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Increased expenditure in Community and Enterprise of €564,000 due to increase in Grant aided works;
- There was reduced expenditure of €1.36 million on Higher Education Grants. As these costs are recouped from the Department of Education and Skills, this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Expenditure on Regional Training Centre was €318,000 in excess of budgeted expenditure. Consequently the corresponding income from Course fees was in excess of Budget so this has a neutral impact on the overall finances of the Council;
- Expenditure on indirect payroll costs were €388,000 less than budgeted expenditure;
- Expenditure on Pensions and Gratuities was €215,000 in excess of budgeted expenditure;
- Expenditure on Finance Costs/Loan Charges was €470,000 less than budgeted expenditure

PRINCIPAL FACTORS IMPACTING ON THE INCOME OUT-TURN

- Increase in Road Grants of €1.15 million;
- Recoupment of Operation/Maintenance costs of Water & Sewerage Schemes was €803,000 in excess of Budget;
- Recoupment of loan charges for Water Services Loans was €628,000 million in excess of budgeted figures;
- Increase in Community and Enterprise Grants of €521,000;

- Recoupment of Higher Education Grants was €1.36 million less than budget;
- Income from the Regional Training Centre was €318,000 in excess of Budget;
- Income from NPPR was €1.17 million in excess of Budget;
- Income from Property Entry Levies was €0.5 million less than budget.

REVENUE COLLECTIONS

The continuing challenging economic environment makes debt collection a particularly difficult task at the present time. Notwithstanding this, there is an onus on this Council to collect debts owing to it and arrears have decreased across all the major income collection areas of Rates, Rents and Housing Loans. We will continue to maintain and strengthen our focus on debt collection working with our Commercial and Non-Commercial customers in a proactive manner commensurate with their particular financial capacity. There are instances, unfortunately, where no reasonable means is taken to pay outstanding debts and we have no choice but to take appropriate court action to pursue these debts.

Of the arrears of rates of €5.67 million at 31st December 2015, €1.68 million had been paid in the period January to date.

Arrears of housing loans have decreased by €178,291 whilst Rent arrears have decreased by €72,239 at 31st December 2015.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE ACCOUNT

Due mainly to the factors referred to above, there was a surplus of €403,736 on the revenue account in 2015 bringing the accumulated debit balance on the general revenue reserve to €4,656,196. However we will be taking all reasonable steps in 2016 to ensure that the accumulated deficit on the Revenue Account is further reduced.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

In the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) the capital account has been split and the balances that comprise the capital account have been included under various headings in the Statement of Financial Position.

As a general principle, capital expenditure may be described as that which is incurred on the creation of an asset having a life extending beyond the year in which it is provided such as, purchase of land, house building, major road improvement works, new fire stations, new and improved office buildings etc.

A summary of the transactions on this account with the comparison with the previous year is as follows:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Income	50,059,895	66,266,947
Expenditure	(54,955,566)	(61,674,978)
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	(4,895,671)	4,591,999
Credit/(Debit) Balance at 1st January	3,052,836	(1,539,163)
Debit/(Credit) Balance at 31st December	(1,842,835)	3,052,836

Capital Expenditure has increased in the following areas:

	€'000s
House Construction/Purchase	1,806
Casual Vacancies/Voids	904
Road Grants	5,321
Rural Water/GWS	1,072
SICAP	931
Landfill – Capping Cells	587
Total Expenditure Increases	10,621

Capital Expenditure has decreased in the following areas:

	€'000s
Affordable Housing Schemes	910
CPO Lands at Kilbride	443
Smarter Travel	1,124
Water/Waste Water Schemes	2,141
Irish Water Balancing Statement	9,895
Riverwalk, Castlebar	868
Piers/Harbours (Storm Damage)	1,111
Town Hall, Westport	792
Total Expenditure Decreases	17,284

CAPITAL DEBT

The Council's Capital Debt at 31st December 2015 was €139,804,243. Repayments of borrowings in 2015 amounted to €9,924,829. During 2015 the Council repaid loans of €21,487,863 including €20,357,269 relating to Sanitary Services which was funded by the DOECLG. The Council drew down an additional €14,400,000 of borrowings. These drawdowns were for the following:

Application of Borrowings	€'000s
Investment in IWAK	7,300
House Purchase Loans	3,400
Piers/Harbours	3,200
Capping of Landfill cell	500
Total Expenditure Increases	14,400

Of the total debt of €139.8 million approximately €37.8 million of the Councils borrowings relates to borrowings to fund loans issued to housing customers, whilst a further €1.0 million relates to the councils equity share in loans issued under the Shared Ownership Scheme. There is a corresponding amount included in debtors which represents the total principal outstanding on loans issued to customers together with rented equity outstanding on shared ownership loans. A further €26.2 million of the Council's debt relates to borrowings for Voluntary housing and Water Services, which is funded by the DOECLG. A further €4.7 million of the debt relates to borrowings which are recoupable from other Local Authorities and €1.4 million of the debt relates to offices provided to TII and the EPA for which the Council receives rental income. A further €0.5 million relates the Councils refurbishment programme which is funded by Internal Capital Receipts. The balance of borrowings (€68.2 million) represents expenditure on items such as Landfill sites, land purchase, offices and buildings for which a revenue stream is provided for.

CONCLUSION

The Council's cumulative deficit in the Revenue Account as set out in the General Revenue Reserve at 31st December 2015 was €4,656,196. It is important that this deficit is reduced and eliminated over the coming years and that this is taken into account when framing the Budgets for 2017 and future years. We will continue to closely monitor the Council's Expenditure and Income in order to maintain and improve the Council's financial position.

The Council's cumulative debit balance on the Capital Account at 31st December 2015 was €1,842,835.

Mayo County Council has a long tradition of prudent financial management involving the adoption of realistic Budgets by the elected members and the co-operation of the staff in the control of expenditure, the generation of income and the securing of value for money.

Over the course of 2015 the Council has managed the resource base of the council effectively despite the many challenges faced. We must continue to manage our finances in a prudent fashion striving always to ensure that essential services are delivered to a high quality and represent value for money.

We will also continue to maintain strict financial and budgetary controls, strive for a further reduction in our cost base and prioritise our services according to the greatest need so as to sustain our financial capacity to deliver core essential services.

2015 was another challenging year for Mayo County Council. The challenging economic conditions have impacted considerably on the Council's financial circumstances since 2008. Income sources have particularly suffered while at the same time demand has increased for many of the services provided by the Council. This continuing financial situation places pressures on the Council and requires very focussed and ongoing financial management of available resources and appropriate discipline to work within available budgets and affordability thresholds.

ENTERPRISE AND INVESTMENT UNIT

Enterprise and Investment Unit (EIU) is committed to supporting enterprise and enterprising people throughout the County and across our Global Diaspora. Delivery of our clear Mayo message, VISIT, CONNECT, INVEST is to the fore of all activity. Throughout 2015, the Department worked on a wide variety of new projects, initiatives, collaborative ventures and events.

Top level highlights throughout the year included:

- Significant Investment Announcements
- AEConnect Trans- Atlantic Cable Network Investment (€250m)
- Mayo Renewable Power Investment (€180m)
- West Region Local Authorities agree an Investment of €7.3m in Ireland West Airport Knock
- Mayo County Council wins National Award for 'Best Economic Partnership', for the work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit
- Mayo Day
- MeetMayo
- Drones Conference 2015
- Mayo Business Awards
- Wild Atlantic Way and Spirit of Place development
- Establishment and development of significant projects through:
 - The Tourism and Food Strategic Policy Committee
 - The Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee
- Launch of Tourism Strategy
- Launch of Invest Strategy
- Launch of Digital Strategy

Details of some the key projects delivered by the unit in 2015 are outlined below under the relevant work programmes:

- Local Enterprise Activities
- International Trade
- Renewable Energy
- Mayo.ie and Diaspora Relations
- Tourism

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE MAYO

www.localenterprise.ie/Mayo

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Mayo was established in 2014, replacing the former Mayo County Enterprise Board. Formed on the basis of a Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland, the LEO has 4 key functions:

1. Business Information & Advice – providing advice and guidance to early stage entrepreneurs and those who wish to grow and develop existing businesses;
2. Enterprise Support Services – including financial support to eligible businesses in the Manufacturing or Internationally Trading Services sectors;
3. Entrepreneurship Support Services – growing a culture of entrepreneurship in Mayo, with a specific focus on working with schools and young people;
4. Local Enterprise Development Services – positioning the Local Authority as the go-to body for enterprise and economic development in Mayo.

REVIEW OF 2015 ACTIVITY

The main activity of the LEO in 2015 involved the provision of an integrated range of supports to small and micro-enterprises. Key supports included financial support (mostly in the form of grants) and a wide variety of soft support interventions. Central to the work of the LEO was the objective of providing tailored support to meet the needs of clients at various stages of their development and introducing new programmes in response to the changing needs of the LEO client base.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of **€490,000** of grant aid was committed to 32 small businesses in 2014;
- **42 new jobs** were supported by the Local Enterprise Office through working with a client base of 188 businesses;
- A total of **206** small businesses availed of mentoring support from LEO Mayo;
- The second year of the Mayo **Best Young Entrepreneur** competition saw 53 entrants under the age of 30. The competition had a prize fund of €50,000 and 15 finalists participated in a regional bootcamp with other young entrepreneurs from Galway and Roscommon. The County Final was held in Mid October where Sean McGarry (The TidyShower Company), Daniel Loftus (UrbanFox) and Niall McCormick (Colmac Robotics) took the category prizes. They then continued on to the Regional Final where Daniel Loftus triumphed in his category and went on to represent Mayo at the National Final.



Participants at the 2015 IBYE County Final

TRAINING

A total of 264 business people attended training courses organised by LEO Mayo in 2015. This training covered a diverse area of expertise and included courses on Starting a Business, Managing Finances, Marketing, Social Media, the Food Academy and other food-specific training and seminars.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The Student Enterprise Awards is the biggest enterprise competition for students in Ireland. It helps students to grasp real life skills associated with running a real enterprise including working as part of a team, managing production and finances, organising a sales and marketing campaign and liaising directly with customers, judges and the media. Almost 1,000 Mayo students participated in the 2015 event with a County Final held in March. County winners represented Mayo at the National Finals and LEO Mayo in partnership with Moy Valley Resources helped prepare the Mayo students taking part in the final. There were two Mayo winners at the National Finals – “Silo Lights” from Ballyhaunis Community School (who won the Intellectual Property Awareness Award in the Junior category) and “Babe Magnets” from St. Mary’s Secondary School (who also won the Intellectual Property Award in the Senior category).

MEET MAYO



Meet Mayo is an informal Business-2-Business networking event which offers businesses the opportunity to showcase what they have to offer and meet with other businesses in the area to learn from one another and to create new business relationships. A number of MeetMayo events were held in 2015, including events in Castlebar and Ballina. Extensive radio and social media coverage was organised to heighten exposure for businesses exhibiting at the events.

SUMMER BUSINESS BOOT-CAMPS

In conjunction with Moy Valley Resources LEO Mayo organised a Business Boot-camp which aimed to inform and educate second level students on the ups and downs of creating a business enterprise. The camp lasted for 4 days and was both a fun-filled and realistic introduction to basic business concepts for the young people.

MAYO IDEAS WEEK

Mayo Ideas Week is a week-long series of idea generation, entrepreneurship and business events hosted by the development and enterprise support agencies and organisations in County Mayo.

LEO Mayo attended and exhibited at the majority of events throughout the week. The LEO itself organised two main events, a “Go North” seminar to help businesses explore new markets in Northern Ireland and “Retail Fights Back”, an interactive panel discussion where retail best practice was highlighted and discussed.

MEET WEST

Meet West, the largest business networking event in the West of Ireland brings together a wide range of companies from the West of Ireland and further afield, to network and do business. The event takes place on an annual basis and is rotated around Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. LEO Mayo was a key partner in the delivery of the 2015 event in Roscommon. The 2016 event will be held in Mayo.

GO NORTH

The “Go North” initiative was collaboration between the LEOs in Mayo and Roscommon aimed at helping local businesses to explore and target new business opportunities in Northern Ireland. Ten companies participated, and each reported having identified new sales opportunities and valuable contacts.

FOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The food sector continues to grow in Mayo with a number of premium and innovative food products being produced year on year. The sector has been identified as an emerging sector in the county helping to sustain our rural communities and contribute to economic growth. In order to coordinate the sector, the LEO Food Officer assisted food producers to become collectively involved in developing and growing the sector in Mayo. A number of supports and initiatives were put in place in 2015 for food producers and it is envisaged that the sector itself will take a proactive role in continuing these initiatives to grow the sector further in the coming years.

KEY 2015 FOOD-RELATED INITIATIVES

FEILE NA TUAITHE

Feile na Tuaithe 2015 was a great success with over 28,000 people attending the 2-day festival at the National Museum of Ireland - Turlough Park, a significant rise on previous years. The event was developed to include a new Food Village which included food demonstrations given by nationally renowned chefs (Catherine Fulvio and Domini Kemp) and local chefs (Chamila Mananwatta, Stephen Lenahan, Michael Crowe and Aisling Butler). A regional approach was led by LEO Mayo and involved collaboration with the LEOs from Donegal to Galway. Through close collaboration a number of key relationships were established and strengthened between Mayo County Council, the National Museum of Ireland, semi-state agencies, the LEOs, local businesses and the public.



THE MAYO QUARTER AT THE NATIONAL CRAFT FAIR

The National Crafts & Design Fair, an annual event in the RDS Dublin, hosts visitor numbers of up to 30,000 over the 5 days. In its second year, coordinated by the LEO Mayo, the Mayo Quarter featured at the Spectacular Christmas Food Emporium which forms part of the Fair. The Mayo Quarter consists of a number of Mayo food producers showcasing and selling a number of delicious high end food produce, all made in Mayo.



BLAS NA HEIREANN AWARDS

Blas na hEireann, the Irish Food awards, is an important annual event for food producers in Ireland. In 2015 a collective of fifteen awards (gold, silver and bronze) were presented to ten different food companies manufacturing in Mayo. In association with Blas na hEireann, the Local Enterprise Office 'Best in County Award' was presented to Kelly's of Newport.

FANCY FOOD FAIR

Food consultant Declan Drony and his business partner Mary Rodgers of Stateside Solutions organised a West of Ireland food producer delegation to attend the Fancy Food Fair in New York in June 2015. As part of this business event, a number of other activities such as Business to Business meetings, meetings with agencies and food tours were organised. Four Mayo food producers formed part of the delegation. The event provided invaluable research and development insights for the attendees.

MEDIA

Extensive media coverage including international, national and local TV, radio and magazine media to promote the Mayo food sector was sought and organized in 2015. Of interest was RTE's 'Lord & Ladles' TV programme which featured Irish celebrity chefs foraging for and cooking up a traditional feast using local food produce in the beautiful Westport House. This programme continues to be aired on RTE providing great promotion of the food and tourism sector in Mayo.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INVEST)

www.mayo.ie/invest

"To be the best County in Ireland to do business in, and with".

2015 saw the adoption and publication of the first 'Invest Strategy' for Mayo.

This strategy will act as a road map for both the County Council and our Directorate in developing policy and competing internationally to be a platform for attracting economic growth and employment opportunities.

The focus of the strategy centres on 'Sustaining Existing Companies in the County', 'Supporting Growth in our Economy' and 'Winning New Investment'. Uniquely we are also now the first rural County to complete a comprehensive 'Digital Strategy' – a road map to 2020 and how Mayo will deliver jobs in the 'new economy'. Our approach has four key areas:

1. Investment in Digital Infrastructure
2. Centre for Innovation in Natural Resources
3. Nurturing and attracting talent
4. Creating a progressive digital society

DELIVERABLES THROUGHOUT 2015 FROM OUR APPROACH

Establishment of the Halo Business Angel Network increasing support to Mayo based businesses in accessing private equity and investment.

Securing the Drones and Data Conference 2015 hosting Facebook, NASA and other leading drone technology specialists in Mayo. Outputs from the conference attempted to position Mayo as a leading site for drone testing and development.

Facilitated the completion of the AE Connect / AquaComms sub sea fibre optic cable connecting New York to Europe through Killala in County Mayo. Building on this the unit is targeting industry specific sectors promoting this new infrastructure and the proximate benefits of locating here for business.

2015 saw the commencement of the Advanced Technology Building in Castlebar. Mayo County Council granted full planning permission in September of this year with expected completion in late 2016.

The Enterprise and Investment Unit developed a number of Strategic Development Sites in Mayo including Killala, Castlebar, Westport, Claremorris, Knock and Ballinrobe. Funding was received under 'Rural Economic Development Zone' for the Military Barracks redevelopment in Castlebar and the provision of Creative Hub in Swinford.

Mayo progressed its Memorandum of Understanding with Rhode Island, Massachusetts. The INVEST team have adopted an innovative approach to support Mayo based companies into new markets. The proposed Ireland West International Trade Centre in partnership with Sligo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Leitrim County Council, Western Development Commission and Ireland West Airport at Knock will officially be launched in 2016.

Under our Digital Strategy the team engaged with our burgeoning digital sector on a number of initiatives including INC60 events in Ballina and Castlebar, launch of Digital Marketing in Mayo and supporting innovative online platforms such as [Congregation](#). Finally the INVEST team assisted in the development of our new website at www.mayo.ie. The site promotes the natural, human and built resources available across our county to entrepreneurs and potential investors.



Launch of the Digital Marketing Initiative, Castlebar

RENEWABLE ENERGY

BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITIES 2015

For the second year running, Mayo County Council has successfully secured SEAI funding for Energy improvement works in the Erris Region. Minister for Communications & Energy, Alex White announced grant aid of €161,045 towards a €385,729 project that was spearheaded by Mayo County Council's Enterprise & Investment Unit. The program involved energy retrofit works to local authority housing, schools and community buildings across the Erris region of North West Mayo. The project will also see the installation of two new renewable Photovoltaic (PV) solar electricity installations. PV is a renewable technology that is particularly suitable to coastal areas. PV installations have been successfully piloted at Carne golf links and Teach Greannai in Cornaboy under the 2014 Mayo County Council Better Energy Community scheme. Tenders and contracts were awarded and works are now complete.

FRENCHPORT



Artist's Impression Frenchport Pier Works

Planning Permission was granted to Mayo County Council in September 2015 from An Bord Plenála's Local Authority Projects Section for a new pier extension and slipway at Frenchport Pier, Annagh, Belmullet. Tenders for the preparation of detailed structural design drawings and documents were prepared and tendered. It is expected that a formal foreshore lease from the Foreshore Licensing Unit in the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government will be received shortly. The pier extension and enhancement works will be of benefit to existing local users of the pier for fishing and recreation while also being made suitable for the deployment of rib boat type vessels to the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS). The total cost for the Frenchport Pier works is €660,000 and is co-funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and Mayo County Council. The works will be completed 2016.

AE CONNECT TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLE NETWORK

The Enterprise and Investment unit were involved in co-ordinating with various stakeholders in formalising the fibre-optic ducting route from the landing point at Ross Beach to the Cable landing station at Asahai. Similar coordination was required in bringing ducting from Coolturk Crossmolina to the Landing Station to tie into the national fibre ducting route in the gas pipeline.



IDA IRELAND



Coordination with IDA Ireland in relation to the submission of planning for the proposed new Advanced Technology Building in Castlebar. Planning Ref 15/487. Works are expected to be completed in December 2016.

MAYO RENEWABLE POWER

Mayo Renewable power (MRP) is currently under construction. SISK are the main contractors for the development of this site which is to be completed in summer 2017. E&IU is part of an ongoing project monitoring committee for MRP 42MW biomass development in Killala. The unit has a particular interest in promoting the renewable benefits of this infrastructure in terms of attracting new data centres, pharmaceutical and financial type enterprises to this location.



DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME

E&IU has carried out a building survey and commenced background research into the viability of a potential District Heating Scheme (DHS) for Claremorris Town. The building survey has identified a suitable start point for the DHS which can accommodate DHS infrastructure such as boilers 10,000L water storage tanks and biomass silo feed. A feasibility study was undertaken on the viability of this project as a means of generating local economic activity in Q4 2015.

MARINE STRATEGY

E&IU arranged a “Think Tank” with key marine influencers and stakeholders to initiate the implementation of a comprehensive marine strategy for County Mayo. The strategy will aim to strike a balance between protecting our marine ecosystems and maximising the use of this vast resource as a source of economic growth.

WAVE ENERGY TESTING

Continued support and promotion of IWEDA 1:15 wave energy prototype developers in County Mayo looking to establish a real sea test facility of Blacksod Bay Belmullet. Introduction of IWEDA to SEAI, to establish a proactive engagement for developing a real sea testing facility at this location.

MCC/IWEDA BLACKSOD BAY 2015

Submission to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
The Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee made a submission to the Department of Energy, Communications and Natural Resources on Irelands Broadband Intervention Strategy “Connecting Communities” to reflect the concerns of Mayo County Council in relation to broadband speed in the County and to request a 100Mbs speed to address urban rural divides.

DIASPORA & COMMUNICATIONS

REDEVELOPMENT OF MAYO.IE



The ongoing work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit in positioning Mayo as a location of choice for business and tourism formed part of the reason to rebrand Mayo.ie, a project that took place in late 2014. The new Mayo.ie brand identity reflects the true attributes that make Mayo what it is today – its unique people, its spectacular landscape and its rich culture and history, with a healthy, vibrant and eclectic mix of businesses proud to call Mayo home. To strengthen this brand, work on redevelopment of the Mayo.ie website was undertaken in late 2014 and early 2015. The website was launched to co-incide with Mayo day. The new website reflects our clear call to action: VISIT, CONNECT, INVEST



MAYO DAY

May 2nd 2015 saw the Inaugural Mayo Day initiative delivered by The Enterprise & Investment Unit. There was a huge response to the initiative with events and gatherings happening worldwide as well as across the County and Country. Important buildings and global landmarks were turned green and red for the day, with Niagara Falls leading the way in terms of iconic world locations. Businesses gave special Mayo Day offerings while schools, clubs and societies, all marked the day in their own special way. One of the major aims of Mayo Day was to promote County Mayo internationally as a positive location for business and tourism and to further enhance the image of Mayo as a progressive ‘Will do’ County and the heartbeat of the Wild Atlantic Way. In order to gain maximum impact of Mayo Day and consequently promote the county, The Enterprise and Investment Unit worked in partnership with Irish TV to deliver a two-hour gala concert, Mayo Day Live, on the night of May 2nd from the TF Royal Theatre in Castlebar, broadcast live on television and online to a global audience. The aim of this was to engage with the largest possible audience and to spread the message of a positive, welcoming Mayo to the world using the mediums of television, internet and social media.



12 million
 6.9 million views of #MayoDay
 36 Countries Connected
 15 Mayo Associations Worldwide
 Trended on Twitter for 24 Hours
 Launched Mayo.ie globally

Set a new international standard for modern engagement with Diaspora



Mayo Day Live showed off a proud, confident county that is open and welcoming and offers opportunities for tourism and investment. The concert and broadcast was also a celebration of the County and its people, their achievements and potential. The show fuelled a conversation and realisation that there are so many wonderful elements to the county and that these should be shared with as many people as possible. It has instilled a belief that the County, the people and the Diaspora deserve to be recognised and celebrated and that we need to take some time to look at what we have achieved in the county and analyse the power of that potential.

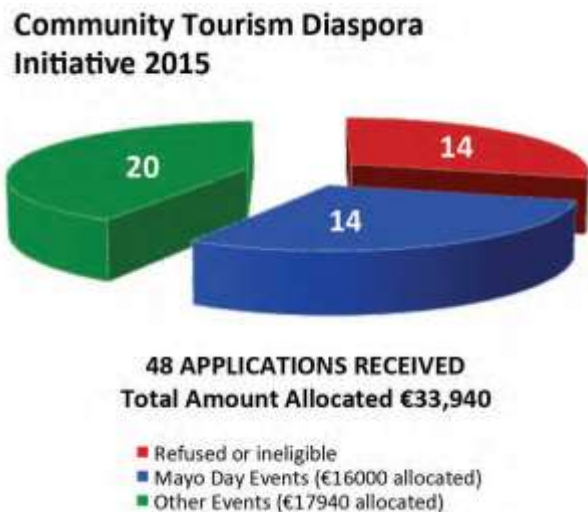
Mayo Day Live captured the imagination of the county, country and the world and delivered a high quality product that the people and county can and should be very proud of. The unique concept got positive buy in from the Media, Business Community, Political Community and more.

It far exceeded all expectations and showcased Mayo on a global stage highlighting the VISIT, CONNECT, INVEST message of the County. In essence we have internationalised the County and through collaborative efforts we have raised the profile of Mayo.

One of the major benefits of Mayo Day 2015 included getting positive, local and national editorial coverage of County Mayo which has been valued at Advertising Value Equivalent of €417,646.

COMMUNITY TOURISM DIASPORA FUND

The Enterprise and Investment Unit at Mayo County Council promoted and administered the Community Tourism Diaspora fund which seeks to build on the legacy of The Gathering 2013. The initiative was launched by The Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring TD, a joint partnership between Fáilte Ireland, IPB Insurance and the 34 Local Authorities, to provide an annual fund of €1m for three years to support up to 700 local community-based events each year around the country.



The key objective of this project is to provide support to local and community projects that will develop and encourage Diaspora links for the benefit of the local community and County at large. In January 2015, the Enterprise and Investment unit advertised the Community Tourism Diaspora fund, inviting local communities around the County to apply. 48 applications were received in Mayo, with 34 projects gaining approval for their events. In Mayo 14 of these events were on Mayo Day or Mayo Day weekend. A total of €33,940 was allocated to Mayo events.

THE COUNTY MAYO FOUNDATION

Work on an innovative project, The County Mayo Foundation was announced in late 2015. The project will see Mayo County Council building on our Diaspora programme to be a leader in modern global community engagement and development. The Foundation aims to create an accessible platform for US citizens and Mayo Associations to contribute to community or charitable initiatives in Mayo assisting our local communities utilise online communication and technology applications or delivering projects.

ONGOING LINKS WITH THE DIASPORA

The Enterprise and Investment Unit continue to work on initiatives and projects that link with our Diaspora, supporting our Mayo Associations and Networks at every possible opportunity. Mayo.ie attended and/or supported:

Mayo Association Dublin Annual Dinner and Mayo Person of the Year Awards 2015

Mayo Association Galway Annual Dinner

Manchester Mayo Association Annual Dinner

Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland 2015 Annual Ball



Members of Mayo County Council & Partners accepting LAMA award

AWARDS

BEST ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Mayo County Council were the delighted recipients of the 2015 LAMA Award in the category 'Best Economic Partnership' for the work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit. The national award recognises the foresight of the Council in establishing this department, focused primarily on supporting and developing indigenous enterprise, promoting a positive receptive environment for inward investment and in encouraging entrepreneurship at all levels.

MAYO.IE ALSO SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AS PROJECT PARTNERS

Feile na Tuaithe
RAS Cycle
F1 in Schools Project
Network Ireland Conference 2015
Mayo Business Awards 2015



COMMUNICATIONS

The ongoing work of the Enterprise and Investment Unit across all work programmes has received significant exposure across a wide range of media, local, national and international. This exposure has come in the form of editorial features, dedicated shows and partnership projects.

The list below reflects some of the media channels we have worked with in creating exposure for various projects and initiatives.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

TOURISM STRATEGY

A new tourism strategy titled “Destination Mayo” A Strategy for the Future Development of Tourism in County Mayo 2015 – 2020 was adopted by Mayo County Council on the 14th September 2015.

The vision for Mayo’s tourism industry in 2020 is to be a high quality, inclusive and authentic destination. Intrinsic to this vision is that Mayo’s tourism product appeals to the next generation of tourists, targeting both the mainstream mass market and niche specialist market segments with an array of high quality attractions and activity options coupled with a solid selection of accommodation, hospitality services and ancillary service products. Key to the successful delivery of this vision is the building of collaborations between agencies, industry operators and local communities. Progress on its implementation has commenced and will continue into 2016.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Funding of €256,885 was received from Fáilte Ireland to undertake improvement works during 2015 of 33 Discovery Points on the Wild Atlantic Way in County Mayo. Additional funding of €124,474 has been approved by Fáilte Ireland to undertake the erection of sign markers at each of the sites.

Planning work is underway on the development of a Signature Discovery point at Keem which is expected to commence in 2016.

Funding of €940,000 was approved by Fáilte Ireland to develop an off road greenway between Lough Lannagh and Rehins, Castlebar and 16km of on road cycle route, on low trafficked local roads, connecting to the Great Western Greenway at Westport.

CASTLEBAR - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND, COUNTRY LIFE

The newly developed Great Western Greenway from Lough Lannagh, Castlebar to the National Museum of Ireland-Country Life, Turlough was officially opened by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister of State Michael Ring on Friday the 1st May 2015.

The Greenway is a 10km linear trail offering a pleasant mix of countryside to include fields, riverside woodlands, small sections of quiet country back roads and urban settings. This route forms part of the National Cycle Network which is currently being developed throughout Ireland.

The Greenway is designed for shared use for leisure walkers, joggers and cyclists and the route is mainly traffic-free and off- road with a solid surface, consisting of both tarred and compacted gravel and can be used to commute to and from school or work.

Funding of €725,000 was made available from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the National Cycle Network Programme to develop the Greenway. Mayo County Council also provided match funding totalling the same amount for the urban section of Greenway from Lough Lannagh – Summerfield. The total funding package was €1,450,000.

The Greenway was planned, designed and constructed by Mayo County Council using its own outdoor and professional design team. It was developed by way of Permissive Access in partnership with 28 local landowners without whose cooperation, enthusiasm and support the Greenway would have not been made possible.



MAINTENANCE OF THE GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY WESTPORT - ACHILL

A Green Patrol was established to deal with the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the Great Western Greenway. The Green Patrol comprises of representatives from the local Rural Social Scheme, TUS Scheme and area staff of Mayo County Council. The purpose of the Greenway Patrol is to monitor and patrol the Greenway and to ensure that the Greenway is looked after to the best possible standard.



Land of the Giants / Mc Mahon Park Clare Lake, Claremorris

Funding of €40,000 was approved by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in late 2014 to improve the trail path at Mac Mahon Park / Clare Lake, Claremorris. The works included the provision of drainage and the widening of the exiting path.

REDZ

Applications for funding under a new Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative was made to DECLG under a competitive system during 2015 for the following locations:

Swinford – Development of Creative Hub

Geesala – Development of a Life on the edge of WAW Visitor Centre

Castlebar – Master Plan for Military Barracks as a World Class Visitor Centre and Creative Hub

Funding of €225,000 has been received for the above projects.

PROCESSION OF THE SOULS

The Spirit of Place installation at Swinford, designed and constructed by architecture students of the Catholic University of America was opened in July 2015. Procession of the Souls commemorates Swinford's Great Famine history and recognises the unsung heroes of that period. The installation, located at the entrance of the Paupers' Graveyard in Swinford, is a processional journey, exemplifying the struggle through a tragic and turbulent passage, emerging to a light-filled structure overlooking the graveyard and the burial site of Dr Henry, a local doctor of the time whose dedication to his patients played a significant role in assisting Swinford and its people overcome the great tragedy of the Great Famine.



Procession of the Souls Passage

TOURISM PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

During 2015 the Enterprise and Investment Unit of Mayo County Council along with other stakeholders including the destination areas within the county were actively involved in participating in various promotional and marketing initiatives, some of which included:

- Attendances at Trade Shows
- Holiday World Show
- Best of Britain & Ireland Trade Show
- Mayo Destination Stand at the Milwaukee Irish Fest
- National Ploughing Championship

A dedicated Mayo Tourism Stand was present at the National Ploughing Championship in Ratheniska, County Laois. As a result of being present there, Mayo received a lot of national media attention from the following media streams:

- Breakfast Republic on RTE 2Fm
- Dermot & Dave on Today FM
- Sean O'Rourke on Radio 1
- Irish TV, Clare FM and locally the Western People

MAYO DESTINATION STAND AT THE MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST

During 2015 Mayo participated at the annual Milwaukee Irish Fest by way of having a destination promotional stand to promote Mayo Diaspora, Mayo Tourism, recreational activities and Mayo.ie The Milwaukee Irish Fest is the biggest annual Irish Festival in the United States of America.

The tourism team highlighted the significance of the County; visitors to the stand were advised of the various tourist offerings for example the Greenway, Wild Atlantic Way, Knock, Croagh Patrick and all of the various recreational activities along our extensive coastline. There was also huge interest in genealogy and visitors were informed of the various genealogy centres available within the County.



Mayo Destination Stand at Milwaukee Irish Fest

KEY OUTCOMES

Contact was established with the President of the Milwaukee Irish Festival. The President Cathy Baker Ward, her husband and a group of ten will travel to Ireland and County Mayo during 2016 to experience Irish culture and to explore some of the many attractions that are now available.

Other visitors to the stand included Brenda Willis of the renowned Willis Clan who are second and third generation Irish with ancestral roots from Swinford. The Clan will be travelling to Ireland again in 2016. Key contacts have also been established with a number of tour operators including:

- Dreaming of Ireland – Jodi Halsted, specialise in Ireland family vacations – Ireland with kids
- Gadabout Travel – Maire O’Donnell
- Celtic Journey’s – Maria Flynn Conway
- Inroads Ireland – Tours off the Beaten Track – Phil Ryan / Carolyn Janette Owners
- Best Irish Tour – Kari Miller
- Terry Flynn Tours
- Middleton Travel - Torey Corcoran
- Destinations Ireland & Beyond – Tracy Lane O’Brien (Golf & Leisure Destinations)
- InterTrav Corporation – Mark. A House
- Sceptre Tours – Cheryl A Gatto
- BrackTours – Nuala Devlin & Sinead Greaney
- Crafted Ireland Custom Tours – Rebecca Dixon

County promotional packs were compiled and presented to each of the tour operators.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Tracks and Trails – Filming of this programme took place in early 2015. The location was Inishturk Island and the programme was presented by Dermot Bannon and it attracted 241,300 viewers. Filming for a new 2016 series of Tracks and Trails has commenced and the following locations will be showcased; Lough Lannagh, the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Foxford Woollen Mills, Hennigan’s Heritage Centre and the nationally accredited Langanmore Loop Walk, Foxford.

Wild Ireland –This is a 6 part series featuring the Wild Atlantic Way. Mayo featured very strongly as there was two dedicated programmes showcasing activities along Mayo’s Wild Atlantic Way. This programme attracted up to 500,000 viewers.

Nationwide – Filming for two Nationwide programmes took place during the summer of 2015. Both programmes were aired during October and November. The locations included Achill Island, Ceathru Thaidhg – Erris, Ceide Fields, Downpatrick Head, Ballycatle and Killala.

ARTS SERVICE

Annually, the service works with over 250 community groups and impacts directly on the lives of at least 30,000 people who attend events organized or funded through the Arts Office. The long-term value of the work is extremely important and all large scale projects offer opportunities to artists, community groups or interest groups to avail of training which leaves a legacy within the county.

ARTS INFORMATION, PROMOTION AND ADVICE

Over 250 community groups, artists and arts organisations regularly seek advice about arts events and sources of funding for their projects and programmes. Advice on grants for artists and Arts Acts grants. Email bulletin on a monthly basis updating activities that may be of interest to local communities and individuals.

ARTS PROGRAMME

MAYO ARTSQUAD

Funded through the Department of Social Protection, Mayo County Council's Artsquad has been operating since 1997 and has continued to provide excellent training in community arts skills for fifteen participants (from a wide variety of backgrounds) annually. In 2015 the Arts Squad worked extensively with festivals throughout the county, with community groups, intercultural groups and with disabled people.



Samhain Abhainn installation at Belleek Woods



Foxford Riverfest

Samhain Abhainn: Halloween scary walks in Belleek Woods Ballina.

The 5th year of collaboration with the Ballina community for their Halloween festival, this has become a very popular event with attendance in 2015 of over 3000 people of all ages over the 3 nights.

Foxford River Fest - This is the second year of this festival and Artsquad produced large scale willow sculptures, murals with themes of nature and on site props. They also provided workshops and demonstrations during the festival leading up to 'uisce solas' and 'candles to the sea' fire on water events.

Onsight – Site specific art trail at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life in conjunction with the Feile na Tuaithe. This year Artsquad members and a number of freelance artists produced artworks to a chosen theme relevant to the museums collection. The engaging artworks remained in situ for three months for visitors to enjoy. Website – Brett Henning, an Artsquad member has built and designed a very user-friendly website which is proving to be a valuable resource for the scheme and wider community. <http://www.mayoartsquad.ie/>



Installations from Onsight Art Trail at the ground of the National Museum of Ireland Country Life

ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Mayo County Council School's Exhibition Programme

Mayo County Council has been collecting art for many years and has now acquired a substantial collection of almost 250 works. In 2006 Mayo County Council Arts Office selected 16 artworks from the collection to collate two exhibitions especially for use in primary schools The School Exhibition Loan Scheme allows a school to borrow one of these exhibitions for a school term.

Each exhibition is accompanied by a resource packs for teachers and an activity pack for students. Where possible, schools are encouraged to invite an artist from the exhibition to visit the school during the exhibition period. In 2015 the exhibitions have travelled to Scoil Chomáin Naofa NS, Roundfort, SN Coill a tSidheáin and Newport NS.

Literature

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME 2015



Acclaimed, award-winning Mayo writer John F. Deane worked with Writing Groups in Achill, Ballyvary, Ballyglass, Ballycastle, Ballina, Westport, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Belmullet and Knock. He also worked with a number of individual writers on a one-to-one basis and gave a public reading of his work.

Born Achill Island 1943, John founded Poetry Ireland and The Poetry Ireland Review in 1979. He has published several acclaimed collections of poetry and some fiction. He has won several prestigious awards for his writing and has held residencies in Bavaria, Monaco and Paris. He is a member of Aosdána.

POETRY DAY IRELAND 2015

Poetry Day Ireland was celebrated in Castlebar Library with readings by Rita Ann Higgins & Martin Dyar.



Rita Ann Higgins & Martin Dyar

ARTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

BEALTAINE

This was the twentieth year of Bealtaine, Ireland's national celebration of creativity as we age – co-ordinated nationally by Age and Opportunity. Bealtaine aims to involve older people in the arts, through expression and active participation. It also encourages older people to engage as an experienced audience for all art forms.



Ted Courtney working with Harmonia Choir



Timothy O'Grady workshop

The main features of Mayo County Council Arts Office's 2015 programme were:

- Theatre Laboratory - in partnership with Bealtaine Festival, theatre artist Niamh McGrath worked with Raymond Keane and Keith Singleton to explore ideas for new work for performance in 2016.
- The Dresser Project with Michael Fortune - Michael has travelled Mayo, Waterford, Carlow and Tipperary, working with older people to document their dressers
- Timothy O'Grady – Bealtaine 2015 Author in Residence. Timothy workshopped with Ballycastle Writers Group. He also read passages from 'I Could Read the Sky' with Legendary fiddler Martin Hayes in Ballina Arts Centre. The film, 'I Could Read the Sky' was screened in the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life.
- Choral Workshop and Performances - Ted Courtney delivered workshops with Rocks n' Roses and Harmonia Choirs.

- ‘A Game Called Lucy Finally Wins’, performed by actress Julie Sharkey in McBride and D’Alton Community Nursing Unit.
- Music with Golden Mile at St. Brendan’s Community Nursing Unit, Mulranny.
- Workshop with Poet Terry McDonagh and the Samhain Project Group

INTERCULTURAL ARTS

INTERLAND

In 2012, Mayo and Leitrim County Councils’ Arts Offices secured funding from the Arts Council under their Local Partnership Scheme. The INTERLAND project group have also participated in research undertaken by Deirdre Walsh examining Intercultural Arts Practice with Women’s Groups in Ireland. The exhibition of work created by the participants had its final show at The Friary in Ballyhaunis on WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2015.



INTERLAND exhibition at Ballyhaunis Friary on WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2015

PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME 2015

FAKE PANEL

This Public Art programme initiative provides professional development for artists and art students, aiming to improve proposal writing and presentation skills. In 2015, sessions took place in Limerick School of Art and Design. In addition to developing the professional skills of emerging artists, enabling them to successfully compete for public art commissions, the Fake Panel also provides an opportunity to showcase the diverse public art programme in Mayo and promote the county as a great place for artists in which to live and work.

MAYFIELD HOUSING ASSOCIATION

James L. Hayes was selected for this commission. Through consultation and engagement with the local residents, via practical workshops at the Growing Locally initiative he produced a number of bronze cast fruit and vegetables sourced from the site.



James L. Hayes proposed installation at Mayfield Housing Association in Claremorris

These are installed in the entrance foyer of the estate’s communal building. In addition to this James produced a number of mirrored stainless steel strips, in the style of a stretch of wallpaper, which are attached to the gable ends of some of the properties.

CLAREMORRIS GALLERY

In collaboration with the Public Art Programme, an exhibition of work from Mayo artists was produced following an open call. Approximately 100 artists submitted work and final selections were made by Catherine Marshall (formerly Head of Collections at the Irish Museum of Modern Art) and Patrick T Murphy (Director Royal Hibernian Academy). The exhibition ‘Mayo, God Help Us!’ has a specific Mayo theme. The exhibition sought to highlight the high quality and diverse range of artists in the county and may tour further afield in 2016, funding permitting.

2016 MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL JACKIE CLARKE RESIDENCY



As part of the programme for the 1916 commemoration, Mayo County Council Arts Office, Library Service and the Jackie Clarke Collection have provided an opportunity for an artist in residence programme. Following a national open call for proposals, shortlisting and interviews, Mayo artist Katie Moore was awarded the residency. Artist Katie Moore - 2016 Mayo County Council Jackie Clarke Residency

Since October 2015, she has been developing ideas via research with the collection and engagement with local people, through workshops and informal collaboration. Katie has an ambitious plan to develop an artwork in response to her research which will be exhibited at the Civic Exhibition space in Ballina during May and June 2016. Facilitated by Katie, art work produced by the community will be publicly exhibited at the Jackie Clarke Collection.

TÍR SÁILE

Following an extensive audit of existing Tír Sáile works (sited in 1995) and a proposed approach to repairing and renewing the trail, initial funds have been secured to start the development of this work. Taking a long term approach, it is hoped that this cultural asset can be extended through new commissioning, marketing and signage.

MAYO ARTISTS NETWORK

This network for visual artists was established by Mayo Arts Office in 2011. A number of key training initiatives, talks and trips were organised, based on the needs identified by members. Over 100 artists have registered and attended network meetings. An important professional development session was held in conjunction with the 'Mayo God Help Us!' exhibition in the Claremorris Gallery.

YOUTH ARTS

EXCEL 2015

EXCEL youth arts programme is run annually by the Arts Office. Specifically addressing the needs of young people across the county it provides tailored sessions and masterclasses to groups already involved in the arts: orchestras, choirs, bands, students wishing to pursue a career in theatre or visual art, drama groups etc.



Members of Mayo Youth Theatre with Annie Ryan and Students from Ballyhaunis Community School working with artist Will O'Kane on the 'This is ours' exhibition

MASTERCLASSES

This year the programme includes three masterclass sessions. Annie Ryan from the Corn Exchange Theatre Company facilitated a team-building workshop with Mayo Youth Theatre. Anthony McNamee delivered a percussion masterclass with Crimlin Community Arts Collective. Mayo Youth Orchestra had a masterclass with conductor James Cavanagh.

ARTS SNACK SERIES

Mayo County Council worked in partnership with Mayo Arts venues to provide a menu of taster art events for secondary school students. The 'snack' events covered a broad spectrum of artforms and gave young people an opportunity to meet artists and arts professionals living and working in Mayo. Participating venues include Ballinglen Arts Foundation in Ballycastle, Linenhall Arts Centre and Artsquad in Castlebar, Custom House Studios in Westport and Ballina Arts Centre.



Launch of 'This is Ours' exhibition in Ballyhaunis Friary

'THIS IS OURS' EXHIBITION

As part of EXCEL 15 students from Ballyhaunis Community School worked with artist Will O'Kane in selecting, discussing and curating an exhibition of artworks from the Mayo County Collection in The Friary, Ballyhaunis. They arranged an official opening and enjoyed a large audience for the exhibition. The title came through discussions about public art collections and the realisation that they collectively owned the works.

MAYO YOUTH THEATRE 2015

Mayo Youth Theatre was established in 1999 to provide opportunities for young people to engage in quality drama. Twenty five young people benefit from weekly sessions in Ballina, leading to an annual production in April annually.

MUSIC

WHISTLEBLAST QUARTET

This partnership project (funded by the National Concert Hall and Mayo County Council), successfully completed a series of interactive music education programmes in Mayo this year. Each programme culminated in a performance for the wider community, including the children who had been involved. The response from schools and communities has been tremendously positive.

MUSIC GENERATION MAYO

Music Generation Mayo moved from philanthropic funding in 2014 and is now funded through the Department of Education and Skills matched locally by Mayo Music Education Partnership; a non-profit, non-political partnership which exists to co-ordinate music services within the county, to ensure equity of access and to develop music education opportunities for all young people. <http://www.musicgenerationmayo.ie/>

Music Generation Mayo has had another extremely busy year. In April, Phases 2&3 (Music Generation Mayo & Erris Instrument Banks) of the County Instrument Bank were secured, thus ensuring that all young people in the county now have access to the loan scheme which is managed by Mayo County Library.

Other achievements of Music Generation Mayo include:

- Four tuition centres are now operational in the county – Louisburgh, Crossmolina, Ballinrobe and Rossport.
- Extensive research into the provision of on-line tuition to serve more remote locations in the county has been completed. Suitable technology was acquired to facilitate this aspect of delivery in 2015.
- Soundworlds Early Music Programme delivered in partnership with Mayo County Childcare Committee.
- BEAM Music & Disability Programme continued in St. Anthony's School Castlebar.
- Ballina Youth Projects and Youth Music Hub.
- Exceptional student's bursaries were awarded to young musicians.
- The John Lennon Tour Bus visited Westport this summer.



Young people enjoying the John Lennon Tour Bus in Westport this summer

DISABILITY ARTS PROGRAMME

Mayo County Council Arts Office is very proactive in the area of disability and the arts and has become a national leader in this field. A number of long-term, equality-based projects are funded annually.

UPSTART

Mayo Arts Office initiated this partnership scheme in 2010 to encourage local arts venues and organisations to work with local artists and people with disabilities, through the funding of quality arts projects. This scheme is called UPSTART and events arising from it are celebrated in and around December 3rd, International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

To date under this successful scheme, 24 partnership projects have been supported under the UPSTART scheme employing 59 artists/facilitators, working with 330 disabled participants, in 205 workshops to create 39 exhibitions/performances, with over 1,300 audience members. In 2015, a further five partnership projects have been awarded funding. Six artists worked on a variety of interactive projects which lead to performances/exhibitions on or around 3rd December in five venues.

IGNITE!

Initiated in 2012, the IGNITE! national partnership commissioned three collaborative projects (one each in Cork, Galway and Mayo) to profile excellent arts and disability practice, while working inclusively at local level.



Silent Moves – Mayo's IGNITE! Commission

The Mayo Commission was awarded to Ballina Arts Centre and Aideen Barry, working with Scannán Technologies, Western Care's Ridgepool Training Centre and Choreographer Emma O'Kane. Shot on location around Ballina, 'Silent Moves', the film they produced, was launched to a rapturous audience of over 500 people at Ballina Arts Centre in late 2014, followed in February 2015 by further screenings for the general public and schools accompanied by an exhibition in the gallery space.

In addition this year, Ballina Arts Centre supported by Mayo Arts office, was awarded the IGNITE! Arts Council touring funding for 'Silent Moves' which saw the film tour to Galway, Cork, Dublin and a homecoming screening at Mayo Movie World in Castlebar.

LUISNE

This Arts & Disability Project has been operating since 2004 with a group of service users from the Crann Mór Resource Centre run by Western Care Association. In 2015, they continued their excellent work on a project in the Ballinrobe Community Garden and working with their counterparts in Scannán, Ballina.

www.artluisne.com.

CULTURE NIGHT



Bronze Casting workshop at Ballinglen Arts Foundation and 25th Birthday Celebrations at the Linenhall – part of the Culture Night 2015 Programme in Mayo

Culture Night took place on September 18th 2015. The event provided an occasion to showcase to local communities and visitors, the wealth and variety of cultural activity that exists in Mayo, while also celebrating the county's excellent cultural reputation on a national platform. In 2015, thirty Mayo cultural venues and groups participated in the event and approximately 3000 people attended events in Acaill, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Ballintubber, Ballycastle, Ballycroy, Béal an Mhuirthead, Ceathrú Thaidhg, Castlebar, Charlestown, Claremorris, Kilkelly, Knock, Laherdane, Lecanvey, Mulranny, Swinford, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Turlough and Westport.

The programme, as always, showed great imagination. In total, almost 100 free events took place on the night ranging from film screenings, exhibitions, workshops, theatre events, tours of exhibitions and collections, open studios, music events, craft demonstrations, storytelling, talks etc. The programme mainly consisted of drop-in events that ran throughout the evening as well as a smaller number of scheduled events.

FILM MAYO

www.filmmayo.ie

“County Mayo has been a truly wonderful place to make a movie. I think this film 'Pilgrimage' will be enhanced greatly by the fact that we chose to shoot in Mayo. The diversity and beauty of locations that exist there is stunning. The people are extremely helpful and open to the idea of filming their beautiful County. I hope to return again soon with other productions to this beautiful part of the world!” Gordon Wycherley, Locations Manager, Pilgrimage (2015).

An Arts Office initiative, Film Mayo is a website, dedicated to the development of film in Mayo. The website is a one stop shop for those wishing to find information on filming in Mayo and includes areas such as a locations database, cast and crew database, filmography and a testimonial section. This year Film Mayo has assisted film makers with practical arrangements and local knowledge, featured opportunities for the sector and kept up to date with all Mayo related film news locally, nationally and internationally.



Screenshot of www.filmmayo.ie

FILM MAYO WEBSITE NOMINATION

Film Mayo was one of eleven finalists in the Realex Payments Web Awards 2015 under the category - Best Government and Local Government Website – Sponsored by [SENSORPRO](http://www.sensorpro.com).

FILM MAYO TRAINING

An Ideas Generation workshop for Film and TV professionals was organised by Film Mayo and Inspiration Station as part of Mayo Ideas Week. The training was given by Pam Relton, one of the UK's leading media trainers who specializes in creativity courses.

ARTS GRANTS

The Arts Office provides a wide variety of grants for both professional and non-professional practitioners in all art forms.

ARTS ACTS GRANTS

Visual Arts Awards (2 exhibition assistance and 16 materials assistance awards)

MCC Tyrone Guthrie Awards (2 awards)

Amateur Drama Awards (1 award)

Music Recording Assistance Awards (2 awards)

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

A number of arts organisations receive annual funding on a partnership basis with Mayo County Council. This support recognises the professional contribution of these organisations towards the strategic development of the arts in the county: The Linenhall Arts Centre (Castlebar), The Heinrich Boll Cottage (Achill), Ballina Arts Centre (Ballina), Custom House Studios (Westport), Ballinglen Arts Foundation (Ballycastle), Town Hall Arts Centre (Charlestown) and Áras Inis Gluaire / Bellmullet Arts Centre (Bellmullet). In 2015, €144,000 was dispersed to assist these organisations with their programmes.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with other agencies are crucial to continued outreach and success. The Arts Service has developed and fostered good working partnerships with other sections within Mayo County Council, other LA arts offices, Western Care Association, Department of Social Protection, Age & Opportunity, The Arts Council, Visual Artists Ireland, Mayo Education Centre & Schools, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education & Training Board, Music Generation, Údarás Na Gaeltachta, Irish Writer's Centre, Irish Music Rights Organisation and Neighbourhood Youth Projects among others.

COMMUNITY & INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014. The purpose of the LCDC is firstly to prepare and agree the 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) encompassing all state funded local and community development interventions. Secondly, it is to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes as part of implementing the Plan. Thirdly, it is to coordinate generally local and community development activity within the operational area of the Local Community Development Committee for the purposes of reducing overlap, avoiding duplication and improving the targeting of resources.

The LCDC rolled out the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in April 2015 with South West Mayo Development Company and Mayo North East as implementers. Following discussions with the Local Development Companies in the county the LCDC submitted an Expression of Interest for the new LEADER programme 2014 – 2020 in May 2015. A Local Development Strategy (LDS) was developed which will form the basis of the new programme, with 21 public community consultation meetings conducted during September and October across the whole county. As well as these community meetings, a number of targeted consultations with key stakeholders were held, to ensure as wide as possible input into the countywide Strategy. It is envisaged that the new Leader Programme, with the LCDC as Contract holders and Mayo County Council as Financial Partner will be operational by mid 2016. The LECP, after extensive public consultation, was adopted by the County Council in July 2015.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) continued to develop its operations and procedures in 2015. A lot of work has gone into establishing this Network, which will act as the official point of contact with all community and voluntary groups in the County. Registration is ongoing for community Groups and there are approximately 360 Organizations registered to date. The PPN representatives are active as members of Mayo County Council's SPCs, the Local Community Development Committee, the Joint Policing Committee, and other bodies.

Community Futures Plans launched in 2015 include Killala, Crossmolina, and Charlestown with Inishturk's Plan being finalised. Communities whose Futures Plans period have elapsed have been invited to become involved in a process of renewal which will bring their initiatives up to date.

Community & Integrated Development continues to support local community initiatives and projects that are identified as being of particular importance. This work has been ongoing since the establishment of the section and is particularly significant from the perspective of Mayo County Council.



Charlestown Futures Launch

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Education Working Group continued to meet during the year and organised Training & Education Expo's which were well attended.

Work continued during the year on Ageing Well initiative to make Mayo an Age Friendly county. An Interagency Steering Group is overseeing the development of a County Strategy.

C&ID continues to support the work of the Travellers InterAgency Forum and provide assistance to Traveller Pride Week.

The Mayo Integration Forum continues to meet regularly and considers issues relating to the integration of all nationalities in the county, including refugees and asylum seekers.

C&ID are involved with other Agencies and voluntary organisations in a Group who are seeking to provide advice and supports to young lesbian and gay people in Mayo. In particular this Group is involved in sourcing funding to continue a roadshow which visits secondary schools to talk to the senior classes. Community & Integrated Development staff are available to advise elected members, and can provide background information on projects being considered for funding under various funds and programmes.

MAYO WINS TOP AWARDS IN 2105 IPB /CO-OPERATION IRELAND PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

Mayo took two top prizes in the annual IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards, which were announced on the 14th November at a glittering Gala event in Ennis County Clare. More than 800 people from across the island filled the venue to hear the winners announced by RTE's Ciana Campbell.

Swinford took top place in the main competition in the Urban Neighbourhoods Category, while Mayo Masters GAA Team received a Special Award.

In their citation, the judges said of Swinford: "The visit to the winning entry in this category concerned a spectacular outpouring of community pride as a community project involving a joint initiative with the council, community and a world renowned international institution.

It built on a recent entry in Pride of Place 2014 as it reached out as a community to regenerate part of the town which held sad and unspoken memories of a distant past. There has been created the opportunity of a whole new future putting it on an international map with an iconic project capturing the Spirit of its Place”.

In regard to the Mayo Masters GAA Team, the judges said: “This is an excellent example of what can be achieved when people in sport at the highest level collaborate by continuing on involvement in an approach of inclusion, reaching out and companionship in a community health initiative. The initiative, which involves a GAA Football Competition for veteran players aged 40 and over, has a very supportive sponsor and the judges are in no doubt as to its future viability”.

The Pride of Place Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of people who work tirelessly to create pride in their local area and a better place for local residents. Forty-three groups, ranging from those in small rural communities to groups in inner-city housing estates, took winning or runner up positions in the main and cities competitions. A further six groups received Special Awards, while one local authority received a special Council Award.



Representatives of the Swinford group with Tom Dowling, Chairman Pride of Place Committee, Ronan Foley, CEO IPB Insurance, George Jones Chairman IPB Insurance, Cllr Mary Howard Leas Cathaoirleach Clare County Council, Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora, Tom Coughlan, County Manager Clare County Council, John Bruton, Former Taoiseach and Deputy Chairman Co-operation Ireland and Neil Sheridan at the 13th Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland at Tracey's West County Hotel Ennis.

MAYO COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE (MCCC)

2015 has proven very productive and busy for Mayo County Childcare Committee. Mayo CCC supports the 121 early years services (approximately 2,311 children) across the county to participate in the National Childcare Funding Programmes and its associated programmes such as the Aistear and Siolta curriculum frameworks. Our support also encompasses quality of practice, child protection training, administrative support, strategic sustainable development, training needs, and information provision. Mayo CCC also support childminding services, parent and toddler groups and provides information to parents.

During 2015 there were 121 formal childcare services in the county. There were 6 notified childminders and there were 58 childminders voluntary notified to Mayo CCC. 118 of these formal services participated in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme.

During 2015 there were 65 private early years services and 56 community early years services.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES THAT OCCURRED IN 2015

Working in the early years sector in Mayo there are many highlights during the year. The commitment and dedication of the workforce within the county is remarkable and amazing to see. In supporting this workforce Mayo CCC would point to the following highlights:

- Began the implementation in Mayo of the newly announced expanded ECCE programme. During 2015 over € 3,000,000 was invested in Mayo through the ECCE programme alone. From the budget 2016 announcement of the expansion of this programme, that figure is set to rise substantially during 2016.
- Mayo CCC trained 73 childcare workers from 44 services in child protection & welfare training.
- 44 childcare services received a total of €438,223 from the national small scale capital grant fund.
- 28 parent & toddler groups received a total of €15,388 from the national parent & toddler Initiative.
- 9 child minders received a total of €6,093 from the national Child Minders Development Grant.
- In collaboration with Music Generation Mayo, Mayo CCC delivered the early years music programme, entitled ' Soundsworld'. This programme is unique to Mayo.
- Mayo CCC launched its Facebook Page. During 2015 we received 346 Likes.
- Mayo CCC had 15,326 visits from 5,059 users on our web page.
- Mayo CCC produced 4 editions of our newsletter during 2015. This newsletter reaches over 2,000 people and provides detailed information on many aspects of early years education & care including Aistear/Siolta curriculum frameworks, national childcare funding programmes, and updates from various local childcare agencies.

DETAILS OF ANY FRONT RUNNERS/PILOTS/NEW INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2015

SOUNDSWORLD, EARLY YEAR MUSIC PROGRAMME

Mayo CCC collaborated with Music Generation Mayo to deliver 'Soundsworld', our early years music programme. We have found that the programme creates many opportunities for young children's learning in a creative, fun, way which engages children. We have found that this learning provides the early years service with many opportunities to implement the learning goals and themes of Aistear such as communication, exploring and thinking and a sense of well being.

The programme involves a Music Generation Mayo tutor visiting the early years service for 6 one hour sessions over a six / seven week period. The tutor engages with the children and encourages the early years service workers to participate in the 'music' activities. The early years service workers can observe and create the links between music activities, the learning that is occurring and the Aistear themes. Early years service workers are also encouraged to continue using the techniques and activities after the initial 6 weeks have been completed. Many other types of learning occur during the programme including literacy and numeracy, social inclusion, resilience and creativity.

Three rounds of the Soundsworld programme were delivered during 2015, in 29 childcare services throughout the county. We are learning from each programme and our understanding of the great potential of this programme is growing.

DETAILS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 2015

Mayo CCC supported 121 early years services to deliver quality early childhood care & education to approximately 2,311 children in Mayo during 2015.

An independent evaluation carried out on various aspects of Mayo CCC's work during 2015, showed the following results:

- Regarding information provided by Mayo CCC about the Department of Children & Youth Affairs funding programmes: 88.1% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.
- Regarding assistance provided by Mayo CCC for child registration on the PIP system: 91.9% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.
- Regarding information, advice and support concerning the National Learner Fund: 96.2% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.
- Regarding information, advice and support concerning financial planning and sustainability: 100% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.
- Regarding support with Fee Payment Policies: 95.9% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.

- Regarding on site visits: 89.6% of Mayo childcare services in the research rated the service they received from Mayo CCC as good, very good or excellent.



Supporting Early Years Services

MAYO SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUND

Established in November 2004 the Sports Partnerships main aim is to increase participation in sport and physical activity among all sectors of the community. It has three main functions:

- Information - To establish a consultation process with sport clubs and organisations and to identify their needs and resources. Initiate research and compile a sports directory. One stop shop for sport in Mayo.
- Education - Provide quality opportunities for training courses for volunteers held locally.
- Implementation - To develop sports policy within the county through a strategic plan for sport in Mayo and select participation programmes to suit local needs.
- We are also involved in facilitating and co-ordinating a number of targeted programmes, projects and initiatives at local level. Target groups include Disadvantaged, Youth at Risk, People with a Disability, Teenage Girls / Women, Older People and Unemployed. The Sports Partnership team work with up to 30 tutors who deliver training and participation programmes on behalf of the Partnership.

2015 OUTCOMES

Local Programmes – 10,632 people participated in 78 programmes

Women in Sport – 4259 women participated in 10 programmes

Sports Disability Inclusion Programme – 403 participants in 18 programmes

Training and Education – 259 participants in 17 courses

Code of Ethics – 373 participants in 26 courses from 119 clubs

Childrens Officer – 33 participants in 2 courses from 24 clubs

2015 MAJOR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

FAMILIES



Operation Get Active Mayo

25 areas across Mayo participate in “Operation Get Active Mayo” to coincide with this year’s Operation Transformation Mayo Sports Partnership made a call for communities, clubs and groups throughout the county to get involved in a 5 week activity campaign.

Over 25 groups registered with the Partnership, with the campaign kicking off locally with the 5 Mayo Operation Transformation Walks in Ballina, Belmullet, Castlebar, Claremorris and Westport on the 17th of January.



Large Number of Events take place during Bike Week 2015

Mayo's 2015 Bike week was yet another very successful and fun-filled week with 19 local events varying from bike workshops, to cycling training, bike maintenance and a variety of short family spins throughout the week. Once again Mayo's Bikeweek steering committee organised 7 lunchtime cycles throughout Mayo which were a brilliant success and helped to raise awareness around bike safety for children and families.

WOMEN

Large crowds of men, women and children gathered in the county town for the 6th annual Western People West of Ireland Women's Mini Marathon. Olympic silver medallist Sonia O Sullivan was the special guest on the day, alongside the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr. Damian Ryan.

Arguably, it was the children who stole the show with hundreds signing up for the 2nd Mini-Mini event. Similarly, there were a number of second level schools taking part as part of their initiative to promote sport and physical activity amongst teenage girls.

Over the last six years, the Mini Marathon – organised by the Western People and the Mayo Sports Partnership – has helped raise well in excess of €1.5 million for local charities and once again, scores of worthy causes were well represented on Sunday. This year, close to 2,000 participants completed the 10km course, while more than 400 others took part in the Mini-Mini event.

TEENAGERS

ACTIVE TEENS

A pilot initiative with 4 second level schools Davitt College Castlebar, Mount St. Michael Claremorris, Sacred Heart School Westport and Santa Maria Louisburgh to increase physical activity levels amongst 1st and 2nd year students in post primary schools took place in May 2015. A team of junior activity leaders in each school received training on devising an extracurricular programme for 1st and 2nd years who would not be involved in sport at any level.

DAVITT COLLEGE 2ND YEAR HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME



Castlebar Sports Forum held a very successful 2nd Year Healthy Living Programme in conjunction with Davitt College Castlebar. The overarching theme of the programme was Sport vs. Drugs and Alcohol. The Programme was held in the Davitt College Sports Hall on January 29th and approximately 100 2nd year students were in attendance.

ADULT PARTICIPATION



Parkrun Participants

Mayo now has the largest number of parkruns outside of Dublin with 4 sites in Ballina, Castlebar, Erris and Westport and information on each can be found on www.parkrun.ie Events are timed each week with results uploaded to the parkrun web site where the eager runners can track their runs and progress. Ballina parkrun meets every Saturday morning at 9.30am at Ballina Town FC, Castlebar parkrun at Castlebar Tennis Club, Erris parkrun at Cross Loop Walks and the Westport event meets at the Mill St High St car park, all events take place at the same time. Even if you did not have a barcode the organizers invite anyone who wishes to try parkrun out to come along on the Saturday morning at any of the above locations.

WEST MAYO “GOAL TO WORK” SPORTS COACH TRAINING PROGRAMME

A group of jobseekers from the West Mayo area completed a 10 week long specialised sports coaching course which it is hoped will provide them with the tools to obtain employment. The “Goal to Work” Sports Coach Training Programme which is run 3 days each week allowed trainees to become fully qualified G.A.A., Rugby and Soccer coaches with additional sports modules in child protection, first aid, disability awareness, little athletics, physical activity leader and active leadership completed. Trainee coaches also honed their skills organising several community events and coaching in local national schools giving many school children some quality participation experiences.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB



Maples Cricket Practice Facility

Mayo Sports Partnership successfully applied and received funding for a Community Sports Hub in Ballyhaunis under the Dormant Account funding initiative. A significant part of the funding is going to the development of a cricket practice facility in the Maples recreational development by Mayo County Council. The investment also allocates resources for developmental programmes such as cricket coaching, walking programmes, youth leadership training, Men on the Move, Couch to 5K and after school activity initiatives.

TRAINING / EDUCATION

MAYO SPORTS PARTNERSHIP HOST NATIONAL DISABILITY INCLUSION TRAINING COURSE



Disability Inclusion Training Course

The new Disability Inclusion Training (D.I.T.) which is a nationally recognized course came to Mayo on 18th April 2015. This course has been designed for a range of audiences including National Governing Bodies, Coaches, Volunteers, Teachers/SNA, Administrative staff, Leisure Personal and Sports Development Officers. The course can also have a 'sport Specific' focus based on demand. 17 participants took part in the course which was held in Davit College Sports Hall.

MEN



130 Men from Ballina, Ballaghaderreen and Crossmolina involved in National Research Programme

Mayo men are feeling fitter, looking better and enjoying being more physically active as a result of the Men on the Move Activity programme. This exciting programme which is now part of a national research programme in to mens health helps men to become more physically active, increase fitness levels, lose weight, have more energy and improve their overall health and well-being.

In Autumn 2015 approximately 300 men from ten areas in Mayo are now participating in this very successful initiative with more areas planned to come on board in the near future. These include Achill, Ballyhaunis, Ballaghaderreen, Ballina, Castlebar, Charlestown, Crossmolina, Claremorris, Erris, Swinford, and Westport.

PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

INCLUSIVE SUMMER CAMP



Summer Camp Participants

The Sports Inclusive Summer Camp took place from the 29th June – 3rd July in An Sportslann Castlebar.

The camp is aimed at Children with a disability their family and friends. The camp consisted of various sports with each day having a theme of a different sport as well as lots of fun games, Skill, balance, coordination elements to the camp. The participants were aged from 5 – 15 with over 20 children in total attending the camp.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL PARTICIPATION GRANT SCHEME 2015



Rowing Club, Ballycroy

The Mayo Sports Partnership Board allocated €19,000 to 39 clubs/organisations in Mayo through both the Partnerships 2015 special participation grant scheme. This year the scheme has funded initiatives including the set up of a new cycling club in Islandeady, the new development of a rowing club in Ballycroy, ladies soccer in Greenway UTD Newport, community summer camps, participation programmes in camogie and table tennis, support for masters participation in basketball and GAA. Programmes in the travelling community and the Irish Wheelchair Association were also supported.

OIFIG NA GAEILGE

Oifig na Gaeilge seeks to sustain and promote the use of Irish in County Mayo and it aids in developing and implementing the Irish Language Policy of Mayo's Local Authority.

Mayo is a Gaeltacht county, with a vibrant Irish speaking community. The Gaeltacht regions of Iorras, Acaill and Tuar Mhic Éadaigh are rich in oral traditions, literature, music, historical and archaeological sites and most importantly of all, they are all Irish speaking regions.

LÁ MHAIGH EO

The Irish Office of Mayo County Council celebrated Mayo Day in the Gaeltacht Region of Tourmakeady for 2015, inviting all groups and individuals who are interested in our Irish language and culture. This event took place on the 2nd May 2015, in Máire Lukes Bar and Restaurant, Tourmakeady. It was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by the many that attended. This event gave an opportunity to different groups and individuals to come together in an informal setting to speak Irish, and enjoy our culture. The event began with a walk in Tourmakeady woods and then there was an art and craft display followed by great music and song from local musicians.



Lá Mhaigh Eo - Tourmakeady



ACHT NA DTEANGACHA OIFIGIÚLA, 2003

Whilst continuing to improve the level of service available through Irish, Mayo County Council continued to implement the Official Languages Act, 2003 and Mayo County Council's Language Scheme. Mayo County Council's second Language scheme under the Official Languages Act was officially launched by Mr. Joe McHugh T.D., Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs in Áras Inis Gluaire, Belmullet on the 3rd December 2015. The scheme shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from 21st September 2015 or until a new scheme has been approved, whichever is the later.



Launch of Mayo County Council's Second Language Scheme



Launch of Mayo County Council's Second Language Scheme with Mr. Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs in Áras Inis Gluaire, Belmullet

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2015

Mayo's Seachtain na Gaeilge was launched on the 25th February 2015 in the Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar.

The information booklet with all the listings of all organised events for Seachtain na Gaeilge in Mayo was launched. Among the events organised throughout the county were storytelling evenings, drama workshops, Lón Gaeilge etc.

THE NORTH AMERICAN GAELTACHT

Mayo County Council partnered this summer with Cumann na Gaeltachta in Canada to offer a Gaeltacht Immersion Week at the North American Gaeltacht in the Tamworth/Erinsville area in Ontario. This is the 12th year in a row that the program has run. Three teachers from Mayo were selected in a competitive process: Deirbhle Ní Dhubhghaill, Laura Ní Mháille, Síona Ní Dhufaigh. In addition to teaching language classes and cultural workshops, the teachers were very willing to assist individuals in using the Irish language outside of the classroom.

RANGANNA GAEILGE

In October 2015 Irish Classes were made available to the Staff of Mayo County Council. The Irish Classes were available at various levels from Preparatory Courses to Certificates in Professional Irish from Level 3 to Level 6. There was great interest from the Staff of Mayo County Council in the Irish Classes.

Forty Five Staff attended at the various levels and will be awarded there certificates in 2016 on completion. The Certificate in Professional Irish seeks to provide participants with the confidence and language skills necessary to communicate through Irish with the public in the context of their work, and to also use the language in social situations.

LÓN GAEILGE

Oifig na Gaeilge continued to provide and promote opportunities for people to meet and speak Irish with the intention of developing a network of Irish speakers throughout the county. A series of monthly 'Irish Lunches' continue in Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Kiltimagh, Bohola, Ballina and Westport. These lunches have proven very successful in providing Irish speakers, those learning the language, and to those who only rarely use Irish, a chance to come and use their 'cúpla focal' in an informal, relaxed atmosphere.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the beginning of the economic downturn, the Planning and Economic Development Section has had to adapt and react to the changing economic conditions that prevail in the County.

It is very evident that the emphasis within the Department has dramatically changed from the Planning Control function (processing of planning applications) to Economic Development and to assisting development throughout every town in the county, by working closely with developers, receivers and liquidators and by agreeing programmes of work to secure the satisfactory completion of estates through the release of cash deposits, held as security.

This release of cash back into the economy at a time when developers are unable to secure finance from the banks has ensured that many developers are able to continue giving employment in their local areas, and at the same time, bring their estates up to a satisfactory standard to have them taken in charge by the Council.

In order to manage this change of emphasis and ensure that the cash deposits released were being used to the best advantage of the residents of the estates and to the Council's satisfaction, an implementation team consisting of eleven key staff with appropriate expertise was established in 2013. This team has continued to work together throughout 2014 and into 2015. The team consists of staff from the Development Section, Enforcement Section and Senior Engineering staff from the Municipal Districts.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The success of this team can be measured by the fact that since it was established, 168 estates have been taken in charge by the Council. This has improved the standard of housing estates throughout the county and also improved the local environment of very many residents. It has also eliminated many health and safety risks on sites, through the reduction in the number of unfinished estates.

UNFINISHED ESTATES

Significant progress has been made on the "Unfinished Estates" list since its inception in 2010. The original 129 unfinished estates have been reduced to the current total of 29. This reflects a reduction of 14 in the past year. Of the remaining 29 estates, works have recommenced on several estates and this will be reflected in the 2015 survey results, when it is anticipated that another significant reduction will be seen.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION FUND

In the 2013 budget, a "Special Resolution Fund" of €10m was set up to be allocated to a limited number of the remaining 1,258 unfinished estates in the country. Applications were sought from local authorities and the Department of Environment allocated funding to just 86 estates nationally.

Mayo County Council was successful in its application for funding for four estates and in all four cases the funding sought was allocated.

The estates which received funding are listed below:

Development	Location	Funding Sought	Recommendation
Bracklaghboy Village	Ballyhaunis	€84,559.30	€84,559.30
Barley Hill Court	Bohola	€75,328	€75,328
Highland Park	Kilkelly	€45,400	€45,400
Annagh Village	Lahardane	€40,440	€40,440

The success in securing the funding under the Special Resolution Fund is clear to see and is a direct consequence of having figures/estimates “ready to go” with the funding application, as soon as the scheme became operational. Works have been completed during 2014 and early 2015 on all 4 estates and it is intended that they will be taken in charge in the near future.

FORMAL PREPLANNING APPLICATIONS

In 2014 there was an 8% increase on the 2013 figures in the number of planning applications received and at the same time there was a reduction of 35% in the number of applications for extension of duration (i.e. where applicants cannot complete developments as they are unable to secure finance to commence or complete developments for which planning permission has already been obtained). This trend has carried forward to 2015, with a further increase of 18% on the 2014 figures, in the number of applications received, and a further decrease of 67.6% in the number of applications for extension of duration.

This is a very welcome trend which, even after allowing for the amalgamation of the Town Councils with the County Council in June 2014, reflects a real increase in development within the county.

FORMAL PREPLANNING APPLICATIONS

As a consequence of the recession people are reluctant to commit to a planning application without some degree of certainty regarding the final outcome. In response to this, the planning office has placed a greater emphasis on the formal preplanning process. This is a free service to the public which is becoming increasingly popular. We received 104 such written applications in 2014 and this has increased significantly to 170 so far in 2015 (October). Considerable resources have been allocated to this process in an effort to guide applicants through what can be one of the most significant, and costly, outlays of their lives. By providing such advice, at no cost to the public, costly disappointment may be avoided.

WALK-IN PLANNING CLINICS

Walk-in Planning Clinics continue to be held each Wednesday morning at seven Council Area Offices. The Clinics are administered on a first come - first served basis, and they have eliminated waiting times for consultations with planners. They also reduce the number of telephone and written queries to the Planning Office as the planners are available for consultations with the public on a weekly basis.

COMPUTERISATION

Substantial investment in I.T. has continued over the past five years. Submissions on Planning Applications can now be made on-line 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and some Planning Agents are now lodging Planning Applications on-line, thereby reducing the amount of paper generated and eliminating the need to visit the Planning Office. Staff have been trained to manage on-line applications, submissions and referrals. Planning Applications are scanned and are available in all Area Offices and on the internet to be viewed at any time. The Planning Register has also been computerised and the old Planning Register Maps were digitised during 2013/2014.

FORWARD PLANNING

Since the beginning of 2014 through to 2015, the Forward Planning Section has undertaken a range of projects in the area of land-use planning and policy formulation, both in fulfilment of its statutory obligations as well as non-statutory projects, the overall aim being to support and facilitate proper planning and sustainable development throughout the county. A significant part of the work undertaken during 2014 through to 2015 related to the finalisation of the new County Development Plan for the period 2014-2020 and the subsequent variation of this plan.

Environmental Assessments required in respect of the above and other projects i.e. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment are now an integral part of the Forward Planning workload. A dedicated SEA Officer is located in the Forward Planning Section. Part 8 proposals and planning applications which may have implications for the 2000 Natura network are also submitted to the SEA Officer for assessment and reports.

STATUTORY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

MAYO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014 - 2020

Following publication of material alterations to the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 in January 2014, a new County Development Plan was adopted by the Council in April 2014 and came into effect in May 2014. For the first time, this included individual plans and detailed land use zoning for eleven towns, five of which did not previously have zoning.

VARIATION NO. 1 OF MAYO COUNTY MAYO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014 - 2020

Following publication of Proposed Variation No. 1 of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 in August 2014 and subsequent material alterations thereto, the members of the Council adopted Variation No. 1 in July 2015.

The purpose of the variation was to ensure that Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 complies with E.U. Environmental Directives and Ministerial Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing, Spatial Planning and National Roads.

FORMAL REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS

In addition to statutory work relating to the County Development Plan, formal reports and submissions were made to other bodies in relation to strategic policy formulation at county and regional level such as:

- Submission to the BMW Assembly in respect of the Draft BMW Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 (the third Regional Operational Programme (ROP) for the region supported under EU Cohesion Policy).
- Submission to Mayo Community & Enterprise in respect of the Draft Mayo Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Submission to Galway County Council in respect of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021.
- Residential Land Availability Survey 2014 to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
- Reports and updates on a regular basis to the Planning, Environment & Agriculture SPC.

SMALL TOWNS STUDY

Preparatory work commenced on devising a methodology for assessing smaller towns identified in the Settlement Strategy, building on the work undertaken under the Community Futures Programme with the overall objective of identifying priority measures that will contribute to their sustainability. Initial survey work has commenced in Crossmolina town.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

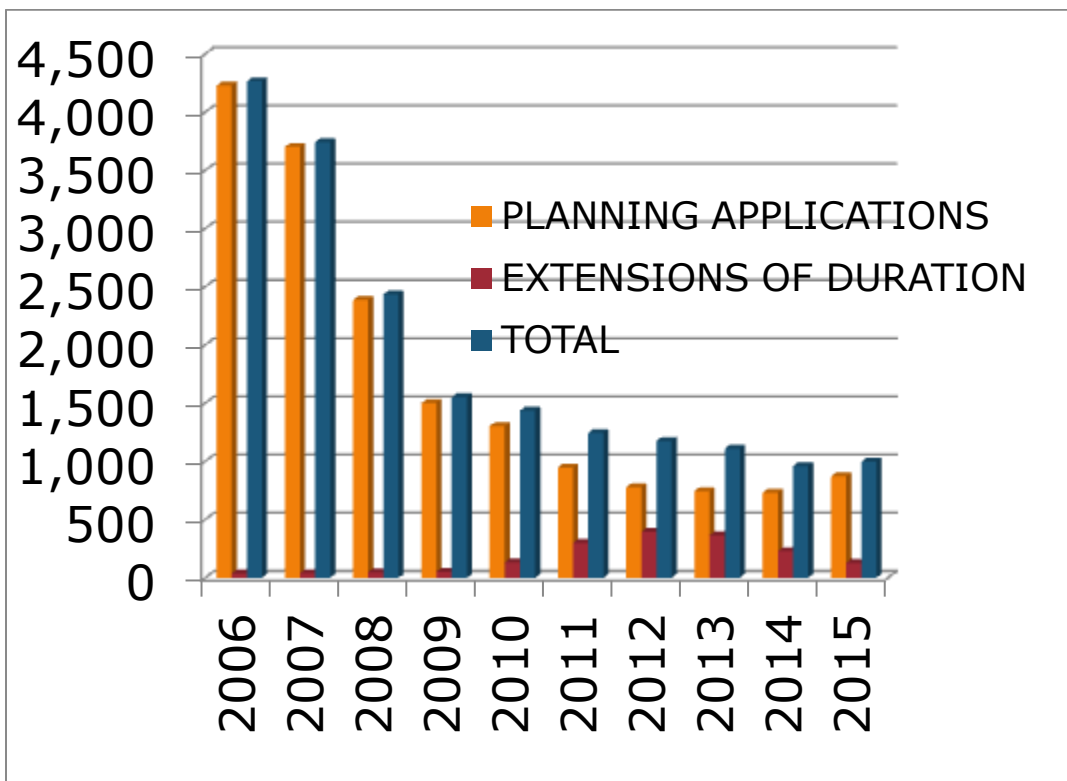
Since the abolition of the Town Councils on 1st June 2014, all authorised, non-exempted development within the county of Mayo (including the former Town Council Areas), must obtain planning permission by submitting a planning application to Mayo County Council's planning office, in Castlebar.

2015 was the first full year in which all applications for the county were processed centrally in Castlebar. This resulted in 110 applications being received from the former Town Council areas, most of which were commercial applications from the urban areas of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport. 2015 was also the first year since 2006, in which there was an increase in the number of applications received. There was an increase of 10% in the number of applications received from the former Town Council areas and an increase of 10.5% in the number of applications received from the rest of the county. The table below shows the number of applications received from 2006 to 2015.

Year Received	No. Planning Applications	No. of Extension of Duration App's	Total
2006	4,228	38	4,266
2007	3,702	40	3,742
2008	2,386	48	2,434
2009	1,500	52	1,552
2010	1,303	134	1,437
2011	946	299	1,245
2012	779	396	1,175
2013	744	366	1,110
2014	731	229	960
2015	871	128	999

2006-2015

This information is more interesting when viewed in the graph below, as it shows the planning figures tracking the recession. It shows the number of planning applications received, dropping for the first time in 2007 and 2008, indicating the beginning of the recession, before it had been noted elsewhere in the economy in 2009. The difficulties in the economy are graphically depicted in the number of applications for extensions of duration increasing as the recession deepened throughout 2010 to 2013, when applicants were unable to secure finance to commence or complete developments for which they had already obtained planning permission.



The first signs of recovery in the economy are again clearly evident in the figures for 2015 as the number of applications for planning permission increased for the first time since 2006. Though the increase is small, it is significant. There is an overall increase of 140, from 731 to 871, which is made up of 110 additional applications from the former Town Council Areas (i.e. larger urban areas), which is an increase of 10 on the previous year for these areas, and there were 30 additional applications received from the smaller towns and rural areas of the county. Therefore, the planning figures are a good indicator of the health of the economy in general, as the number of new applications and applications for Extensions of Duration reflect the availability of finance in the economy and in the county.

UNFINISHED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Significant progress has been made on the “unfinished estates” list since its inception in 2010. The original total of 129 estates has been steadily reduced year by year with only 13 estates remaining on the list at the end of 2015. Work is continuing on these estates and more progress is expected through 2016.

TOWNS & VILLAGES

Preparatory work commenced on devising a methodology for assessing the smaller towns and villages identified in the Mayo County Development Plan 2014–2020, with the aim of preparing sustainable strategies for these settlements. It is also intended to build on work already undertaken in many of these settlements by the Community and Integrated Development section under the Community Futures Programme. This will feed into the preparation of Area Plans for these smaller settlements. Initial survey work commenced in Crossmolina town which will be the pilot for this new approach in the preparation of Area Plans.

SWINFORD TOWN REGENERATION STUDY

Swinford Town Regeneration Study was undertaken over a two month period in conjunction with Mayo County Council Architect's section. The study focused on the town core area of Swinford as a test case for rural town revival. The outcome of the study included:

- Identification of all vacant and unused plots and /or floors of buildings at both ground floor and upper floor levels throughout the study area, with the preparation of a vacant properties register
- Identification of five key opportunity sites within the study area with the potential for the development of social housing, retirement houses or commercial infill opportunities
- Identification of three landmark buildings with potential for refurbishment or public acquisition
- Identification of Pond Lane as a possible area for a tax incentive scheme.

REVIEW OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY FOR COUNTY MAYO 2011–2020

Mayo County Council adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo on 9th May 2011.

The Strategy sets out a path to allow County Mayo to contribute to meeting national legally-binding renewable energy targets and sets out opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to harness renewable energy in a sustainable manner and to assist in combating climate change. A review of the RES commenced in late 2015 to take account of more recent developments at national level and trends in emerging renewable energy technologies since its adoption in 2011.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL POLICY

Formulation of strategic policy at county, regional and sub-regional levels was assisted through submission of formal reports and submissions to other bodies including the BMW Assembly, Mayo Community & Enterprise, and Galway County Council.

ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Section is tasked with the enforcement of environmental legislation, the implementation of EU directives and regulations, national and regional policies and the raising of awareness/education of environmental issues with the general public.

The Environment function is to facilitate the vision of sustainable, physical and economic development. A quality environment sustains and facilitates development in many sections of the County's economy including tourism, food production, and foreign direct investment, particularly in the healthcare sectors. The environment section assists in this regard through its monitoring and reporting role, ensuring the highest standards are adhered to and by building a positive image of the County's environment and social well being while protecting the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

This committee comprises of elected members and members of the business and farming communities. The committee oversees the development and implementation of policy for the environment function.

The Committee met on 3 occasions in 2015 and discussed inter alia:

- Litter Management Plan
- Regional Waste Management Plan
- Pay by Weight
- Climate Change Strategy
- Water Framework Directive
- Variation to the Development Plan
- Planning guidelines for Municipal District Plan
- Urban Regeneration Act, Vacant Site Levy

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Raising awareness to the protection of Mayo's environment and enabling the public to take responsibility for the environment is a key part of the work of the Environment Department of Mayo County Council. Environmental awareness is focused on all sectors of the community – school children, young adults, householders, businesses and community groups.

SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Mayo County Council has continued to promote environment awareness on the issues of litter, waste, recycling, composting, energy and water conservation with our pre-school, primary and secondary schools and also with youth and scouting groups.

Several school based programmes were held in 2015 including the roll out of 'Leave no Trace' workshops to 26 primary schools and the ECO UNESCO 'Young Environmental Programme'. Mayo County Council continued to roll out workshops on the protection of water, waste & litter management, composting and energy conservation all with the specific aim of increasing awareness on environmental issues among young people.

In the summer of 2015 an event was held with Le Cheile Family Resource Centre in Castlebar whereby preschool children and their parents participated in a 'Greener Cleaning' Workshop. Through this workshop parents were given the information to help them clean their homes without use of chemicals. Programmes were also held with regard to litter with youth groups in Cong and Charlestown.

Environmental programmes were also delivered to Kiltimagh Beavers and Castlebar Cubs.



*'Nature is sad when litter is bad'
Leave No Trace Schools Programme*



*Greener Cleaning Workshop in
Le Cheile, Castlebar*

REUSABLE DRINK BOTTLE SCHEME

In September 2015, all first years students in Mayo's Secondary Schools were offered a reusable drink bottle. The aim of this campaign was to encourage a move away from the use of disposable drink bottles in secondary schools.



GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



Children from St. Joseph's National School, Killasser receiving their third Green Flag.

The Green School's Programme is an international programme designed to encourage and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. This programme is run in co-operation with Local Authorities throughout Ireland and is managed by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland. Green Schools offers a well-defined controllable way for the schools to take environmental issues from their curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school. This process helps the pupils recognise the importance of environmental issues. Green Schools is both a programme and an award scheme. The award is given to schools that complete the seven steps of the programme and has to be renewed every two years. To date, in Mayo there are 185 schools registered for the Green Schools Programme and of these 156 have been awarded Green Flag status. Six Green School Teacher Seminars were held by Mayo County Council in September 2015 and were attended by teachers from throughout the County.

SIAN'S PLAN – 'REDUCE FOOD WASTE WITH MEAL PLANNING'

To tie in with the continued roll out of the brown bin service in County Mayo a number of events were held to promote a reduction in food waste by householders. In February 2015 two such events were held in Belmullet and Castlebar. Meal planning expert Sian Breslin was invited to carry out workshops in both towns and the events were very well supported by the local communities. Cong Tidy Towns and Castlebar ICA also hosted 'Stop Food Waste' awareness events for their community in partnership with Mayo County Council.



Sian Breslin, Meal Planning Expert with members of Belmullet Tidy Towns Committee and Sharon Cameron, Environment Awareness Officer at the 'Reduce food waste with meal planning' event in Belmullet



ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS IN THE WORKPLACE

In 2015, events were held in Allergan Pharmaceuticals and also in St. Colmans Day Centre in Achill. The aim of these events is to bring the environment awareness message directly to people's workplaces.



FREE ELECTRICAL RECYCLING DAYS FOR HOUSEHOLDERS

During 2015 WEEE Ireland with the support of Mayo County Council Ireland carried out free Electrical Recycling events in 25 locations. These are part of an overall electrical and battery recycling scheme including the 'Schools WEEE Pledge' programme.



St. Mary's Secondary School in Ballina won a national award for their success in collection of waste batteries for recycling.

DOG FOULING AWARENESS

The Environment Awareness Office is committed to raising awareness to the issue of dog fouling. 'Talking Lamp Posts' were placed over the summer months in Westport and Belmullet with the support of local Tidy Towns Committees while Mayo County Council's Dog Fouling Mascot 'Coco' also had an outing at Crossmolina Tidy Towns Annual Garden Fete.



TIDY TOWNS

Support is given to Tidy Towns Committees on an ongoing basis in particular with the categories of 'Tidiness and Litter Control' and 'Sustainable Waste and Resource Management'.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

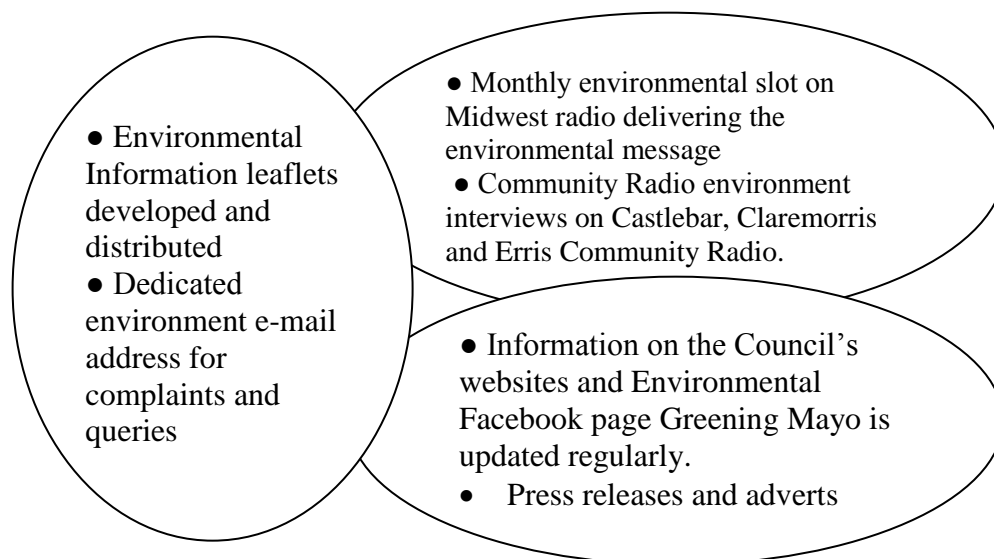
In July 2015, Mayo County Council in partnership with Ballina Chamber of Commerce held a 'Green Hospitality' seminar. A further seminar was held for the wider business community in Castlebar in September 2015 with a focus on Resource efficiency in the areas of waste, water and energy.



RADIO CAMPAIGNS

In 2015 Mayo County Council once again teamed up with i102 radio and Midwest radio in running a series of anti-litter and waste awareness messages. The monthly environment radio slot on Midwest Radio's Tommy Marren Show continues to be extremely popular and the public are invited to submit their queries for the 'quick fire' round at the end of each slot.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION



NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN



The community in Cong carrying out their litter clean up as part of National Spring Clean

An Taisce's National Spring Clean is Ireland's biggest anti-litter campaign. It encourages people from all walks of life to take pride in their local environment and to take action against litter. The campaign runs throughout the whole month of April and relies on the wonderful support from volunteers nationwide. All schools and community groups were invited to participate in the Spring Clean Campaign and all registered groups were issued with bags, gloves and litter pickers to assist them in their litter clean ups.

REUSE WORKSHOP

In July 2015, Mayo County Council partnered with the Community Reuse Network and the communities of Kilmovee and Kilmaine to run Reuse Workshops - these workshops focused on the upcycling of old furniture and teaching basic needle work skills to children.



ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANT SCHEMES

ANTI-LITTER & ANTI GRAFFITI GRANTS 2015

This grant scheme is aimed towards organisations that are planning a project to target anti-litter or anti-graffiti measures. Organisations are invited to apply for grant aid to co-fund public education and awareness initiatives on the subject of litter and graffiti. Funding has been allocated to 12 organisations for Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti projects in 2015.

LOCAL AGENDA 21 ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FUND 2015

Local Agenda 21 is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. Eligible projects under this scheme support and complement national environmental policies such as those on waste, biodiversity, climate change, air, water, and sustainable development. Funding has been allocated to fifteen organisations for the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2015



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

To enable householders to dispose of items of household hazardous waste correctly a free collection event was held in Swinford in December 2015, in partnership with Swinford Tidy Towns Committee. Over 5 tonnes of household hazardous waste was collected at this event.



CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

In January 2015, a Christmas Card Recycling Campaign was held to coincide with the Christmas Tree Recycling campaign. The annual Christmas Decoration Competition for Primary Schools takes place annually in December. The challenge is to encourage children to make Christmas decorations for Mayo County Council's Christmas tree from everyday waste materials. All decorations are displayed in the Reception Area of Aras an Chontae, Castlebar.



LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A new Litter Management Plan has been drafted to replace the current plan of 2011-2014 for Mayo in accordance with the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2009. The plan establishes our objectives for the prevention and management of litter, enforcement of respective litter laws in Mayo and the means to achieving these objectives. The upcoming litter plan is largely action based with partnership, prevention, enforcement and operations our main focal points. Our primary objectives are to achieve a marked reduction in the proliferation of litter thus attaining a cleaner environment for Mayo and its residents. The draft plan has been passed by the Planning, Environment and Agriculture SPC and is due to be presented to the full Council for adoption in July, 2016.

WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The kerbside waste collection service in the Mayo County Council functional area continues to be provided by private permitted waste collectors. There are currently seven permitted waste collectors providing a kerbside waste collection service in Co. Mayo. Mayo County Council regulates these collectors by means of audit and inspection programme, utilising enforcement and awareness initiatives.

A network of bring banks throughout the county allows for the convenient recovery of bottles and aluminium cans from householders. Almost 2,313 tonnes of glass and 78 tonnes of aluminum was recovered in 2015.

CIVIC AMENITY SITES

Civic amenity sites enable householders to recycle a range of household wastes. Materials collected include hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. The fee for householders to avail use the Civic Amenity site is €3.40 (including VAT). Rathroeen landfill currently operates a 'Green Waste' composting facility at its site on the Killala Road, Ballina.

WASTE FACILITY PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

Mayo County Council continues to process applications for Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration for the County. A valid application must include evidence of planning permission or planning exemption for the proposed activity. Mayo County Council retains responsibility for enforcement of all Waste Collection Permits having their main business address in County Mayo. Submissions in respect of any new waste collection applications are made by Mayo County Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

In accordance with EU requirements a RMCEI plan is produced annually. This plan provides an annual blueprint for execution of both routine and non-routine environmental inspections under the headings of Waste Management and Water/Wastewater monitoring. Each year the plan is updated to take into account any new or amended legislation and national or EU priorities.

RMCEI Plans continue to move to an 'outcomes' based format rather than past measures; which were primarily based on numbers of inspections executed.

Activities in the plan include roadside check points, covert surveillance, inspections of permitted facilities (based on risk prioritisation), domestic and commercial inspections for waste management and other initiatives. Inter-county check points with Sligo, Galway & Roscommon County Councils have been completed this year.

The main focus areas in 2015 are ELV's, Food Waste Recovery, Discharge Licenses and C&D Waste Management. The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority Office for the Connacht Ulster Region is due to commence operations in early 2016.

LANDFILLS

Mayo County Council is licensed by the EPA to operate two Landfills. They are located at Derrinnumera and Rathroeen. Currently, waste is not being landfilled at Derrinnumera but all residual waste is being diverted to Rathroeen.

Having regard to EU directives on waste and landfill, Government Policy "*A resource opportunity - Waste Management Policy in Ireland 2012*" , the draft Connacht, Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan, 2015 - 2021, and emerging capacities in the Waste to Energy Sector, it is not proposed to invest further in new landfill infrastructure in the County. The capital programme will focus on meeting future obligations towards the aftercare of existing landfill and measures to reduce ongoing costs in their care.

The project to generate electricity from landfill gas in Derrinnumera will shortly be completed and will be a small but welcomed income stream.



Leachate Drainage layer being put on (top of picture)

HISTORICAL LANDFILLS

Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal & Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (SI No. 524 of 2008), Mayo County Council. was obliged to identify all closed landfills (which operated between 1977 and 1996) in the county.

There are 5 such landfills in Co. Mayo, located at Swinford, Claremorris, Foxford, Charlestown and Ballyhaunis. Swinford is classified as 'High' Risk, Claremorris as 'Medium' Risk and the remaining three as 'Low' Risk.

The Council applied to the Department of Environment in 2012 for funding of €45,000 towards the cost of a 'Tier 2' assessment for the Swinford Site. Unfortunately, funding has not been forthcoming and progress has stalled.

Monitoring of Leachate and Landfill gas continues at the Claremorris site, as part of on-going 'Tier 2' assessment works there. These works were previously funded by the Department of Environment, under a separate pilot scheme.

CONNACHT ULSTER REGIONAL WASTE PLAN

For the purposes of Waste Management Planning the country is divided into three regions, Connacht Ulster, Eastern and Midlands, and the Southern Region. Each region has a designated lead authority for the purposes of waste planning. Mayo County Council is the lead authority for the Connacht Ulster Region. The Connacht Ulster region consists of Galway City, Galway County, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan.

The Local Authorities of the Connacht Ulster Waste Region agreed in 2013 to prepare a New Waste Management Plan for the region following the evaluation of the three existing waste management plans in Connacht, Donegal, and the North Eastern Region. The plan was developed in accordance with the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations, 2011 and the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations, 1997.

Pre-draft consultation was conducted in late 2013 and the Draft Regional Waste Plan was published in November 2014. Following consultation on the Draft Plan the final Regional Plan was published in April 2015 and will be implemented over a five year period until 2021.

The Regional Waste Plan outlines a strategic vision to rethink our approach to managing wastes, by viewing our waste streams as valuable material resources that can contribute to a healthier environment and sustainable commercial opportunities. The plan contains objectives, policies and policy actions which will be implemented over the life of the plan to achieve the targets set out in the plan.

The Regional Plan contains three overall performance targets as follows:

1. To achieve a 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the plan.

2. To achieve a recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020.
3. To reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill (from 2016 onwards) in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices.

The performance targets present a significant challenge and will be achieved only through the implementation of the policies and actions contained in the plan.

In the first six months of the implementation of the plan the Regional Waste Office, Lead by Mayo County Council, has focused particularly on the following actions:

1. Identification and prioritisation of historic landfill sites for remediation.
2. Development of siting guidelines for waste facilities.
3. Development of tools to support Local Authorities in the Appropriate Assessment of existing and proposed waste facilities.
4. Coordination of waste prevention activities across the region.
5. Development of awareness for the proposed implementation of alternative charging arrangements for household waste.
6. Coordination of the response to the ongoing challenge of residual waste disposal capacity both regionally and nationally.

The Regional Waste Office, Lead by Mayo County Council, will continue to work with all Local Authorities in the region on the implementation of the policy actions contained in the plan. The Regional Waste office will also produce an annual report on the progress of the implementation of policy actions.

DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (SEPTIC TANK) INSPECTIONS

In July 2013, the National Inspection Plan (NIP) for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) came into effect. The aim of this plan is to address Ireland's past failure to implement the 1975 Waste Framework Directive; namely to regulate the waste water generated in unsewered areas.

The NIP is a risk based plan which designates eight separate risk categories nationally and by extension within each county.

Under the NIP, Mayo County Council was required to carry out a minimum of 52 inspections for 2015.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was transposed into Irish Law by the EC (Water Policy) Regulations in 2003. In July 2014 the 2003 Regulations were amended by the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014. The Regulations establish statutory deadlines for the river basin planning process. The 2014 Regulations also facilitate the establishment and implementation of a new Three Tier Governance system for the Water Framework Directive implementation in Ireland.

The Three Tier Governance system consists of: national policy co-ordination at Tier 1 lead by the DECLG; Tier 2 lead by the EPA to address technical implementation and reporting; and, Tier 3 lead by Local Authorities to address regional co-ordination, public consultation, the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans and the programmes of measures at local level.

The Water Framework Directive is an important piece of EU environmental legislation which aims at improving our water environment. It requires governments to take a new holistic approach to managing their country's waters. It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. Member States are required to manage their water resources on an integrated basis in order to achieve at least good ecological status and must ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters.

Ireland is currently divided into 8 River Basin Districts (RBD's) to allow for the co-ordinated management and implementation of the Water Framework Directive. County Mayo is part of the Western River Basin District.

SWIMMING POOLS

Mayo County Council is directly involved in the operation of 8 swimming pools in the County. Pools are operated in Castlebar and Ballina while grants are made to swimming pool committees for the annual operations at Kilmovee and Ballaghadereen. The swimming pool in Claremorris is operated by a local committee in conjunction with Mayo County Council.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There is a total of 156 burial grounds in Co. Mayo, community groups maintain 108 of them with a financial contribution given towards maintenance by Mayo County Council as part of the Municipal District allocation.

Community involvement is encouraged as much as possible having regard to the works that can be undertaken in burial grounds protected under National Monuments Act 1930-2004.

There is a need to provide additional resources to fund the acquisition and development of new burial grounds in a timely fashion. The budget includes a capital contribution in this regard.



DERELICT SITES

A review of the derelict sites register commenced during 2015. Surveys of all building on the register was completed and the Council engaged with owners regarding schedule of works necessary to render properties non derelict. During 2015 a total of 7 properties were removed from the register and 41 notices issued to owners.

A survey of towns and villages was undertaken by area staff to update the position with regard to the registration of all derelict sites. Owners of these sites will be notified of the Council's requirements to have the sites rendered non derelict.

All derelict sites are entered on the Register of Derelict Sites which is available for public inspection. Levies were issued to owners of properties that were in the Register as of 1st January 2013.

The Council continues to engage with owners, Council area office staff and local communities to find the best solutions/new uses for derelict sites.

BEACHES

In 2015 Mayo received 12 Blue Flags for Elly Bay, Mullaghroe, Golden Strand, Clare Island, Dugort, Keel, Carrowmore, Dooega, Keem, Bertra, Mulranny and Ross. Blue flag beaches meet 32 strict criteria for water quality, management, safety and environmental education.

In addition we received 8 Green Coast Awards for Carrowniskey, Cross (Belmullet), Cross (Louisburgh), Portacloy, Silver Strand, Srah, Termon and White Strand. Green Coast Flags are awarded based on natural beauty and excellent water quality, without the focus on built infrastructure in the Blue Flag standard.



Keem Beach, Achill

MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY

INTRODUCTION

In 2015 Mayo County Library lent over 600,000 books to 26,000 members. The Library also provides a local history service, a genealogy service, and a wide ranging programme of cultural events over the year. In addition new services such as downloadable books, a smart phone service, online newspapers and social networking are now provided. Mayo libraries attracted approx. 359,000 visits during the year which is far in excess of any other cultural or heritage organisation in the county.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Mayo Library runs an extensive cultural programme which is expanding annually. In 2015 over 250 events were held in libraries in the county including:

- Arts exhibitions
- Book launches
- Lectures
- Arts and craft events
- Literacy Summer camps
- Career talks
- Music Circles
- Free computer courses

The Library is also a venue for numerous community based groups e.g. The Irish Wheelchair Association, Writers & Artists Groups, Ballina Chamber of Commerce, Mayo Volunteer Centre, Moy Community Development Board, Youthreach Clubs, and Age Action. The Library won The Public Service Magazine Excellence in Business award in 2015.

DECADE OF CENTNARIES EVENTS

The library continued its commemoration of the decade of centenaries in 2015 by adding material to the Centenarymayo.ie a website which records the events of the most momentous decade in history, 1913 to 1923. A history of Mayo County Council in that decade will be produced before the end of the year. Among the highlights of this year's commemorations were an illustrated talk on Ernie O' Malley by his son Cormac and an exhibition in Foxford library to honour the local people who fought and died in World War .

LIAM LYONS COLLECTION

The Liam Lyons collection of over 50,000 images is available to the people of Mayo in all branch libraries. It can be used for exhibitions, publications and websites and is a valuable resource for students and researchers. It can also be used as a means of attracting visitors to our county.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LENDING SCHEME

The musical instrument lending scheme which allows people from all over the county to borrow instruments through their local library was in great demand in its second year. Over 1000 instruments were on loan throughout the county in 2015. Mayo is the only library service in Ireland or the UK that provides such a service. In 2015 the service was extended to Ballina and Belmullet.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

The library runs a wide range of events for children throughout the year from story hours and competitions to author visits and workshops. The highlight of the year is the month-long Children's Book Festival in October which comprises numerous events for children including:

- Pet care demonstrations
- An on-line short story competition
- Library Quizzes
- Talks by local Gardai
- Talks on the environment
- Spooky Story-time for Halloween
- Various workshops

Summer Reading Challenges for children were organised in Crossmolina, Westport, Castlebar, Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis libraries. The children were challenged to read at least 10 books over the summer. In 2015 Ballyhaunis Library recorded the highest participation in the event as 200 children completed the Challenge and had medals and certificates presented by Mayo footballer Keith Higgins.

ICT INITIATIVES

ACCESS TO ONLINE LIBRARY SERVICES VIA SMARTPHONES

Library members can access Mayo County Library services via their smart phones. Members can search the catalogue, view books, check their accounts and reserve items.

AUDIOBOOK DOWNLOAD SERVICE

Over 1,000 audiobooks can be downloaded free to member's computer, phones or mp3 players

MAYO NEWSPAPERS ON-LINE

The following papers are all available online in the library: The Western People, The Mayo News, The Ballina Herald, The Connaught Telegraph, The Mayo Examiner, The Ballinrobe Chronicle and The Western Journal.

FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND EZINE

Mayo Library provides up-to-the minute information on its events and services on Facebook and Twitter.

The library also produces an electronic magazine which is sent to over 3000 homes on a regular basis. SMS Messaging is used to notify borrowers about overdue books, requested items and library events via text message.

WIFI

WIFI access is now available in Castlebar, Ballina, Westport, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis, and Swinford libraries.

MAYO GENEALOGY ONLINE

Mayo County Library, in conjunction with the Mayo Family History centres, provides a genealogical service on the library web site. This facility provides access to the millions of family records held on the centres' databases for library users.

BORROWBOOKS

Borrowbooks, an online library loans service which allows Mayo readers to borrow books from anywhere in Ireland, continues to be hugely popular.

MAYO MAPS ONLINE

Mayo Maps Online provides access to the 1838 Ordnance Survey maps, Bald's map of Mayo and maps of the Lynch-Blosse estates with links to additional information including the 1901 Census data, Griffith's Valuation, Tourism Survey from the 1940's and place name information.

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS

This facility on the library website provides a contemporary pictorial view of some of the most significant episodes in Irish history from illustrations from the 19th newspapers.

OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

- Irish Tourist Association Survey (1940s)
- The Famine in Mayo: a portrait from contemporary sources online
- In Humbert's Footsteps: 1798 & the Year of the French,
- Mayo People – lives of famous people from the county
- Map of The Clans of Mayo
- Book Review section - updated monthly.

EACHTRAI CULTURTHA

Le h-aghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge i mí Mharta, eagraíodh eachtraí éagsúla tré mheán na Gaeilge i leabharlanna tríd an chontae.

Ina measc bhí:

Lochlain O'Meara Dramaíocht. Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Sheila Duddy ag léamh as Gaeilge, Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Taispeántas Leabhar Gaeilge – Béal an Átha

Eoghan Mac Goillia Bhríde , scéalaíocht i, gCaisleán a' Bharraigh agus Béal an Átha, Comórtaisí do pháistí scoile - Caisleán a' Bharraigh

Ciorcail craic i mBéal an Átha,

Spraóí na gCleamaírí le Colm de Bháldraithe i mBéal an Átha

HEALTHY READING SCHEME

The library service runs a Mayo Healthy Reading Scheme in conjunction with the HSE. This is an initiative designed to guide individuals in their choice of self-help books which can then be used in tandem with treatment made by a health professional for conditions such as depression, bullying, eating disorders and stress.

SCHOOL'S LIBRARY SERVICE

Mayo County Library experienced an increase in demand for children's literacy services from both parents and Learning Support/Resource teachers. The library is continuing to provide an active Special Needs Service to all Learning Support and Special Needs teachers. Information workshops for parents of children with reading difficulties -as part of the collaborative literacy project between Mayo County Library and HSE West Speech & Language Therapy Service –were provided in various locations throughout the year.

A SELECT LIST OF DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS 2015

- Earl of Lucan's Estate: With the assistance of the National Internship Scheme a database has been compiled of the records for the Lucan Estate in Aglish, Kilmaclasser, Kilmeena, Aghagower, Oughaval, Kilgeever, Turlough and Breaffy 1834-39; and 1848-1873.
- Ballinrobe, County Mayo In the Midst of Change by William P. McDermott (several copies donated by the author).
- Tracing the Stem: Killala Bishops by Rev. Brendan Hoban. (donated by the author).
- Erris Fishing Settlement and Converts' Employment Society 1849.
- Irish Distress and Irish Grants Committee 1922-30
- Detailed submissions made by 154 persons in Mayo in support of applications for compensation for maltreatment or personal loss during the War of Independence. (CD-ROM)
- Ballina, One Town, Three Wars and More 1880-1923 by Terry Reilly (donated by the author).
- Mayo History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of the County. Edited by Gerard Moran and Nollaig O'Muraile.
- Tracing the KIELTY Ancestry: Gurteen-Claremorris-Knock-Balla-England-USA by Brendan Forde (donated by the author).
- A Moment in Time: Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. James's Church, Charlestown.
- The Men Will Talk to Me: Mayo Interviews by Ernie O'Malley. Edited by Cormac O'Malley and Vincent Keane.
- Revolution in Connacht by Cormac O'Comhraí.
- Logainmeacha Acla Compilrd by AFAA. (CD-Rom).
- Bullsmouth National School: 100 Years of Education.
- The Valley National School Centenary 1914-2014.
- Straw, Hay and Rushes by Anne O'Dowd.
- Irish Country Houses: Portraits and Painters by David Hicks (includes Moorehall).

- Lough Carra by Chris and Linda Huxley.
- Anseo: Killasser and Knocks School: A Record in Picture and Story.
- Sean Teampall Chill Chomain by Uinsionn MacGraith and Treasa Ni Ghearraigh.
- Partry People of County Mayo by Peter Hennelly McLoughlin.
- By the Shores of Lough Mask: A History of Gaelic Games in Partraí and Tuar Mhic Eadaigh.
- Breaking Ground, Finding Graves: Reports on the Excavations of burials by the National Museum 1927-2006 2 Vols. Edited by Mary Cahill and Maeve Sikora.
- Blackfort to Bosnia: A Memoir by Colm McDonnell.
- Saint Angela's National School Castlebar: A Doorway Through Time 1894-2015.

JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION

The Jackie Clarke Collection experienced its busiest year yet in 2015 with 23358 people visiting the facility which is an increase of 9252 from 2014. It appears that by the end of the year numbers will be up by almost 50%.

Visitor numbers doubled on Heritage Day and during the French Ballina Festival when sections of the 1798 collection were on display.

The Collection was actively involved with local festivals and events including: Ballina St. Patrick's Day Festival, Ballina's Easter Weekend, Heritage Day, the French Ballina Festival, Culture Night, and the Samhain Abhainn Halloween Festival and Ballina's Christmas Festival.

The Collection's Education Programme has been hugely popular with both primary and secondary schools around the county. The centre's education coordinators have developed specialised learning programmes on 1798, the Famine, 1916, as well as interactive tours for Maths Week and Science Week.

The Collection was recognized with a number of awards in 2015. It was highly commended in the UK *Association for Heritage Interpretation* awards. It received the Dr. John Igoe award for accessibility. It was also awarded for its volunteer programme this year, which continues to attract high quality volunteers from various sectors such as education, heritage, and business. 2016 will be a very important year for the Jackie Clarke Collection as it will be the main focus of Mayo County Councils 1916 commemorations. A number of events including a major exhibition and an artist in residency are planned for the year.



Sariad Aine Deane, aged one week, on her first visit to Belmullet Library



Carmel Balfe's puppet show proved very popular with schoolchildren in Ballyhaunis

ROADS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

An efficient road transportation system provides the necessary infrastructure to support economic and social development of a region. Mayo County Council in 2015, continued to play its part in the maintenance and improvement of the road network in the County thus supporting the economy within the County. There are 6,490 kms of roadway in the charge of Mayo County Council and in 2015 a total of €42.5m was spent on maintaining and improving the network.

ROADS CLASSIFICATIONS & FINANCES

Roads in the County are classified as National Primary; National Secondary; Regional and Local Roads. The lengths of the various categories of roads in County Mayo are as follows:

National Primary Roads:	133 kms
National Secondary:	267 kms
Regional Roads:	622 kms
Local Roads:	<u>5,468 kms</u>
TOTAL:	6,490 kms

Funding of €38.5m was received from the National Roads Authority and the Dep. of Transport, Tourism & Sport for the National and Non-National Road network. The Council provided €4m for the road network in the year.

NATIONAL PRIMARY ROADS

The grants for the National Primary Roads for 2015 were broken down as follows:

National Primary – Major Schemes:		
N5	Charlestown By-Pass	€50,000
N5/ N26/ N58	Turlough to Bohola	€825,000
N5	Westport to Bohola	€6,000,000
		€6,875,000

The grant for National Primary Maintenance totaling €663,858 was broken down as follows:

National Primary – Maintenance:	
Ordinary Maintenance	€363,395
Winter Maintenance	€200,000
Route Lighting	€100,463
€663,858	

The following is a summary of the position on major schemes on the National Roads in County Mayo:

MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS

The National Budget and the Infrastructure & Capital Investment Programme 2012-2016 includes for a substantial reduction in capital investment on the major roads programme.

However, this year, following confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order, and approval of the Environmental and Natura Impact Statements for the N5 Westport Turlough Road Project, Notices to Treat were served on all the affected landowners and the land valuation process began. Archaeological Test trenching, detailed site investigation and other advance works also commenced on site this year. It is likely that planning will be continued on some or all of the major national road schemes in County Mayo.

The Capital Programme also includes for some relatively low-cost targeted improvements on the national secondary network, where road safety is an issue, and in tourist areas. It is hoped that Mayo will continue to benefit from this programme with schemes on the N26, N59 and N60 routes.

The following is the position on all Major Schemes in County Mayo:

N5/N26/N58 TURLOUGH BOHOLA PROJECT

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the N26 Ballina Bohola Phase II Scheme was annulled by An Bord Pleanála in February 2010.

Following on from a Strategic Traffic Study commissioned in 2011 to assess the optimum National Network Corridors linking the N5-N17-N26, funding was made available in 2015 to extend the N5 Westport Turlough Project to Bohola and, also to identify a possible connecting corridor and junction linking the new scheme to the N58 to Foxford and the N26 to Swinford.

This year the Emerging Preferred Route corridors for the new N5/N26/N58 Turlough Bohola Project were presented to the members of Castlebar and Ballina Municipal Districts in June 2015 and adopted at a full meeting of the Council in July 2015.

It is hoped that the N5/N26/N58 Turlough Bohola Project will benefit from funding in 2016.

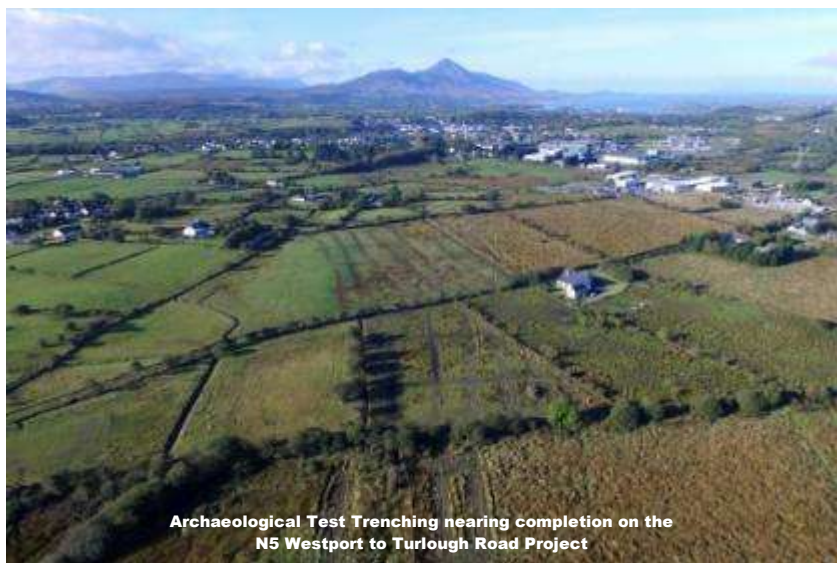
N26 CLOONGULLAUNE ROAD PROJECT - 2KMS

This new 2kms project on the N26 National Primary Road between Ballina and Swinford received an allocation this year. Site investigation works, preliminary design and environmental surveys all commenced this year. A grant of €350,000 has been received for this project in 2015. It is hoped that this Project will continue to benefit from funding in 2016.

N5 WESTPORT-TURLOUGH ROAD PROJECT - 27KMS

The original scheme on the N5, which extended from Westport to Bohola, has now been reduced in length because of the rejection of the N26 Ballina-Bohola proposal by An Bord Pleanála. Arising from the confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and approval of the Environmental Impact Statement in 2014 the project extends from Westport to East of Castlebar and includes a new southern bypass of Castlebar.

This year “Notices to Treat” were served on all the affected landowners and the land valuation process began. Archaeological Test Trenching, detailed site investigation and other advance works also commenced on site this year together with the preparation of contract documents for fencing. It is hoped that the Project will continue to benefit from funding in 2016.



N17 CHARLESTOWN BYPASS (KNOCK TO TOBERCURRY)

Planning for this scheme which was at the Design/Preferred Route stage has been suspended.

N17 CLAREMORRIS TO TUAM

This scheme is being promoted by the Galway National Road Design Office and a Preferred Route has been chosen.

NATIONAL SECONDARY ROADS

The 2015 National Secondary Improvement Grant of €9,340,000 was expended on improvements to the N59 (Westport to Mulranny Route), pavement overlays and the provision of safety measures at Carrowbawn on the Secondary Road Network.

Grants were allocated in respect of the following:

National Secondary – Major Scheme:		
N59	Westport to Mulranny	€2,000,000

National Secondary – Pavement & Minor Improvements:		
N59	Improvements at Mulranny	€1,692,000
N59	Kilbride Road Improvement	€8,000
N59	Mulranny to Ballyveaney Pavement Rehabilitation Phase 2	€650,000
N59	Mulranny to Ballyveaney Pavement Rehabilitation Phase 3	€650,000
N60	Castlebar Station Road Design	€350,000
N60	Coolnafarna Design	€270,000
N60	Heathlawn	€820,000
N60	Lagnamuck	€280,000
N60	Manulla Cross	€310,000
N59	Rosow Bends	€2,000,000
N84	Loughanboy Design	€190,000
		€7,220,000

National Secondary – Safety Schemes:		
N59	Carrowbawn	€120,000

N84 BALLINROBE BYPASS / N60 BALLYHAUNIS BYPASS / N26/N5 BYPASS OF BALLINA

Preferred routes have been adopted for the N84-Ballinrobe Bypass, N60-Ballyhaunis Bypass and the N26/N5 Bypass of Ballina. Further planning on these schemes has been suspended.

N59 WESTPORT-NEWPORT AT KILBRIDE, PHASE I - 3 KMS

Construction of this scheme is complete except for outstanding landscaping maintenance works. The scheme incorporates a cycle-way, which completes the Great Western Greenway from Westport to Mulranny.

N59 WESTPORT – MULRANNY - 40 KMS

A Bord Pleanála confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and approved the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for Westport–Mulranny Low Volume National Secondary Route in July 2012. “Notices to Treat” have been served on all landowners and approximately 50% of the compensation claims were settled during 2015. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2016 to continue with the payment of compensation for the outstanding land acquisition claims.

Also funding was made available in 2015 to commence construction of the 2km section of the scheme at Rossow Bends, which is a continuation of the Kilbride Scheme south to Westport. It is anticipated that funding will be made available in 2016 to complete the construction of this section of the scheme.

Funding was also made available in 2015 to procure an engineering service provider to prepare contract documents for the construction of a further 3 kms at Kilmeena, which is an extension of Rossow Bends. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2016 to continue with the preparation of contract documents.



N60 HEATHLAWN - 4 KMS

During 2015, detailed site investigation works were completed and contract documents for the construction of the scheme are nearing completion. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2016 to commence payment of compensation to all the affected landowners.

N60 LAGNAMUCK - 2 KM

Following receipt of the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Mayo County Council submitted a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in August to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

It is hoped that the CPO and NIS will be approved by the Board and that funding will be made available in 2016 to prepare contract documents for the construction phase of this scheme.

N60 MANULLA - 4 KMS

Funding was made available in 2015 for this Scheme. Following the public consultation process, the Emerging Preferred Route for the scheme was selected in 2015 and submitted to the members of Castlebar Municipal District and the Council for adoption.

It is anticipated that funding will be made available in 2016 to continue with the design and preparation of CPO and NIS documentation for the project.

N59 IMPROVEMENT AT MULRANNY - 1.7KM

Following on from the launch of the Mulranny Village Design Statement in April 2012 construction was completed of the section from the Church to the Tourist Office. A Compulsory Purchase Order for the Village Core Area, published in December 2013, was confirmed by Mayo County Council in March 2014.

Following a tender competition held in 2014, a contractor was appointed in January 2015 for the construction of the Village Core Area, which is now nearing completion. It is hoped that funding will be made available in 2016 to close out the outstanding land acquisition claims.



The 2015 **National Secondary Maintenance Grant** of €825,808 was distributed as follows:

National Secondary – Maintenance:	
Ordinary Maintenance	€457,788
Winter Maintenance	€230,000
Route Lighting	€138,020
	€825,808

NATIONAL ROADS – LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

The Local Authority Engineering Support continued in 2015 with an allocation of €1,404,910. These allocations are towards the running costs of the offices dealing with the improvement schemes and maintenance programmes on the National Road network in County Mayo and are broken down as follows:

National Roads – Local Authority Support	
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	€327,110
Project Office Support (Improvement)	€990,000
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	€77,800
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	€10,000
	€1,404,910

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD ~ GRANTS & OWN RESOURCES

In 2015, the funding available for the maintenance and improvement of the Local & Regional Road networks was €23,408,688. This is broken down as follows:

Regional Road Grants	
Regional Roads - Maintenance	€1,167,000
Regional Roads – Winter Maintenance	€475,065
Regional Roads - Surface Dressing	€1,056,271
Regional Roads – Other Works	€357,531
Regional Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€2,429,605
Specific Improvement Grants – Regional Road	€750,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants – Regional Roads	€433,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	€158,900
	€6,827,372

Local Roads Grants & Own Resources	
Local Roads – Restoration Improvement Grant	€5,669,080
Local Roads – Surface Dressing	€2,023,153
Local Improvement Schemes	€687,807
Councillors Special Allocation	€825,000
Councillors N.O.M. Allocations (31 x €30,000)	€1,125,000
Local Roads Maintenance	€3,109,895
Verge Trimming/Hedgecutting	€100,000
Local Road Improvements	€297,530
Bridge Rehabilitation Works – Local Roads	€468,602
Regional & Local Roads – Training Grant	€95,000
Community Involvement Schemes	€657,460
Ineligible Expenditure [against grants]	€550,000
Severe Weather Damage 2015	€436,000
IRI Survey	€10,000
Contribution to GMA	€526,789
	€16,581,316

Specific Improvement Grants were allocated for the following schemes:

Specific Improvement Grants		
R310	Lower Chapel St. (Newline) Castlebar	€300,000
R311	Rehins, Newport Road, Castlebar	€450,000
		€750,000



The **Low Cost Safety Improvement** grants of €433,000 were allocated to the following:

Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants		
R294	Ballina Golf Club to Rathkip	€110,000
R330	Killawalla	€30,000
R330	Knockrooskey School	€30,000
R331/ L1609	T-Junction in Hollymount	€100,000
R334	Cross Village	€13,000
R335	Leckanvy	€150,000
		€433,000

Bridge Rehabilitation Works grants were allocated to bridges on the following Regional & Local Roads:

Bridge Rehabilitation Works		
R327	Kilknock Bridge	€158,900
L1206	Mount Jubilee Bridge	€329,110
L14071	Newport Town Bridge	€139,492
		€627,502



FUNDING FOR SEVERE WEATHER DAMAGE

The Council received funding of €437,596 in 2015 for severe weather damage incurred in 2014. The County again suffered a severe storm on the 5th/6th December 2015. Funding was put in place to address the impact of the storms and was received in 2016.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

The 2015 Grant notification allowed Local Authorities to set aside 7.5% of the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Grants for Community Involvement in road works. A sum of €657,460 was set aside for this purpose in 2015 and it was divided equally between the four Municipal Districts.

The following table outlines, in summary, the Local Community Rate/Contribution:

Local Community Rate	Where Applicable
20%	All works carried out by the Council
30%	Most works are undertaken by the Council
40%	Most works are undertaken by the Community
50%	All works are undertaken by the Local Community – the Council contributes by way of materials or plant

CYCLE-TO-WORK SCHEME

Mayo County Council continued the Cycle-to-Work Scheme during 2015. Since this scheme was introduced in April 2010, a total of 361 Staff have availed of this scheme. The total cost involved to date is €262,000 and this amount is fully recouped through salary deductions.

SPEED LIMITS

The Council adopted bye-laws to reduce the speed limits to 30 k.p.h. in a number of housing estates in the County. A sum of €104,105 was spent on this project. Further bye-laws for other estates will be prepared in 2016.

The Council commenced a review of all speed limits in the County with a view to having revised and appropriate limits put in place by early 2017.

Modification of speed limits on Local Tertiary Roads was also undertaken in 2015.

ROAD SAFETY

In 2014, in association with the Gardai, the HSE West, and the Road Safety Authority, the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council formally launched our Road Safety Strategy 2013–2020.

The County Council in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority operates a programme of education and awareness of Road Safety. This involves promoting the need for caution and awareness of the dangers on the roads in Mayo.

The Programme includes visits to schools by the Road Safety Officer and the promotion of Junior Warden and Cycle Training Schemes with schools. With the co-operation of teachers, the Gardai and parents, these schemes make a significant contribution to Road Safety. The Road Safety Officer will also be working with the Road Safety Together Committee in the County whose membership comprises of County Council, HSE West, Gardai and local community representatives towards the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

Road Safety Awareness for 2016 will be concentrated in 5 main areas.

PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Council provides support to the Gardai when visiting schools by providing leaflets, reflective arm bands and other road safety promotional material. The efforts of the Gardai and their collaboration in promoting Road Safety generally is greatly appreciated.



JUNIOR WARDEN SCHEMES

The activity in this area is to support the four Junior Warden Schemes in the county. There are three in Ballina; one at the Girl's National School, Convent Hill, one at Scoil Padraig, Pound Street and one at The Quay National School. There is also a scheme at Scoil Padraig in Westport.

Uniforms and signs are provided by the County Council. Road markings are updated regularly. This Council is fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the Principals in these schools. Without their enthusiastic support it would not be possible to maintain the scheme.

GENERAL PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA

The County Council operates in support of the Road Safety Authority and also general promotion in the local papers.



ROAD SAFETY PLAN



The Steering Committee for the Road Safety Plan, which was developed in 2013, will continue evaluating progress of this plan. It is envisaged that over time we will achieve a significant reduction in the road accident statistics in the County.

REVERSE IN - DRIVE OUT

Mayo County Council proposes to introduce a "Reverse in – Drive Out" policy in car parks at all of its offices throughout the county.

ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS – MAYO

Year	Fatalities
2002	14
2003	10
2004	13
2005	14
2006	11
2007	9
2008	10
2009	10
2010	8
2011	12
2012	7
2013	6
2014	11
2015	13

MAYO COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Mayo is a large rural County, which covers an area of 2,159 sq. miles and has a population of approximately 130,600 people, making it one of the largest fire authority areas in the country.

Mayo County Council has a statutory obligation, as a fire authority, under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, (a) to make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fire, for the protection of and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, (b) establish and maintain a fire brigade and premises, and (c) make adequate provisions for the reception of and response to call for the assistance of the fire brigade.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention Officers ensure that buildings are planned, designed, constructed and maintained in a safe manner from a fire safety point of view. There is a vast body of legislation under which the Fire Authority works; the two principal pieces of legislation are the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 and the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014. Under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, the Fire Prevention Officers, assess Fire Safety Certificate Applications. The number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications received in 2015 was 94, up 17.5% from the previous year. The number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications processed annually for the period 2011 to 2015 is shown in Table 1 and a breakdown of the types of applications received for 2014/2015 is given in Figure 1.

Table 1: Summary of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) Processed (2011 to 2015)

Fire Safety Certificates Detail	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications Received	109	76	93	80	94
% Annual Change	-----	-30.3%	22.4%	-14.0%	+17.5%
Applications Invalid	0	3	1	3	1
Decisions Made	93	68	83	66	87
Granted (With conditions)	71	68	63	54	76
Granted (Without conditions)	22	0	20	12	11
Applications Refused	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 1: Breakdown of Fire Safety Certificates Applications (2014 and 2015)



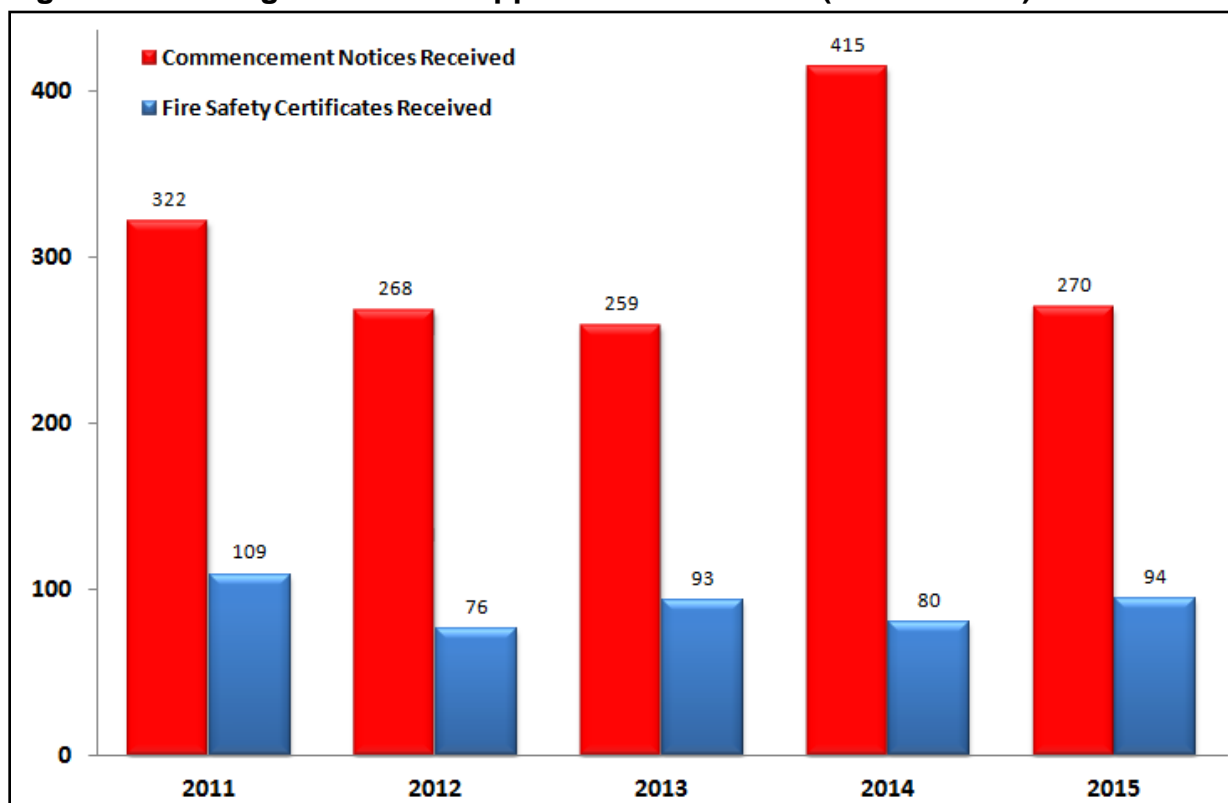
The Council also process Commencement Notice Applications, under of the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, within the Fire Service. The number of Commencement Notice Applications received in 2015 was 270, down over 39% from the previous year. The number of Commencement Notice Applications processed annually over the period 2011 to 2015 is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Commencement Notices Processed (2011 to 2015)

Applications Detail	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications Received	322	268	259	415	270
% Annual Change	-----	-16.8%	-3.4%	+60.2%	-34.9%
Applications Valid	318	265	251	400	262
Applications Invalid	4	3	8	15	8

A summary of Commencement Notice and Fire Safety Certificate Applications received annually over the period 2011 to 2015 is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Building Control Act Applications Received (2011 to 2015)



Fire Prevention Officers also carry out inspections under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. This legislation covers the licensing of public houses, hotels, dance halls, clubs, restaurants, gaming and lottery premises etc. The inspections carried out by the Fire Prevention Section are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Inspection carried by Fire Prevention Officers (2011 to 2015)

Inspection Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Section 24 Inspection (Licensing Applications)	235	308	192	263	248
Section 13 Inspection (Planning Applications)	6	8	5	4	8
Other Inspections	34	114	92	172	118
Total Inspections	275	430	289	439	374

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Fire Service personnel were actively involved in the following activities/events in 2015:

- Active Retirement Group Talks.
- Multi-agency Community Safety Event in Breaffy House Resort, Castlebar.
- Mayo Road Safety Roadshow in the Royal Theatre Castlebar.
- Mayo Science & Technology Festival in GMIT Castlebar.
- NDFEM Primary Schools Programme, delivered to 825 students in 33 schools.
- School visits of fire stations; in excess of 370 students/teachers/parents from 13 schools visited fire stations around the county.
- National Fire Safety Week, used to promote safe fire prevention practices, through media advertisements radio talk shows and quizzes, fire station open days and simulated chip fire demonstrations.
- Graduate.ie (online competition for Second Level Students) - Mayo County Fire Service actively participates in this educational initiative, focusing on the topic of general fire safety.



FIRE SERVICE OPERATIONS

The Council currently employs 121 fire fighters in 12 fire stations located around the County, as shown in the adjacent map.

These fire fighters deal with a vast array of incidents annually, ranging from chimney fires, house fires, bog/forest fires, road traffic accidents, rescues and incidents involving hazardous materials. In 2015, Mayo County Fire Service attended 784 incidents, an increase of 16.3% from 2014. A breakdown of the types of incidents responded to by fire brigades from Mayo are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of Types of Incidents Attended from 2011 to 2015

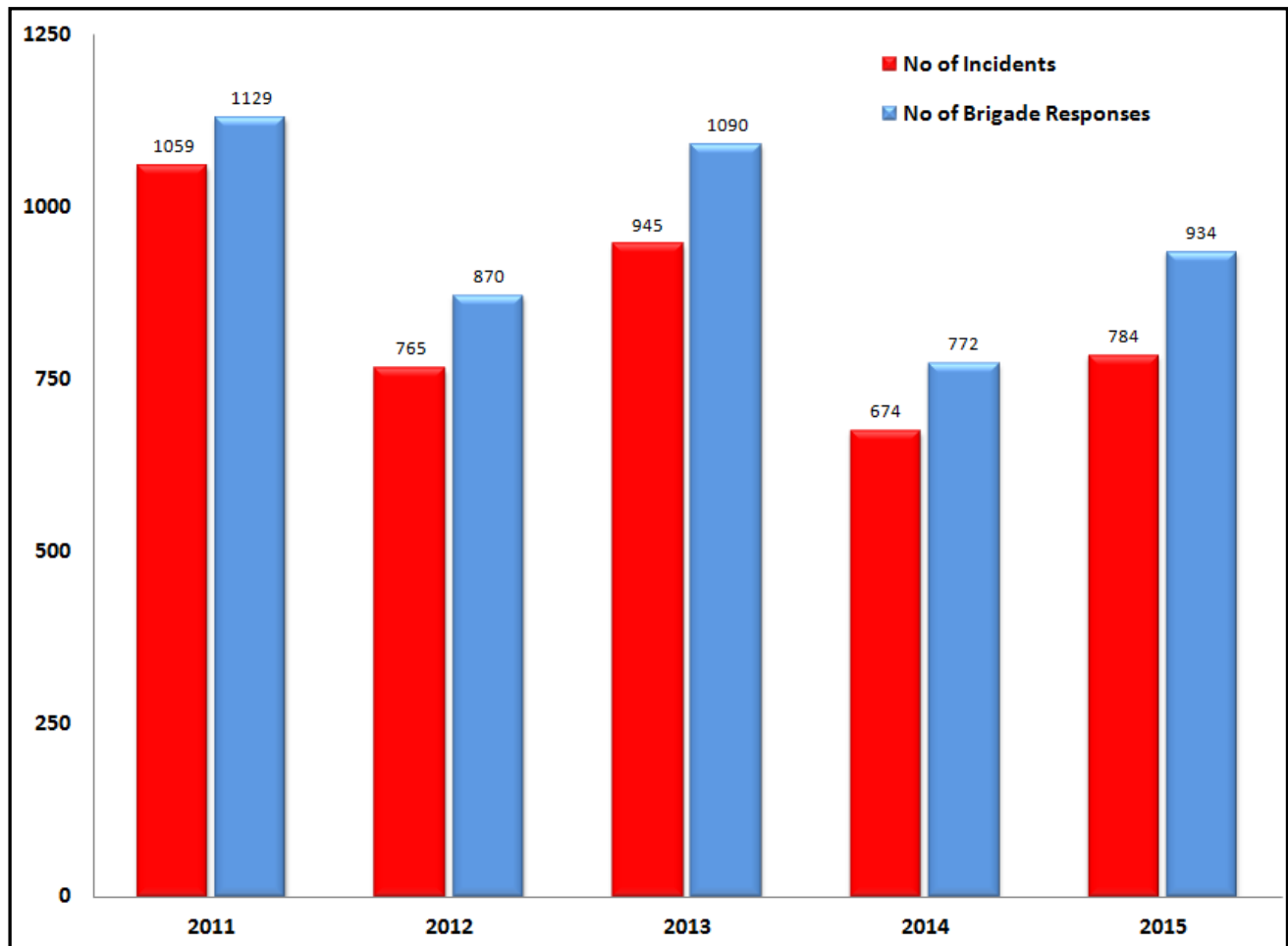
Incident Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of Fires Attended	750	499	694	440	519
In own area	728	486	663	421	48
In other fire authority area	22	13	31	19	7
Special Services Incidents	205	172	165	159	186
Road traffic accidents	161	141	134	135	13
Water pumping / flooding	0	0	2	1	3
Water rescue	7	2	2	2	15
Other non-fire rescues	15	12	8	12	9
Haz-Mat in transit	1	1	1	0	11
Miscellaneous	21	16	18	9	1
False Alarms	104	94	86	75	79
Malicious	25	17	15	16	14
Good intent	79	77	71	59	65
Total no. of Incidents	1059	765	945	674	784
Change from Previous Year	-----	-294	+180	-271	+110
% Annual Change	-27.6%	-27.8%	+23.5%	-28.7%	+16.3%

The 784 incidents in 2015 resulted in 934 fire brigade responses, i.e. actual fire brigades attending incidents. This figure for 2015 represented an increase of 21% from that recorded in 2014, as shown in the Table 5 and Figure 3.

Table 5: Summary of Fire Brigade Activity from 2011 to 2015

Fire Brigade Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total no. of Incidents	1059	765	945	674	784
Total no. of Attendances	1129	870	1090	772	934
Change from Previous Year	-----	-259	+220	-318	+162
% Annual Change	-----	-22.9%	+25.3%	-29.2%	+21.0%
Ratio of Attendances / Incidents	1.066	1.137	1.153	1.145	1.191

Figure 3: Fire Brigade Activity (2011 To 2015)



FIRE SERVICE APPLIANCES

The Council took possession of a second hand Emergency Tender in 2015. This appliance, which went into operation with the Castlebar Fire Brigade Fleet, is used to carry highly specialised crash rescue equipment. It responds to all road traffic accidents in the Castlebar area and elsewhere within the county where assistance or specialised equipment is required in the event, for example, of a large road traffic accident.

The procurement of this appliance stems from the continuous fire appliance fleet replacement programme in the County, funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

External Emergency Plans were promulgated by Mayo County Council in conjunction with the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána for the two Upper Tier Seveso Establishments in Co. Mayo; Atlantic Industries and Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal.

The following exercises were conducted:

- The External Emergency Plan for Landfall Valve Installation (part of the Corrib Gas line) was tested through a live inter-agency exercise at the site.
- The Major Emergency Plan was tested through an inter-agency live exercise at Ireland West Airport Knock.

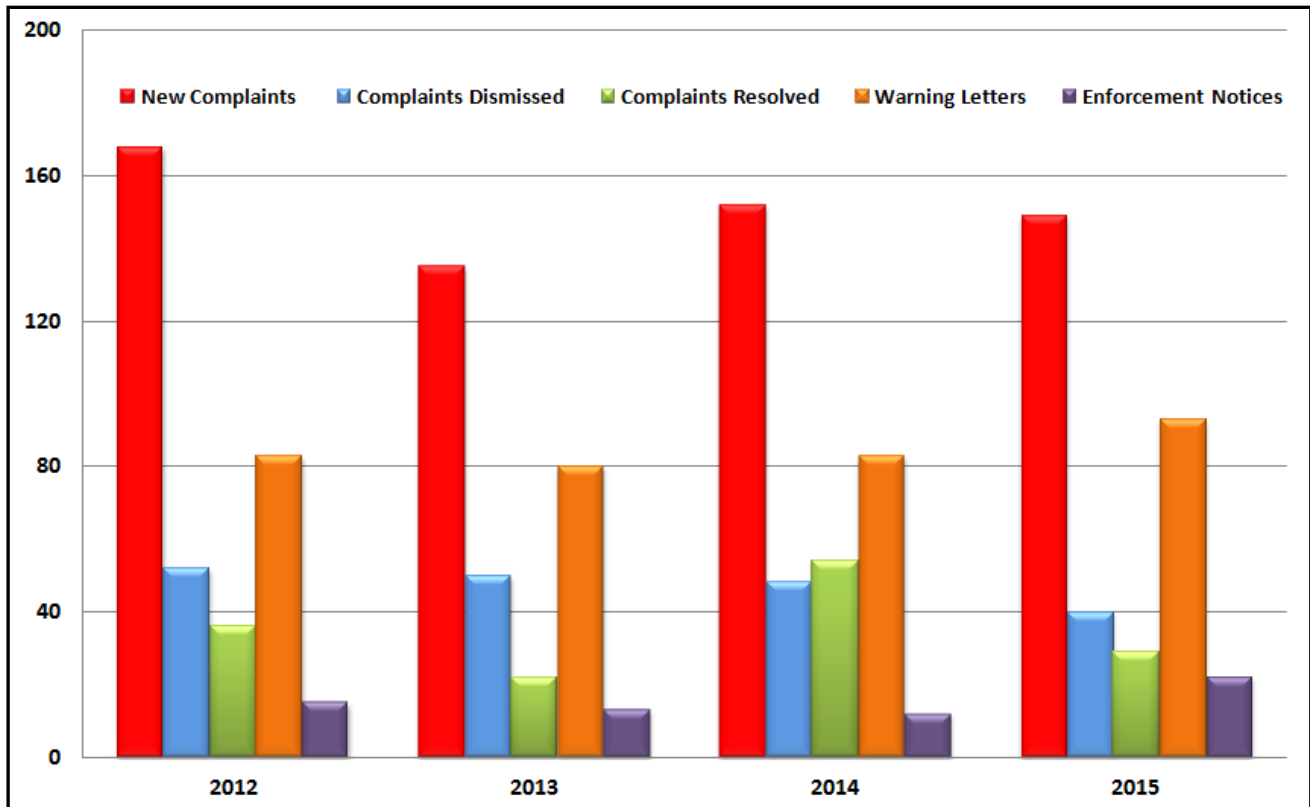
BUILDING CONTROL & PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Mayo County Council is the Building Control Authority and the Planning Enforcement Authority for the administrative area of County Mayo. The main functions are to investigate written complaints received in relation to alleged unauthorised developments in accordance with the Planning and Development, Act, 2000, and carry out random building control inspections under the Building Control Acts, 1990 and 2014, to ensure compliance with the Building Control Regulations, 1997 to 2009. A summary of activity for Planning Enforcement Section is shown in Table 6 and Figure 4.

Table 6: Planning Enforcement Activity from 2011 to 2015

Description of Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of new complaints received	110	168	135	152	149
Number of complaints that were dismissed	70	52	50	48	40
Number of complaints that were resolved through negotiations	56	36	22	54	29
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Warning Letters	82	83	80	83	93
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Enforcement Notices	34	15	13	12	22
Number of files with the County Council's Solicitor	46	38	32	38	33
Number of prosecutions	2	1	0	3	2

Figure 4: Summary of Planning Enforcement Activity (2012 to 2015)

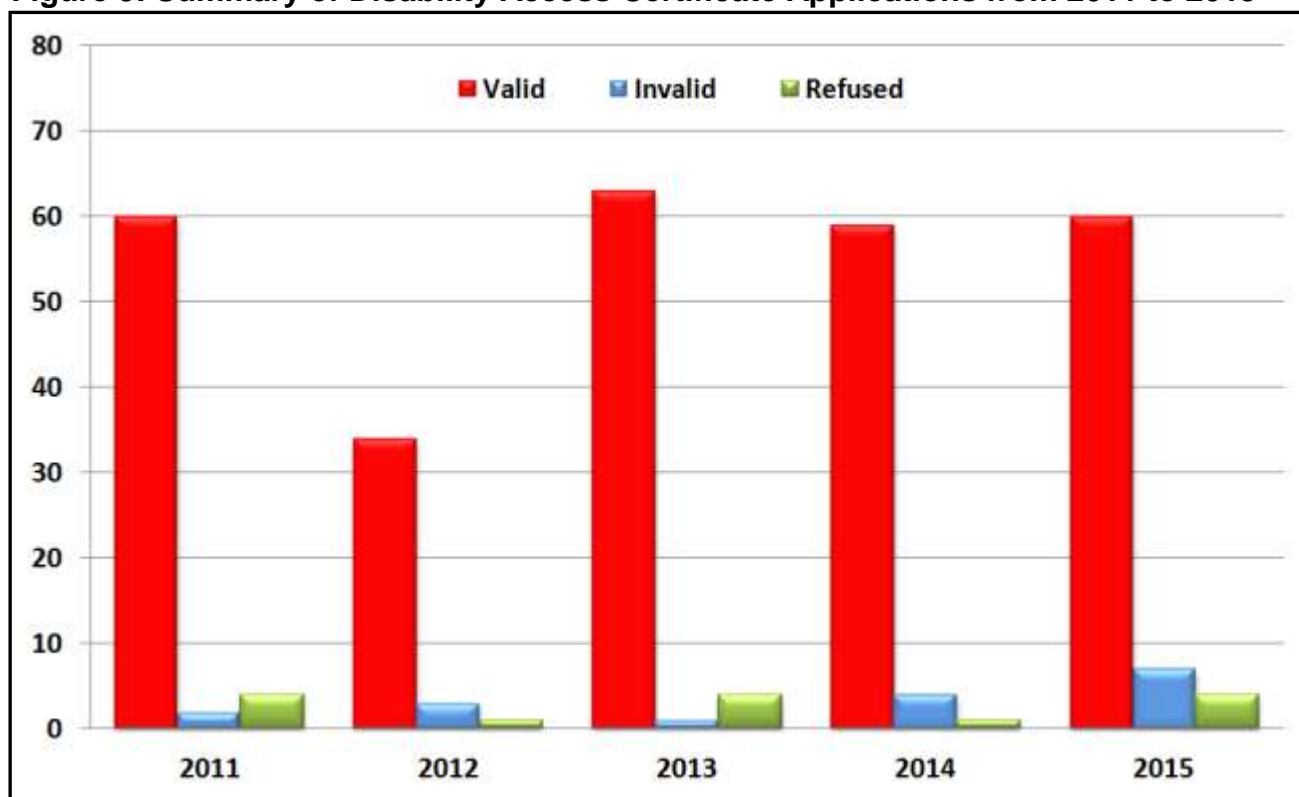


Duties carried out under the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2014, also include the examination of Disability Access Certificate applications and the issuing of Disability Access Certificates. A summary of activity in relation to Disability Access Certificates is shown in Table 7 and Figure 5.

Table 7: Disability Access Certificates Processed from 2011 to 2015

Description of Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of valid Disability Access Certificates (DAC) applications	60	34	63	59	60
No. of DAC Applications Rejected as Invalid	2	3	1	4	7
No. of applications where the applicant was invited to submit Additional Information	36	19	21	28	34
No. of DAC applications where prescribed maximum period of time for considering applications was extended	12	10	14	11	15
Disability Access Certificates issued: -	52	37	56	53	53
Within 2 months	41	29	42	42	42
Greater than 2 months	11	8	14	11	11
Granted with conditions	49	34	36	49	42
Granted without conditions	3	3	20	4	11
No. of Disability Access Certificates refused	4	1	4	1	4

Figure 5: Summary of Disability Access Certificate Applications from 2011 to 2015



Building Regulations are made for specific purposes, e.g. to provide, in relation to buildings, for the health, safety and welfare of persons, the conservation of energy and access for all. Technical Specifications are relevant to the extent that they relate to these considerations. Building Control inspections are carried out on a limited number of new buildings as identified by valid commencement notices lodged, the purpose of which is to perform spot checks on compliance with the building regulations. In most instances breaches in the regulations are addressed through protracted negotiations. On occasion it is necessary to instigate legal enforcement proceedings. A summary of activity in relation to Building Control is shown in Table 8 and in Figure 6.

Table 8: Building Control Inspections from 2011 to 2015

Description of Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of building covered by valid commencement notices	340	268	265	432	285
No. of buildings where documents were requested	7	2	0	0	51
No. of new building inspections	51	50	36	60	48
% of new building inspections	15.0%	18.7%	13.6%	13.9%	17%
No. of inspections carried out, including multiple inspections of the same building	232	178	176	179	211

No. of applications for relaxations & dispensations to the building regulations	3	3	0	0	2
No. of applications for relaxations & dispensations to the building regulations granted	3	0	3	0	2
No. of enforcement notices served	1	2	2	1	2

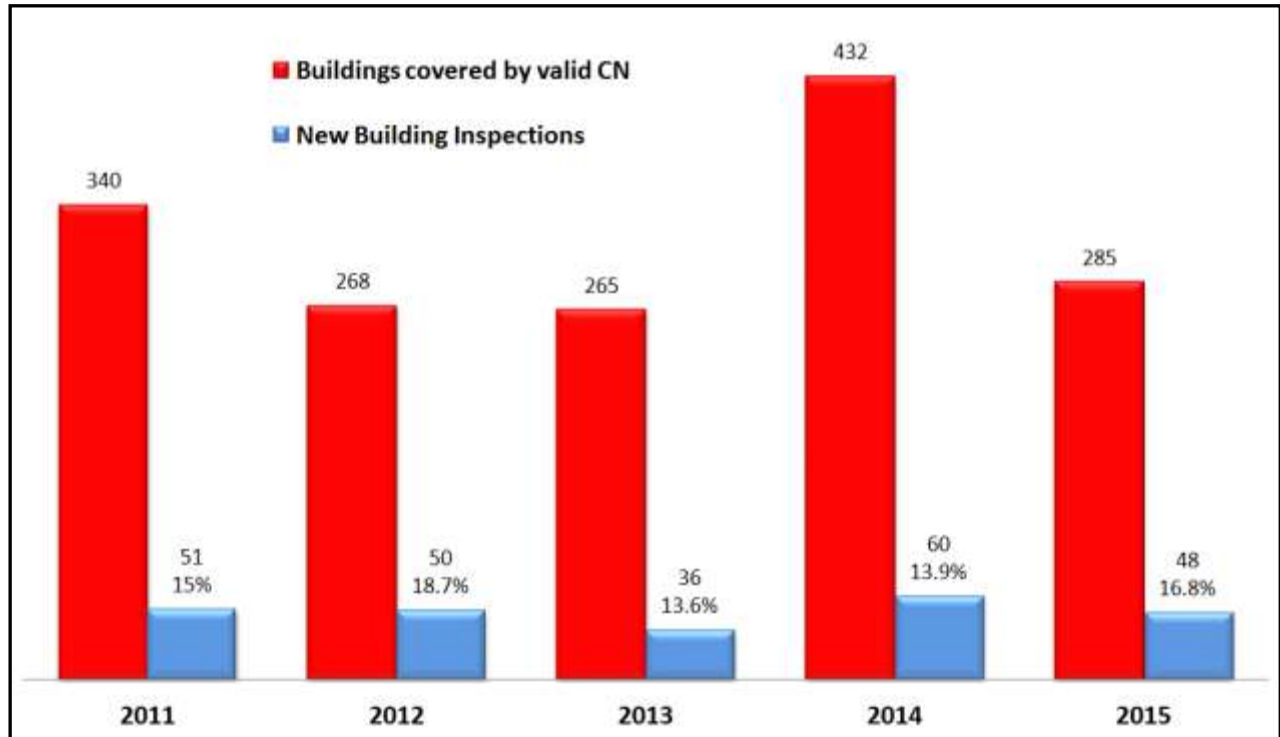


Figure 6: Summary of Building Control Inspections from 2011 to 2015

The Disability Access Officer duties are also assigned to a member of the Unit. Other duties carried out by the Unit include the Maintenance of Aras an Chontae and associated buildings. In the current economic climate it has been found that many Planning Enforcement and Building Control files require protracted negotiation in order to achieve a satisfactory conclusion and there has been an increase in the necessity to issue enforcement notices and proceed to action by the Solicitor.

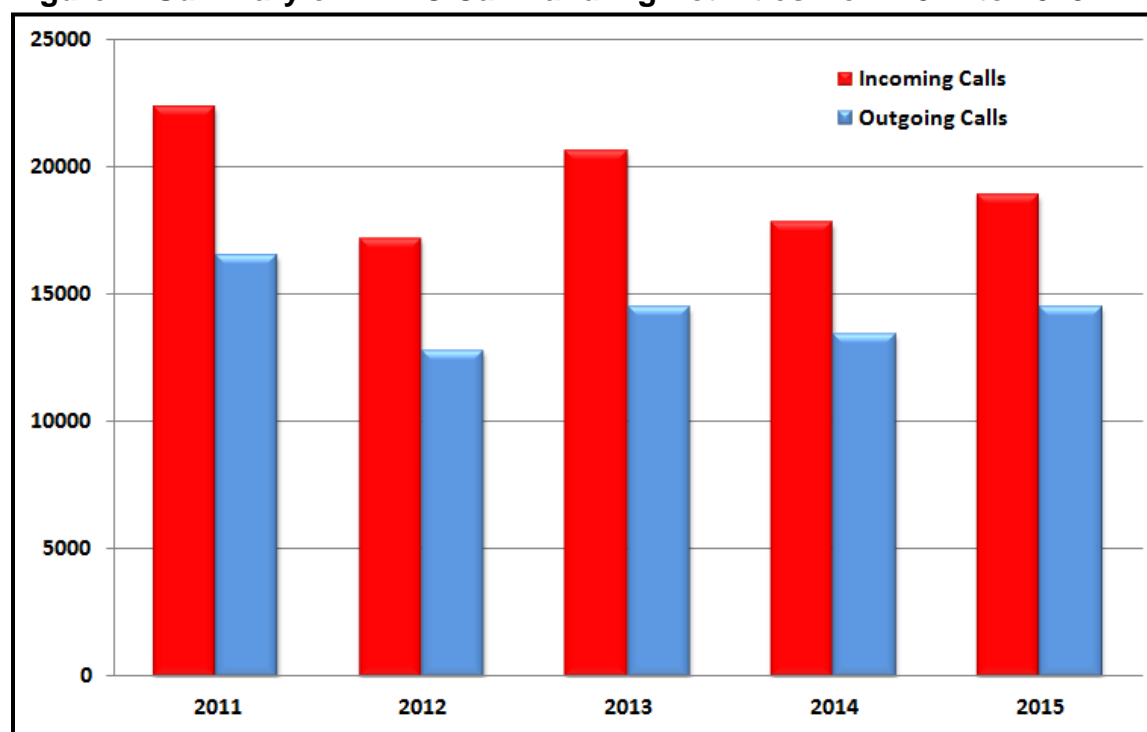
WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL

In 2015 Mayo County Council operated the West Region Fire Control (WRFC) on behalf of the local authorities of Connacht and County Donegal. WRFC provides the 112/999 emergency call answering and mobilising service for these Fire Authorities. Table 9 and Figure 7 summarise the call volume activity of WRFC for the 5 years ended 2015. Call volume activity is up marginally at 6.95% on 2014 figures, while annual call volume activity is up only slightly by 1% on average annual activity.

Table 9: WRFC Call Activity from 2011 to 2015

Call Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average
Incoming Calls	22310	17163	20589	17778	18876	19,343
Outgoing Calls	16503	12755	14451	13405	14473	14,317
Total no. of Calls	38813	29918	35040	31183	33349	33,660
% Change	-----	-22.92%	+17.12 %	+17.12 %	+6.95%	+0.93 %

Figure 7: Summary of WRFC Call-handling Activities from 2011 to 2015

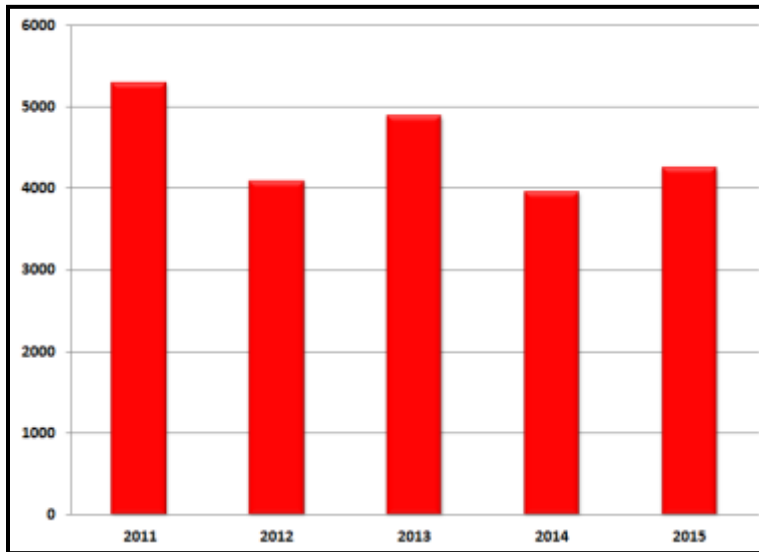


This call activity resulted in 4,248 fire brigade emergency incidents throughout the region in 2015 which represents an increase of 7.4% on 2014, as shown in the Table 10 and Figure 8.

Table 10: Emergency Incidents from 2011 to 2015

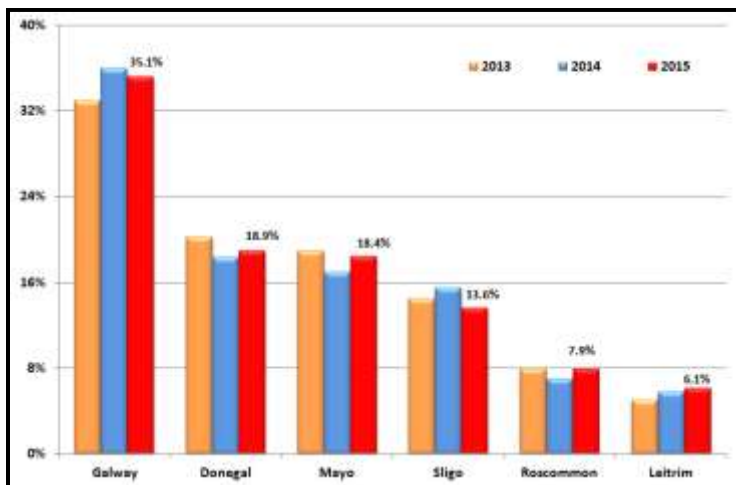
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total no. of Incidents	5291	4088	4882	3954	4248
% Change	-----	-	+19.4%	+19.4%	+7.4%
		22.734%			

Figure 8: No of Emergency Incidents in from 2011 to 2015



Of the 4248 incidents, Mayo County Fire Service accounted over 18% of the regions activity, as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Distribution of Emergency Incidents (from 2013 to 2015)



SWINFORD CULTURAL CENTRE

Swinford Library and Cultural Centre is a multi-purpose venue located on Station Road, Swinford. This facility is based where the Railway Station once operated - the Cultural Centre was once a goods store for CIE. The railway tracks are still visible behind the building and the Station Masters house is privately owned and occupied next door.

The Library is based in the new section of the building as well as a Meeting Room facility which is laid out in a boardroom style. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially opened the building on 10th May 2014.

CAPACITY

The Cultural Centre is a fully accessible open space area that can accommodate up to 187 people (Fire Safety Cert figure). The separate Meeting Room can accommodate up to 30 people. There is ample car parking facilities around the building.

FACILITIES

- Large drop down screen
- Projector (fixed and portable)
- Ability to connect to a laptop
- DVD player connected to projector & screen
- Podium with microphone.
- Tea making - kitchenette area with sink, fridge and Burco boiler.

EVENTS

Use of The Cultural Centre and Meeting Room grew over the course of 2015. A broad range of classes and events continued to be held on a regular basis – the monthly Indoor Country Market, weekly classes in health and fitness, relaxation and mindfulness, speech, drama and contemporary dance to name but a few.

The facility was home to a number of notable events over the course of 2015.

Concerts: Two live concerts were held – Charlie Mc Gettigan and Eleanor Shanley in February and Damian Dempsey in May.

Launches: Swinford hosted Fleadh Ceoil Mhaigh Eo for the third consecutive year in 2015 and the event was launched in the Cultural Centre in May. The 'Cosy up to Console' campaign was launched at the end of May in The Cultural Centre. Mrs. Sabina Higgins was guest of honour on the day.

Business Expo: In April, Gavin Duffy of Dragon's Den fame was amongst a number of speakers at the Bank of Ireland Business Expo held in The Cultural Centre.

Spirit of Place: The Spirit of Place event following the launch of The Procession of the Souls on Dublin Road, Swinford was held in The Cultural Centre in July. Adjudication of Swinford in its successful entry in 'The Pride of Place' competition occurred simultaneously.

Civil Ceremony: the first Civil Ceremony was held in The Cultural Centre in July.

Drama: Swinford Drama Group staged their production in April.

Siamsa Sraide: The annual street festival was held in August. A number of events were held in The Cultural Centre including a Circus and teenage disco.

Coroners Court: The Coroners Court sat on one occasion in The Cultural Centre in 2015.

Public Consultations: Public consultations were carried out by Road Design and the OPW over the course of the year.

Culture Night: In September staff of The Cultural Centre organised and staged a very successful Culture Night event. An invitation was sent out and gratefully accepted by the local schools, dance groups, Comhaltas and community members to participate in the event. A fantastic night of music, song, dance and recitation was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Training: A host of training events were held in The Cultural Centre and Meeting Room over the course of the year – in areas such as healthcare and job clubs.

Community meetings: Various community groups availed of the meeting room facility throughout the year.

Polling Station: The Cultural Centre was the polling station for the Referendum held in 2015.

Fundraisers: A number of fundraisers were held in The Cultural Centre throughout the year. In April a Bridge Tournament attracted large crowds from all over the County for Parkinson's. In December Mayo Roscommon Hospice held a very successful Christmas Bazaar.

Youth Groups: Swinford Mayo 24 Scouts and Swinford Foroige used the facility extensively throughout the year.

Canine Club: Mayo & District Canine Club commenced classes in November.

Logo Competition: The Cultural Centre ran a Logo Competition. All the local schools were invited to participate. A huge number of entries were received. An Awards Evening was held in December in recognition of the contribution made by all the entrants. The overall winner was Ellie Mulligan whose logo will form the basis of the design of the upcoming website for The Cultural Centre.

MOTOR TAX

The Motor Taxation Offices in Mayo deal with the administration of the Vehicle Licensing Legislation in County Mayo.

The Council is no longer involved in Driver Licensing. This function was transferred to the Road Safety Authority in 2013.

Mayo County Council has been to the forefront in the devolution of the motor tax service on a regional basis throughout the county and there are currently three motor tax offices located strategically in Mayo as follows:

Glenpark, The Mall, Castlebar
Civic Offices, Ballina
Council Offices, Belmullet

An online contact service is provided at motortax@mayococo.ie.

The County Councils Motor Tax website is continuously updated to reflect changes in policy and procedures as well as legislative requirements and can be accessed at <http://www.mayococo.ie/en/Services/MotorTax/>

A Motor tax online service also available to customers at www.motortax.ie. The following tax classes are available for online processing:-

- Private Cars
- Motorcycles
- Agricultural Tractors, Excavators/Diggers, and Combine Harvesters
- Hearses
- Vehicles adapted for use by disabled persons
- Motor Caravans (not for first taxing)
- Vintage/Veteran Vehicles
- Commercial Vehicles (renewal only)

The use of the online motor tax facility continues to grow year on year which reflects the user friendly nature of the service.

The total income for Motor Taxation for County Mayo in 2015 was €33,200,000 while the income for 2014 was €34,576,000. €18,700,000 was collected through the online Motor Tax service while €14,500,000 was collected through the Mayo Motor Tax Offices.

The Motor Taxation Offices continue to provide a high class customer orientated service with customer care at the centre of all activity which is reflected in the overall level of customer satisfaction.

WATER SAFETY

County Mayo has an enormous coastline which includes 12 Blue Flag and 8 Green Coast beaches. Add to this the many swimming pools, acres of lakes and pristine inland waterways and you can see why water safety must always be a priority for Mayo County Council.

A total of 24 lifeguards were employed by Mayo County Council during the period June – September 2015 and they were located at the most popular areas for outdoor water based activities in the county. They were as follows:

Bertra, Westport

Old Head, Louisburgh

Carramore, Louisburgh

Carrowniskey, Louisburgh

Belmullet Shore Rd. Pool

Keem, Achill

Keel, Achill

Silver Strand, Dugort, Achill

Ross, Killala

Mulranny



Mayo County Council's beach lifeguards training at Carrowniskey Strand, Louisburgh in June 2015, in advance of their employment for the summer season.



The provision of the lifeguard service ensures the safety of all those who visit Mayo's waterways where there has been an impeccable safety record since the inception of the service back in the mid 70's.

Mayo County Council is very proud of its lifeguard service and provides the highest standard of non mechanical rescue equipment at all lifeguard stations throughout the county. Defibrillators are also on site and all lifeguards employed are qualified as Cardiac First Responders (CFR), at induction training prior to employment.

Besides the employment of lifeguards and the provision of equipment the Water Safety function also involves the promotion of awareness and this is done primarily by organising water safety courses in the public pools (Castlebar, Ballina, Claremorris and Westport) during the winter months and at numerous outdoor locations during the summer. This extensive programme of courses included the following locations in 2015:

Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Charlestown and Kilmovee Pools
Clare Island, Inishturk, Dooega and Lacken Pier

There were 1585 certificates issued to both children and adults from County Mayo in 2015, for participation in these water safety courses. These courses are the breeding ground for the next generation of lifeguards, swim teachers and water safety instructors who will be employed by Local Authorities and the private leisure industry into the future.



The replacement of ringbuoys, which are either vandalised, damaged or stolen, is an continuous problem for local authorities. Irish Water Safety developed a website www.ringbuoys.ie where any member of the public can report missing or damaged ringbuoys to any Local Authority. An e-mail is sent to the Water Safety Officer in the relevant Local Authority, who will then ensure that the lifesaving equipment is replaced without delay.



Beach Lifeguards employed by Mayo Council Council during the Summer of 2015

MAYO CIVIL DEFENCE

Mayo Civil Defence is a voluntary organisation comprising of approximately 95 volunteers providing support to emergency services and local communities with highly trained members whose activities are valued by local communities and front line emergency services. The strength of the organisation lies in its voluntary ethos and commitment to purpose with its members willingly and freely giving of their time and expertise.

Mayo Civil Defence is committed to maintaining an environment that allows its members to carry out their duties, displaying a positive and professional image that reflects well on the organisation at all times.

Mayo Civil Defence expenditure budget for 2015 was €120,000.00. This is part Grant Aided by the Civil Defence Board/ Department of Defence. The Budget for 2015 has been reduced in line with overall budgetary requirements and Mayo Civil Defence will continue to provide services to the public as in previous years.

MAYO CIVIL DEFENCE RESOURCES

Volunteers	95
Vehicles	15
Boats	3
Command and Control Unit	1
Flood Response Boat	1
Emergency Response Trailer	2

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mayo Civil defence attended over 85 community support duties throughout the year. These included – Adventures races, Community festivals, Charity and Sports events.

Congrats to Jim Murray Mayo CD on winning Aprils Photo of the Month Competition being run by the Civil Defence College Roscrea.



West of Ireland Mini Marathon - Civil Defence Crew & Medical Tent Team pictured with Sonia O Sullivan.



Civil Defence Drones and Search Teams in operation at search in Carrowteigue in September 2015



Honda Goldwing Owners Club of Ireland 2015 Treffen at Mc Hale GAA Park, Castlebar

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

FOOD SAFETY

The aim of Mayo County Council Veterinary Department is to work with local Food Business Operators to help them achieve and maintain the highest standards of food safety. We are actively involved in combating zoonotic diseases i.e. diseases transmittable between animals and humans. We also have a direct input into the elimination of Notifiable Diseases.

The food safety work is carried out under a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), with particular emphasis on hygiene and traceability.

There are 10 Small Meat-Manufacturing Premises within the County which produce a range of products including bacon products, sausages, black and white puddings, luncheon rolls and cooked hams, minced meat and cuts of chicken. They supply local shops and supermarkets, along with manufacturing products for other Food Business Operations around the county. Some are now considering supplying international markets. All small meat-processing premises are inspected and monitored on a regular basis.

There are 16 abattoirs in the County. The veterinary staff carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on every animal slaughtered in these abattoirs in County Mayo, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene.

In 2015 there were 1,220 cattle, 11,945 sheep, and 13 goats slaughtered in those Mayo abattoirs.

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

In Mayo the Dog Warden Service is provided directly by Mayo County Council. The Council has two dog wardens and a pound keeper. In 2015 there were 140 dogs taken into the Dog Pound. It is our policy to re-home as many dogs as is possible. The number of dogs re-homed in 2015 was 107. The Council provides a Dog Shelter within the county.

In 2015 we ran radio dog licence campaigns to inform dog owners of their requirement to have their dogs licensed. Licences can be purchased on line at www.mayococo.ie or from any post office. In conjunction with the Irish Farmers Association we ran a newspaper campaign reminding dog owners of the damage dogs can cause to sheep if not kept under control.

Cost:

Annual licence 20.00

Lifetime licence 140.00

Under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010, there are eight establishments registered.

Since the commencement of the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015, it is a legal requirement from 31st March 2016 to have all dogs microchipped and the microchip registered on a government approved database. On registration of the microchip, the approved database operator will supply a Certificate of Microchip Registration to the owner. This Certificate is required if any canine is to be bought, sold, or transferred to a new owner.

RURAL WATER SECTION

Mayo County Council administers the Rural Water Programme in Co. Mayo which is funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and is committed to working with communities with the aim of schemes being economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

There are 203 schemes in operation in County Mayo serving more than 18,000 households and businesses.

The 2015 Rural Water Programme was announced by Minister Alan Kelly in May 2015. The €14 million national budget allocated to the programme comprised of approximately €12 million for group water schemes with the remaining €2 million targeted for group sewerage schemes. Of this amount, Mayo was allocated €2.74 million.

Funding requirements for the 2015 programme was submitted to the DECLG under the following measures:-

- (1) Quality Deficient Group Water Schemes
- (2) Network Upgrades/Water Conservation
- (3) Connection to the Public Main
- (4) Takeover of Group Water Schemes
- (5) Specific Source Protection
- (6) New Group Water Schemes

The County Rural Water Monitoring Committee which comprises of elected members and representatives across the agricultural, water and community pillars oversees the operation of the Rural Water Programme locally and met on 4 occasions in 2015.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015

DESIGN BUILD & OPERATE BUNDLES

There are 23 group water schemes involved in DBO Bundles 1 and 2 serving approximately 9,000 households. Following agreement in 2014 with the 13 schemes in Bundle 1, Mayo County Council commenced a procurement process for a new DBO operator. Tenders were opened in September 2015 with the new operator expected to be contracted early 2016.

DBO Bundle 2 consists of 10 schemes:- Nephin Valley, Moylaw, Callow Lake, Clew Bay, PBKS, Cloonmore Rooskey, Curraghmore, Parke, Sraheens and Killasser. Works to lay an interconnecting pipeline between Clew Bay and Buckagh/Furnace were completed during the year.

NETWORK UPGRADES & WATER CONSERVATION

Rehabilitation of 3km section of mains was undertaken at Attymass GWS during 2015.

The Clogher GWS in Westport has appointed an Engineer to prepare contract documents for a complete scheme upgrade. This will involve the rehabilitation of 12 km of mains and all associated fittings. It is hoped that this scheme will be included in next year's rural water allocation to allow it to proceed to construction.

Minor Water Conservation works were undertaken on the **Treankeel / Treanlaur GWS**. The Cahir GWS and the Ballinlough GWS expect to have minor works completed next year.

The Rural Water office has assigned a Water Conservation Engineer to advise group water schemes on how to reduce leakage across their schemes and to assist them with minor works which will help the office to prioritise future capital projects in a more focused approach. The aim is to complete larger numbers of smaller capital works rather than smaller numbers of larger projects. The following GWS's are currently working with MCC:- Dohoma DerryCorrib GWS, EllyBay Blacksod GWS, Loughnamon GWS, Barnacarroll GWS, Tullyeagan GWS, Tooreen Aghmore GWS, Tallagh Hill GWS, Attymass GWS and Dooyork GWS.

CONNECTION TO PUBLIC MAIN

A mains rehabilitation contract of 4km of mains and additional bulk meters and Sluice Valves was completed for Irishtown in 2015.

As a result of works carried out on the Public Network by Irish Water, the Treanagleragh GWS was connected to the Public mains. Minor works have been carried out to install a number of Scour Valves on the scheme.

TAKEOVER OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The takeover of quality deficient group water schemes by local authorities has long been an important element of the Rural Water Programme.

No Group Water Schemes have been taken-over since 1st January 2014. The future takeover of Group Water Schemes is subject to Irish Water publishing their take-over policy.

A working group of representatives from the DECLG, NFGWS, Irish Water and three local authorities of Mayo, Galway and Cavan was established in 2015 to agree input into a policy.

The Cushlough GWS has been selected as a Pilot GWS to test the new Take-Over policy. It is expected that Irish Water expects to have this scheme taken over before the end of the first quarter of 2016.

WATER QUALITY

Mayo County Council is the Supervisory Authority for Group Water Schemes under the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2007 and 2014. The Council are required to monitor group water supplies through the monitoring programme agreed annually. The monitoring frequencies are based on the volume of water distributed or produced daily within the supply zone of the scheme.

The HSE carry out the sampling on behalf of Mayo County Council with 590 samples carried out in 2015.

There was a VTEC outbreak around the Tooreen Aghamore community in May 2015. Emergency works were undertaken at the group scheme plant including installation of a UV Disinfection system, new chlorination system and source protection works with completion by October 2015 ensuring safe drinking water for 475 households. Following this outbreak, Mayo County Council reviewed all similar schemes in 2015 with the intention of completing a Risk Assessment of the source. It is envisaged that most schemes will require capital funds to allow all of the schemes to supply water which complies with the Water Quality legislation.

The DECLG have notified MCC that particular attention will be paid to Group Water Schemes with THM issues. It is expected that additional funding will be available in 2016 to resolve these issues.

Risk assessments on all non-DBO private schemes have now been completed and funding submissions have been made to DECLG for improvement works to supply water which complies with the Water Quality legislation.



Part of Upgrade works carried out at Tooreen Aghamore GWS completed in 2015



SUBSIDY REVIEW

A review of the subsidy set out by DECLG towards GWS operational costs in respect of domestic water supply took place in 2015. The review was necessary in the context of the introduction of domestic water charges on the public water supplies. The final arrangements were published in May 2015 effective from 1st January 2015.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

GRADUATE PROGRAMME

In conjunction with the Local Government Management Agency and the IPA, Mayo County Council is currently participating in the Graduate Development Programme 2015 – 2017. 10 Graduates were recruited from 5 skills areas and were placed in various sections of Mayo County Council on a 2 year contract which will run until 09 May 2017.

The five skills areas selected for the programme are:

1. Economic, Enterprise and Business Development
2. Project and Programme Management
3. Innovation Strategy and Change Management
4. Communication and Marketing
5. HR Management

The purpose of the Programme is to develop these graduates to become key drivers of change and to ensure that at the end of the two year period each of the graduates will have demonstrated their competence in their chosen area of expertise. The programme provides necessary opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge through a combination of on-site; office-based; and project specific experiential learning as well as formal training and accredited sector specific education.

Each graduate has been assigned a Line Manager who provides advice, support and coaching for the duration of the placement. Mayo County Council has also assigned a senior staff member as Mentor to the graduates.

At the end of the two year programme the LGMA will review the programme nationally and if it has been deemed successful then a further programme may be put in place.



Graduates Recruited May 2015

Left to Right – Padraig Judge, Conal Sexton, Claire Raftery, Joan Finnerty, Emer McGrath, Eithna Walsh, Paul Corrigan.

GRADUATES RECRUITED AUGUST 2015



Anne Claire McLoughlin, Genevieve Flaherty



Patrick Geraghty

RECRUITMENT

There were 38 competitions held in 2015.

There was 79 male board members and 36 female board members.

GATEWAY

Gateway was announced in Budget 2013 and is a County and City Council work placement scheme designed to provide short-term working opportunities for unemployed people.

The scheme is intended to assist the personal and social development of participants by providing short-term work opportunities with the objective of bridging the gap between unemployment and re-entering the workforce.

Gateway continues to fulfil the obligation in the Government's programme Pathways to Work which sets out specific commitments to widen and deepen the way in which local authorities support activation and labour market training schemes.

The work opportunities are intended to benefit the local area and are identified and provided by Local Authorities in both Urban and Rural areas. Gateway is managed by the Local Authorities.

The project is approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund'.

The programme is expected to accommodate 3,000 participants across all local authorities.

The target set for Mayo County Council was 80 participants, we were the first local authority to reach and exceed its target.

In 2015 Mayo County Council allocated a further 17 placements. 33 participants completed their 22 months on 12th February, 2016. It is anticipated that Mayo County Council allocate a further 30 placements in 2016.

RETIREMENTS IN 2015

Helen McDermott	Acting Administrative Officer
Thomas Reilly	General Services Supervisor
John Flynn	General Services Supervisor
Thomas Frain	General Services Supervisor
Peter Lavelle	Craftsman
James Lawless	Craftsman
Michael O'Malley	Craftsman
Patrick James Doyle	Plant Operator
John A. O'Connor	Waterworks Caretaker Grade III
John Philbin	Waterworks Caretaker Grade III
Michael (Bob) O'Malley	Waterworks Caretaker Grade III
Michael Neary	Ganger
John Morris	Acting Ganger
Thomas Cunningham	General Operative
Michael McNulty	General Operative

CASTLEBAR REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Castlebar Regional Training Centre (CRTC) facilitates the training needs of staff in the following Local Authorities: Mayo, Galway County, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon County Councils and Galway City Council. Mayo County Council is the lead authority. We also provide training to the rural water sector, utility sector and other public and private sector organisations in the region. We have grown the centre consistently over the past few years and we now deliver approximately 5000 training days per annum. We are self financing and our turnover in 2015 increased to €1.08 m.

The Training Centre Network was established to facilitate the provision of appropriate training to Local Authorities in three key operational areas, namely Roads, Water and Environment. However, we also provide a wide range of other training courses including:

- Occupational Health & Safety Courses.
- High Level Professional (CPD) courses
- Leadership Courses & Seminars.
- ICT courses

CRTC recently began delivery of Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) Accredited Mechanical Joint Integrity (MJI) training courses. The ECITB is the statutory skills body for the engineering construction industry in the UK. ECITB approval allows these advanced technical training programmes to be delivered locally which in turn creates and maintains jobs and offers savings to companies who otherwise would have had to send personnel to the UK or Europe. Recently Shell Ireland had a number of employees attending these courses in Castlebar meeting the mandatory training standards for their roles in line with general requirements of the oil and gas sector. Other companies and industries working in utilities, water, manufacturing, chemical and renewable energy can benefit from this accredited training and gain an internationally recognized qualification.



***Joe Loftus, Director of Services, MCC; Jo-Anne Gaughan, Training Co-Ordinator Shell IRL;
Jim Quinlan, ECITB Trainer Holland Training Ltd; Lee Bridson, Training Co-Ordinator Shell IRL;
Maura Lawless, CRTC Centre Manager MCC***

Training provided is to the highest standard. In addition to ECITB accreditation, the facility has accreditation from SOLAS, QQI and City & Guilds.

Workplace training improves business performance, safety and staff morale. The economy is entering into a new phase of recovery. Those who invest in quality accredited training will be able to take full advantage of this great opportunity.

In future we intend to grow the numbers of quality accredited training courses provided for Local authorities. We also intend to grow the centre's customer base with more courses attended by private sector employees and employees from the wider public sector. We intend extending the centre with a view to providing more accredited practical training.

PROCUREMENT SECTION

The procurement section plays a key role in the development of procurement solutions to meet the demand for significant cost reductions and value for money in overall spend. We also have responsibility for procurement reform on behalf of Mayo County Council as a key element of Government's reform programme and to establish and maintain strong, positive working relationships with all key stakeholders both internal and external to the organisation.

Throughout 2015 we implemented a number of new Category management systems along with the development of additional procurement policy and procedures for both centrally led programs along with the development and implementation of new value for money sourcing solutions.

Appointed to lead the Regional Procurement remit (nine local authorities) in what was a major efficiency and cost reduction exercise on a range of categories of goods and services. As part of this role, we have provided training to the region on European Directives, Legislative Requirements and best practices, from drawing up specifications to awarding contracts.

We have also identified a number of common categories of spend within the region where benefits from a collaborative approach has resulted in very significant savings for Mayo County Council.

We provide advice and support in purchasing, contracts, reengineering the supply management process, the management of procurement functions, reducing cost of purchased materials and services, and negotiation of complex transactions and contracts to staff throughout the organisation.

Throughout 2015 the unit has provided technical advice on all procurement activities throughout the various phases of the procurement cycle to all sections of Mayo County Council.

It is well established throughout the organisation that the role of the Procurement section is oversight, advice and operational. The expectation is that a professional procurement section will deliver high standards of administration and operational capacity in the procurement Goods, services and minor works. Operating with a staff of three, we have a responsibility in developing medium to long term metrics for the success of the unit.

Procurement at Local Government has undergone an enormous re-alignment in recent years. It has been recognised that local authorities have made an extraordinary journey to achieve high levels of efficiency and savings, and have also made a strong contribution to the adjustments necessary to restore our economy. The Procurement section of Mayo County Council has been to the forefront in ensuring that the procurement of Goods & Services is secured in a fair and equal manner.

The Procurement Section requires the highest standards of governance in carrying out its functions:

- Integrity - there is no conflict of interest in decisions and actions (financial, organisation, personal)
- Loyalty – decisions and actions are for the benefit of the organisation, not arising from any other bias
- Objectivity – there is clear criteria, evidence and rationale for decisions and actions in all procurement related activity
- Transparency – actions and decisions are open to scrutiny
- Accountability – there are unambiguous roles & responsibilities in the system and clarity on the “who” and the “how” of accountability
- Leadership- There will be advocacy of and loyalty to the operations and the principles of procurement from the top down.

The unit is mindful of continuous personal self development to ensure that we possess the appropriate skills to develop and guide the organisation’s strategic direction, with commitment to drive continuous improvement by leading and managing change. The section will continue to implement monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Arising from the national eProcurement strategy for the public sector, the local government sector initiated a project to develop a sector-level eProcurement strategy. The purpose of the strategy was to provide a set of recommendations for change and an implementation plan to guide the development of procurement in the sector so that significant savings could be achieved by exploiting the opportunities for improving procurement performance. It was recognised that the existing approach was not always the most effective in terms of leveraging buying power and ensuring adequate competition in the supply market and that a technology based system was required.

In more recent times the public sector reform agenda has identified procurement as a function that is common to all public sector bodies and that therefore offers considerable scope for efficiencies. In particular the LGER Report 2010 identified potential savings of €70 million in the local government sector through enhanced collaboration between local authorities at regional and sector-wide levels.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM PLAN NOVEMBER 2011

The Public Service Reform Plan identified procurement reform as one of a number of major projects. Its aim is to deliver greater value for money through increased use of common procurement frameworks, increased professionalism and more innovative use of technology.

The Procurement section works closely with our colleagues in local government, particularly in the western region where we have collaborated on a number of procurement initiatives, resulting in significant savings. We are very conscious of the extent of change that has already taken place, and also recognise that enormous savings have already been achieved through shared services, rationalisation and centralised procurement.

The Local Government Reform Oversight Group, under the leadership of the Programme Management Office has placed an onus on every local authority to support the drive to deliver an efficient and effective procurement section. It is critical that the PMO is well supported to drive delivery of cross-sectoral shared services, and partner Government Departments on other aspects of the reform agenda, notably in the area of public procurement.

It is vital that we build on the excellent work carried out to date and maintain the momentum created. Local government has shown that major change can be implemented to consolidate efficiency without reduction in service quality. The procurement sections success to date has been achieved through teamwork and partnership.

NATIONAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE

The National Procurement Office continues to assist the Local Authority sector in achieving procurement savings. As part of its work plan, the NPO will be exploring opportunities for achieving savings and identifying local, regional and national procurement opportunities.

Amongst other activities, the office will also explore national procurement opportunities in cooperation with the Office of Government Procurement.

There are also plans to develop and deliver a standardised procurement training programme targeting all local authorities.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

The Office of Government Procurement (“OGP”) was officially launched in 2013.

OGP is led by the Government’s Chief Procurement Officer (“CPO”), Mr Paul Quinn, who is leading on the reform of procurement in the public sector.

Leaving aside the Government’s spending on capital works and infrastructure projects, the public service spends in the order of €9bn every year on goods and services – that is roughly €25m every day. This spend is funded by the Irish taxpayer and represents a very significant portion of overall Government expenditure.

The Government has set the procurement reform programme a cash savings target of up to €500m over 3 years. This target was set following careful analysis of current procurement spend and discussion with sectors. Strengthening procurement capability in the public sector will improve the value for money that is got from procurement spend and will make a significant contribution to our deficit reduction targets and enable the State to deliver much needed services more efficiently.

Everybody will have easy access to high quality procurement services that they have confidence in and procurement staff are proud to provide.

- A key public service reform programme
- A significant enabler to hitting the deficit reduction targets.
- Government decided a centre-led procurement model and approved an implementation plan

- Savings target of €500m over 3 years on a €6.6bn addressable spend per annum
- A strong governance model
- Public procurement will be accessible by all vendors, including SME's
- The Board of the OGP will provide Government oversight and leadership for procurement reform
- The Procurement Steering Group will represent the customer Departments and Agencies and provide leadership and sponsorship for procurement across the Civil and Public Service
- The Executive will be responsible for, operational management of procurement across the Civil and Public Service, the delivery of the transformation programme and the savings plan
- The Executive will be responsible for operational management of procurement across the public sector and, the delivery of the transformation programme and the savings plan.
- The Executive will include the Chief Procurement Officer and his direct reports, legal support and the leads responsible for management of the sector sourcing teams. The Executive will meet on a bi-weekly basis and will:
 - Develop and implement the policy framework for procurement
 - Set the standards for procurement and communicate them across the Public Service
 - Ensure the delivery of compliant sourcing processes at Centre and Sector Level
 - Manage the delivery of the transformation and savings programmes
 - Manage the delivery of Customer Service for procurement
- The Board of the Office of Government Procurement will provide Government oversight to the OGP and leadership for procurement reform across the Public Services. The Board will be chaired by the Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Chief Procurement Officer will represent the Executive of the OGP and will report in to the Board.
- The Board will meet on a quarterly basis and will:
 - Provide oversight and guidance for the Office of Government Procurement
 - Sign off on procurement policy
 - Sign off on the Vision, Mission, Business Plan, and Objectives for the OGP and the Sector Led Procurement Teams
 - Oversee performance and compliance

CCMA INITIATIVE

The CCMA immediately recognised that developing a sector wide approach to procurement was vital in order to deliver the sector's savings and efficiencies targets. The CCMA agreed to strengthen the governance structure on procurement and deliver a coordinated coherent response to ensure procurement reform delivered the maximum amount of savings in the shortest space.

Kerry County Council was tasked with the establishment of a National Procurement Office, based on their previous extensive experience of delivering procurement initiatives on behalf of the sector. The NPO is staffed by people from the sector and comprised of experienced procurement, admin and ICT support staff.

The sector has made a commitment to provide ongoing support to the NPO in order to allow it to carry out its mandate as set out below:

- Be the first point of contact for the Office of Government Procurement.
- Putting processes in place to ensure compliance in the use of National Frameworks.
- Agreeing appropriate procurement processes for national, regional and local procurement.
- Delivering a network of regional and local fulltime specialist procurement officers.
- Sector wide use of low cost value purchase cards.
- Grow the use of national frameworks to deliver savings and efficiencies.

PROCUREMENT AT REGIONAL LEVEL

The emerging number of regional procurement networks has been reduced from 8 to 4 with a view to ensuring that each region can avail of the benefits that critical mass brings to the procurement process. Each of the new regions is required to appoint a full-time dedicated procurement specialist. These procurement specialists will report directly to the National Procurement Office.

- To act as a centre of expertise through the provision of relevant advice on best practice procurement
- To act as a point of contact for local procurement officers
- Advise and assist local procurement officers including providing expertise and knowledge on procurement
- Promote procurement awareness with suppliers
- Co-ordinate regional and national tenders
- Review regional spend and identify opportunities for new regional aggregated tenders
- Establish a Procurement network to deliver best practice in procurement
- Liaise with the National Procurement Office.
- Provide training to local procurement officers in:
 - Use of contracts
 - Common practices and procedures
 - Procurement issues

INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)

Throughout 2015 the IS Department continued to maintain and support the ICT requirements of Mayo County Council and at the same time, plan for the future requirements of the Local Authority. In addition to the normal day to day support issues, the following is a list of some of the tasks undertaken by the IS Department throughout the year.

- Windows XP to Windows 2007 Upgrade Project was completed.
- A newly structured IT Service Desk was launched in April 2015. Approximately 13,000 Support Calls were received and processed by year end.
- ISO - 27001:2005 Re-Certification. The Section successfully retained the ISO Standard.
- The IS Department undertook a study to identify and complete a comprehensive listing of the Land and Building Fixed Asset Register. The results of same are to be linked to the AGRASSO Financial Management System.
- NVDF Upgrade completed in all Motor Tax Offices throughout the County.
- Trans Atlantic Fibre Optic Cable. The IS Department was a key stakeholder in this Project.
- The IS Department assumed the management of all Fixed and Mobile Telephony for the Organisation.
- ILAS (Integrated Licence Application System) Project - Mayo County Council forms part of a multi-agency Pilot Project to centralise all Government Licensing into one single portal.
- A new Travel and Subsistence System was successfully implemented. This implementation involved the system rollout and training of all Mayo County Council Staff in the use of same.
- A Data Retention Policy Project was launched. It is expected to be completed in 2016.
- A CRM solution was provided in the Local Enterprise Unit.
- A Print Management Project for the Organisation was initiated and is expected to be completed by Summer 2016.
- The Housing Management System (iHouse) was upgraded to Version 3.3.
- CORE was upgraded to Version 19. CORE Training was rolled out to all Staff Members.
- Castlebar Metropolitan Area Network. Mayo County Council connected to same in December 2015. This connection replaces our 300MB connection from Eircom with a 1000MB (1GB) Link.
- The IS Department identified and replaced existing UPS Systems in vital sites throughout the County in order to provide a minimum of 12hr Uptime in the case of a power outage.
- GIS continued to provide technical support to all Sections of the Local Authority.
- GIS Staff were involved in surveying the Japanese Knotweed throughout the County.

- The Houses of Mayo Project continued throughout the year and is on schedule for completion in Summer 2016.
- IT Staff continued to maintain all 27 Public Facing Mayo County Council Web Sites and On-Line Services.
- IT Staff were involved in the maintenance of the www.mayo.ie website and associated Services.

MAYO HERITAGE OFFICE

The County Mayo Heritage Plan 2011–2016 aims to identify, raise awareness and promote the conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county. Contained in the Plan are 50 specific actions, formulated to realise these objectives of the five-year strategic Plan. The key Heritage Plan projects undertaken in 2015 include the following:

HABITAT MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

In partnership with the Heritage Council, and the local communities in each of the towns and villages, we continued the Mayo habitat mapping project which commenced in 2014. Habitat surveying and mapping was undertaken at five locations in Mayo — Ballina, Foxford, Crossmolina, Balla and Mulranny. The aim of this project is to assess and evaluate the natural heritage of each of the towns and villages, and prepare a biodiversity management plan for each area. Detailed recommendations in relation to habitat and biodiversity management were formulated to assist the local communities, including Tidy Town committees to realise the potential of their local areas. The plans identify opportunities for appropriate biodiversity enhancement and conservation, and recommend practical measures aimed at conserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the towns/villages. The plans are also of value to planners, engineers and other local authority staff, assessing and developing proposals for these areas. Opportunities for the development of educational and interpretative facilities for the towns and villages are also explored.

MULRANNY STONE WALL AND LIME WORKSHOP

The inaugural Mulranny Stone Wall and Lime Workshop was held from the 8th to the 10th May 2015. The aim of the workshop was to promote awareness of these traditional skills and keep them alive, to encourage expertise and understanding in the use of building lime and to take care of our heritage. The workshop was held in conjunction with Building Limes Forum Ireland. The workshop, aimed at local authority staff, RSS participants and the local communities, consisted of a combination of talks, case studies and demonstrations by conservation professionals and experienced craftsmen, and practical work. The stone wall workshop was led by renowned Irish stone wall expert and author, Pat McAfee, and Canadian traditional restoration mason and dry stone waller, John Shaw-Rimington.



Lime Workshop Participants, Mulranny



Repairing Stone Walls on Greenway, Mulranny

MAYO SWIFT WEEK

Mayo Swift Week was held from 29th June to the 4th July to promote the conservation of the endangered swift in Mayo. The week offered an opportunity to learn about swift behaviour and biology and a chance to observe first hand local breeding colonies. Along with the launch of the swiftconservation.ie website, a number of swift walks and talks were held in various towns including Claremorris, Westport, Foxford and Castlebar during the week. Cllr. John Cribbin performed the official 'switching on' of attraction calls for three nest boxes installed on Claremorris Town Hall; attraction calls are played to help the swifts find the nest boxes when the birds are here to breed, from May to August.



'Switching on' of swift attraction calls by Cllr John Cribbin at Claremorris Town Hall

MAYO NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

During 2015, the Mayo Naturalists' Field Club organised seven outings to some of the most interesting and valuable natural habitats to be found in Mayo, including lake shore, limestone pavement and oak woodland, in the company of renowned naturalists, botanists and geologists. The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland held a Mayo Recording Week in conjunction with the Field Club in the last week of July. Based in Lough Lannagh, 42 botanists from all over Ireland took part in the Recording Week over 8 days and collected almost 11,000 plant records.



Mayo Naturalists' Field Club outing to Doon Peninsula, Lough Carra

SEMINAR ON REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF BALLINROBE'S HERITAGE

A seminar on realising the potential of Ballinrobe's Heritage was held in Ballinrobe in March. The seminar, delivered by Graham Hickey and Geraldine Walsh of the Dublin Civic Trust, highlighted the unique and valuable heritage of Ballinrobe and explored how this asset can be harnessed to maximise the potential of Ballinrobe. All individuals, organisations, businesses and stakeholders in the community of Ballinrobe were invited to attend. The seminar looked at what makes Ballinrobe unique and what the community can do to capitalise on this for the benefit of the community, the town and its heritage. Following on from the seminar a photographic and occupancy survey of the buildings in Ballinrobe Town were undertaken, along with an audit of signage in the town. This information will be used to inform an assessment for the designation of an Architectural Character Area in the town.



Realising the Potential of Ballinrobe Seminar

MULRANNY GEODESIGN WORKSHOP

In September, a two-day Geodesign Workshop was held in Mulranny. The workshop piloted a locally-led, multi-disciplinary and participatory approach to planning the built environment, landscape and coastal interfaces of Mulranny. A steering committee comprised of representatives of the local community, the UCD School of Architecture and the Heritage Officer tailored the workshop to the needs of the village and community. The workshop was led by Prof. Carl Steinitz and Hrish Ballal. Carl Steinitz, the Alexander and Victoria Wiley Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, Emeritus, at Harvard Graduate School of Design has devoted much of his academic career to highly valued landscapes undergoing substantial pressure for change. A crowd mapping event was held during Heritage Week in preparation for the Geodesign workshop, where participants helped map and describe key cultural features in Mulranny e.g. place names, stone cottages and old gates using historical Ordnance Survey maps.



Participants at the Mulranny GeoDesign Workshop

COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE PLANS

Biodiversity training was provided to seven Mayo communities, including Ballinrobe, Ballycastle, Cong, Kilkelly, Killala, Knock and Louisburgh. The main aim of the biodiversity training was to prepare local nature and wildlife plans for the selected towns and villages. The plans consist of a list of projects that will run over a three year period for the benefit of nature and wildlife, and the environment, and the local community.

MAYO COMMEMORATION STRATEGY

A Mayo Commemoration Committee was established in 2013 to develop a Commemoration Strategy for the period 2013 to 2023. The implementation of the Strategy continued in 2015.

Public consultation was undertaken to inform the development of a programme of events for 2016, culminating in a public consultation workshop in July 2015. Feedback from the workshop was collated and a programme of events for the 1916 Centenary finalised. Work is ongoing on various initiatives to commemorate the major Mayo figures of the period including Dr Kathleen Lynn and Major John MacBride. The CentenaryMayo.ie website continues to be updated with material relevant to the period. We are working on an ongoing basis with historical and heritage societies and relevant communities in the county to assist them to develop local commemorative events.

MAYO 1916 COMMEMORATION CALENDAR

A unique compendium of original and rare material relating to the 1916 Rising is featured in Mayo County Council's 2016 commemorative calendar. This calendar features material from the Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina, which holds the largest collection of material relating to the Rising outside Dublin, and includes manuscripts, photographs, first-hand accounts, pamphlets, despatches, hand-bills, over 350 newspapers, government enquiries, letters, posters and proclamations (including the 1916 Proclamation and the rarer 1917 Proclamation), and many other rare and previously unknown items. The calendar which is available to every household in Mayo was launched in December 2015.



Pictured at the launch of the 2016 Mayo Commemorative Calendar are the elected members and members of the management team of Mayo County Council

HERITAGE WEEK 2015

Over 70 heritage events were held throughout the county to celebrate Heritage Week 2015, which ran from 22nd to the 30th August. A diverse and eclectic programme of events was organised, including heritage walks, talks, and demonstrations. The events, many of which were organised by communities, showcased the rich and diverse built, natural and cultural heritage of the county. Details of all events were included in the Mayo Heritage Week pocket guide. The Mayo County Council Heritage Week Event Grant Scheme, supported by The Heritage Council, provided assistance to over 35 communities to host events.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Work is ongoing with communities in Blacksod, Belmullet, Achill and Louisburgh to develop and implement control programmes for the alien invasive plant species giant rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*). Following the implementation of recent legislative provisions in relation to invasive species we are liaising with members of the Mayo Invasive Species Working Committee committee, comprising of organisations/groups in the county with an interest in the control of invasive species, including NPWS, IFI, Teagasc and Leader. The aim of the Working Committee is to look at the issues surrounding invasive species and investigate ways in which to combat the threat of invasive species in the county.

In addition to the implementation of the Heritage Plan, areas addressed by the Heritage Officer on an ongoing basis include:

- Provide advice to public and council staff on heritage-related matters
- Provide advice to community groups undertaking graveyard 'clean-up' schemes
- Provide advice and assistance to individuals, community groups, Rural Social Scheme supervisors and participants, and Tidy Towns Groups in relation to Local Heritage Projects
- Promote Heritage Council Local Heritage Grant Programme and other heritage grant schemes and provide advice to community groups on applications as required
- Co-ordination of the Mayo Heritage Forum
- Work with communities, assisting them in collecting information on, protecting and promoting their built, natural and cultural heritage.

GENERAL PURPOSES

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The total number of requests received under the Freedom of Information Act for 2015 was 94.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) are processing all new Student Grant applications, including applications from existing students changing their courses or progressing to new courses (be they add-on courses or otherwise), from the 2012/13 academic year onwards. SUSI are also paying Student Grants to all new applicants who are awarded grants from the 2012/13 academic year onwards, subject to confirmation and verification of attendance.

Mayo County Council continue to process Student Grant renewal applications for students to whom they have already awarded grants until such time as those students have completed their current course and will continue to pay these renewal students in the normal manner subject to confirmation and verification of attendance.

The Student Grant Scheme 2015 was released to Mayo County Council by the Department of Education and Skills in April, 2015.

The total number of Student Grant renewal applications received in the 2015/16 academic year was 29. The current number of renewal students receiving grants from Mayo County Council is 27.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Mayo County Council is committed to Human Resource Learning and Development to achieve our objectives and goals. We recognise that our success in providing a high quality of service to the community has been built on a loyal, dedicated and committed workforce. We deem it important to foster a team spirit in all our employees by implementing a progressive Learning and Development Plan for our employees throughout all areas of activities.

ETHICS REGISTER

Annual Declarations for 2015 from relevant employees and elected members were received within the statutory period.

PROTECTIVE DISCLOSURE ACT, 2014

There were no complaints received under the above Act in 2015.

ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT

The Architects Department is a multi-discipline office, providing a centralised Design, Procurement, Management and Architectural, Planning and Conservation Consultancy Service to all departments and regional directorates of Mayo County Council. The office encompasses a range of in-house technical and administrative expertise and is comprised of:

- Architects
- Engineers
- Conservation Architect
- Architectural & Civil technicians
- Horticulturalist
- Clerks of Work
- Clerical staff

The Local Authority's Capital Works Programme for 2015 saw the Architects Department involved in a variety of new developments including the long awaited new Castlebar Swimming Pool & Outdoor Educational Facility which commenced on site in December 2015, Public Realm Works in Mulranny, Housing activity in terms of Remedial and Energy Efficient Programmes, together with many other new Recreational and Sporting Facilities and Conservation-led building projects throughout the County.

Other 'non-construction' related work areas in which the Architects Department have had an increasing involvement over the year include:

- Administration of the "Structures at Risk" Grants Scheme
- Planning & Architectural Conservation Consultancy Services
- Facilitation of Town & Village Design Statements.
- Maintenance & Management of Turlough Park Gardens

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

HOUSING

A new multi-annual Housing Construction Programme for 2015-2017 was launched by the Department in early 2015 which provided for a significant increase level of 'new-build' activity throughout the County compared to previous years. Preliminary design and planning works are currently underway on a number of housing developments, which it is hoped will progress to site in 2016.

Other housing related activity within Mayo County Council also focused on remedial and energy efficiency up-grade works. 2015 saw the completion of upgrade works involving attic and wall insulation to over 200 dwellings.

RECREATIONAL, COMMUNITY & SERVICE FACILITIES

CASTLEBAR SWIMMING POOL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION BUILDING

Construction works commenced on a new Swimming Pool Complex and Outdoor Education Building, at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar, which is adjacent to the Castlebar Tennis Club. These works were grant assisted by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport under their Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme and works are due to be completed in mid 2017.



Above is Artists impression of project, when complete and below is a progress photo of works to date.



Extension to Geesala Community Centre



New Property at Geesala nearing completion (with existing community hall at rear)

The proposed facility sits within a larger community, designed and led, project/ Masterplan which includes:

- Existing Sports facility (current home of Geesala Boxing Club)
- A community Meals on Wheels and Day care facility
- Proposed Sports Academy of Excellence of national importance where athletes and coaches will be coached, motivated, monitored and expertly trained to the highest performance levels.
- Cultural/Heritage Visitor Experience.

CONSERVATION, PLANNING & ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Architects Department has since 2010 taken on the duties and responsibilities associated with the role of Conservation Officer for Mayo County Council.

As part of these duties and responsibilities during 2015, the Architectural Conservation Officer provided advice and reports in relation to the following;

- Record of Protected Structures
- Planning File Reports and Pre-planning consultations
- Conservation advice to owners of built heritage
- Building Conservation Grants
- Structures at Risk Fund

DRY STONE WALL & LIME SKILLS WORKSHOPS

These workshops organised to take place over a weekend in mid-May 2015 with the Heritage Officer, in association with Mulranny Community Futures & the Building Limes Forum Ireland consisted of a series of theoretical and practical elements. Talks, case studies and demonstrations by conservation professionals, stonemasons and lime practitioners provided for an introduction to best practice and the principles of conservation. A section of dry stone wall was repaired along the Mulranny Greenway as part of the project.



Participants at the Dry Stone Wall & Lime Skills Workshops

STRUCTURES AT RISK FUND 2015

The purpose of the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) is to assist with works to safeguard structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended): including works to proposed protected structures, and in certain cases, works to safeguard structures within Architectural Conservation Areas.

Applications were invited for the Structures at Risk Fund by notice on the council website. Six eligible grant applications were received in March 2015 and two projects were submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, further to assessment, for approval. The successful structure was Bridge House, Westport.

BRIDGE HOUSE, NORTH MALL, WESTPORT

Essential stabilization works including repairs to the failed valley rafter to the roof, and reinstatement of the original slates to the main roof structure continued the previous conservation work carried out to this protected structure. The entire roof structure to the hipped end of the roof was dismantled to allow for fitting the new timber hip truss with steel support. All original rafters and collars were re-used in the reconstruction. Chimney repairs were carried out to the two main chimney stacks to the main roof, including lime mortar pointing to stonework where the original had been washed out. Re-slatting and associated leadwork completed these essential elements. Inspection of works and administration of the grant-funding in accordance with departmental guidelines ensured the completion of this element of the project in 2015.



Bridge House, North Mall, Westport: Before



Bridge House Scaffold



Roof reconstruction with original rafters & collars



Bridge House, North Mall, Westport: After

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

FRIARS' BRIDGE, CONG

Cong River, flowing from the village of Cong to meet Lough Corrib in Ashford Castle forms part of the landscape setting of this early nineteenth century bridge. Substantial stone uplift to the Liscannor stone-paved bridge over the river was of concern. Initial enquiries by the Heritage Officer & Conservation Officer to Coillte provided the opportunity to work in partnership with them to ensure the survival of the bridge, while demonstrating best conservation principles. Further to the preparation of statutory reports in collaboration with a conservation engineer, an ecologist and the councils' archaeologists, procurement of the project through the Architects Department provided for sensitive repair works to be completed within the specified timeframe.



Footbridge, Cong: Before



Footbridge, Cong: After

THE LINENHALL, CASTLEBAR

Further to the allocation of funds in 2015 to allow for repairs to the façade of The Linenhall Arts Centre, advice was sought from the Architects Department to prepare an Outline Schedule of Works with associated costings. Given the extent of the works required it was decided that an annual budget would be allocated to this historic structure by Castlebar Municipal District. The works completed in 2015 included for the removal of all services to the façade of the structure including the undergrounding of the electricity supply to the theatre. Grouting was carried out to the front façade, with stone repairs to the pedimented door-case which had suffered significant decay.



The Linenhall, Castlebar: Before



The Linenhall, Castlebar: After

CASTLEBAR MILITARY BARRACKS

Funding made available under a Pilot CEDRA Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative in October 2015 ensured the progression of elements of the project at the military barracks. The first initiative, in collaboration with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, provided a platform for engaging architects, through competition to provide outline proposals for the entire military barracks, while addressing its relationship with the town and the Mall. Funding was also made available to carry out an archaeological geophysical survey.

Conservation works undertaken allowed for a number of elements to be addressed in Block A&B further to a building survey, opening up works and specialist condition surveys being carried out. The resultant scope of works included for the replacement of lintels to all window openings, and raking out of cement-based mortar to the strap pointing in the joints to the front façade. Re-pointing with an agreed lime mortar mix, matching that evident in the gable wall was carried out to the front façade. Internal works included for the removal of cementitious plaster to the interior to facilitate the drying-out of the structure, and treatment to timber joists and floorboards where damp penetration had occurred. Works at roof level allow for repairs to chimney stacks, associated leadwork flashings and the installation of cast iron rainwater goods to match the original profiles evident on Block G&H.



Strap pointing



Lime mortar pointing



Hessian protection to lime works



Drying out to walls & timber treatment

PUBLIC REALM WORKS



Public Realm Works at Mulranny Village

The idea to create a new public amenity space or ‘Promenade’ overlooking the magnificent scenery of Clew bay right in the heart of Mulranny Village was first proposed by the Architects Section, while preparing the design proposals for the Mulranny Village Design Statement in 2011.

The Village Design Statement proposed this ‘promenade’ with the multiple aims of consolidating and bringing life to the village, of attracting cyclists down from the Greenway, and of encouraging passers to stop and enjoy the magnificent scenery and thus promoting more commercial activity in the village.

While the National Roads Design Office (NRDO) performed the difficult task of procuring the lands and the contract works, the Architect Section worked in tandem developing the detailed and aesthetic design of the paving elements, the railings, public lighting , street furniture etc. Civil Engineering consultants RPS prepared the civil works tender packages and managed the overall project on site.

The project was a most successful collaboration between the NRDO and the Architects Section with input also from the Planning Section and Heritage Officer. The 'Promenade' has proven to be most successful. There has been a significant increase of pedestrian activity in the village giving it a liveliness it did not have previously. Hopefully the promenade will continue to stimulate commercial activity and the further development and consolidation of the Village.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Between the years 2000 and 2015 the Architects Department has facilitated the development of a total of 86 public recreational facilities at 46 different locations throughout the county. Such facilities included Playgrounds, Multi Use Games Areas, Out Door Gyms, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts the Skate Park in Westport and the Synthetic Track at Belleek Ballina. Further facilities are planned for Foxford and Pullathomas.

All these projects were carried out in partnership with community groups and were funded in some instances by the Local Authority, LEADER, Central Government, or through Community Fund raising but in most instances through a combination of all the above funding sources. The projects were designed and project managed by the Architects Department with the local community having a central role at all stages of the project.

This significant investment has seen a network of Public Recreational Facilities spread across the county to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors alike. County Mayo is now recognised as one of the best served counties in the country in terms of the provision of public recreational facilities.

CONSTRUCTION OF SYNTHETIC RUNNING TRACK, BELLEEK BALLINA



Cutting the tape May 2015



Local Children having fun

The new state of the art synthetic running track was opened in May 2015. The old 4 lane track was replaced with a new 8 lane facility that was constructed to meet the highest standards. Total cost of the project was in excess of €600,000 with the project funded by the former Ballina Town Council, Mayo County Council and the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

CONSTRUCTION OF GREENWAY BELLEEK BALLINA



New cycleway walkway Belleek Greenway

IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT THE POND - BELLEEK GREENWAY

Almost 4 km's of a Cycle Way Walk Way was constructed through Belleek in Ballina. The new walkway was constructed starts at the Soccer Club and finishes at Knockatana. The project in its entirety cost in excess of €250,000. The project was completed in September 2015.

EXTENSION TO CLAREMORRIS PLAYGROUND CLAREMORRIS



Works involved an extension to the existing playground at Mayfield Claremorris. Works were complete in September 2015 and cost in excess of €25,000. The project was funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Mayo County Council.

PLAYGROUND AT BRACKLABOY BALLYHAUNIS



A new playground was constructed at Bracklaboy Claremorris. The project was officially opened by Minister Michael Ring and cost in excess of €40,000.

MAPLES RECREATIONAL PARK BALLYHAUNIS



The new recreational park constructed at the Maples Ballyhaunis includes a Childrens Playground, a Multi Use Games Area and a batting bowling Cricket Crease. The project in its entirety cost in excess of €300,000 and was funded by Mayo County Council and the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

BALLINA TIDY TOWNS BRONZE MEDAL WINNER 2015



Pictured above- Members of Ballina Tidy Towns Community Employment scheme and Mayo County Council outdoor staff celebrating the town's success in the National Tidy Towns awards 2015.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2015



Getting stuck in: An Taoiseach Enda Kenny planting trees at Lough Lannagh with students from local schools to commemorate National Tree Week 2015.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

ROAD TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Strategic Policy Committee comprises of the following Members:

Cllr. Annie May Reape, Chairperson

Cllr. Rose Conway-Walsh; Cllr. Cyril Burke; Cllr. Patsy O'Brien; Cllr. Seamus Weir

Cllr. Damien Ryan; Cllr. Brendan Mulroy

Mr. John McMillan, Mayo County Community Forum

Mr. Eddie Lavelle, Trade Union Pillar Representative

Mr. Michael Moran Business Pillar Representative

Ms. Majella Patasz Environmental Pillar Representative

The Committee went on a delegation to the National Roads Authority in September 2015 to discuss:

- Speed Limits and traffic calming [N5 Bohola & N60 Breaffy];
- Update on N26/N58/N5 and N5 Projects;
- Roads infrastructure in Ballina as an Industrial hub and tourist base;
- Schemes on the ~ N84(Aughadrinagh) & N60 (Ardboley & Rathduff junctions);
- Safety concerns of right hand turning lanes on National Routes;
- Funding for the N84 in and around Ballinrobe;
- Procedures in place to ensure equal status to pedestrians and cyclists in towns & villages where main national roads pass through them;
- Proposal to create a roundabout at the intersection of the Mulranny/ Achill/Ballycroy Roads;
- Provision of footpaths on the N59 to Ballycroy N.S.

The Committee has considered and dealt with the following issues amongst others:

- National Roads Programme for the County
- Non National Roads Programme
- Road Safety
- Community Involvement scheme
- Speed Limits in Housing Estates and
- Hedge Cutting Policy
- Land Transport Investment
- Mayo Public Transport

CULTURAL, EDUCATION, HERITAGE, CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Under the Chairmanship of Cllr Jarlath Munnely and the Directorship of Mr Joe Loftus, the Cultural, Education, Heritage, Corporate Affairs and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held 4 meetings during 2015.

During 2015, the following matters were considered by the SPC members, including:-

- Fire Services Plan for Mayo Fire Service under Government initiative “Keeping Communities Safe.”
- Adoption of the Committee’s Final Work Plan 2015-2019 and Priority Actions from Work Plan 2015.
- Recommendation that Mayo County Council resource staff for the preservation and recording of linguistic diversity in the County.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council to resource a folklore auditor, with the purpose of establishing a Mayo Folklore collection in Mayo County Library.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council to establish an Annual Community Heritage Grant Scheme to support the enormous voluntary work being undertaken by the many committed community groups throughout the County.
- Live streaming of County Council meetings.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council the appointment of a full-time Film Officer.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council the appointment of a European Officer.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council that Municipal Districts take the lead role in reinvigorating and expanding town twinning links and that historical town twinning links be narrated, with a view to establishing best practice and reverting to the full Council with policy presentation.
- Recommendation that a Schedule for Best Publication Awards be prepared and considered by the Committee.
- Recommendation to Mayo County Council that the revised draft policy regarding civic and other honours conferred by Mayo County Council be adopted.
- Recommendation that Mayo County Council seeks to provide funding and other supports in an equitable manner to maintain the arts infrastructure of the County.

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Two meetings of the Planning, Environment & Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee were held in 2015, on 21st May and 27th November.

Topics discussed included:

- Variation of County Development Plan
- Planning Guidelines for Municipal District Plans
- Urban Regeneration Act
- Litter Management Plan
- Regional Waste Management Plan
- Pay by Weight system for refuse collection
- Climate Change strategy
- Water Framework Directive.

A Workshop was held for the members on the 19th March, 2015. The objective of the workshop was to identify key issues which the SPC could address through policy formulation, review or recommendation over the life of the SPC. The Workshop was facilitated by Kevin Swift Regional Waste coordinator, Connacht Ulster Waste Region.

The workshop was divided into three separate sections namely, Planning, Environment, and Agriculture. Under each section the facilitator provided an overview of the principle activities or functions performed in the area.

The workshop considered the principle issues facing each of the areas examined as follows:

- 34 issues were identified in the Planning area ranging from the takeover of unfinished housing estates to the protection of birds.
- 40 issues were identified in the Environment area ranging from illegal dumping to rural protection.
- With regard to the responsibilities of the Council in respect of Agriculture the main considerations noted were the implementation of the Food Safety Regulations through veterinary officers, the control of dogs and horses and the implementation of farm inspections in respect of environmental pollution control.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE SUPPORT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC dealt with a series of issues during 2015 including:

- Shaping and approving the economic element of the Local Economic & Community Plan;
- Providing input to the Mayo Investment Strategy;
- Receiving presentations from:
 - Ireland West Airport Knock on challenges facing the airport;
 - Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources on broadband;
 - Mayo.ie – website & branding updates;
 - Telecommunications & Internet Federation – mobile and internet coverage;
 - County Mayo Foundation;
 - Local Enterprise Office Mayo;
- Updates in relation to plans to attract investment to Killala and linkages with Rhode Island;
- Discussing the Economic Impact Study carried out on Westport House.

Economic SPC Members: Cllr Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr Lisa Chambers, Cllr Al Mc Donnell, Cllr Tom Connolly, Cllr Neill Cruise, Cllr Rose Conway-Walsh, Cllr Christy Hyland, Pat Staunton, Neill O Neill, Deirdre Carroll – RIP, Seamus Heverin, Joanne Grehan.

TOURISM & FOOD STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

A dedicated Tourism and Food Strategic Policy Committee is now operational and met on six occasions in 2015. Members include:

Cllr. Gerry Coyle, Chairman; Cllr. Michael Loftus; Cllr. Paul McNamara; Cllr. John O'Hara; Cllr. Teresa McGuire; Cllr. Thérèse Ruane; Cllr. Seamus Weir; Mr. Michael Lennon; Mr. Pdraig Heverin;
Mr. Patrick Chambers; Mr. Michael Carey.

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee comprises of the following members: -

Cllr. Gerry Ginty, Chairman

Cllr. Annie May Reape

Cllr. Blackie Gavin

Cllr. Henry Kenny

Cllr. John Cribbin

Cllr. Gerry Murray

Cllr. Richard Finn

Mr. Kevin Kirrane, Kirrane Auctioneering, Ballyhaunis

Mr. Pdraig Heverin, Ashfield, Ballyglass, Claremorris

Ms. Anne Chambers, Western Care Association, John Moore Rd., Castlebar.

Mr. Willie Walsh, Moyhastin, Ballinrobe Road, Westport.

The Committee held 4 meetings during 2015. The Committee has considered and dealt with the following issues amongst others:

- Mayo Homeless Implementation Plan
- Review of Housing Grants Scheme.
- Housing Programme 2015-2017
- Housing Assistance Payments
- Presentation from County Mayo Social Policy Group
- Presentation on Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process.

OVERVIEW OF ENERGY USAGE IN 2015

The main energy users at Mayo County Council are public lighting, transport and heating fuels following the transfer of water services assets to Irish water January 2014 provided a 56% reduction of Electrical Energy consumption.

In general consumption trends are steady due to improved efficiency form energy awareness and investment in energy reduction in buildings like leisure facility insulation and heating upgrades contributed to reducing energy demand.

In 2015, Mayo County Council consumed in the region of 21,210 MWh of energy consisting of:

- 10 MWh of electricity; (Transfer of assets to Irish Water reduced consumption by 56% for January 2015).
- 11 MWh of fossil fuels, including (Procurement & Vehicle monitoring of Transport fuels data providing more accurate recoding of fuel use).
- 0.210 MWh of renewable fuels (Includes Solar Thermal & Wood pellets).

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2014 & 2015

Mayo County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance including:

- Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) on all public buildings in the county provided varied results based on energy data available.
- Review Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Natural Gas unit Installed in Westport Leisure Centre commissioning & service issues
- Public Lighting Contract awarded to Electric Skyline Ltd for the installation and monitoring of 200 Energy efficient light units in Crossmolina, County Mayo. Public lighting outages and/or faults can be reported by phone or online direct to Electric Skyline.
- Tendering of Renewable Gas for Landfill site Rathroeen and Derrinumera to offset electricity demand.
- Solar PV system installation in Aras building 2016 will displace electricity demand.

Altogether, these and other energy saving measures will provide Mayo County Council with approximately 5% energy savings annually.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2016

In 2016 and beyond Mayo County Council intends to further improve our energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Review application under the Better Energy Communities Programme includes proposed upgrades to Mayo County Council buildings submitted by energy supplier Enprova. Identify buildings for future BEC programmes.
- Investment in public energy efficient Public Lighting based on historical data recorded from lighting upgrade projects such as Crossmolina installation and Monitoring contract awarded in 2013.

- Retendering of Solar PV system installation in Aras building 2016 will displace electricity demand.
- Government consultation documents for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will provide opportunities for the introduction of Renewable Heat Technologies in Council Buildings.
- Insulation and heating upgrades to housing stock (county wide basis) under department support funding for council housing upgrades programme.

REMEMBRANCE - JOHN MCNICHOLAS, R.I.P. (1957 – 2015)



It is with deep regret that we record the death of our esteemed colleague and friend John McNicholas, General Services Supervisor, whose tragic and untimely death occurred on the 9th June, 2015 following a workplace accident.

John commenced his employment with Mayo County Council as a General Operative in 1982. In 1984 he was promoted to the position of Ganger in the Swinford Area followed by promotion to Foreman in 1994. He was appointed as Road Overseer in September 1996. In January 2015 following the re-assignment of the Electoral Areas, John was assigned to the Ballina Municipal District.

John carried out his duties with great pride and satisfaction. He loved meeting people and offering whatever help and advice he could. He had a great rapport with the staff who worked with him and they, in turn, had a profound respect for him. The nature of his death has been a tremendous blow to all his work colleagues who still mourn his passing. A Remembrance Mass organised by his work colleagues, was celebrated in Swinford Cultural Centre on the 18th December, 2015 and the large attendance was evidence of the esteem in which John was held.

John always had a great interest in politics. He was a member of Fine Gael since 1970 and he stood as a Fine Gael candidate in the Council Elections in the Swinford Area in 1985 at the age of 28.

Above all John was a dedicated family man. He married his wife Ann (also McNicholas) on the 21st June 1980 and they had four children – Julie, Claire, John and Kieran. John worked tirelessly to help his family get on in life.

Shortly after his death, two grandchildren were born to John's two daughters, an occasion John had looked forward to with great expectation. Despite his busy daily schedule, John always made sure to visit his mother Annie every evening at 8 p.m.

John was also a great community man. He volunteered many hours in Bohola Parish in various works and was active in various committees. He was very proud of his roots and Lismirrane was where he was most content.

John loved to travel and experience other cultures and afterwards would recount details of his trips. The last trip was to Medugorje which had a profound effect on him and he had planned on a return visit.

We have all been very fortunate to have had John in our lives and we all have very fond and happy memories of times spent in his company. His many words of wisdom, wit and devilment will remain with us always.

APPENDICES

(See separate documents)

APPENDIX 1

- REGISTER OF ELECTORS/EDITED REGISTER 2015/2016

APPENDIX 2

- LIST OF EXTERNAL BODIES ON WHICH MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ARE FORMALLY REPRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2015

APPENDIX 3

- ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES ABROAD 2015
- ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES FOR CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND MEETINGS IN IRELAND
- MEETINGS HELD IN 2015 / TRAINING AVAILED OF BY ELECTED MEMBERS 2015
- PAYMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS 2015
- PAYMENTS TO NON-COUNCILLOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015

APPENDIX 4

- DISCLOSURE OF DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE

APPENDIX 5

- PERFORMANCE INDICATORS