



Comhairle Chontae Mhaigh Eo
MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



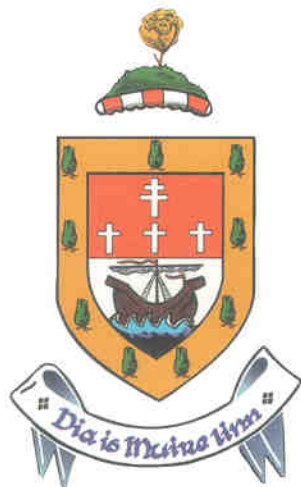
ANNUAL BUDGET

**For the Financial Year ending on
31st December 2003**

**Caínaisneís Don
Bhliain Airgeadais dár críoch an
31ú La NOLLAIG 2003**

2003

D. Mahon
County Manager
Aras an Chontae, Castlebar.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE MHAIGH ÉO

Áras an Chontae
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Contae Mhaigh Éo

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OIFIG AN BHAINISTEOR CHONTAE

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

TO/ CATHAOIRLEACH AND MEMBERS OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

I submit, for your consideration and approval, Draft Annual Budget in respect of the financial year ending 31st December 2003. A summary of the Budget is:

	€	€
Expenditure		106,986,098
<i>Funded by:</i>		
Receipts	72,307,983	
Local Government Fund	23,798,054	
Rates on Commercial and Industrial Property	9,225,601	
Charged to Towns - Ballina, Castlebar and Westport	1,654,460	

The county rate on commercial and industrial property is proposed at €58.08 in the €, an increase of 7% over the current rate of €54.28.

The Budget 2003 is prepared against a changing background:

- (a) The global economy and the Irish economy have slowed down since 2001.
- (b) The National Spatial Strategy has been launched as Government policy and will impact on our forward planning programmes.
- (c) The National Development Plan 2002-2007 has provided and will continue to provide capital investment in our services.
- (d) The need for County Mayo to be competitive in attracting investment is ever more important.

AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT BUDGET

The County Council, at its Budget Meeting on 27th January 2003 adopted the Draft Annual Budget for 2003 as proposed by the County Manager in his report of 2nd January 2003, subject to the following amendments:

Page 1 : The adopted rate for 2003 is 57.54, an increase of 6% on the 2002 rate of 54.28.

Page 53 : The refuse collection charges for 2003 are:
140 litre - €250 €73 increase p.a.
240 litre - €320 €41 increase p.a.

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- (d) The need for County Mayo to be competitive in attracting investment is ever more important.

County Mayo has made very noticeable progress over the past 20 years. It is our objective that this progress continues and the Council's Budget 2003 is framed to ensure this. There are challenges facing County Mayo, challenges that require our attention within our available resources:

- (a) The need for an expanded sustainable employment base particularly in manufacturing.
- (b) The need for good quality essential services that sustain the existing population and allow for necessary growth.
- (c) The need for strategic investment to prime "knock on" benefits and encourage private investment and growth.
- (d) The need to create greater economic, social and cultural wealth in our county.
- (e) The need to work closely with State Agencies, i.e. I.D.A., Health Board, Enterprise Ireland, etc. to achieve continuing progress.
- (f) To take account of the Council's policies on Waste Management, Retail Strategy, etc. as guidelines for better planning and opportunity.
- (g) The need to be conscious of needs of the less well off in society and ensure the Council has a pro active social inclusion policy and implementation programme.

Sustainable Employment

This Council has worked closely with the I.D.A. in the provision of manufacturing jobs in Mayo in recent years. To support this link and to ensure the benefits of "hub centre" status as announced in the National Spatial Strategy for Castlebar and Ballina the Council has procured, for transfer to the I.D.A., lands at Westport and Ballina for development as Technology Parks. A similar development is underway in Castlebar thus ensuring County Mayo is ready to avail of employment opportunities where they arise in the future.

Essential Services

The "core business" of a local authority is the provision of good quality essential services. It is the objective of the Council to expand these services in 2003 and ensure efficiency and effectiveness wherever possible. The range of essential services has expanded in recent years and a growing demand for services such as car parking, waste disposal, good quality water and sewerage, must receive priority in allocation of resources.

Strategic Investments

The National Development Plan 2002-2007 provides this Council with the capital resources to deliver strategic investments within County Mayo. This Council has an extensive Capital Programme that will maximise the benefits from the National Development Plan.

Economic, Social and Cultural Wealth Creation

The adoption by the Council of the Economic and Social Fund in 2001 has ensured that greater balanced wealth is created throughout County Mayo. Projects such as the Ballina River Walk, Murrisk Lighting Scheme, Knockmore Community Centre Development, Louisburgh Town Improvements, Charlestown Arts and Library Centre, Claremorris Market Square, Ballinrobe Cornmarket, are some examples of this. This scheme is proposed to continue again in 2003.

Social Inclusion

The County Development Board, in the adoption during 2002 of its 10 Year Strategy for County Mayo, has provided a very ambitious and positive social inclusion policy, the details of which are given later in this Report. The Council's Housing Structural Repair Programme, the CLÁR Roads Programme, the Tertiary Roads allocations of recent years, the Rural Water Programme and Local Improvement Schemes, are all making a contribution to this social inclusion objective.

2003 is likely to be a difficult year financially as the challenges of improving services meet with increasing resource demands. However it is essential to keep the momentum in the county going, to keep Mayo moving forward, and to make Mayo matter when major investment decisions are being made nationally and internationally.

Local Government Fund

The allocation to Mayo County Council from the Local Government Fund for 2003 is €23,909,617 which is an increase of 8.4% on the allocation for 2002. A sum of €111,563 will be deducted from the 2003 payment in respect of an adjustment for 2001.

Pay

I have provided in the Budget for 25% of the estimated cost of Benchmarking with effect from 1st January 2002. I have also provided for increases known or likely to arise in 2003.

Capital

The Council's Capital Programme for 2003 is extensive and is part of the National Development Plan and in the next three or four years is likely to amount to over €100m per annum.

The expenditure profile in 2003 is likely to be:

Housing	€ 20m
Roads	€ 23m
Sanitary Services	€ 45m
Refuse Disposal	€ 5m
Fire Service	€ 1m
Piers/Harbours	€ 4m
Courthouses	€ 5m
Office Accommodation	€ 4m
Other	€ 5m
Total	€112m

SOURCES OF INCOME

The proposed revenue expenditure of €106,986,098 will be funded as follows:

	2003	2003	2002
	€	%	%
State Grants			
Road Grants	26,752,878		
Local Government Fund	23,798,054		
Higher Education Grants Recoupment	4,686,030		
Housing Grants / Subsidies	2,074,167		
Recoupment VEC Pensions	1,710,000		
Group Schemes	1,639,000		
Motor Tax Recoupment	1,582,871		
Miscellaneous State Grants	1,321,315		
Local Improvement Scheme Grant	1,310,409		
Community Projects	402,220		
Town Improvements	375,000		
Department of Agriculture – Veterinary	320,000		
Social Employment Scheme Grants	250,000		
	66,221,944	61.90	61.37
<u>Revenue Collection</u>			
Tip Head Charges	8,584,000		
Refuse Collection Charges	2,800,000		
Housing Loan Repayments	2,451,200		
Housing Rents	2,250,000		
Water Charges	1,837,861		
Landfill Levy	1,050,000		
Other Fees, Licences & Charges	718,820		
Planning Fees	645,000		
Waste Water Charges	545,000		
Swimming Pool Charges	414,000		
Fire Safety Fees	260,000		
Fire Service Charges	360,000		
	21,915,881	20.49	22.35
<u>Recoupment – Agency Works</u>			
Local Authorities	4,567,162		
Others	400,000		
	4,967,162	4.64	3.41
Pension Contributions	1,128,095	1.05	1.01
County Demand on Town Councils	1,654,460	1.55	1.67
Rates on Commercial Properties	9,225,601	8.62	9.44
Miscellaneous	<u>1,872,955</u>	<u>1.75</u>	<u>0.75</u>
	€106,986,098	100%	100%

EXPENDITURE AND INCOME BY PROGRAMME GROUP

HOUSING

General

2002 will be viewed as a watershed year in the housing service of Mayo County Council. The year saw continued high levels of activity in terms of housing provision and support services which was maintained while the service was decentralised from Castlebar to the seven electoral areas. The decentralisation involved a complex logistical operation. It required the enthusiastic co-operation and support of everyone involved and great credit is due to the staff of the Housing Section and the area staff for their work which allowed the transition to be made so smoothly.

Decentralisation of the Housing Service

As part of the *Programme for Better Local Government*, the Housing Service was decentralised to the seven electoral areas with effect from 6th August, 2002. This project involved a staff training programme, development of IT solutions to deliver a decentralised service, and the transfer of over twenty thousand files to the electoral area offices.

The following services are now available locally:

- Housing applications (Scheme and Rural Houses)
- Allocation of Council Houses
- Maintenance of Council Stock
- Applications for Housing Loans, Shared Ownership Scheme & Affordable Housing
- Applications for Essential Repairs Grants and Disabled Persons Grants
- Administration of Voluntary Housing Projects

The benefits of a decentralised service are being experienced by our customers i.e.

- Services are available locally
- Decisions are made locally
- Better access for customers to staff dealing with their case
- Benefits of Elected Members input through electoral area committees.

There has been a very positive feedback from customers on the devolution of the housing service to date. The customers perception of the service will be continuously monitored to ensure that initiatives to improve quality are identified and implemented.

Housing Construction

The Department's multi-annual programme 2001/2004 has allocated 350 new house starts (including Town Councils) to County Mayo. The following is a review of the housing construction programme for 2002/2003:

Starts.

A total of 171 'starts' were achieved this year-

- Knockthomas, Castlebar, Phase 2 - 63 no. units commenced on site in May. Anticipated completion of scheme is November 2003.
- Clare Island - 7 units commenced on site in March.
- Anticipated completion is March 2003.
- Ardnaree, Ballina - 71 no. units.
Contract signed Dec. 2002, with a start up on site in early 2003.
- Barrett Street, Ballina - 4 no. apartments currently under construction.
Anticipated completion is next March 2003.
- Currane, Achill - 6 no. units.
D.O.E.& L.G. approval to contract signing anticipated prior to Christmas.
- Swinford - 10 no. units currently under construction.
This is a turnkey development.
- Louisburgh - 10 units currently under construction.
This is a turnkey development.

Completions.

The following completions were achieved this year:

- Glenhest - 6 no. units, now occupied.
- Kilfian - 8 no. units, now recently occupied.
- Lough Mask Road - 2 no. units, now occupied.
- Knockthomas, Castlebar, Phase 1 - 56 no. units are now substantially complete. Contractor has confirmed a completion date of March 2003 for the entire scheme.

The following Turnkey developments were also procured this year –

- Clareville, Claremorris – 16 no. units, 8 of which are currently on offer as affordable units.
- Ballinrobe – 4 no. units, now occupied.

2003 Programme.

The following projects have received budget/tender approval and will commence on site in January 2003:

- Quay Hill, Westport – 1 no. unit. Contract to be signed.
- Boffin Street, Westport – 7 no. units. Contract to be signed.

The following projects are currently at Part 8 Planning stage and awaiting Department of the Environment and Local Government budget approval:

- Lucan Street, Castlebar – 4 no. units.
- St. Gerald's Court, Ballyhaunis – 20 no. units.
- Bunnacurry, Achill – 15 no. units.
- Aughagower – 10 no. units.
- Tooraree, Ballyhaunis – 4 no. units.
- Town Hall site, Charlestown – 6 no. units.
- Lough Mask Road – 2 no. units.
- Turlough, Castlebar – 2 no. units.

Part 8 documentation has been prepared on the following projects, which are to be advertised in January 2003:

- Fenian Row, Ballina – 6 no. units.
- Parkview, Charlestown – 4 no. units.
- Kilmaine – 6 no. units.

The following Turnkey developments are also under consideration:

- Crossmolina – 22 no. units.
This development is currently in the planning process and with the D.O.E.& L.G. for approval.
- Balla – 5 no. units. This development is currently under negotiation with Mayo Co. Council. Construction work is well advanced on site.

The following sites have also been identified for inclusion in the 2003 programme:

- Moygownagh – 4 no. units.
These units will be provided as an extension to the existing scheme. Lands currently within Mayo County Council ownership.
- Peter Street, Westport – 15 no. units. Land in question subject to C.P.O., which has recently been confirmed.
- Saleen, Castlebar – 15-20 no. units.
Lands within Mayo Co. Council ownership.
Awaiting approval of Draft Area Action Plan.
- Cherryfield, Ballyhaunis – 2 no. units.
Demolition and reconstruction proposed for specific tenants.
- Bog Road, Ballinrobe – 4 no. units.
Existing site to be investigated regarding the possibility of providing 4 new units for specific tenants.
- Kelly's Site, Newport – 10 no. units.
Housing to be integrated in Area Action Plan to be prepared for site by nominated Consultants.

The following sites are currently under negotiation:

- Binghamstown – 6 no. units.
- Rossport – 6 no. units.
- Corclough – 6 no. units.

The projects scheduled above represent a possible 187 'starts' in the year 2003.

Rural Houses

Rural houses are provided by Mayo County Council for approved applicants who meet the eligibility criteria, i.e. cannot provide accommodation from own resources, are long-term residents of the area, have a suitable site available that they are willing to transfer to Mayo County Council, etc. To-date in 2002, **18** rural house have been completed and occupied by the persons for whom they were constructed. A total of **90** additional applicants have been approved.

Assessment of Housing Needs

The statutory Assessment of Housing Need was carried out on 29th March, 2002. The assessment identified a net housing need of **749** as compared with a net need of **734** identified when the last assessment was carried out in 1999.

Breakdown of Housing Need by Electoral Area:

Ballina	-	103
Ballinrobe	-	58
Belmullet	-	156
Castlebar	-	183
Claremorris	-	89
Swinford	-	94
Westport	-	66

The demand for affordable housing is predominantly centred in the larger urban areas.

Housing Policy

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee met on five occasions during the year. The topics discussed during the year included the Voluntary Housing Sector, the Homeless Strategy, and the Review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan. The work of the Strategic Policy Committee has accorded an opportunity for a number of sectors to make a positive input into the development of County Council Housing Policy. The benefits of this approach will be seen in the years ahead and I would like to thank the Chairman of this Committee and each member for their valued contributions.

Maintenance

The Planned Maintenance Programme for Council housing stock got underway this year with the completion of the Ballinrobe electoral area and the tendering of work in the Castlebar and Claremorris electoral areas. The programme will move to the Belmullet and Swinford electoral areas in 2003 and Westport and Ballina in 2004.

The programme will ensure that every tenant will have a satisfactory standard of accommodation, that the Council's investment in the housing stock is protected, and that expenditure on response maintenance will reduce over time. I have provided the sum of €450,000 to ensure that the housing maintenance programme continues to provide an effective service to our tenants countywide. This provision includes the cost of maintenance of the Council's Traveller Halting Site in Castlebar.

Voluntary Housing Programme***Completions achieved in 2002***

Western Care	-	50 units
Carracastle Voluntary Housing Association	-	6 units

Schemes in Progress

Ballyhaunis Social Housing	-	21 units
Lacken Housing Association	-	6 units

Schemes at Planning/Approval

Kiltimagh IRD	-	8 units
Ballycastle Housing Association	-	9 units
Irish Wheelchair Association, Belmullet	-	14 units

Homeless Strategy

The draft Homeless Strategy was adopted by the Council at the December meeting. The Council will work with the Homeless Forum, The Western Health Board, and the Voluntary Housing Sector to secure the implementation of this Strategy. There are two principal issues to be dealt with:

- Transfer of the provision of accommodation from the Community Welfare service of the Western Health Board to the Council.
- Reduce reliance on Bed and Breakfast accommodation in the medium term by sourcing a network of self-catering units using the Voluntary Housing Sector.

Disabled Persons and Essential Repair Grants

Background

The number of grant applications under these schemes has increased significantly over the past number of years. Nationally, applications under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme increased by 250% in the period 1996 – 2001.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government are carrying out a review of the operations and financing of the schemes, as at present it is demand led and causes difficulty in reconciling demands and available resources.

A number of Local Authorities are also carrying out reviews of the operation of these schemes at county level.

Current Position - Mayo County Council

In Mayo the combined level of applications for assistance under the schemes have increased by 120% since 1999 when applications totaled 312. The total number of applications to date this year is 690 and the breakdown is as follows:

Table A

		2000	2001	2002 (to 29/11/2002)
Essential Repair Grant	Applications	278	295	253
	Approved	103	94	108
Disabled Persons Grant	Applications	443	464	437
	Approved	242	262	319

The position with regards to the finances of the scheme is outlined in Table B

Table B

	Grants approved & not claimed at 31/12/2001	Approvals 2002 (Inc. pending)	Payments 2002 at 31/11/2002	Liability at 31/12/2002
Essential Repair Grant	€ 347,600	€ 800,671 (150,000)	€ 253,533	€ 894,738
Disabled Persons Grant	648,800	1,724,732 (300,000)	856,438	1,517,094
Totals	996,400	2,525,403	1,109,971	2,411,832

Total Liability Anticipated at 31/12/2002	2,411,832
Approvals exceeding 2 years at 31/12/2002	250,000
Projected Liability	2,161,832
Finance Required.	
• Exchequer	1,441,221
• Mayo County Council	720,611
Exchequer funding will be subject to confirmation of allocation from the Department of Environment and Local Government.	

Future

I am including a sum €1,201,000 (€1,001,000 in 2002) in this years Budget to deal with the backlog of claims to the end of 2002, with particular emphasis on the Essential Repairs Grants backlog. An examination of approvals on hand will be undertaken so as to consider if:

- Approvals over two years old (i.e. before 1st January 2001) can be decommissioned.
- Approved applicants are still in need.

A full report will be brought before the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration and subsequently before the Council in 2003 for approval.

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

The lengths of the various categories of roads in County Mayo are as follows:

National Primary Roads	135.8kms.
National Secondary Roads	271.3kms.
Regional Roads	590.1kms.
Local Roads	<u>5,475.0kms.</u>

Total **6,472.2kms**

In 2002 the total of Grants available for maintenance and improvement of these Roads was €45,909,035 broken down as follows:

1.	National Road Grants (both primary and secondary)	€23,758,000
2.	Restoration Improvement Grant for Non national Roads	€ 8,897,000
3.	Restoration Maintenance Grant for Non National Roads	€ 3,310,000
4.	Discretionary Improvement Grant for Non National Roads	€ 1,361,000
5.	Discretionary Maintenance Grant for Non National Roads	€ 1,610,000
6.	Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€ 133,350
7.	Non National Special Improvements for Non National Roads	€ 3,529,000
8.	CLÁR Grants	€ 1,787,000
9.	Department of Rural Community and Gaeltacht Affairs Grants for Gaeltacht Strategic Roads.	<u>€ 1,523,685</u>
Total		€45,909,035

The 2003 Grants are not available and the Estimates have been prepared using the 2002 allocations. The Rates Provision for 2003 is €3,970,000 which represents an increase of €204,450 or 5.4% on the 2002 provision.

National Primary Roads (135.8Kms.)

The Grants for the National Primary Roads for 2002 were broken down as follows :

Knock / Claremorris Bypass Phase I & II	-	€13,968,000
Major Schemes, Planning and Design	-	€ 1,770,000
National Primary Pavement	-	€ 1,500,000
National Primary Maintenance	-	€ 1,272,000

Phase I (Claremorris Bypass) was open to traffic in 2001 and works are now complete on the Claremorris Streets which was partly funded from the National Roads Authority Grant.

Phase II (Knock Bypass) was open to traffic on 16th December 2002 and the Scheme is now substantially complete. Work will continue on landscaping etc. until March, 2003.

National Roads Planning / Design.

The Grant of €1.77m was used to advance planning on the following major Projects in the County and the position on each of these Schemes is set out hereunder:

- **N26 Carrowntreila – (Ballina – Bohola, Stage 1).**
Length is 4.74 KM
Estimated Cost is €15.6m
Comment – Land Acquisition in progress. Tree felling Contract in progress.
N.R.A. approval has being sought to go to Tender for the Main Scheme.
- **N5 – Castlebar – Westport**
Length is 15.2 KM. – This Scheme extends from Knockaphunta in Castlebar to Sheeaune on the approach to Westport .
Estimated cost is €54.3m
Comment – The C.P.O. (Compulsory Purchase Order) and E.I.S. (Environmental Impact Statement) are now ready for publication but N.R.A. approval is required to proceed to this stage.
- **N5 – Charlestown Bypass**
Length is 18 KM – This Scheme extends from the end of the Swinford Bypass to the Roscommon Mayo County Boundary west of Ballaghderreen .
Estimated cost is €54.6m
Comment - C.P.O./E.I.S now ready for publication, subject to N.R.A approval.
- **N26 – Ballina – Bohola, Stage 2.**
Length is 19 KM
Estimated Cost is €57.1m
Comment – C.P.O. / E.I.S. will be ready for publication by mid 2003.

Now that the Claremorris Bypass Scheme is complete it is hoped to commence the main Contract on the Carrowntreila Scheme during 2003.

N.R.A. approval has also been sought to the publication of the C.P.O.s for the Castlebar-Westport and Charlestown Bypass Schemes and we are hopeful that approval will be forthcoming to progress those Schemes to this Stage during 2003.

National Secondary Roads (271.25km)

The 2002 National Secondary Improvement Grant of €3.2m was primarily for pavement works on the Secondary Network and it is anticipated that this Grant will be renewed at about the same level for 2003.

Regional and Local Roads.

The Non-National Grants for the year 2002 were broken down as follows:

Restoration Improvement Grant	€8,897,620
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€3,310,000
Discretionary Improvement Grant	€1,361,000
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€1,610,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grant	€133,350
Specific Improvement Grant	€3,529,000
CLÁR Grants	€1,787,000
Strategic Roads – Gaeltacht Areas	€1,520,000
TOTAL NON-NATIONAL ROAD GRANTS	€22,147,970

CLÁR grants totaling €1,787,000 were received in 2002. Of these Grants €1.14m was for Tertiary Roads in the CLÁR Areas and these Grants allowed the Council to carry out valuable work on 60 roads with a total length of 73 km in the CLÁR Areas. The Grants for Strategic Roads in the Gaeltacht Areas were expended on Schemes as follows:

Scheme	Grant
<i>Strategic Roads Phase 1</i>	
Aghleam-Belmullet	300,000
Glenamoy-Carrowtigue	300,000
Mulranny-Achill	300,000
Tourmakeady	300,000
<i>Strategic Roads Phase 2</i>	
Aghleam-Belmullet	270,000
Glenamoy-Carrowtigue	<u>50,000</u>
Total	1,520,000

Local Improvement Schemes.

The 2002 Grant for L.I.S. Schemes totalled €1,310,409. In addition a CLÁR top-up Grant was received for L.I.S. Schemes in the CLÁR Areas. All of these Schemes were carried out in accordance with the Policy on L.I.S. adopted at S.P.C. and Council level.

Public Lighting.

Discussions are ongoing with the E.S.B. regarding the replacement of the mercury Public Lights and completion of the replacement programme is targeted for 2003 and 2004. There was no allocation for Traffic Route Lighting on the National Roads for 2002.

Motor Taxation

Income – Mayo Motor Tax 2001

	<i>Income</i>	<i>No. of Transactions</i>
Vehicle Taxes	€15,150,000	85,000
Driver Licenses	€360,000	18,000
Arrears	€368,000	6,000
Vehicle Testing	€60,000	5,000
Others	€46,000	4,000

€15.6m has been collected as at the 30th November, 2002. The motor tax rates have not changed since April 2001 and this would account for the 2002 income being similar to that of 2001. The 12% increase from 1st January, 2003 will have a corresponding impact on the amount of revenue received from Motor Tax. This income is lodged direct to the Local Government Fund.

The cost of providing the Motor Tax service for 2001 was €955,453. This cost is deducted from the Motor Tax income prior to it being transferred to the Local Government Fund.

Mayo County Council's commitment to improving the quality of service to it's customers was further progressed with the commencement of the Motor Tax service in the County Council Area office in Belmullet in August 2002. This project has been very successful and the introduction of the Motor Tax service to Ballina in early 2003 will provide our customers throughout the county with a more accessible service.

March 2002 saw the introduction of a new computer system - the National Vehicle Driver File to Mayo Motor Tax. We are now directly linked to the national database and can access any driver or vehicle file in the country. The system provides the necessary links to enable cashiers in Belmullet to operate as part of the set up in Castlebar. The system is being continuously revised and upgraded in conjunction with the Motor Tax Offices. The system is essential to the introduction of the Penalty Points System.

Driving Licences current in Mayo at 31/12/2001

Provisional	12,781
Annual	167
3 Year	5,224
10 Year	42,725

Driving Test Pass Rates in Mayo

	Cars	Commercial
Ballina	59.3%	65.5%
Castlebar	53.8%	75.2%
National Average	54.3%	68.5%

Numbers who sat Driving Test in Mayo

Ballina	1496
Castlebar	3201
Total	4697

Numbers of New Vehicles first licensed in Mayo

1991	2,063
2000	5,937
2001	4,216
2002	4,610

Total Numbers by category registered in Mayo in 2001

Private	39,847
Commercial	7,547
Agricultural Tractor	4,084
General Haulage	81
Motor Cycles	412
Exempt	399
SPSV	317
LPSV	252
Others	718
Total	53,657

Road Safety

Road Safety for 2002 while concentrating on traditional area of activity, expanded into the working with local groups and schools.

The Promotion of Road Safety in the Primary Schools

The first activity is supporting Gardai visiting school to promote Road Safety and other issues such as drug abuse. The Council provides posters, leaflets and armbands for distribution among the pupils. The Council continues to have a very good working relationship with the Gardai in this area.

Junior Warden Scheme

There are 2 Junior Schemes in the county which continue to operate during 2002. The junior warden schemes are both located in Ballina - Scoil Padraig, Pound Street and Girls National School, Convent Hill. As always a new team of wardens take over each year. They are usually selected from 5th & 6th class pupils. Training is provided by the local Gardai and scheme has been very successful. The only regret is that it has not been possible to extend it to other schools, mainly because:

1. Quite considerable sight distance is required in relation to the school location and this is not always possible.
2. In addition, parents are very wary of permitting their children to participate.
3. Another reason is the distance of the crossing from the school. In order to minimise the disruption in classes, the junior warden has to be allowed out from class early to take up their position and subsequently return late after lunch because of the need to cater for "stragglers", thus the further the Wardens have to travel to the class the longer it takes. It is difficult to extend the scheme - however every opportunity to promote the Junior Warden Scheme with the schools is availed of.

Great tribute must be paid to the support and enlightenment of both the parents and the staff in Scoil Padraig & The Girls National School, Convent Hill. Again the Council has a good working relationship with the schools.

D.R.L. Campaign

The Council is aware of the need to raise the profile of road safety in the County and has embarked on the D.R.L. Campaign. This deals with driving on dipped beams during day light hours and the official term generally referred to is **Daytime Running Lights**. Specially commissioned signs have been erected at the entrance to the County on all of the national roads and the feedback so far has been positive. A public campaign was organised in the local press and we will continue to use local radio and press to support it.

National Safety Council - "Staying Alive" Promotion

The "Staying Alive" promotion campaign for 2nd level schools is a specific programme devised by the National Safety Council, to involve 2nd level schools in promotion of road safety and generally the examination of road safety problems.

The material is in fact a teaching module aimed at transition year students in secondary schools and can be used by the teachers for road safety and for other activities as well. The main approach is to identify road safety issues in the local area and to set up small project teams among the pupils to carry out research and document and publish their findings.

Two Mayo schools have so far shown interest in this approach and will be encouraged to develop projects in this area. It is hoped that again with continued promotion it will be gathering support for this very worthwhile initiative.

Road Safety Web Site

The County Council is in the process of developing a separate web-site for safety and which will include a very significant amount of material on Road Safety and this can be used as a resource for 1st & 2nd level schools and for the promotion of road safety generally. It is expected that substantial progress in this area will be achieved by early 2003.

Road Safety Together Plan

The Road Safety Together Plan is being implemented by the Council with the support of the Road Safety Together Committee. The Road Strategic Policy Committee was fully updated on the Road Safety Plan and on the work of the Road Safety Together Committee. This plan is due for review in 2003.

Road Accident Statistics - Mayo

<i>Year</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>	<i>Injuries</i>
2001	8	289
2000	11	385
1999	13	374
1998	17	330
1997	12	438
1996	15	339
1995	16	279

WATER AND SEWERAGE

2002 saw further improvements in the county's Sanitary Services. Over €50 million will be spent on new schemes this year. Over the past seven years over €140 million has been expended on Capital Schemes. The value of works in progress and in planning is in excess of €200 million at current day prices.

Hereunder is a list of:-

- ❑ **Schemes completed in 2002.**
- ❑ **Schemes in progress.**
- ❑ **Schemes at Tender Stage.**
- ❑ **Schemes at Contract Document Stage.**

Schemes Completed in 2002

1. Westport Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.
2. Belcarra Sewerage / Sewage Disposal Scheme.
3. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Stage 3, Tourmakeady, Sludge Dewatering Plant.
4. Cong Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.
5. Bohola Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.
6. Ballina Main Drainage Scheme - Extension to Crofton Park.

Schemes in Progress or Due to Commence by 31st December, 2002.

1. Crossmolina Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.
2. Ballycroy Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.
3. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme, Stage 3, Claremorris to Knock and Ballyhaunis.
4. Knock Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.
5. Knock International Airport & Industrial Park Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.
6. Ballyhaunis Water Supply Augmentation Scheme and Extension to collection network.
7. Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme.

Description of Schemes Completed by 31st December, 2002

1. Westport Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.

This Scheme provides for a new sewage treatment works and pumping stations. It also involved the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater collection system in the town. Extension of pipelines to cater for existing and future development in the environs of the town were carried out. The new treatment works helps improve the quality of the receiving water in Clew Bay and also caters for future industrial, commercial and domestic needs of the town. The Scheme, estimated to cost €45m, commenced construction in September, 1999 and will be commissioned in late 2002.

2. Belcarra Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.

This Scheme provided for the construction of a wastewater Treatment Plant to cater for Belcarra village. It involved pipelaying in the village and allowed for connection of existing developments which were served by septic tanks to the new Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme. The Scheme constructed will enhance the quality of water in the Manulla River (which is a Tributary of the Moy River) and will allow for future development in the village. This scheme was funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Small Schemes Programme at a cost of €0.9 million.

3. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 3, Tourmakeady Sludge Dewatering Contract.

The Sludge Dewatering Plant is required to permit coagulated settlement and involves the provision of a coagulant sludge dewatering facility at the Treatment Works at Tourmakeady. The quantities of sludge to be dewatered exceed the sludge drying bed facilities currently available even at commencement of the Stage 3 extension. The Contract also included a new Raw Water Balancing Tank at the works. The scheme at a cost of €1.5 million commenced in February, 2001 and was commissioned in 2002.

4. Cong Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.

This Scheme provides for the upgrade of the Cong Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme. The capacity of the existing Scheme had been operated to the limit of its potential and had become overloaded. The upgrade of the Treatment Plant will allow for future Domestic and Commercial and Tourist Development in Cong which is a major Tourist location in County Mayo. It will also benefit the quality of water in the Cong river and Lough Corrib. The Scheme at a cost of €2 million was funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Rural Towns and Villages Initiative.

5. Bohola Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme

This scheme provided for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to cater for Bohola Village. It involved pipelaying in the village and allowed for the connection of existing developments which were served by septic tanks to the new Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme. The scheme constructed will enhance the quality of water in the two streams adjacent to Bohola (both of which are tributaries of the Moy River) and will allow for future development in the village. The scheme is funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Small Schemes Programme and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the CLÁR Programme at a cost of €0.80 million.

6. Ballina Main Drainage Scheme - Extension to Crofton Park

This scheme involved the extension of the existing public sewer at Gorteens, Ballina. The extension of the pipeline is to cater for existing and future Developments in the Crofton Park area of Ballina. The scheme is funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Small Schemes Programme at a cost of €0.20 million.

Schemes in progress or due to commence by 31st December, 2002

1. Crossmolina Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme

The Scheme provides a new Sewerage Treatment Works, Pumping Stations and also involves the replacement and extension of sewers in Crossmolina. The new Treatment Works will help improve the quality of the receiving waters in the Deel River and Lough Conn and will also cover for future industrial, commercial and domestic needs of the town. The Scheme will help the quality of water in Lough Conn which is one of the County's main angling lakes and is a very important tourist attraction. The Scheme, estimated to cost €9 million commenced construction in May, 2001 and will be commissioned in 2003.

2. Ballycroy Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme

This scheme provided for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to cater for Ballycroy Village and a proposed new Visitor Centre for Ballycroy National Park. It involved pipelaying in the village and allowed for the connection of existing developments which were served by septic tanks to the new Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. The scheme constructed will enhance the quality of water in the Tallagh River and will allow for future development in the village. The scheme is co-funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under the Small Schemes Programme and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the CLÁR Programme at a cost of €0.40 million.

3. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Stage 3, Claremorris to Knock and Ballyhaunis.

This phase of the development of the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme involves the laying of 70 kilometres of pipeline from Claremorris to Knock and from Knock to Ballyhaunis. Reservoirs are being constructed at Barnacarroll, Irishtown and Knock. The Scheme also involves the construction of a pipeline from Hollymount to Carras (Ballyglass extension). The Scheme being constructed at a cost of €30 million is being funded by the Department of the Environment and Cohesion Fund of the European Union. It will, when constructed, allow for the future development of domestic, agricultural and industrial development in Knock, Ballyhaunis and their rural hinterlands. It will also allow for the connection of Private Group Water Supply Schemes to the Public Water Supply Mains.

4. Knock Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

This Scheme provides for the upgrade and extension of the existing Sewer Network in Knock and the construction of a modern Wastewater Treatment Plant. This will allow for future development of commercial and domestic needs in Knock. Knock as a major Marian Shrine will benefit from the construction of this new Scheme. It will also improve the quality of the water in the Yellow River which is a tributary of the Moy. The Scheme at a cost of €10 million is being funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under its Water Services Major Programme. The Scheme is nearing completion and will be commissioned in 2003.

5. Knock International Airport and Industrial Park Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

This scheme provided for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to cater for Knock International Airport and Industrial Park. It involved pipelaying and connection of the Airport and the existing Industrial Units which were served by septic tanks to the new Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. The scheme constructed will allow for future development of the Airport and the Industrial Park. The scheme is funded by a loan raised by Mayo County Council.

6. Ballyhaunis Water Supply Augmentation Scheme and Extension to Collection Network

This scheme provided for the construction of a new pumphouse and pumping equipment, rising main, storage reservoir and renewal of the existing distribution system. The scheme, when completed, will provide improved water quantity, pressure and storage for existing and future residential, industrial and commercial development.

The existing sewage collection network was also extended to serve existing housing at the peripherals of the town and to provide for further development. The estimated total cost of the scheme will be €11.5 million and is funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government under its Water Services Investment Programme 2002 - 2004.

7. **Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme**

The receiving waters (Castlebar River) have experienced significant difficulties in recent years as a result of the pressures imposed on the town wastewater collection and disposal system. Discharges or untreated stormwater flows are common with the result that water quality in the river has suffered.

Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme, costing an estimated €40 million will provide for:-

- ❑ Extension of foul and surface water sewers to serve new growth areas of Castlebar and Environs.
- ❑ Remedial work to existing sewers which have deteriorated over time.
- ❑ Elimination of storm overflows which have resulted in a decline in water quality on the Castlebar River.
- ❑ Upgrading and extension to Castlebar Wastewater Treatment Works to cater for the short term (immediate requirements up to 2005) and the long term (up to 2020 and beyond) requirements of Castlebar and Environs.
- ❑ The extension of treated outfall to confluence of Castlebar and Manulla Rivers.

Castlebar Environs Sewerage Schemes Contracts		
Investigation Contract No. 1	Manhole Survey & CCTV Investigation	Completed
Investigation Contract No. 2	Sub Soil Investigation Contract	Substantially complete
<i>Construction Contracts</i>		
Contract No. 1	Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme - Proposed Sewers, Surface Water Pipelines and Pumping Stations – Civil Works Contract	Contract Documents
Contract No. 2	Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme - Pumping Plant Contract	Contract Documents
Contract No. 3	Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme - Treatment Plant Contract (Design Build And Operate)	Contract Documents

Contract No. 5	Castlebar Environs Sewerage Scheme - Sewer Rehabilitation Contract	In progress
<i>Advanced Contracts</i>		
Contract No. 1A	Moneen Industrial Estate Advance Section	Constructed
Contract No. 1B	Ballinrobe Road Development and Saleen	Constructed
Contract No. 1C	Westport Road (Road Crossing)	Constructed
Contract No. 1D	Kilkenny Cross	Constructed
Contract No. 1E	Newtown Separation System	Constructed
Contract No. 1F	Castlehill Pumping Station to Castlebar Treatment Works	Constructed
Contract No. 1K	Roundabout at Aldi	Constructed
Contract No. 1M	Treated Effluent Outfall	CDS approved
Contract No. 1N	Brambles Development	CDS approved
Contract No. 10	Turlough Road to Treatment Plant	Constructed

Schemes at Tender Stage

- (a) Erris Regional Water Supply Scheme - Extension to Glenamoy.

Schemes at Contract Document Stage

Water Schemes

1. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Srah to Westport.
2. Ballina Regional Water Supply Scheme 4 A - Extension to Crossmolina.
3. Ballina Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 3 - Ballina Town Distribution and Storage.
4. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Extension to Shrulle and Kilmaine.
5. Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme - Kilmaine Water Towers.
6. Knock Airport Water Supply Scheme.

Sewerage Schemes

1. Ballina Main Drainage, Stage 2.
2. Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme.
3. Killala Sewerage Scheme.
4. Lahardane Sewerage Scheme.
5. Doogort Stage 2 Scheme.

Water Charges

Provision has also been made for recoupment of the capital cost of Sanitary Services under the Polluter Pays Principle. The Polluter Pays Principle requires the Council to recoup the capital and revenue costs of sanitary services from non-domestic users. The capital cost in 2003 is estimated at €3 million and will require to be raised by way of a 20 year loan. The repayments of this loan will become a charge on all non-domestic users. To determine the database of non commercial users and to meter their supply will require considerable resources in 2003 and provision is made for this in the cost of non-domestic supply charges. The new rate per 1000 gallons is proposed as €3.90 – an increase of 25% on 2002.

Improvements were made in the water and sewerage network during 2001 and funded from the Council's own resources. The estimated cost of these works is €152,000. It is important that small improvements such as these are continued and a further provision has been made in 2003 for such works. This provision is a capital transfer from development charges.

Serviced Land Initiative/Provided Services to Land for Development.

In December, 1997 the Minister for the Environment and Local Government announced the establishment of a special fund to part finance the Local Authority Water and Sewerage Schemes providing services to open up land for development. The Government has provided £15,000,000 over a three year period commencing in 1998. Local Authorities are required to provide the balance through borrowing and development charges on planning permissions making an overall investment of €48 million on the schemes.

Mayo County Council has received approval for schemes at the following locations:-

1. **Ballina Main Drainage/Surface Water Sewer – Killala Road**
Total Cost: £1,112,500
No. of Housing Units: 648 **(constructed 2001)**

2. **Ballina Main Drainage Scheme/Surface and Foul Sewer – Swinford Road.**
Total Cost: £625,000.00
No. of Housing Units: 504 (constructed 2001)
3. **Mulranny Water Supply Augmentation Scheme**
Total Cost: £424,271.00
No. of Housing Units: 344 (constructed 2001)
4. **Newport Water Supply Augmentation Scheme**
Total Cost: £578,183.00
No. of Housing Units: 280 (constructed 2001)
5. **Ballinrobe Sewerage Scheme - Extension on Castlebar Road**
Total Cost: £446,206.00
No. of Housing Units: 376 (constructed 2000)
6. **Ballinrobe Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, Ext. to Cornaroya.**
Total Cost: £1,274,000.00 (Dependant on development commencing)
Commercial and Housing Development (Unlikely to commence)
7. **Louisburgh Sewerage**
Total Cost: £140,000
No. of Sites: 125 (constructed)
8. **Louisburgh Sewerage Scheme – Extension to Westport Road**
Total Cost: £307,408.00
No. of Housing Units: 315 (constructed 2002)
9. **Shrule Sewerage Scheme – Extension on Dalgan Road**
Total Cost: £250,000.00
No. of Housing Units: 252 (constructed 2002)
10. **Killala Water Supply Scheme**
Upgrading of Reservoir delivery main
Estimated Cost £180,000
No. of Housing Units: 180 (constructed 2001)
11. **Foxford Water Supply Scheme**
Upgrading of Treatment Plant
Estimated Cost: £120,000
Application March, 2000
No. of Housing Units: 115 (constructed 2002)

12. **Mulranny Sewerage Scheme**
 Upgrading of Sewage Treatment Plant
 Estimated Cost: £120,000
 Application March, 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 115
 (to be constructed 2003)

13. **Kilkelly Water Supply Scheme**
 Upgrading of Source intake
 Estimated Cost: £80,000
 Application March, 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 90
 (to be constructed 2003)

14. **Ballycastle Sewerage Scheme**
 Upgrading of Sewerage Treatment Plant
 Estimated Cost: £180,000
 Application March, 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 75
 (constructed in 2002)

15. **Balla Sewerage Scheme**
 Upgrading of Sewerage Treatment Plant
 Estimated Cost: £80,000
 Application March, 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 110
 (to be constructed 2003)

16. **Charlestown Sewerage Scheme**
 Extension of Collection Network
 Estimated Cost: £110,000
 Application March 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 80
 (to be constructed 2003)

17. **Cong Water Supply Scheme**
 Upgrading of storage capacity
 Estimated Cost: £250,000
 Application March 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 120
 (to be constructed 2003)

18. **Ballindine Sewerage Scheme**
 Upgrading of sewerage treatment plant
 Estimated cost: £145,000
 Application March, 2000
 No. of Housing Units: 120
 (constructed 2002)

19. **Ballycastle Water Supply Scheme**
 Upgrading of water supply network
 Estimated Cost: £226,800
 Application 2002
 No. of Housing Units:
 (to be constructed 2003)

Group Water Schemes

Mayo County Council is responsible for functions previously executed by the Department of the Environment in relation to the establishment and administration of Group Water Schemes throughout the County. This provides an additional opportunity for the Council to further the cause of subsidiarity, working hand in hand with local communities in the provision and maintenance of that most basic service – a potable water supply.

Group Water Schemes are found primarily in rural areas generally not served by a public water supply, and are privately owned, operated, and maintained. There are approximately 325 such Schemes in operation in County Mayo.

Mayo County Council have set up a County Monitoring Committee and appointed a Liaison Officer. The primary challenge faced by all parties involved in rural water supplies in Ireland is to ensure that the quality of the water supplied to consumers complies with the EU Directive on Drinking Water Standards.

Strategic Rural Water Plan

The Strategic Rural Water Plan constitutes a blueprint for the future development of rural water supplies in County Mayo and facilitates the focusing of investment where it will have the most beneficial effect. The Plan has been prepared in full consultation with all interested parties. The emphasis in the early stages of the Plan is on dealing with the poor water quality problems in the privately sourced Group Water Schemes approximately 90 of which are seriously deficient. Funding can then be concentrated on upgrading pipework, reservoirs etc.

The next few years will see the construction of a significant number of treatment plants on privately sourced Group Water Schemes. It is likely that the relatively new Design, Build, Operate (DBO) procurement process will increasingly be used to engage contractors for this work as it permits the Groups to avail of a 100% grant for the treatment equipment. This will bring about an important change in the way potable water is produced in privately sourced Schemes as the operation of the treatment plants will be in the hands of private companies/contractors although the Groups involved will still own the facilities. The estimated cost of the works identified in the Plan is £61 million (€77.45 million).

Take-over of Group Schemes / Necessary Improvements

Enquiries regarding take-over of Schemes have been received from a number of Groups. These applications will be assessed on the basis of existing water quality and reliability of supply among other criteria. Schemes proposed for take-over were shortlisted by the Council. Details of the Schemes taken in charge during the programme are listed in the attached tables.

Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Supply Schemes

This scheme allows for the payment by Local Authorities of an annual subsidy towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes in supplying water for domestic use. The objectives of the scheme are to secure the improvements of rural water supplies and to extend the benefits of the abolition of Local Authority domestic water charges to households supplied by Group Schemes. It is important that all Group Schemes avail of their Subsidy entitlements. Mayo County Council encourages all Schemes to apply for Subsidy payments to assist them in the efficient running of their water supplies.

Grants for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house.

This Scheme was introduced to assist households dependant on private individual water supplies who are incurring capital expenditure to:

- Provide a piped supply of water for domestic purposes for the first time, or
- Remedy serious deficiencies in an existing supply of water for domestic purposes.

This scheme does not apply to houses to which a Public or Group Scheme Water Supply has already been, or can be, reasonably provided. 294 applications have been received to date.

Design / Build / Operate (D.B.O.)

The first bundle of Schemes for improvement of water treatment facilities using the D.B.O. process has been put together. Eleven Schemes have agreed to use the D.B.O. process namely, Ballycroy, Ballyglass/Carnacon, Brackloon/Spaddagh, Drummin, Glencorrib, Glenhest, Killeen, Kilmeena, Kilmovee, Lough Mask/Creavagh, Laghta.

A further two Schemes viz. Bohola and Belderrig have agreed to obtain prices for the operation and maintenance of their production installations for a period of 20 years.

Expressions of interest have been invited from suitably qualified Engineering Consultancy firms to the role of Employers' Representative. Following interview the successful Firm will commence work immediately.

Upgrade of Group Water Schemes - Pilot Treatment Plants

Group Water Scheme:

- Belderrig
- Bohola

New Schemes / Upgrading of Existing Schemes

Construction Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Rathkip▫ Ballyglass / Carnacon▫ Crimlin / Ross▫ Kilcummin▫ Midfield

Construction in Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Glencorrib▫ Cultrasna▫ Cloonalaghan▫ Hollymount / Kilrush

Tender Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Tooreen / Aghamore▫ Gurteen / Carrowkeel▫ Bekan

Design Approval Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Manulla▫ Tiernaur▫ Killasser▫ Lakehill▫ Rathnacreeva▫ Carrowreagh

Preliminary Report Stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Logboy▫ Carras▫ Briska▫ Keenagh

Castlebar Regional Training Centre

The year 2002 brought about the official opening of Castlebar Regional Training Centre, which was officiated by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D., on 13th September, 2002.

It also brought the announcement of a €1.6 million expansion programme for a Non-National Roads Training facility at the Centre. Work will continue on this expansion programme throughout 2003 with an expected completion date of January 2004.

The Centre continues to deliver an effective and efficient training service to its constituent Local Authorities of Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo and Roscommon. It also continues to deliver on its primary aim, which is the training of personnel in the Group Water Schemes Sector in each of these counties.

The Training Centre in association with the Institute of Public Administration is also continuing its delivery of the Bachelor and Master of Arts Programmes in the areas of Public and Local Government Management, as well as similar programmes in the area of Healthcare Management typically aimed at Health Boards. In doing this, the Centre is achieving its aim of becoming a centre of “life-long learning”.

To date the Training Centre has provided the following services:

- ❑ Training to all levels of Local Authority personnel;
- ❑ Training to Group Water Schemes;
- ❑ A broad range of courses/seminars for all levels of Local Authority Staff;
- ❑ Further Education opportunities, working with the Institute of Public Administration;
- ❑ Venue rental - an opportunity for outside organisations to use the modern facilities available at the Training Centre.

During the period January – December 2002, Castlebar Regional Training Centre has delivered approximately **180** training courses and seminars. This has resulted in the delivery of over **2,000** training days during this period.

Working with the constituent Local Authorities, FÁS and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, the Training Centre is currently scheduling courses for the year 2003, taking into consideration the training needs of the personnel involved. The costs of the Training Centre are fully recouped from the Course users.

Coca Cola

Atlantic Industries commenced operations at Ballina in 1999 and since then there has been an increase in production and employment at the Plant. Mayo County Council and Ballina Town Council co-operate closely with the Company to provide the required infrastructure, i.e. roads, water and waste water treatment. The Company is a major ratepayer to both Local Authorities. A special waste water treatment plant was provided by the Council and the capital cost was entirely funded by the Company. The Company recoups the Council the operating costs of the waste water treatment plant which in 2003 will amount to €545,000.

<i>DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROL</i>
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Planning Applications 1994 – 2002.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Applications</i>
<i>1994</i>	<i>1,376</i>
<i>1995</i>	<i>1,673</i>
<i>1996</i>	<i>1,946</i>
<i>1997</i>	<i>2,331</i>
<i>1998</i>	<i>2,918</i>
<i>1999</i>	<i>3,357</i>
<i>2000</i>	<i>3,317</i>
<i>2001</i>	<i>3,004</i>
<i>2002</i>	<i>2,365</i>

The Planning Office of Mayo County Council has registered 2,365 planning applications in 2002. This will result in a decrease on the year 2001 caused by:

- (a) a decline in the numbers of applications for larger housing developments due to the provisions of Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000;
- (b) the boundary extensions of Castlebar, Ballina and Westport encompassing areas formerly under Mayo County Council control and where substantial numbers of planning applications were made,
- (c) more stringent validation procedures resulting in less invalid applications on hand.

The commercial and industrial sectors applications have continued to remain strong. Applications of this nature if and when granted not only provide much needed employment themselves, but also act as a catalyst to generate and support further development in the regions where they are located. They form part of the platform from which the county can harness and develop the resources in an environmentally friendly way. They provide much needed employment and stability for local communities and help bridge the infrastructure deficit to allow us compete for investment and employment. Mayo County Council has been involved in the two Oral Hearings for the proposed Oil Terminal and has dealt with numerous new commercial applications through the year. The result of this Oral Hearing is awaited.

The planning section has had substantial investment in computer equipment throughout the year of 2002 to help ensure that a timely and effective service be maintained and improved under the requirements of the present legislation and this will proceed apace in 2003.

Review of Development Plan.

Mayo County Council has over the past year being through the early stages of the review and making of a new County Development Plan. Public consultation meetings were held in various towns throughout the county. A draft County Development Plan has gone on display within the past month and submissions to be received in the New Year. A new County Development Plan is due for adoption in 2003. Expenditure on the review and preparation of the Development Plan reflects the much more complex plan making process.

2003 will also see the preparation of Local Area Plans utilising the work undertaken in the Integrated Area Plans and the preparation of village plans.

Car Parking

The Council adopted a County Retail Strategy, which forms part of the County Development Plan for County Mayo at its September Meeting. One of the elements of this Strategy is to improve the retail potential of the towns and villages of County Mayo for commercial purposes. Car parking is an ever increasing difficulty facing these towns. As set out earlier in this Report, over 53,000 vehicles are registered in County Mayo. In order to respond to the car parking needs of our towns it is proposed to set aside €1,000,000 from planning development charges as an initial investment. This will need to be increased in future years, probably by borrowing with repayments coming through parking fees and progressive traffic management policies. A report considered by the Council during 2002 outlined the need for car parking in towns/villages, scenic areas and graveyards. This report will form the basis of the programme to be considered by the Areas at their regular meetings.

Mayo Naturally

With 2002 drawing to a close we can report a slow recovery from the international shock of September 11th 2001. While the World Tourism Organisation has reported little change in international tourist arrivals over the past two years there has been significant changes in the structure of international tourist demand with increased intra-regional and domestic travel at the expense of inter-regional trips.

Tourism Ireland the new all-Ireland tourism promotion body set up under the Belfast Agreement reports that international arrivals to the island of Ireland declined in 2001 by 3.5% resulting in Ireland losing share within a global and European context. The forecast outcome for 2002 based on data to Nov 02 is a 2% growth in visitor numbers.

The residual effect of September 11th in particular has restricted air access capacity to Ireland and consumer attitude to holiday travel, which in turn has limited Ireland's potential to achieve higher growth this year. The outlook for 2003 appears good with Aer Lingus and American Airways recently announcing new route development to the US and the new MytravelLite Knock - Birmingham route a most welcome development with the potential for 50,000 passengers in 2003. The economic conditions in our source market are encouraging. Interest rates remain low, inflation is generally under control, consumer confidence is improving and commodity prices are also relatively low although fuel prices are somewhat volatile.

On the other hand any further military escalation of the US-Iraq conflict could damage the outlook for travel to Ireland in 2003. In addition tourism in Ireland has suffered a deep deterioration in price competitiveness since 2000, due largely to rising inflation. In addition there are concerns emerging in respect to service and product quality.

Mayo Naturally continues to provide a value-added service to the tourism trade.

Trade Marketing Committee

The Trade Marketing Committee continues to meet throughout the year to share experiences and discuss promotions, competitions, journalist visits and to give input to a range of promotional material. The group consists of Mayo trade who are actively involved in tourism marketing.

Promotions

In 2002 Mayo Naturally organised and/or staffed eleven different consumer promotions, involving forty-one days of promotion and plan approximately the same number for 2003 - dependent on trade demand. These promotions took place both within Ireland and internationally and are jointly financed by Mayo Naturally, Ireland West Tourism and trade partners.

Familiarisation Trips

In conjunction with Bord Fáilte's publicity department Mayo Naturally organised twenty-eight familiarisation trips by overseas trade and media representatives from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Britain, Norway, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Japan, Canada, and the Mainland USA. These trips allow the media to experience and report on the wide variety of holiday options available and results in a good deal of positive publicity.

RTE's 'No Frontiers' travel show filmed in 2001, was aired on 22 January 2002 and was very well received with the featured accommodation and attractions experiencing increased inquiries and bookings as a direct result.

Two further national television features were filmed and aired as a result of Mayo County Council's "Spirit of Place" project in North Mayo. Mayo Naturally assisted in the co-ordination of a "Nationwide" piece with Jim Fahy and an "About the House" piece with Duncan Stewart.

Mayo Naturally was also successful in the organisation of a special "Nationwide" feature from Hennigan's Heritage Farm in Killasser, near Swinford.

Advertising

The policy in relation to advertising continues to be placing adverts only where copy on Mayo will also be featured. The photo CD-ROM is still available to publishers, tour operators and journalists for use in newspaper or magazine articles and promotional literature. Early in 2003 we will introduce a new photo library service to our website where images can be viewed on-line and purchased through Mayo Naturally.

In 2002 with additional assistance from Mayo County Council, Westport Town Council, Castlebar Urban District Council and Ballina Urban District Council we ran a series of area-specific adverts on National and Northern Irish radio stations.

In 2003 we will design a series of season & holiday specific full colour print adverts with corresponding articles, which will run at different times throughout the year.

Internet

Mayo Naturally's main site - www.visitmayo.com - is undergoing a complete re-design and will come on-stream early in 2003. In the meantime the existing site is still on-line and being updated in-house on a weekly basis. The new site will be largely database driven and will feature the new on-line searchable photo library.

An e-mail database will be developed and visitors to the website can sign-up to receive a bi-monthly newsletter which will feature special offers, new product information, access information, etc.

Knock - Birmingham Route

In March 2003 Mayo Naturally & Ireland West Tourism will organise a special trade initiative to target the Birmingham & Northern England holidaymaker market with a special emphasis on golf, angling and incentive groups.

The provision for Mayo Naturally in the 2003 Budget is €100,000. This is enhanced by Bord Fáilte, trade and other income.

Urban and Village Enhancement Programme

2002 Allocation

The 2002 Town & Village Enhancement programme directly financed by Mayo County Council with part funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government was satisfactorily completed, with the following works undertaken –

Towns / Villages:

Westport	Restoration of the 'North Mall' including the provision of decorative paving incorporating limestone kerbing.
Louisburgh	Restoration of Bridge Street including the provision of decorative paving with limestone kerbing, street furniture and suitable tree planting.
Foxford	Restoration of the Main Street including the provision of decorative paving with limestone kerbing, street furniture and tree planting.

Turlough Village	Restoration of the Village centre incorporating the provision of decorative lighting, and under grounding of services.
Achill Sound	Provision of Decorative Public Lighting and under grounding of services.
Aughleam	Provision of Public Lighting and under-grounding of services.
Killawalla	Planting of Trees and provision of Public Lighting.
Ballintubber	Restoration of 'stone walls' in the area in conjunction with footpath improvements.
Ballyglass	Suitable tree planting.
Kilkelly	Rehabilitation of the local Tennis Courts.
The Quay, Ballina	Landscaping works and provision of Street Furniture.

The total cost of works was budgeted at € 508,000.00, of which the Departmental Grant accounted for € 275,000.00, leaving a balance funding of € 233,000.00 by Mayo County Council

2003 Allocation

The 2003 Town & Village Enhancement Programme has already been outlined by the relevant Directors Of Services, consisting of the following proposed works : -

Towns / Villages:

Ballina	Revitalisation and enhancement of the 'Market Square' including the provision of decorative paving, under-grounding of services, decorative street lighting, street furniture and suitable tree planting.
Belmullet	Provision of decorative Public Lighting along the canal and on the approach road from Ballina, including the under-grounding of services.
Kilalla	Completion of 'Phase II' of refurbishment and enhancement of the pedestrian access to 'Round Tower' in the town centre.
Ballinrobe	Refurbishment and enhancement of the 'Cornmarket' including the provision of decorative paving, under-grounding of services, decorative street lighting, street furniture and suitable tree planting.

There are also plans for the provision of additional Public Lighting, under-grounding of services and suitable Tree Planting Programmes for the follow villages: -

West Region	Mulranny Ballycroy Belderrig
Castlebar / Claremorris	Ballyheane Belcarra Glenhest
Ballina / North East Region	Carracastle Knockmore Midfield

Community Development

2003 is the year of the Special Olympics in Ireland. Nine towns in County Mayo will host participants and as a contribution to this worthy event a contribution of €5000 per town is included in the Budget. The relevant towns are:

- Newport
- Swinford
- Kiltimagh
- Claremorris
- Ballinrobe/Clonbur, with the Town Councils of Westport, Castlebar and Ballina.

The developing role of the Community and Enterprise Section

The Community & Enterprise section of Mayo County Council provides a range of new and innovative interventions and services within the Local Government system.

The areas of work include;

- The Community & Enterprise section services the County Development Board (CDB). In this regard the 10-year Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development of Co. Mayo was published last July. The Implementation Plan, which accompanies the Strategy, sets out 320 actions covering a broad range of all facets of development in Mayo. Implementation Groups have been designed to co-ordinate the delivery of these actions.
- The section also makes submissions on a range of policy issues on behalf of Mayo CDB.
- The section acts as a co-ordinating link between the local government and local development systems and the Community & Enterprise section plays a strategic role in promoting social inclusion within the local authority and the local community.

A Social Inclusion Pilot Project has been established in Kilmore Parish in Erris, which has been co-funded by the Combat Poverty Agency through the Erris Local Development Programme. Two other local Pilot Projects are planned for Hollymount and Clare Island.

- The section is developing and leading the community development function within Mayo County Council. Community & Enterprise provides the necessary skills and has the capacity to develop stronger consultation and participation mechanisms in partnership with the other Directorates of the Local Authority, and has already been well utilised in this regard by some of the other Directorates within Mayo County Council.
- The section has facilitated the rollout of the CLÁR initiative in the County – information and advice is provided as requested on an on-going basis.
- The section has established and continues to service other issue-based fora. These include the Disability Forum, the Traveller Inter-Agency Forum, the Sports Forum, the Arts Forum, the Travellers Forum, the Islands Forum, the Rural Development Forum, the Older Person's Forum, the Youth Forum, the Energy Forum, the Transport Forum and the Tourism Forum. A number of new structures will be established in 2003 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Strategy.
- The section plays an important role in addressing the support needs of local communities. A partnership arrangement with other local agencies will see the delivery of training, capacity building and other supports to community and voluntary groups within the County.
- The section facilitates the 7 electoral Area Community Fora. Meetings are held every two months throughout the County. The current registration of community groups has recently risen above 600. The section produces a regular community newsletter.
- The Community & Enterprise section also provides information on a regular basis to the Area Committees of Mayo County Council.
- The County Community Forum brings together representatives of each of the local area fora, and is facilitated by the Community & Enterprise section. Members of the County Forum are facilitated in representing the community & voluntary groups on a number of other structures.
- The Community & Enterprise section is available to assist members of Mayo County Council in their work with local communities by providing advice, direction and support as requested by the members.
- The section has assisted the pre-development phases of a number of projects funded under the Social & Economic Fund, and provides an essential advisory and development role after the capital phase of the project.

- The section has collected and analysed much information and data relating to Mayo and continues to update and map information relevant to the development of the County.
- A *Comhairle na nOg* will be established in 2003 in accordance with the requirements of the National Children's Office.
- The section plays a lead role in the rollout of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- The section facilitates the Mayo Sports Partnership and the County Childcare Committee as sub-structures of Mayo County Development Board.
- The section has an important emerging role in co-ordinating service delivery by all Agencies throughout the County.
- The section will lead and co-ordinate the development of a Play Policy for Mayo County Council in 2003.
- The Community & Enterprise section in 2003 will also provide inputs on the County Strategy and other policy issues to the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) if and when requested.
- The Community and Enterprise section has also been involved in a number of successful applications for EU funding, including current projects under the Social Inclusion Programme and the Culture 2000 programme.
- The section was also involved in successful funding applications by other Mayo agencies for projects such as the Rural Transport Initiative and the Erris Primary Care Project.
- The section is also participating in the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership project.

Mayo County Childcare Committee

- The aim of the County Mayo Childcare Committee is to develop a society which cherishes the individual child by providing a range of quality, fun filled, affordable child care services suitable to the individual needs of all children, while also meeting the needs of the parents.
- The Mayo County Childcare Committee was established through the Department of Justice. The Committee elected to become a sub-structure of Mayo County Development Board, under the leadership of Mayo County Council.
- Mayo County Council on behalf of the County Childcare Committee are in the process of appointing staff, who will have responsibility for advising Community groups on establishing childcare facilities as needed throughout the county.
- The Childcare Co-ordinator will report to the Director of Community & Enterprise.

- The Childcare Co-ordinator will also have an advisory role in relation to the development of a play policy for the County.
- The work of the County Childcare Committee is funded by the Department of Justice through ADM Ltd.

Local Area Social Inclusion Group – Kilmore Pilot Project

Members:

- Local Councillors
- County Manager's nominee
- Member of Area Office Staff
- Representative of Garda Síochána
- Representative of the Society of Vincent de Paul
- Local Development Programme
- Western Health Board
- Representative of Neighbourhood Watch
- Udaras na Gaeltachta
- Western Care
- Teagasc
- Nurse
- Meitheal Maigh Eo
- Local publican/shop owner

Mayo County Council, through its Office of Community and Enterprise, has established a Local Area Social Inclusion Group in the parish of Kilmore on the Erris Peninsula. The aim of this Group is to address poverty and social exclusion in the area, with the co-operation and support of relevant agencies and organisations. The Committee will, of course, operate on a confidential basis due to the nature of the work. One of the most important functions of the group is to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination at the local level. This plays an important role in avoiding overlap and, crucially, allows gaps in service provision to be identified and tackled. In addition, it is hoped that in certain instances it might be possible to have a degree of flexibility in relation to agency rules in the pilot area. This is an attempt to make National Policies more locally appropriate.

Issues raised by members of the Group to be dealt with include:

- need for after hours services, especially in the health sector;
- growth of impersonal information services, e.g. touch tone phone services;
- suicide issues;
- need for drop-in/community centres;
- closure of local services, e.g. post-offices, travelling shops;
- visiting professionals not living locally;
- childcare issues, including parent & toddler groups;
- facilities for young people and women's groups;
- simplification/facilitation of application forms;
- issues affecting rural areas – planning, rural viability, lack of transport, depopulation, etc
- literacy issues.

The Group has been allocated a grant of €10,000 from the Combat Poverty Agency to assist in establishing this pilot initiative and to compile a report on its work.

The Director of Community and Enterprise is also in discussions with the Local Development Programme of South West Mayo Development Company with a view to establishing similar Pilots in Hollymount and Clare Island. These additional Pilots will serve as useful comparisons with what is happening in the Kilmore parish.

At the moment staff of the South West Mayo Development Company are engaged in preliminary work on the establishment of these local groups. It is crucial that local knowledge is used in the preliminary stages of establishing these groups so that it is possible to identify the most relevant make up of the group. As the situation is distinctly different from area to area it is essential that a thorough process be engaged in to ensure that the group established is best placed to deal with local issues and the needs of local people.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

“Everybody thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself”

.....Leo Tolstoy

Mayo County Council has in the past number of years made great strides in environment awareness and improvements within the county.

Environmental Awareness

January 2002 – December 2002:

Primary Schools Programme

Thirty- two primary schools have been visited. All classes were visited within these schools. Presentations consisted of the showing of a waste management video, followed by a talk on litter, recycling, waste reduction, composting and water conservation. All children were given information leaflets and booklets to take home to their families.

Each of these schools has been offered a compost bin free of charge.

Secondary Schools Programme

Visits to eleven secondary schools have being carried out. The classes visited varied depending on requests.

They were either first years, CSPE classes or transition years. The secondary school presentations consist of the showing of a video on recycling and composting. This is followed by a presentation on litter/recycling/waste reduction and composting. Many of these schools are carrying out projects on environmental issues and they were provided with advice and information for their projects. These schools were also offered compost bins free of charge. A schools environmental education pack was designed in 2002. This consists of information on litter, recycling, waste reduction, composting and water protection. This pack was distributed to all schools for the attention of first year students. It is also distributed on request to other classes.

Constant liaison takes place with teachers both in secondary and primary schools in an effort to raise environmental awareness among young people.

Green Schools Programme

All primary and secondary schools have been encouraged to join the Green schools programme. 19 schools joined the programme in 2002. At present there are 50 schools registered for the Green Schools programme. This includes 5 secondary schools. Three schools were awarded the Green flag for environmental achievement in May 2002. A further 3 schools have applied for their Green Flag in December 2002. This brings the total of Green Flags in the county to 10. A green schools information evening was held in partnership with An Taisce in Castlebar in November 2002. This seminar was aimed at the registered schools only with the aim of assisting the schools in their Green Schools Programme.

Community Groups Programme

Presentations have been given to 20 community groups/organisations in 2002. Most of these involved presentations on the Connaught Waste Management plan with an emphasis on litter awareness, shopping for the environment, reuse, recycling and safe disposal of hazardous waste. Information leaflets were distributed and contacts were made for the provision of new recycling locations.

Distribution of information

Information leaflets on waste, recycling, civic amenity centre, composting, blue flag beaches and a wide range of environmental topics are regularly sent to all area offices/libraries and tourist offices. Information is also issued daily in response to telephone, written and e-mail requests from the public.

Environmental Awareness Week (October 2002)

From 14th -18th October 2002 Mayo County Council came together with Midwest Radio to hold Environmental Awareness Week as part of the Department of the Environment and Local Governments campaign "*its easy to make a difference*". A number of items featured during the week including interviews on recycling, composting, shopping for the environment and hazardous waste collection.

Midwest Radio also recorded interviews with the children from St. Joseph's Secondary school, Castlebar and Holy Angels National school, Clogher.

Westport Tidy Towns and Mayo County Council litter wardens also contributed to the week by giving interviews to raise awareness to litter. Competitions were run throughout the week with an environmental theme. Snippets of environmental information were given throughout the week promoting use of Mayo County Council recycling/ composting facilities and these are run on a continual basis whenever slots are free on the radio.

Promotional material

To enhance environmental awareness promotional information is issued to schools and community groups. These include button badges, pencils, cotton bags, poop scoops and litter pickers.

Composting display/promotion

A composting display was designed and has been displayed in various locations. All area offices are supplied with information to distribute with compost bins. In conjunction with "Ad Displays" a composting advertisement has been developed and is on display in three of the local Credit Unions. This advertisement takes the form of a full colour moving display.

Recycling awareness campaign

The number of recycling facilities for recycling glass, textiles and aluminum cans is constantly increasing. As new centres are put in place local schools and community groups are visited. Information is distributed to suitable outlets on use of the facilities including school, churches and shops.

Staff Education

To build on staff environmental awareness which took place in 2001, a special education pack was designed and distributed to all staff of Mayo County Council in the summer of 2002. This pack offered advice on all the facilities available in the offices of Mayo County Council such as the hazardous waste collection and office paper recycling scheme. It also offered general environmental information on waste, recycling, litter and water pollution. To further enhance staff education a Green Team of representatives from area offices and other Mayo County Council offices was put in place in 2002. This allows for more efficient distribution of information.

Media

Radio interviews, press releases and advertising is carried out on a regular basis with local media.

Web site information

The environment section of the Mayo County Council web site is upgraded on a regular basis.

Environmental Grants

17 applications were received under the Local Environmental Partnership Fund 2002. Of these nine projects received funding. 11 applications were received under the Anti-Litter Awareness Grants 2002. All of these projects were funded. These 20 projects are monitored regularly to ensure successful completion.

News Letter

Two editions of "Environmental News" was designed and distributed to all homes in Mayo in 2002. This newsletter informs the public of recent developments in waste management in the county as well as educating the public on issues such as hazardous waste, litter, backyard burning and recycling.

Business

An information leaflet on packaging waste was issued through Ballina Chamber of Commerce to all of their members. This was in follow up to a talk on packaging waste given to a Waste Seminar organised by Ballina Chamber of Commerce. Information on waste collectors of various wastes and recyclables is issued to businesses in Mayo that wish to set up recycling schemes.

Christmas Campaign

In January 2002, a Christmas Card recycling campaign was organised to coincide with the Christmas tree recycling campaign. A total of 228,000 Christmas cards were recycled in Mayo in January 2002.

Hazardous Waste Collection

A mobile hazardous waste collection unit has visited the towns of Castlebar, Swinford, Ballina, Ballyhaunis, Westport, Belmullet, Claremorris and Ballinrobe in 2002.

National Spring Clean

114 community groups/schools took place in National Spring Clean 2002. All schools were invited to participate in the programme and all registered groups were issued with information, bags and gloves.

In 2003 it is expected that 3 new Enforcement/Awareness Officers will be recruited under a DOE & LG Scheme and it is hoped that the 2002 programme will be expanded through the 3 regional areas. The cost of this programme is recoupable at a reducing rate over ten years.

Cleaner Community Awards

Mayo Cleaner Community Campaign continues to show an increase in popularity, with the numbers significantly increased in 2002 in each category.

The 5 categories in the Cleaner Community Campaign in 2002 were as follows:

Cleaner Community Awards 2002:

Category 1 - Local Area Environment Project

This category is open to organisations, community groups etc., who undertake an Environmental Project in their local area. The interest being shown by local communities in taking responsibility for the enhancement of their own Environment is to be lauded. A total of 21 entries were received in this category for 2002.

<u>Overall Winner</u>	(1) Barnacarroll Community Council.	€450
	(2) Murrisk Development Association.	€320
	(3) MURRCO Murrevagh Conservation & Development Co-Operative.	€195

Electoral Area Winners

Castlebar	Ummoon Straide Village Dev. Company Ltd	€130
Ballina	Ballina Tidy Towns Committee.	€130
Claremorris	Barnacarroll Community Council.	
Ballinrobe	Partry Residents Association	€130
Swinford	Bohola Development.	€130
Belmullet	Belmullet Swimming Club.	€130
Westport	Murrisk Development Association	

Category 2 - Tidy Housing Estate

This category is open to Residents Associations who endeavour to maintain their Housing Estates to a high standard throughout the year. This category continues to be popular with the Residents Associations, with 15 no. applications received this year. There is a good mix between the mature estates, who continue to achieve high levels of maintenance and the newer ones, where the maintenance requirement is of a low level at present.

<u>Overall Winner</u>	(1) Seaside Estate, Belmullet.	€450
	(2) Lui na Greine & Barr na hAille, Claremorris	€320
	(3) Greenhills Estate, Ballina.	€195

Electoral Area Winner

Ballina	Greenhills Estate, Ballina.	
Castlebar	Greenfields Estate, Pontoon Road, Castlebar.	€130
Claremorris	Lui Na Greine & Barr na hAille, Claremorris.	
Westport	Cois Abhainn, Louisburgh.	€130
Ballinrobe	Abbey View, Ballinrobe.	€130
Belmullet	Seaside Estate, Belmullet	

Category 3 - Tidy Schools

This category is open to all schools in the county who are invited to submit plans for works proposed, litter awareness programmes etc. In 2002, 29 no. applications were received, a slight increase on the 27 no. applications received in 2001.

The efforts which teachers and pupils are putting into Environmental Awareness Campaigns and projects are to be commended.

<u>Overall Winner</u>	(1) The Neale Primary School, Ballinrobe. €450
	(2) Holy Angels N.S. Clogher, Claremorris. €320
	(3) St. Fechin's N.S. Attymass, Ballina €195

Electoral Area Winners

Castlebar	Holy Angels N.S. Clogher, Claremorris.	
Ballina	Crossmolina N.S. Crossmolina	€130
Westport	Cluain Damn/Cloondaff N.S. Glenhest, Newport.	€130
Swinford	St. Fechin's N.S, Attymass. Ballina.	
Ballinrobe	The Neale, Primary School Ballinrobe.	
Belmullet	St. Deirbles N.S., Belderrig.	€130
Claremorris	St. Brigids N.S., Tooreen.	€130

Category 4 - Litter Clean-Up Award

This category is open to all schools in the county and management/student committees are invited to submit plans of work proposed, litter awareness programmes etc. A total of 14 applications were received in this category for 2002.

<u>Overall Winner</u>	(1) Westport Tidy Towns Committee. €450
	(2) Ballycastle Tidy Towns. €320
	(3) Clogher Environmental Group. €195

Electoral Area Winners

Ballina	Ballycastle Tidy Towns.	
Castlebar	Clogher Environmental Group.	
Ballinrobe	Ballyglass Foroige Club.	€130
Swinford	Foxford Approach Roads Clean-up Committee	€130.
Belmullet	Belmullet Tidy Towns.	€130
Westport	Westport Tidy Towns Committee.	
Claremorris	Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee	€130

Category 5 - Tidy Burial Ground

This is the 2nd year for this new category which was introduced to promote participation by local communities in the upkeep and maintenance of their local burial grounds.

Community Groups are now actively involved in the maintenance of their own burial ground as can be seen from the increased number of applications (i.e. 23). Local community committees can be justified in feeling a sense of satisfaction and pride for the work they have carried out in their respective areas. Almost 55% of the Burial Grounds throughout the county are now being maintained by local community groups and Mayo County Council is greatly encouraged and appreciative of the input by local groups.

<u>Overall Winner</u>	(1)	Roundfort Burial Ground, Hollymount.	€450.
	(2)	Toomore Burial Ground, Foxford.	€320
	(3)	Ballyhaunis Burial Ground.	€195

Electoral Area Winners

Swinford	Toomore, Foxford.	
Ballina	Leigue, Rathkip, Ballina.	€130
Westport	Killeen Cemetery, Carrowniskey Westport.	€130
Claremorris	Ballyhaunis.	
Ballinrobe	Roundfort	
Belmullet	Cornboy/Kilgalligan	€130

It is hoped again that the number of local communities participating in the awards Scheme will increase in 2003.

Waste Management

“Eventually we’ll realise that if we destroy the ecosystem, we destroy ourselves.”

... .. Jonas Salk

Recycling

In 2001 there were 33 bring centers in the county. There are now 75 bring banks throughout the county and 50 more are envisaged for 2003 bringing the total to 125.

Civic Amenities Sites

The Civic Amenity site at Derrinnumera is fully operational and a further site is under construction in Ballina. Sites have been identified for facilities in Belmullet and Claremorris and it is hoped to commence construction on these sites in 2003.

Composting

Mayo County Council has to date sold at a subsidized rate over 4000 home compostors and will continue this progress in 2003.

Refuse Collection

This Council currently collects refuse from over 8000 domestic households. The cost of this collection has increased substantially over the past few years mainly due to labour costs and disposal costs. Collection of refuse in remote rural areas is expensive.

The rates of charge for 2002 are:

140 litre bin ... €177 p.a.

240 litre bin ... €279 p.a.

Larger bins are pro rata.

As the cost of collection is related mainly to the number of lifts it is necessary to re-adjust the pricing proposals for 2003 to reflect this factor and increased costs. It is proposed to charge as follows for 2003:

140 litre ... €260 - € 83 increase p.a.

240 litre ... €340 - € 61 increase p.a.

This cost is tax deductible at the marginal rate, where relevant.

In accordance with the Connaught Waste Management Plan, as adopted and the Packaging Regulations under the Waste Management Act 1996, a holder of packaging waste is required to make the waste available for recycling. A number of private Waste Collection Contractors provide this service. Early in 2003 the Council will cease to collect packaging.

It is hoped during 2003, again in accordance with the Connaught Waste Plan to introduce a separate collection of recyclables in Claremorris.

This Council has invested in excess of €25 million in developing state of the art landfill sites at Derrinnumera, Newport and Rathroeen, Ballina (due for completion in 2003). Both of these sites are licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency with very strict controls. The present charge of €123 per tonne (including Government levy) is being increased to €150 per tonne (including Government levy). All waste will be charged at this price.

This price reflects the need to provide for –

- Operation and maintenance of the licensed landfill sites.
- Operation and maintenance of two Civic Amenity Sites
- Operation and maintenance of 125 bring sites throughout County Mayo
- Operation of the Litter Control Programme.
- Operation of Environmental Awareness Programme.
- Operation of Cleaner Community Awards Scheme
- Operation of hazard waste collection Programme
- Loan charges on landfill and Civic Amenity Sites

Blue Flag Beaches

Mayo continues to have one of Europe's most unspoilt regions in environmental terms and this is borne out by the fact that Mayo County Council attained 13 Blue Flag Beaches in 2002. The two beaches which had lost the Blue Flag status in 2001 i.e. Clare Island and Keem, regained them in 2002 as the water quality had achieved the required standards.

Burial Grounds

It is proposed that improvements to Burial Ground in 2003 will be carried out at Crossmolina and Balla. An extension to the Burial Ground and provision of car parking was provided at Ballintubber in 2002.

There are at present 78 Burial Grounds throughout County Mayo being maintained by local committees. This arrangement is being actively encouraged by Mayo County Council who acknowledge and appreciate the works carried out by Community Groups, with the agreement of Mayo County Council.

Environmental Protection Agency

Mayo County Council through the Regional Laboratory of the EPA continue a substantial river and lake monitoring programme.

Mayo County Council also monitors and manages the public drinking water supplies, urban waste discharge, industrial discharge, bathing waters, and any pollution incidents in accordance with National and EU legislation.

Traditionally the monitoring of drinking water was carried out by the Western Health Board. It is intended in 2003 to seek out alternative proposals for this service which should result in reduced costs to the Council.

Waste Management

"The supreme reality of our time is the vulnerability of our planet"

... .. John F. Kennedy

Mayo County Council along with the other Local Authorities in Connaught made a Waste Management Plan in 2001. This plan requires a complete change in how we deal with our waste and embraces the Government's policy statement "Waste Management – Changing Our Ways".

This policy is firmly grounded in an internationally recognised hierarchy of options:

- Prevention
- Minimisation
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Disposal

The landfilling of our waste is the final option in the waste hierarchy. However, until such time as the required infrastructure to fully implement the Waste Management Plan is in place, interim measures had to be taken to provide for the environmentally safe disposal of our waste. To achieve this Mayo County Council applied to the Environmental Protection Agency for waste disposal licences for Derrinnumera and Rathroeen Landfill Sites. These were granted in December 1999 and October 2001 respectively.

Considerable infrastructural development has been required at the landfill sites in order to comply with the license conditions. The development of Derrinnumera Landfill Site included the construction of:

- Control building,
- Sheds,
- Weighbridge,
- Wheelwash,
- Leachate management system,
- Environmental monitoring controls,
- Cut-off wall around the perimeter of the old waste body,
- Lined cells for the disposal of waste,
- Civic amenity facility.

All these requirements have now being fulfilled with the first lined cell having been completed in 2002. Waste will be deposited into this new cell in early 2003.

The operation of the landfill follows best practise principles. Upon entering the landfill the origin and type of waste is identified. The waste is weighed and recorded. All waste is checked for compliance with the license conditions at the tiphead. Once deposited it is spread and compacted with a landfill compactor and covered at the end of each working day.

A Civic Amenity Facility is provided for the recycling of household waste. The waste types that can be recycled are:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Milk and Juice cartons
- PET, PETE, HDPE, PE, and PVD plastic bottles
- Glass bottles
- Plate glass
- Tyres
- Builders rubble
- Timber
- Scrap Metal
- Aluminium Cans
- Tin Cans
- Household batteries
- Car batteries
- Textiles
- Waste engine oil
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Waste Electrical equipment
- Fridges and freezers
- Waste paints
- Waste veterinary products
- Waste medicines
- Corrosives
- Waste pesticides
- Residual wastes for disposing in the landfill

The popularity of the facility, which has been widely praised, is increasing all the time. There are now in excess of 2000 users every month and it is hoped the number will further increase in 2003.

Rathroeen Landfill Site has required largely similar infrastructural development to that of Derrinnumera Landfill. This development work is ongoing and will be completed in 2003. Rathroeen Landfill site will have the second civic amenity site in the county and will take the same household wastes for recycling as those listed above.

Grants of €240,000 and €410,000 were allocated by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and work on these projects will be undertaken in 2003.

Fire Service

In 2001 (full year) the Fire Service had 1446 responses to incidents in the County.

Number and Type of Call-Outs for 2001

Chimney	409
Bog	117
Fires (structural)	131
Road Traffic Accidents	103
Flooding	28
Chemical Incidents (oil spillage)	57
Special Services	43
False Alarms	125
Miscellaneous	50
Motor Vehicle Fires	<u>53</u>

Total:- 1,116

Training.

Mayo County Fire Service provides an extensive training programme for all members of the service. The on-station training amounts to c 100 hrs. per year (2 hrs. / week) and this is augmented by specialist and refresher training. In 2002 the following courses were organised:

- 4 No. 2 day B.A. Refresher courses.
- 1 No. 3 day RTA Course.
- 1 No. B.A. Wearers Course.
- 4 No. Fire Behaviour Training Courses.
- 1 No. Recruit Course

Officers were also sent on courses organised by the Fire Services Council.

In 2003 we hope to continue with our extensive training programme with particular emphasis in training on the behaviour of fire e.g. fire flash-over training for fire fighters.

Capital

Mayo County Fire Service are expecting the delivery of 2 No. Class B fire appliance early in 2003 and a third new appliance in 2004.

In September of this year we wrote to the Department of the Environment and Local Government seeking approval to go to tender for 2 No. new appliances and we are awaiting a reply. On receipt of approval it will take approximately 18 months – 2 years to have these appliances delivered.

Achill Fire Station.

In early 2002 we made a submission to the Department of the Environment and Local Government seeking approval in principle for the construction of a new Fire Station in Achill Sound. Planning permission (Part X) was obtained during the year. The Department of the Environment and Local Government sought additional information in late November 2002 and this is currently being responded to. We have as yet not received approval in principle for this project but are optimistic of an early positive response.

Westport Fire Station.

In early 2002 we sought approval in principle for the development of a new purpose built Fire Station for Westport. The project is currently the subject of a planning application with Westport Town Council. Further information was sought by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and this was submitted in early December. We await a response from Westport Town Council and the Department of the Environment and Local Government in relation to this project.

Fire Safety Certificates.

Under the Building Control Act, 1990 a Fire Safety Certificate is required for works which fall within the scope of Part 111 of the Building Control Regulations, 1997. The number of Fire Safety Certificates is currently running at 200 – 250 per annum.

CAMP West Project.

The CAMP West project is currently approaching completion with site acceptance testing completed. Migration of the voice radio system is currently taking place in the various Fire Authorities. Discussions are currently taking place with the Unions in order to commence the recruitment process. Hopefully this will allow commissioning in early 2003.

It is proposed to defray some of the cost (€4,835,900) of the Fire Service by:

- (a) Increasing the cost of call-outs for chimney fires from €65 to €100 to recoup €30,000.
- (b) Charging for services to commercial and road traffic accident call-out to recoup €300,000 per annum.

Consideration will be given to a waiver of these charges where hardship is likely to occur.

RECREATION AND AMENITY

Swimming Pools

The three pools at Ballina, Claremorris and Castlebar contribute significantly to the quality of life of the inhabitants of Mayo and also to the tourist industry. They face increasing competition from new leisure facilities within the county.

The operation and maintenance is the responsibility of Mayo County Council and despite efficient management and almost full usage, a substantial deficit is incurred annually. Continuing promotion of the pools is necessary to ensure the maximum participation of the public during public sessions. The pools in Castlebar and Claremorris are recognised as being in need of refurbishment, modernisation or replacement. In the case of Claremorris the Consultants appointed to carry out the review have recommended the construction of a new pool and a detailed submission has been made to the Department for funding. In the case of Castlebar the appointed Consultants have a Preliminary Report ready for submission in regard to the new site adjacent to the Lough Lannagh Village Complex, early in 2003.

Turlough Park House

Despite being only in the second year of operation the Museum of Country Life and the associated gardens of Turlough Park House have already established themselves as one of the foremost attractions in the west of Ireland. During the first year of operation over 144,000 people visited the Museum.

Mayo County Council are responsible for the maintenance of the gardens. This is a substantial undertaking which requires considerable expertise and Mayo County Council has assembled an experienced team to carry out the work. Visitors to the Museum and Gardens comment very favourably on the extensive and well maintained gardens. I have included a sum of €180,000 towards the maintenance costs in 2003.

The National Museum will be making a contribution towards the upkeep of the gardens.

Augustinian Friary, Ballyhaunis

In May 2000 the Augustinians in Ballyhaunis made a decision to withdraw from the Friary in Ballyhaunis. In May 2001 they issued a press release outlining their commitment that the Friary would in future be used for the benefit of the people of Ballyhaunis and its surrounding areas.

The property consists of Church, Friary and 15 acres of land with a value in excess of €2 million and this is being leased to the Abbey Trust. This Trust is a partnership between Mayo County Council and Ballyhaunis Community Council. An Operational Committee has also been established to oversee the day to day development and the use of the facilities. This Committee consists of representatives of the Augustinians, Mayo County Council, Ballyhaunis Community Council, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, Western Health Board, Vocational Education Committee, FÁS, IRD Kiltimagh and Mayo Emigrants Liaison Committee. This Committee meets on a monthly basis and is leading the development of the facilities ensuring that the existing historical and spiritual history is maintained. Among the many possible uses being considered are:

- Town Park
- Cultural Heritage Centre
- Performance Area
- Arts Centre
- Childcare Centre
- Spiritual Haven

As an initial step a team of Architects has been appointed to advise on the development and use of the facilities. To date the Church has been used on a number of occasions for choral and musical performances and they have proved very successful. There will be substantial costs involved in the development and all the groups involved must contribute. Mayo County Council's local Area Councillors have allocated €127,000 from the Economic and Social Fund in 2002 towards the project.

I have included a further sum of €75,000 in the Budget as the County Council's contribution towards annual maintenance and running costs.

The objective of the Partnership is best summed up in their Mission Statement –
“To create with the local community, a Centre of Excellence and Innovation, where in the Augustinian tradition of community, hospitality and social inclusion, all who come here are made welcome and feel valued.”

There is considerable enthusiasm within the community for the development of the Centre, but the speed of development is dependent substantially on available finance.

County Library Service

The aim of Mayo County Library is to provide and promote books for the purposes of education, information, recreation and culture to the people of Mayo. Each year over 400,000 books are borrowed by 25,000 members from our twelve branch libraries and our mobile library.

Capital Development:

Branch Libraries

- A new library was opened in Kiltimagh in September. It includes Internet access, a homework area, a local history collection and a collection of educational tapes and videos.
- The new Achill Sound library in the One-Stop facility is at an advanced stage
- Plans for the extension of Castlebar library to include a new headquarters are ongoing and planning permission will be sought early in 2003.
- Planning permission has been received for a new library and museum in Ballina and the development is due for completion in mid 2003.
- The new library in the Granuaile Centre in Louisburgh has proved hugely popular trebling its membership in its first year. This library is one of the first in the country to utilise satellite technology to provide high-speed access to the Internet.
- Plans for a new library in the old hall in Charlestown are currently at an advanced stage and work will start in 2003.
- The library in Westport was refurbished and stocked with new books in 2002.
- The library in Swinford will be extended to service the increased demands of the town in 2003.
- A new community library will be provided in the old courthouse in Kilkelly.

In 2002 the number of books which borrowers can take on a visit increased from three to five. This was made possible due to the investment in book stock by the Council in recent years.

User Survey

The first ever national survey of public library users took place in 2002. The most prominent finding of the research was how widely libraries are used. **In one week there were almost 10,000 visits to libraries around the county.** Overall Mayo Library service was rated as good or very good by 91% of respondents. The knowledge and helpfulness of library staff was also rated very highly – well above the national average. Almost 80% of the visitors rated the physical condition of their library as good or very good. 68% of respondents viewed library opening hours as good or very good.

Information Technology

Mayo County Library was one of three libraries in the country selected for the National Cultural Heritage Project. The library will create a website, www.mayohistory.ie which will contain a collection of images and audio visual content on the history and culture of Mayo.

Internet Access

Internet access is available in all of the libraries in the county. A total of 50 public access computers are now provided throughout Mayo.

Computerisation of Branches

A programme of computerisation of all branches was initiated in 2001. This year the complete automation of all procedures including cataloguing, book issuing and overdue will be completed in Kiltimagh and Swinford branches.

Newspapers on CD ROM

A project to transfer all local newspapers to CD-ROM was initiated in 2001. The digitisation of the Western People was completed in 2002, thus making it available in branch libraries in the county for the first time.

Microsoft Libraries Online

The Libraries Online project in Castlebar Library continues to be an immense success. The multimedia computers, donated by Microsoft Ireland, are been used by over 20,000 people per annum.

Optical scanners for the blind

Optical scanners for the blind are provided in Ballina, Castlebar and Westport Libraries.

Wynne Collection on Web.

The Wynne collection of over 200 photographs of Mayo from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century will be made available on the Internet so that Mayo people from all over the world can access pictures of their home place and, if they wish, purchase copies.

Computers for the aged

A series "Introduction to Computers for the Elderly " was run in a number of libraries as part of the Bealtaine festival in May.

Computer Training

In 2002 a trainer was appointed in Claremorris library in conjunction with FÁS to introduce people to the basics of computers. This service had previously only been available in Ballinrobe Library.

Library Web Site

The library created its own website, www.mayolibrary.ie in 2001. The site is the most up-to-date library site in the country and allows members to renew their books or request books from home. To date, the site has had over 50,000 visitors.

Exhibitions

***Fairtrade Exhibition by Oxfam –
Westport and Castlebar library***

***Creative Reverie –
Exhibition of work by patients from the Sacred Heart Hospital- in Castlebar Library***

***Pictorial exhibition on Croagh Patrick pilgrimage –
Westport Library***

***A Mayo Moment photography exhibition –
Ballina, Ballinrobe and Belmullet Library.***

**Protecting the environment Exhibition –
Castlebar library**

**Artist Michael George Brennan Exhibition –
Castlebar Library**

**Youth Information Centre exhibition –
Castlebar Library**

***The Life and Work of Michael Davitt –
Castlebar and Claremorris Libraries.***

***PLC Students Art Exhibition –
Westport Library***

***Art Exhibition by Ellen Lefrak –
Westport Library***

***Mayo Energy Agency Exhibition –
Castlebar Library***

***Exhibition of recent acquisitions to the local history collection –
Castlebar Library***

***Renew, Refresh Recycle Exhibition –
Westport Library***

Exhibition on **The life and work of Gunter Grass** –
Castlebar Library.

The Guinness Book of Records –an exhibition –
Castlebar Library

Exhibition of old veterinary instruments –
Castlebar Library

Members of the public or groups who wish to exhibit private collections, hobbies or artwork are always welcome.

Cultural Activities

- **Songs and Stories about the Famine** – Lousiburgh Library
- Talk by author **Don Mullan** – Castlebar Library
- Reading by author **Aine Greaney** – Ballinrobe Library
- **Concert by Charlie Lennon** – Claremorris Library
- Reading by author **Re O’Laighleis** – Belmullet Library
- **Prehistoric Rock Art** – a lecture by
John Beckensall –
Castlebar Training Centre
- **Launch of Western Care Website** – Castlebar Library
- **Envirofest Launch and Talk on
Natural Heritage** – Castlebar Library
- **Launch of Out of the Shadows:
Emerging Secondary Schools in the
Archdiocese of Tuam, 1940-69,
by Fr. Kieran Waldron** – **Castlebar Library**
- **The Visual Landscape of Mayo:** - Art exhibition by Michael
Poynder – Westport
Library
- **Castlebar Neighbourhood Youth Project
on drug and alcohol abuse** – Exhibition of Sculptures
Castlebar Library
- **A Poetry Circle**, which meets fortnightly, ran in Castlebar library throughout the
year
- **A Reading Group** is held in Castlebar Library. The club, which has over 30
members, meets fortnightly to read and discuss books.
- Exhibits from the **Claremorris Open exhibition** - exhibited in Claremorris
Library
- **Writer’s Group** Meetings in Westport and Castlebar Library.
- **Open University Information Evenings** - Westport, Ballina, Swinford,
Ballinrobe and Castlebar Libraries.
- Launch of **Into the Quiet** stream – a CD of poetry by W.B. Yeats – Castlebar
Library
- An illustrated talk by photographer Chris Rayner – Castlebar Training Centre.

National Heritage Week

To mark Heritage Week in September, Castlebar Library put on display a variety of advertisements from local newspapers dating from 1890's up to the 1960's. The display also featured rare old photographs of Castlebar from the Wynne and Lawrence collections, as well as other unique views of the town. Included in the display was a street by street list of families in Castlebar in 1944. The library also ran a competition to identify the year a particular set of advertisements and photographs appeared in The Connaught Telegraph newspaper.

Eachtraí Cultúrtha

Bhí taispeántas speisialta de leabhair Ghaeilge do pháistí i leabharlann Chaislean Uí Bharraigh mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Tá an-chuid leabhair bhreátha sholáite ar fáil i nGhaeilge anois.

Donations

Mayo County Library is an approved Body under Section 484 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997. This means that tax relief at the marginal rate is available on donations of cash between £100 and £1000 to the library by individuals or corporations.

In 2002 the following donations were received:

- 1911 Census for Burrishoole parish –
donated by William G. Masterson, Indianapolis, USA.
- *The Lucan Papers (on the Bingham family)* –
donated by Library, University College Galway
- *The Stock papers (on Bishop Stock in 1798)-*
donated by Library, University College Galway.
- *Report of the Charlestown Heritage survey, 1997-1997* –
presented by Charlestown, Bellaghy and District Heritage Society
- *Peronnick The Fool* by George Moore, a limited edition, signed copy -
donated by The George Moore Society
- A collection of books, videos and C.D.s relating to Downs Syndrome –
presented by The Downs Syndrome Association
- A donation of €762 towards the purchase of books on women's health for the Achill Sound Library –
donated by Comhlacht Forbartha Aitiuil Acla (Achill Local Development Company)

- Print of Kate O'Rourke, postmistress, Ballinrobe and husband Thomas Fitzpatrick, businessman, Ballinrobe c. 1900 – donated by Kay Brennan, Pier Road, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.
- The Communion Book of Services of the Church of Ireland – presented by Dr. McCarthy
- Copies of correspondence from the Rev. John McGough, Lackagh, Co. Galway to Lord Kilmaine of the Neale, regarding tenancy of his family's farm near Castlebar; – also to Lord Kilmaine, agents on the same subject (also a copy of reply from Lord Kilmaine to Rev. McGough), 1857-1859 – donated by Peggy Concannon, Newport Road, Castlebar.
- A large collection of fiction and reference books – donated by Mary O Malley, Gortawalsh, Newport.
- *An Appeal to the Public by George Robert Fitzgerald, Esq.* (owned and corrected by Thomas Connolly), 1782
- The Career of George Robert Fitzgerald, better known as Fitzgerald the Fire-Eater, in the West of Ireland by Thomas Patrick Faulkner, 1893
- *The Trials of George Robert Fitzgerald and Timothy Brecknock, 1786* (authenticated by James Browne, Grand Juror) - Presented on behalf of William James Valentine Comerford, Solicitor, late of Tuam.
- *Law, Conflict and Social Order, County Mayo 1820-1845* – thesis by Desmond McCabe – donated by M. Gerard Flynn, Foxford.
- *Mayo and Beyond: Land, Domestic Industry and rural Transformation in the Irish West* – thesis by Eric Lucien Almquist, Boston University– donated by M. Gerard Flynn, Foxford

Mayo County Library made two major charitable donations during the year:

- A collection of books to the Irish army's Seventh Transport Company which were distributed to children in Kosova.
- A collection of books was also donated to the MS Foundation.

Acquisitions

Mayo County Library added a number of valuable items to its collection during the year:

- *1911 Census on Microfilm* - the complete returns for each household in the county showing occupants, ages and occupation.

- *History of the Irish Parliament, 1692 –1800*, in 6 volumes - provides vital information on Mayo peers.
- A collection of items and photographs relating to *Louis Brennan*, Castlebar born inventor.
- British Isles Vital Records Index CD ROM - contains 58,00 Births and Christening records for County Mayo.
- Prints from nineteenth century newspapers *The Illustrated London News* and *The Graphic*.
- *Index to the Townland Survey of the county of Mayo*, 1841
- A collection of material by *George Moore* including some privately printed limited editions.
- *La France & L'Irlande, Pendant La Revolution: Hoche et Humbert*, by E. Gullion, 1888.

Children's Activities

Numerous activities for children, such as storytelling, quizzes and competitions are held in all library branches throughout the year. Highlights this year included:

- Children's' author **Cora Harrison** visited national schools in the Belmullet area
- A series of children's events are run as part of the **Sonass Festival** in Louisburgh Library
- Events in all branches during **Children's Book Festival** in October.
- **Peig Pig** -Puppet show for children-Castlebar Library
- **Liam Farrell, children's writer** – in Westport, Ballinrobe and Kiltimagh libraries.
- **Mask making in Claremorris and Ballyhaunis Libraries.**
- The Big Bad Wolf Show – in Castlebar, Kiltimagh, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris and Crossmolina libraries.

Publications

Mayo Soldiers of World War 1

Mayo County library is compiling a record of people from the county who died in World War 1.

A draft list is currently on display in all library branches. It is planned to compile a list for each town and district in the county and publish a book containing the names of the soldiers.

A Mayo Moment

The *Mayo Moment* photography exhibition ran throughout the county in 2002. The book of the exhibition was widely acclaimed and has sold well both locally and nationally. The Council also used the book to help local and national charities. Copies were contributed to the Mayo Hospice foundation and photographs from the book will be used as Christmas Cards by both Croí and Western Care.

Shooting from the Lip

Mayo County Library published **Shooting from the Lip**, a collection of stories from Mayo's new young writers in 2001. The book has sold over 2000 copies and has been widely praised. A story from the book has been selected for the new Applied Leaving Cert Textbook.

Millennium Publication

As part of the celebration of the end of the Millennium, Mayo County Council decided upon the ambitious plan of publishing a comprehensive book on the history of Mayo entitled *The Story of Mayo*. The aim of the book would be to provide a popular history of life in Mayo, from the earliest known inhabitants c. 5,000 years ago to modern times. It is envisaged the book will appeal to a wide audience while promoting an understanding of the wide and varied social and cultural history of Mayo. The book will be launched early in 2003.

Mayo County Council 1910-1919

To commemorate the centenary of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, Mayo County Council published a history of the first ten years of Local Government in the county in 1998. In 2003 we propose to publish a history of the Council from 1910 to 1919.

Climate of Straide

In 2002 the library in conjunction with Mr. Martin Sweeney, published a book on the history of the weather in Mayo. The book was launched in Castlebar Library and the first print sold out almost immediately.

These publications play an important role in popularising the culture and heritage of our county as well as providing excellent PR for the council. It is envisaged that the costs of producing all publications will be recouped through sales.

School's Library Service

The School's Library underwent a major restructuring in 2002 with the aim of providing a more targeted service with an emphasis on improved book stock, promoting reading, helping children with special needs, providing for the new curriculum and initiating an information/advice service. A survey was carried out among all primary schools in the county in order to establish what teachers wanted from the service. The top 3 new services chosen in the survey in order of preference were:

- Provision of "Recommended Book Lists" (17.61%),
- Provision of an Information Skills Resource (17.57%),
- A Project Loan Service" (17.18%).

Action has already been taken on these suggestions and implementation will continue on a phased basis. The results of the survey are extremely important in helping to establish service needs and priorities for 2003. All available finance will be targeted towards meeting the needs and requirements identified in this survey.

The service organised a number of author visits to schools in remote areas during the year:

- Cora Harrison visited Bangor Erris, Glencastle, Shraigh, Corclough and Aghalashreen National Schools.
- Sarah Webb visited Crossmolina, Rathnamagh, Carn, Claremorris and Ballyhaunis National schools.
- Ann Carroll visited Barnatra, Inver and Glenamoy national schools.

These visits proved very popular and will continue in 2003.

Mayo in May

Following on the huge success of the *Mayo Moment* photography competition Mayo County Council ran a second competition in 2002 entitled *Mayo in May*. Again the competition attracted a huge entry and resulted in an exhibition, which was opened in the Custom House Studios, Westport by Cathaoirleach of the Council. The winning photograph, of Clew Bay, was taken by Mary Hoban, Westport

Staff Research

A number of library staff members carried out research as part of Local Studies Course in GMIT. Their projects, which were presented to the library, are valuable sources of original information on the following topics:

- **Manulla Junction** by Maureen Costello,
- **Townland of Tawnaghlahard, Parish of Kilcolman** by Kathleen Gill
- **A history of the Hollymount area** by Mary Byrne
- **Castlebar Post Office: A Short History** by Mary Murphy
- **A history of Banada Abbey** by Mary Gannon,
- **A History of Castlebar Gaol 1830 - 1932** by Ivor Hamrock
- **Ballyburke Townland: People & Place, Past & Present** by Mary Conway

The Arts Service

- The county Arts service is based on the principles of quality, access, inclusion and long-term value, so that the Arts and associated areas are not separate, elitist activities only for the educated and experienced, but enjoyable, accessible and challenging events in which all can participate.
- The Arts can improve communities by providing opportunities for enjoyment and entertainment. More importantly they offer avenues for self-expression, personal development, building cultural identity and encouraging imagination.

There has been an Arts Officer in Mayo County Council for over twelve years and the service is now well-developed and nationally recognised. The areas of service can be broadly divided as follows:

- 1. Arts Information, Promotion and Advisory Service**
- 2. Arts Programming**
- 3. Arts Grants**
- 4. Arts Policy and Planning**
- 5. Networking and Partnerships**

1. Arts Information, Promotion and Advisory Service

Mayo County Council promotes and provides information on the Arts in a variety of ways:

- Local newspapers
- Regional magazines
- Networking with national organisations such as: The Arts Council, Galleries, Arts Centres, Artists Association of Ireland, Sculpture Society of Ireland, other local authority Arts Officers.
- Through touring exhibitions.
- Through supporting touring theatre originating in Mayo.
- At events organised by Arts Office
- Through publications by Arts Office
- Through direct mailing

The advisory service is availed of by over 200 amateur groups, Arts organisations, and community groups who regularly seek advice about Arts events and sources of funding for their projects and programmes. Furthermore, the Arts Office advises on Arts Acts grants which are available to any community or group wishing to run their own Arts-based event. These grants are administered through Corporate Affairs.

2. Arts Programming

2.1 Artists in Residence

As there is a strong emphasis on outreach within the County Arts service, the Artist in Residence scheme was developed to offer people in schools, hospitals, health-care settings and local communities the opportunity to work directly with writers, artists, musicians, dancers and drama workers. This year -

- Artist Deirdre Walsh is continuing her residency, working with Alzheimer patients in the Sacred Heart Hospital. This project is co-funded by the Western Health Board and is now in its third year.
- Two musicians in residence continued to work with children in schools at national and primary level, and with groups who require the expertise of a trained musician.
- The Dramatist in Residence further developed Mayo Youth Theatre, which encourages teenagers of all social and economic backgrounds to engage in personal development through theatre. Mayo Youth Theatre has established branches in Ballina, Foxford, Castlebar and Belmullet. There are now over 90 members countywide.
- A Writer in Residence programme has been established to broaden the scope of Force 12 Writer's Festival in the Erris region. The writer works bi-lingually with groups in the area and conducted workshops in Belmullet, Bangor Erris, Ballycroy, Eachleim and Gaoth Sáile.

2.2 Visual Arts

Exhibitions:

As part of its annual programme the Arts Office regularly plans exhibitions throughout the county:

- 'Creative Reverie', a major exhibition of paintings by the group which Deirdre Walsh works with in the Sacred Heart Hospital was organised and exhibited in three locations simultaneously: Mayo Education Centre, Castlebar, Castlebar Library, and St. Fionnan's Community Nursing Unit, Achill. It is hoped that this exhibition might tour further afield in order to publicise the work of the project.
- Mayo County Council Collection:
The Mayo County Council art collection is augmented with quality purchases on an annual basis. Notable additions to the collection in 2002 were purchases of Achill-based artists Camille Souter and Margaret Morrison.

2.3. Music

The Arts Office regularly programmes music events throughout the County.

- A major part of this provision is the **Summer Music Series**, which in 2002 brought diverse musical events throughout the county: Castlebar, Ballina, Westport, Louisburgh, Charlestown, Ballyhaunis, Killala, Tourmakedy and Belmullet.

- In order to support choirs in the county and to provide music for communities, particularly older people, a series of **Christmas Choral Concerts** was organised in December 2002, in the Sacred Heart Hospital and Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar, Ballyhaunis Friary, Aras Deirbhle, Belmullet and St. Patrick's Church, Ballina.
- In Association with the Mayo Education Centre the Arts Pffice launched **the Music Instruments for Children** scheme in 2002. The instruments were secured through the hard work of the Mayo Music Development Association, initiated by musician Mary Curran as part of her residency with Mayo County Council. Seven sets of percussion instruments, suitable for children of any age up to 14, were acquired through funding provided by the Arts Council and will be available as a resource for children in the county.

2.4 Arts Workshops

Workshops are regularly funded and organised by the Arts Department across a range of art forms, in a variety of settings, with groups of all ages. Where possible the Arts Office works in partnership with communities and groups who require a particular Arts service. These groups range from teenagers to the elderly and include marginalised groups such as those with disabilities.

2.5. Bealtaine

For Bealtaine, the annual nationwide festival, celebrating creativity in older age, Mayo County Council ran an extensive, interactive programme for older people, throughout the county. During the month of May, over 800 older people enjoyed events including dance, drama, creative writing and music workshops, as well as computer classes, film screenings and reminiscences. These events were held in community centres, schools and public areas throughout the county, and were organised by Mayo County Council's Arts Office and the County Library Service. An Active Arts Gala in Knock, was held in May. In partnership with the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Castlebar, this event was attended by more than eighty senior members of the Sisters of Mercy and; featured music, drama, writing and dance workshops and provided a day of creative expression and enjoyment for the participants.

2.6. Arts in Education Programme

Extensive research was carried out by the Arts Office in 2000, to identify the Arts needs in schools and among teachers and to develop a responsive programme. Following introductory, experiential workshops with 47 schools county-wide, the arts office co-funded six-week workshops with 12 schools in 2002. The Arts Office continues to work in partnership with The Mayo Education Centre in order to address the arts needs of teachers and students.

2.7. *Force 12*

Force 12 Writers Weekend was held again in June this year in Belmullet and was a huge success. The weekend, evolved from Force 10, was directed by Frank Galligan and attended by more than 35 writers throughout the country. This year, local people were encouraged to become more actively involved through the presence of a Writer in Residence.

2.8. *Mayo Artsquad*

Mayo County Council Artsquad was established to provide Arts training and to promote social inclusion for people from a wide variety of backgrounds, including travellers, the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and others who are socially excluded. The Artsquad work with groups from all communities and walks of life, providing workshops, training and entertainment. In 2002, Artsquad was involved in festivals in Kiltimagh, Ballina, Clare Island, Innisboffin, Erris and have become an important part of the success of Roola Boola Children's festival in Castlebar.

2.9. *Public Art*

The launch of Dealbhóireacht Mhaigh Éo in 2000, attracted the attention of over 130 sculptors who wished to be involved in the open, anonymous competitions for 9 sites. A further 4 sculptures were sited in 2002.

2.10. *Arts in Libraries:*

The Arts service continues to work closely with the Library service, which has resulted in successful exhibitions in Westport, Belmullet, Crossmolina and Ballinrobe. Workshops and readings are regularly scheduled in partnership.

2.11. *Touring Theatre*

Providing access to theatre, especially for children, particularly in remote areas, is an important focus of the Arts Office. In December 2002, almost 2000 national school-going children in the Ballina, Foxford and Claremorris areas had an opportunity to see quality, children's theatre free of charge.

2.12. *Mayo County Council Dance Week: A Chance to Dance*

Following the success of the Careers in Music Seminar in 2001, a dance residency was programmed in September 2002 to provides a quality dance experience for people at all levels and to provides an opportunity for dancers in Mayo to meet and exchange ideas with dancers from other areas. Fluxus Dance Company worked with Mayo County Council for a full week, providing workshops and performances for over 380 children and teenagers. A further 60 adults availed of a weekend of dance training and a capacity audience enjoyed Fluxus Dance performance in the Linenhall. The week was a huge success and received positive press both locally and nationally.

2.13. Publication

‘Creative Reverie, meeting the person as an artist’ was published by Mayo County Council’s Arts Office in 2002, to accompany the exhibition of art work by residents in the Sacred Heart Hospital, under the direction of Artist-in-Residence, Deirdre Walsh. This publication has been very successful in disseminating the work of the project and in advocating it as a model of excellent practice.

3. Arts Grants

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

- *Arts Act Grants*
The Mayo County Council Arts Grants are advertised in the local press in April of each year. Arts Grants are awarded to groups and individuals who satisfy the policies of the Council in relation to the development of the Arts in the County.
- *Artists Bursaries Schemes*
This scheme assists young artists, across a variety of disciplines, to continue their education. The bursaries are awarded for courses leading to recognised certification.
- *Mayo County Council Tyrone Guthrie Awards*
Two artists are selected by open competition to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Annaghmakerrig. This enables them to spend two weeks in residency pursuing their own work. This year Composer Emer Mayock and Playwright John Breen were selected by an external, expert panel to avail of these awards.
- *Amateur Drama Awards*
An annual award of €1,270 is made to an amateur drama group. Applications are made through the Arts Office and selection is carried out by an external, expert panel.
- *Visual Arts Awards*
Visual artists can apply for exhibition assistance and materials awards through the Arts Office.
- *Guarantees Against Loss:*
This is a funding mechanism whereby the Arts Office guarantee a certain sum of money to a theatre group or centre taking a touring group, should they record a loss at the end of the programme. This agreement must be made in writing before the event. This is an important theatre service and ensures shows travel to Mayo, and that smaller venues can afford to programme good quality product.

4. Arts Policy and Planning

Mayo County Council’s Strategic Arts Plan, 2003 – 2006 is nearing completion. Extensive consultation was undertaken to assess the development needs of the Arts in the County. The Strategic Arts Plan dovetails with the County Development Plan and the National Arts Plan.

5. *Networking and Partnerships*

Partnership Projects:

The following Arts Organisations receive annual revenue funding on a partnership basis with Mayo County Council. The professional contribution of these organisations towards the strategic development of the Arts in the County is recognised and supported by Mayo County Council.

- (i) Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar:
- (ii) The Heinrich Boll Project, Achill:
- (iii) Yew Tree Theatre Company, Ballina:
- (iv) Ballina Arts Events, Ballina:
- (v) Feile Iorras Folk Arts Festival:
- (vi) Developmental Community Arts Project:
- (vii) Custom House Studios, Westport:

Other Partnerships

Partnerships with other agencies are crucial to continued outreach and access. The Arts service has developed partnerships with:

Western Care Association	Mayo Education Centre & Schools
Mayo General Hospital	Sacred Heart Hospital
FÁS	Meithéal Mhaigh Eo
Western Health Board	Neighbourhood Youth Project
Age and Opportunity	Udarás Na Gaeltachta
Travellers projects	Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
I.R.D's	Town Councils
The Arts Council	Irish Writer's Centre
Sisters Of Mercy	

These partnerships are pivotal in delivering a service which addresses the needs of all community groups and service-users and will continue to inform the direction of the cultural sector.

6. *Capital Projects*

Through the upgrading of existing facilities, Arts provision across a broad geographical spread is planned, so that people throughout Mayo can avail of the growing opportunities in the area. In 2002, both the Custom House Studios and the Linenhall Arts Centre were officially opened. While providing a forum for local groups to develop their skills and audiences, new facilities in Ballina and Belmullet will complement existing venues in Castlebar, Westport, Kiltimagh, Ballinglen, Foxford and Balla. Furthermore, where possible, flexible community resource spaces in which arts can be programmed and developed will be supported. At present there are several such spaces in development in Charlestown, Ballyhaunis and Ballinrobe.

Summary

The Arts service will continue to support artists, writers, musicians, theatre workers, community Arts workers and dancers who work in Mayo in order to maximise their creative potential. The support of those who make art and are involved in the Arts, at whatever level, continues to be the core of a progressive and responsive service.

AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Piers and Harbours - 2002

Major Works

Clare Island	-	Contract Document Stage.
Roonagh	-	Contract Document Stage.
Inishturk	-	Preliminary Report Stage.
Blacksod	-	Tender Stage.
Porturlin	-	Preliminary Report Stage.
Purteen Harbour	-	Preliminary Report Stage.
Inishbiggle (Cable-Car)	-	Contract Document Stage.
Killala Slipway	-	Construction Stage.
Lacken Coastal Protection	-	Planning Stage.

Marinas

Westport - Preliminary Report Stage.

Ballina - Preliminary Report Stage.

Minor Works

	<i>Expenditure 2002</i>
Innishbiggle/Ballycroy Slipways - Construction Stage	€163,500
Tonragee Pier and Slipway - Construction Stage	€177,800
Clynish Pier - Construction Stage	€ 37,333
Dooega - Construction Stage	€ 55,021
Saleen, Belmullet -	
Reconstruction of Pier Wall - Construction Stage	€ 29,750
Killsallagh Pier - Construction Stage	€ 10,000
Roigh Pier - Construction Stage	€ 10,000
Inishgort and Inishlyre Slipways – Preliminary Report Stage	Nil
Newport Quay - Preliminary Report Stage	Nil
Belderrig Pier Access - Construction Stage	€ 23,807
Belmullet and Frenchport Piers	
Lights and Barriers - Construction Stage	€ 12,750
Aithan Aoil Pier Repairs - Construction Stage	€ 21,094

In 2002 the Council has undertaken an assessment of Piers, Harbours and Landing Places in the county to be jointly funded by the Council, the Department of Marine and Natural Resources and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. A Report on this assessment will be available in 2003.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Human Resources

As the largest single employer in the County with in excess of 1100 employees, Mayo County Council faces the constant challenges of ongoing change and development and therefore needs a motivated and a highly trained workforce.

The Human Resources Department in Mayo County Council is pivotal to the provision of services within the County. This Department liaises with the many sections and Area Offices within the County to ensure that the highest of standards of employment practices are maintained. The high standard of service delivery is achieved through continuous improvement and modernisation within Mayo County Council.

I have every confidence in the workforce of Mayo County Council. They are a highly educated, motivated and enthusiastic team, who have been loyal, dedicated and committed and I have no doubt that they have what it takes to see us through 2003 and into the future.

FÁS Excellence Through People Award

In August 2001, Mayo County Council successfully renewed this prestigious FÁS Award, for a two-year period, which will expire in 2003. This means that the Council will be audited for renewal of the Award in 2003 and every effort must be made to ensure highest standards are achieved.

European Computer Driving Licence

Mayo County Council continues to offer the ECDL Programme to all its staff since it's introduction in December 1998. To date, 257 employees have successfully completed the certification. In order to achieve the certification, exams were completed in seven modules – Basic Concepts of I.T., Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentations, Databases, Managing Files and e-mail and the Internet.

Advanced ECDL (Advanced Word Processing certification and Advanced Spreadsheets certification) will be launched and made available to all employees in early 2003.

Computer training is also being provided for elected members of Mayo County Council.

Information Technology

Mayo County Council's web site www.mayococo.ie will be relaunched in January 2003 with its primary aim to provide more and better information for our customers. In the first half of 2003 we will provide the facility whereby our customers can pay on-line for any of our services in a secure and safe manner.

From the 1st December 2002 Mayo County Council joined the Government VPN (Virtual Private Network) for all our voice traffic. This will result in savings of the order of 20% to 25% in telephone costs. The Government is to launch a Data VPN in 2003 which will enable us provide and receive on-line services from any Public Body e.g. (Motor Tax, Passport, Driving Licence etc.).

The GIS (Graphical Information System) project will shortly enable the County Development Plan to be viewed on-line and allow interaction between the public and Planning Officials. A CiS (Complete information System) project is underway since September 2002 whereby all our water and wastewater facilities are being electronically plotted on to maps.

The second phase of the Agresso Financial Management System (FMS) will be implemented in 2003.

Overdraft Interest

In the period 2000 to 2002 the annual expenditure on the Council's programme of capital works has increased from €62 million to €120 million. Most of this expenditure is incurred in advance of recoupment in the form of State grants. Pending recoupment the Council has to carry the expenditure through bank overdraft and the cost of the overdraft interest has to be borne by the Revenue Account. Consultation is taking place with the Government Departments to ensure that grants are paid as quickly as possible. I have included a provision of €425,000 in the Budget in respect of overdraft interest in 2003.

Devolution of Areas

The Council is continuing to proceed with devolution of services to the areas based on the principle of subsidiarity. The Council are committed to delivering its services to the community from a point as close as possible to the community. The Council has adopted this process as policy and the policy is now being delivered through the development of local area offices in Westport, Belmullet, Ballinrobe and Claremorris. New offices in Ballina and Swinford will be open in early 2003. Housing and Planning are now being delivered at local area office level and for the first time ever, Motor Tax is available at the Belmullet area office. The Council will proceed with further devolution of functions during 2003. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the co-operation and commitment of all staff involved in the process.

Insurances

You will be aware from reports in the media of the high cost of public liability and other insurances. The Council is not immune to the problems being faced by the private sector in this regard, and will be faced with substantially increased premiums for 2003. The Council must arrange necessary insurances in order to protect its interests from exposure to claims and potential claims in the course of its activities as a local authority. A vigorous Health and Safety Programme is in operation to minimise the incidence of claim.

Other Office Developments

The members will be aware that the facility at Glenparke, The Mall, Castlebar, which houses Motor Tax and the National Road Authority's Regional Design Office is being funded in total by the Department of Environment and Local Government and the National Roads Authority.

The adjoining development of Castlebar Courthouse is the subject of partnership between Mayo County Council and the Department of Justice and is being funded by the Courts Service. The Courts Services will also be providing improved Court facilities in Swinford and Belmullet. The Belmullet project will include improved area offices for Mayo County Council.

I look forward to 2003 as an opportunity to further the development of County Mayo. The Budget as presented herewith offers us an opportunity to keep Mayo moving forward. We can only do this with co-operation of elected Members and Council staff. This has always been given with great enthusiasm and I appreciate it very much.

A special word of thanks is due to the Head of Finance, the Directors of Services and their staff for their help in preparing this Budget and for their efficiency in carrying out the work programmes.

As required under the Local Government Act 2001, the Corporate Policy Group met and discussed the Budget as outlined. I would like to thank the Members of the Corporate Policy Group for their valued contributions to the Budget process.

A special thanks is due to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members of the Council for the clear vision which they have of County Mayo and for their support for a programme aimed at achieving this vision.

Is mór an cúram atá ar gach éinne againn forbairt an chontae a coimeád ag gluaiseacht. Ag obair a chéile is ea neart ár n-iarracht.

D. Mahon,
COUNTY MANAGER.

2nd January, 2003