

December 20

Highlights



Dates to Note



Chief Executive Report

Peter Duggan



Chief Executive Report



Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020

Mayo County Council was awarded the accolade of **“Local Authority of the Year”** at the recent Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. As well as winning the Local Authority of The Year award we also won in a record number of three categories.

Making Positive Choices (Health & Wellbeing category) is a collaborative project which addresses road safety issues on the Mayo Islands. Its focus was on emphasising to young people the importance of making positive choices and providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to prevent collisions and road traffic incidents in future

Weather Impact Register App (Innovation category) is a simple tool for Local Authorities (and other state agencies) to record and collate the actual impacts and some of the associated costs of climate change in their areas. The GIS based dataset together with the dashboard and filters developed alongside the App will provide a spatial distribution of risks and vulnerability and help identify the increasing severity and frequency of events that will inform climate adaptation planning.

Virtual Mayo Day 2020 (Festival of the Year category) Mayo Day 2020 was a fully virtual event and the virtual Mayo Day Live Show was a mix of chat, interviews, music, and messages of hope and solidarity for a special Mayo Day from well-known people from Mayo and those who love our county. The show concluded with the launch of a short film called #OceansApart

In addition to the above the Council was also shortlisted for two further awards, **A Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo** in the Sustainable Environment category and **Through the Ages** in the Age Friendly category.

I would like to congratulate the departments who won awards, those who were shortlisted in their categories, and to all staff whose work has resulted in the overall accolade of Local Authority of the Year. 2020 is an extraordinary year, which has been challenging for all our staff who have put in hard work, commitment and resilience throughout what has been a really challenging year.





Pride of Place Awards.

Mayo had two successful winners in the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards 2020 which were announced on 21st November.

Belcarra Community Group were winners in the Area with a population less than 300 category, whilst **Ballina Lions Club** were successful in the Area with a population over 5,000. In addition, we had two other groups shortlisted – Westport Men’s Shed and Ballyhaunis “Celebrating Diversity”

I congratulate all four groups for their constant effort and commitment to their local communities. They are examples of the tireless volunteer work that community groups across this county are involved in to make Mayo a more inclusive, caring and equal place to live.



#TOBEIRISH@CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

‘To Be Irish @ Christmas’ is a national campaign running from the 21st to 31st December 2020. and will feature a wide-ranging programme of events that showcase and celebrate Irish culture, craft, community initiatives and Christmas traditions. Mayo County Council is reaching out to everyone in Mayo, whether from a large town, a rural community or a small village, to ask them to take part in this initiative.

Anyone can get involved by sending us community Christmas images showcasing your community’s festive cheer, from Christmas lights, from your town crib to a Christmas tree lit up in all its festive glory; may be one of your local shops has a wonderfully decorated window display.

We want to reach out to the many Mayo people around the globe who can’t come home for Christmas and help them feel more connected to their family and friends at home when they see photos of the places that they grew up in looking magically festive.

These special images will be compiled and showcased on Mayo.ie and on the national campaign website: www.tobeirish.ie

Christmas Wishes

As we come to the end of a tumultuous year, I would like to say “*Go Raibh Maith Agaibh*” for your support and assistance throughout the year. And may I wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of the season and a Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas.



December 2020

Directorate Highlights

November 2020 Planning Statistics

- Planning Decisions - 59
- Planning Refusals - 3
- Forthcoming Decisions - 102
- Appeals - 5
- Formal Preplanning - 25
- Preplanning Enquiries
Phone/Email – 160

Helpdesk Statistics

- Requests for the last four weeks: 638
- Requests from 1st January 2020 to date: 5922

Dates to Note

Planning, HR, Communications, Information Systems and Corporate Development

Catherine Mc Connell



Library

- All library branches open since Dec 1st. Call & Collect and Local Link home delivery services.
- Sensory cubbie installed in Castlebar Library.
- Automated entry management systems - Castlebar & Ballina Libraries.
- Ongoing improvement to Ballinrobe Library building and grounds.
- Virtual library story sessions – twice weekly.
- Time to Read resumes online – 12 volunteers from MCC partnered with 2nd class children in St. Angela's NS, Castlebar.

IT and Digital Transformation

- Teams Project – Complete.
- Planning Digitisation Project - Solution review complete.
- European NPA project – Phase I to be completed by December 31st.
- National Services Catalogue -90% complete - Delayed by Covid19.
- CRM Project - Initial working group to be established.
- Council and MD Online Meetings via Teams.
- ISO 27001 six-monthly audit successfully achieved with no major or minor non-conformities.
- Completed deployment and migration of data to new email compliance platform – ComplyKey.
- Commenced configuration of new firewall solution and migration from legacy firewall infrastructure.
- Deployment and management of 450 devices to support remote working.

Corporate Communications

Public Information Updates:

Media: Responses issued to media requests locally and nationally.

Awards including Local Authority of the Year at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Virtual Events: Women in Politics Webinar. Video produced for Light up for Road Safety.

Targeted Campaigns: - Social Inclusion Awareness Week, Restart Grant Plus, Men on the Move Initiative, Micro Enterprise Assistance.

Road Safety Awareness – Fatigued Drivers reminder, Call to protect vulnerable road users, spearheaded the Light up for Road Safety National Campaign, Winter weather alerts, National Schools cycle training.

Corporate and Human Resources

- 2 Appointments - 1 AE and 1 SEE.
- 2 Interviews - Aspire Graduate and Senior Executive Scientist.
- Advertised - Executive Scientist.
- 1 Retiree.
- Ombudsman's Queries – 4 in November. 22 to date in 2020.
- FOI Requests – 11 in November. 113 to date in 2020.
- 24 Staff completed Mandatory Roads, Water and Building Control Training.
- 10 Staff undertaking various Management upskilling courses - UCD and GMIT.

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At the recently held Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020:

CARO - Atlantic Seaboard North, which is hosted by Mayo County Council, **The Weather Impact Register App – WIRE** won in the Local Authority Innovation Category.

Dates to Note

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



John Condon

CARO.:

- The CARO Website has been developed by the Atlantic Seaboard North and is ready to go live in December 2020 (caro.ie)
- The CARO along with the 5 local authorities in the region have developed a proposal to establish a Regional Energy Bureau which SEAI have committed to provide 50% match funding towards.

Veterinary:

- Laura Mulligan, Dog Warden, was a guest speaker at the The Dog Control Service National Webinar 2020 which was held on Thursday 5th November. The topic was "Delivering Dog Warden Services during a Pandemic", including the roll out of a comprehensive Inspection Report in line with the Dog Breeding Establishment guidelines which will assist personnel in recording information while carrying out DBE inspections.

Awareness:

- Environment Awareness in November focused on the newly adopted Waste Management Presentation Bye-laws. A campaign of adverts ran on social media, local press and radio, and over 30,000 information leaflets were distributed into homes through the local newspapers.
- Continued awareness on the recently introduced Smoky Coal ban took place and the focus on waste prevention this month was on the Stop Food Waste 'Eat it or Freeze it Campaign'.

Climate Action:

Climate Adaptation

Over 90% of the Mayo Climate Adaptation Action implementation plans for Sept 20-Sept 21 have been completed and work is ongoing on all submitted plans. Quarterly meetings will be held with the Steering committee to provide progress updates from all sections on implementation plans.

Energy

The annual electricity profile for Aras an Chontae dropped significantly in 2020 due to Covid-19. We aim to continue to reduce our energy usage and there is currently a call out to all sections to submit proposals for energy saving projects which can receive up to 30% funding from SEAI under the BEC program.

Emergency Services - New Recruits

A total of 18 new recruits to the Fire Service nationally successfully completed their Firefighting Skills Course for Recruit Firefighters training course at Castlebar from 5th-23rd October.

Fire Safety Week

Fire Safety Week, held during week commencing the 5th October, was rolled out exclusively on-line through social media platforms this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was an unqualified success with support from celebrities, the teaching profession and members of an Garda Síochána to mention a few.

December 2020

Directorate Highlights

Appointment of Consultants for the interpretation and fit out of the Mary Robinson Centre Ballina

Commencement on site of lighting to Belleek Greenway - Urban Loop.

Part 8 approval for 21 houses in Kiltimagh

Housing and Architectural Services

Simon Shevlin



Housing

Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme 2016-2021

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

Progress on 2016-2021 programme, 506 units have been completed with another 246 in different stages of progress.

HAP and RAS

In November 2020 31 houses were delivered under the HAP scheme and 3 houses delivered under the RAS scheme. This gives a total of 2,155 active households supported by RAS and HAP in Mayo at the end November 2020.

Leasing

In November 2020 under the leasing programme 11 houses were delivered. This gives a total of 249 households supported under the Leasing Programme in Mayo.

Refugee Resettlement

There are 200 persons accommodated in Mayo to date (186 Mayo County Council and 14 persons accommodated by the Red Cross in pledged accommodation).

Homelessness

There were nine presentations in November. Ninety to date in 2020.

Architectural Services

Conservation

Works have commenced on the production of replacement conservation windows to the Linenhall Arts Centre in Castlebar.

Heritage

2020 County Heritage Plan Projects finalised, end of project reports prepared, and funding drawn down.

Biodiversity and cultural heritage projects funded under National Biodiversity Action Plan and Community Monuments Fund finalised, end of project reports prepared, and funding drawn down.

Production of Mayo Heritage Calendar 2021.

Parks

Funding secured from DCYA to extend the community Playground at Westport Leisure Park.

Funding has been secured through the CLAR Programme for the Inishturk Community Playground.

Leader funding secured for refurbishment of ball courts in Ballina town Park.

Dates to Note

Housing SPC: 17th
December 2020

LTACC: 17th December
2020

December 2020

Directorate Highlights

Keep Well Campaign launched in partnership with Mayo.ie & the Community Response Forum.

Two national winners for Mayo at this year's Pride of Place Awards

The Mayo Voucher was launched to encourage people to shop local this Christmas. A Mayo Chambers initiative, supported by Mayo.ie & LEO Mayo.

Dates to Note

Women in Politics & Community Representation Webinar – 20th November

Public Consultation process for the Digital strategy 2021-2024 closed on the 6th of November

ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM

John Magee



Community & Integrated Development, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- As part of the Keep Well campaign, an Essential Information booklet and an Exercise at Home booklet will be prepared and distributed county-wide.
- Belcarra Community Group and Ballina Lions Club won nationally at this year's Pride of Place Awards.
- Mayo Arts Service provided virtual reality workshops as part of Excel Youth Arts Programme.
- 60 Sports Clubs were allocated €75,450 under the national COVID-19 Sports Resilience fund. Mayo Sports Partnership allocated a further €13,400 towards Sports resilience projects.
- 25 clubs / organisations were allocated €25,600 under the annual Sports Partnership Small Grant / Volunteer Supports Scheme.

Enterprise & Investment Unit

LEO: The Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place on 17th November with 4 projects at a value of **€71,890** approved.

- Prepare your Business for Customs workshops took place on 10th, 11th and 12th November and again on 23rd November
- LEO Mayo hosted an online Innovation Voucher clinic in partnership with the Precision, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Gateway based in IT Sligo on 18th November.

AEC: Galway & Mayo were successful in applying for funding for a feasibility study on suitable locations of enterprise hubs in the AEC.

Invest: The Horizon 2020 project called IDEAS (Novel building Integration Designs for increased Efficiencies in Advanced climatically tunable renewable energy Systems) is now at the halfway stage of development. This project explores how to develop new and more efficient energy solutions for our built environment

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Construction of infrastructure under way at the Great Western Greenway, Achill Island & Moore Hall.
- Planning of tourism infrastructure is ongoing for Keem Bay, Monasteries of the Moy, Moore Hall and the Belmullet Destination town project.
- Applications submitted for the ORIS 2020 programme.

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Budget 2021 was adopted, and a 3 year Capital Programme considered by members.

2020 Roadworks Scheme is practically complete. The programme was the largest ever undertaken by Mayo County Council.

Contractor mobilising on N26 Cloongullane Scheme.

Contractor has commenced works on R312 Glenisland Bridge scheme.

Dates to Note

Roads & Transportation SPC scheduled for 16th December, 2020.

The Winter Maintenance season commenced on 12th October and will run until the 30th April, 2021. Details of the Winter Maintenance Plan are available on Mayo.ie.

Finance, Roads & Service Development

Tom Gilligan



Roads

- Works ongoing to the following National Road Pavement Overlay Contracts: N26 Swinford – Foxford Road at Cloongowan & Carrowbeg, N84 South of Castlebar to Ballyheane, N60 Manulla to Carrownurlar and N17 Temple.
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works for 2020 Regional and Local road bridges is complete.
- Practically all public lighting in the county on National Roads has now been upgraded to LED following allocations from TII over the last 3 years
- 2021 National Road allocations expected from TII in mid-December.
- Design works ongoing for the N60 Manulla Scheme.
- Design work ongoing for N59 Derrada scheme with the aim to go to tender in 2021.
- Design works ongoing for N17/R320 Junction Claremorris.
- Construction works continues on N5 Westport to Turlough scheme.
- Revised Preliminary Appraisals have been forwarded to Dept of Transport for R332 Kilmaine to Tuam and Cong Outer Relief Road schemes.

Procurement & Efficiency Review Team

- Monitoring Covid-19 PEE and other related procurements
- Conducted, assisted or facilitated several eTenders competitions
 - Feasibility study for Ballina to Enniscrone Greenway
 - Refurbishment works to Roonagh old Pier
 - Strategy document for LGBTI+
- Conducted & assisted with several Supplygov competitions
- New Cash collection contract
- Awarded contract for new lift in Library HQ
- Continuing to liaise on supplier issues
 - Westport APC
 - Special purpose vehicle adaptations
 - Merchant a/s's PMI compliance
- Pay and Display machines for Westport MD due for installation.

Finance

- Mayo County Council to date has received **€8,627,253** in relation to the Commercial Rates Waiver.



1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2020 Adopted Budget
ten months ended 31st October 2020

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp. To Date	Budget	Remaining	% Spent	Inc. To Date	Budget	Not Rec'd	% Rec'd
		Oct-20	2020	2020	2020	Oct-20	2020	2020	2020
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
A	Housing and Building	13,854,792	16,787,251	2,932,459	83%	14,237,792	17,140,159	2,902,367	83%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	32,598,990	40,161,103	7,562,113	81%	26,301,202	33,766,003	7,464,801	78%
C	Water Services	12,931,365	16,646,566	3,715,201	78%	15,810,614	19,986,244	4,175,629	79%
D	Development Management	25,975,048	12,593,741	-13,381,307	206%	19,147,242	4,010,066	-15,137,176	477%
E	Environmental Services	12,487,463	16,477,347	3,989,884	76%	3,838,818	5,642,900	1,804,082	68%
F	Recreation and Amenity	8,027,355	10,434,578	2,407,223	77%	1,898,398	3,340,580	1,442,182	57%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	1,311,446	1,789,219	477,773	73%	460,108	584,250	124,142	79%
H	Miscellaneous Services	24,309,308	13,200,546	-11,108,762	184%	17,759,619	6,504,929	-11,254,690	273%
J	Central Management Charges	17,482,781	19,970,850	2,488,069	88%	1,250,000	1,500,000	250,000	83%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	28,818,356	35,773,727	6,955,371	81%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	16,510,287	19,812,344	3,302,057	83%
GRAND TOTAL		148,978,547	148,061,201	-917,346	101%	146,032,436	148,061,201	2,028,765	99%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Oct-20	Arrears Oct-20	% Collected
Rents	7,276,386	6,222,724	1,053,662	86%
Rates	24,911,349	19,236,745	5,674,604	77%
Housing Loans	3,623,601	2,732,015	891,586	75%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft	29
Estimated Interest incurred	2,336