



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



FEBRUARY MEETING 2024



Housing, Roads and Service Development

TOM GILLIGAN



Directorate Highlights

Roads

Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q1 2024. Public consultation on Ballina plan held on 31st January.

Housing

Approved Housing Body Forum Meeting held on 26th Jan., 2024

Architects:

Cross West started on site. (8 Units)

Tenders issued for Lower Charles Street Castlebar (4 Units)

Heritage:

Funding application submitted to The Heritage Council under County Heritage Plan Programme.

Conservation:

Grant applications were received and assessed for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund.

Dates to Note

Roads

Construction works on-going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in August 2024

Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. Public consultation to be held in Q1 2024

Public consultation being held on 22nd February for Belclare to Murrisk Greenway scheme emerging preferred route.

Roads

- N26 / N59 Ballina By -Pass. Scheme currently at Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford: scheme proceeding with appointment of Consultants for Phases 2 – 4 to bring scheme from options selection to the planning phase.
- N58 Foxford By -Pass: Strategic Assessment Report re-drafted and submitted to TII for approval.
- N60 Manulla scheme: Scheme at Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- Delivery of the 2023 National Road pavement programme will continue into 2024 with three contracts to be undertaken on N5, N59 and N60. N60 Claremorris scheme commencing 11th February.
- Tenders returned for safety works on N59 at Georges Street Newport. Currently awaiting TII scheme approval.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.
- R313 Glencastle scheme currently at land acquisition stage.
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Q2 2024.
- Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Awaiting approval from DoT to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection.
- Contract awarded for installation of traffic lights on N84 in Ballinrobe. Works to commence on 7th February.

Housing

HAP & RAS (Jan 2024)

- 16 no. properties delivered under HAP in January 2024.
- Total of 1,896 active households supported by RAS/HAP in Mayo at the end Jan 2024.

Leasing (Jan 2024)

- 26 no. properties delivered under the Leasing Programme in January 2024.

Homelessness

- 12 homeless presentations in January 2024.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

359 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received
332 Stage 1 Approved
150 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received
138 Stage 2 Approved
13 Properties completed

Vacant Homes

Croi Conaithe Grant – 228 approved (13 grants issued); 154 in progress.
Repair and Leasing – 22 active leases, 34 applications for 109 units.
Buy & Renew – 68 active applications.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights

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Environmental Awareness:

- New Circular Living initiative launched – Reusable Party Kits
Families will now be able to borrow a party kit from Castlebar & Ballina Libraries for a returnable deposit of €30. Each party kit contains 30 brightly coloured & hardwearing reusable cups, plates, bowls & cutlery sets along with trays and jugs, and they can be borrowed for up to a week. The deposit is fully refundable when the kit is returned complete, undamaged, washed, dried & on time.



Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- The Enforcement Team had a big push to complete the ambitious targets set out in the RMCEI plan. The team will now assist the coordinator in presenting these figures and enforcement activities as part of the RMCEI reporting.
- The Enforcement Team have continued to take part in the Multi-Agency Checkpoints, organised by the Mayo Roads Policing Unit.
- One new Certificate of Registration was granted, and one Waste Facility Transfer application received.

Climate Action:

- The Chief Executives report on the Draft Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan was completed in January and sent to all Councillors for review prior to the February Council meeting.
- The Community Climate Action Fund is open for applications until the 23rd of February. The Community Climate Action Officer held in-person information sessions for the fund in Ballina and Castlebar on the 29th & 30th of January respectively. An additional online information session will take place on Wednesday 7th February at 10am. For more information on the fund see [Community Climate Action Programme \(mayo.ie\)](http://mayo.ie)

Dates to Note

Strategic Policy Committee -
February Meeting date to be
agreed.

Upcoming W.E.E.E. Collections:

Saturday the 17th of
February - Cong @ Council
Car Park: 10am to 4pm

Saturday the 24th of February
- Keel Sandybanks Caravan &
Camping Park: 10am to 4pm



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for January 24

- E Planning Applications Received:34
- Hardcopy Applications:19 (Total Planning applications:53)
- Decisions to Grant: 71
- Decisions to Refuse: 7
- Forthcoming Decisions: 125
- Formal Preplanning applications: 6
- Appointments at the 5 Planning Clinics on the 10/01/2024 24/01/2024: 51
- Files appealed to An Bord Pleanala: 0

Social Media/ Publicity Campaigns / Press Releases

- Home to Mayo
- Christmas Tree Recycling
- Mayo Poets
- Cathaoirleach’s Awards
- Funding (GMA, Arts, LEP)
- Murrisk Water Connection Project
- Community Clean Action Fund
- Status Red Weather Warning
- Home to Mayo Community Grants for Festivals
- Mayo Crafters on Display at Showcase

Dates to Note

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



CATHERINE McCONNELL

Human Resources

New Appointments in December 2023

3 x Branch Librarian, 2 x CES Scheme, 1 x P/T Lifeguard, 1 x Assistant Engineer, 1 x General Operative, 1 x Senior Executive Engineer, 2 x Work placement

Promotions 1 x Senior Executive Planner, 1 x Staff Officer, 1 x Temporary Assistant Scientist

Competitions Advertised Project Manager, Strategic Development Zone, Ireland West Airport Knock, Assistant Arts Officer (Grade IV), Beach Lifeguards, Belmullet Tidal Pool Lifeguards, Assistant Planner, Manager of the Jackie Clarke Collection.

Interviews held Driver/Mechanic Fire Service (3 Areas), Public Art Coordinator, SECO, Architectural Technician Grade 1.

Retirements 1 x Staff Officer, 1x GSS, 1 x Clerk of Works / Site Tech Grade II

Training Data for December 2023

49 indoor staff participated in Manual Handling and Project Supervisor Design Process training.

78 Outdoor staff participated in the following training courses:

Driver CPC Module 5, Winter Service Operators & Refresher course, Safe Pass, Road Opening & Reinstatement, CSCS – Locating Underground Services.

Training Centre Update: A total of 304 attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January 2024 with 364 training days.

Work is progressing on our new €2.9m million outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment
- **Storm Isha** - 38 social media posts across Mayo County Council Platforms over the course of Sunday January 21st with the latest information on areas affected by Storm Isha and warning the public of potential dangers.

Oifig na Gaeilge

- Gaeltacht scholarship scheme open for applications
- Event planning for Seachtain na Gaeilge, Cathaoirleach’s Awards and Lá Mhaigh Eo
- Translation, compliance, and event support provided for Communications, Community, Finance, Arts and Tourism

Road Safety

Delivery of Road Safety info talk to MCC Drivers on safety issues and awareness.

Official Events supported by Communications.

Visit from the Estonian Ambassador to Áras an Chontae

FOI Requests: 24 new requests

Insurance Claims: 16 PL Claims

Ombudsman Cases: 3 new – 1 closed

Total Calls Answered: 4035



Directorate Highlights

- The new 5km Achill Island Greenway shortlisted for two awards under the Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Project of the Year @ Irish Building & Design Awards, 8 Mar and @LAMA Awards for Best Trail in Ireland & Best Tourist Attraction, 17 Feb.
- 5,171 people visited Castlebar Library from 2-30 Jan.
- Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex awarded the National Quality Standard Award for 2024, 4th year in a row.
- The LCDC Training, Education and Skills Working group held a Careers fair at ATU Mayo on 20 Jan, with 50 stands including universities, colleges and apprenticeships - over 800 attendees.
- Kate Healy, Belmullet Librarian spoke on Radio 1, 9 o'clock show about the many services Mayo Library Services are offering including, Sensory Cubbie, Music Generation, Blood Pressure Monitor and Activator Poles.
- The Jackie Clarke Collection attracted 1,142 visitors in Dec.
- Age Friendly Parking now available at Belmullet Library.

Dates to Note

- Part VIII for Céide Coastal Path to be advertised 13 Feb 24 subject to final owner agreement.
- SláinteCare Healthy Communities & Age Friendly Mayo to host a health and wellbeing event aimed at aged 55+ "Valentine's Vitality" in the Great National Hotel, Ballina.
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2023: - Category 4 Rest of County -call for funding will open Feb 24
<https://www.mayo.ie/community/oweninnycommunitybenefitfund>
- MSP Winter 2024 Calendar of Events <https://www.mayo.ie/en->

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee held on 29 Jan - 3 projects supported.
- House of Achill, Brenda Flannery Art and The Mood Designs exhibited at the Local Enterprise Showcase, part of Showcase 2024, where over 4,000 buyers from retailers across the globe attended a three-day event in Dublin.
- Planning underway for Local Enterprise Week 2024 taking place 4-8 Mar.
- Ongoing engagement with potential tenants for the new IQ facility in Ballina.

Community Arts, Sports, Childcare

- 2024 Arts Grants open for applications including Arts Act Grants, UPSTART Arts & Disability Funding Scheme, Mayo Artist Bursary, Tyrone Guthrie Regional Bursary Award, Drama League Ireland Summer School Award.
- The Irish Writers National Mentoring Program opened for applications on 1 Feb.
- Mayo Sports Partnership have received an increase of 20% from Sport Ireland core funding. Total allocated for 2024 is €459,643.
- Local Enhancement Programme for 2024 is currently open for Applications.
- Mayo has been successful in their applications under the CLÁR Programme, 14 applications totalling €664,101 have been approved by the DRCD.
- Draft Childminding Regulations released. Consultations planned over the coming months... Consultations planned over coming months.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- Fáilte Ireland confirmed allocation of €32,500 under the Regional Festivals and Participative Events Funding Scheme 2024, details of this scheme published in all local press, on Mayo.ie and details will be presented to the PPN on Wed 7 Feb 24. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Fri. 23 Feb 2024.
- Closing date for receipt of tenders for an Engineering Design team for the Carrowmore Beach Facilities was 25 Jan 2024. Two submissions received and are being assessed.
- Confirmation received from Failte Ireland for additional funding to support the management & monitoring of Keem Bay, on a pilot basis for the 2024 Season.
- Tourism Officer attended the Holiday World Trade Show Events at the Titanic Exhibition Centre, Belfast 19-21 Jan and the RDS, Dublin on the 26-28 Jan 24.
- Tourism Officer attended the Travel Journalists of Year Awards, presented an award to Pól O'Conghaill, Travel Journalist for "Best Home Market (Ireland)"
- Lost Treasures Trail project completed.

Town Regeneration

- Identification of funding sources for Killala's Town Centre First plan - <https://killala-town-centre-first-plan.com/town-centre-first/>
- Developing a user-friendly and concise version of Town Centre First plan for wider dissemination and profile.

Library Services

- Environmentally friendly party kits for lending launched Castlebar Library, 17 Jan.
- **Ceol & Spraioi** - Rhythm & Rhyme for parents and toddlers as Gaeilge in conjunction with Gaeilge Iorrais ran every Wednesday in Belmullet Library.
- **Fostering Drop-in Sessions** for people considering fostering were held in Ballina Library on 24 Jan.
- Children and adults with additional needs from St Brid's special school, Western Care, National Learning Network and Enable Ireland continue to enjoy the Magic Table and the Cubbie as well as borrowing books each week.



Directorate Highlights

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Dates to Note

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Financial Management & Motor Taxation

PETER DUGGAN



MARY ROBINSON CENTRE

Detailed below is the financial position on the Mary Robinson Centre Capital project:

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Total Costs to date (including acquisition)	5,096,144
Estimated construction costs outstanding	121,494

Total Project Costs to Construction	5,217,638
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The funding of this projects is as follows:

	€
Grant	1,750,000
Victoria House Foundation	1,100,000
MCC	2,000,000

Total construction funding	4,850,000
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Note: Construction costs include approximately €100,000 of preliminary works related to fitout

Increase in construction costs primarily relate to Contractor Covid Payments and Inflationary Framework Costs

