



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL  
**MANAGEMENT UPDATE**



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



**APRIL 2024 MEETING**



## Directorate Highlights

### Roads

Additional maintenance funding of €155,279 provided by TII for works on N5, N26, N60 and N83

Works have commenced on site for N59 Georges Street Newport safety scheme

2024 Roadworks Scheme agreed by all Municipal Districts.

### Architects

Tenders issued for Achill Sound 20 units. Westport RRDF Library & Civic Offices Pre Qual of Contractors submitted.

### Heritage

*Medieval Mayo - Churches and Abbeys* book launched in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin on 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Conservation

Funding confirmed for Ballina under the Historic Towns Initiative 2024.

Funding allocated under the Historic Structures Fund 2024 for Belleek Castle and the Convent of Mercy in Ballina, and Holy Trinity Church, Westport.

Financial assistance announced for 8 projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024.

## Dates to Note

Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. Public consultations to be held in Q2 2024.

Preferred Route Public Consultation for N60 Pollavaddy to Balla Active Travel Scheme to be held in Q2 2024. Design report for N5 / R320 junction to be submitted to TII in Q2 2024.

Housing SPC held 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

LTACC Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Workshop held for the Housing & Disability Steering Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024

## Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development TOM GILLIGAN



### Roads

- Construction works on-going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in Q2 2024.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: Scheme has proceeded to the tender phase.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- Design Report for N60 realignment at Brickens approved by TII and scheme is to proceed to Part 8 Planning.
- Belclare to Murrisk Greenway Scheme at Emerging Preferred Route Option stage and work continues on refining the preferred route.
- Options Selection report being compiled for Great Western Greenway – Newport Town scheme.
- 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.
- Works continue on the installation of traffic lights on N84 in Ballinrobe.

### Housing

#### HAP & RAS (March 2024)

14 no. properties delivered under HAP in March 2024.

Total of 1,888 active households supported by RAS/HAP in Mayo at the end March 2024.

#### Leasing (March 2024)

22 no. properties delivered under the Leasing Programme in March 2024.

#### Homelessness

11 homeless presentations in March 2024.

#### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme (as at 31/01/2024)

370 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

332 Stage 1 Approved

170 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received

168 Stage 2 Approved

16 Properties completed

#### Vacant Homes

Croi Conaithe Grant – 465 applications received; 277 approved, 144 in progress, 16 grants paid.

Repair and Leasing – 22 active leases, 29 applications for 89 units.

Buy & Renew – 74 active applications

Municipal District	Tenant Inductions	Garda Checks Processed
Westport MD	0	0
Belmullet	0	2
Ballina	0	12
Castlebar		
Claremorris	5	11
Swinford	2	2
Ballinrobe	0	0



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

JOHN CONDON



### Directorate Highlights

#### Register of Electors

Nominations for Local Elections, 2024 and closing dates for Register of Electors.

#### Climate Action

Climate Action update - The Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan was published in March and can be found on *Mayo County Council's Climate Action Plan*.



#### Register of Electors:

Minister Darragh O'Brien signed the Order to appoint Polling Day for the Local & European Parliament Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The polls will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

The period for receipt of nomination papers is from 10:00 am on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 to 12 noon on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

Closing date for Postal & Special Voter Applications is Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 and for the Register of Electors is Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

#### Environmental Awareness:

- 5 x WEEE Collection Events took place in March 2024.
- Food Waste Awareness & Brown Bin Awareness Event in ATU, Castlebar. (Photo attached)
- Multiple Green School Renewal Visits carried out county-wide.
- Litter Management Plan – Public Survey circulated. (Photo attached)
- Env. Slot on Mid-West Radio covering Nat. Spring Clean, Party Kits, WEEE Events and Septic Tanks.
- Composting in school's programme – training for students.
- Litter Management Plan presentation to SPC



#### Waste Permitting and Enforcement:

- The Enforcement Officers are continuing to participate in the Multi-Agency checkpoints organised by the joint policing unit.
- Routine and non-routine inspections are continuing in line with the new RMCEI plan.
- MCC has a representative on the national CCTV working group, who attended the official ministerial launch of the developed Codes of Practice in Dublin.
- One new Certificate of Registration was granted.

#### Water & Air team:

- 13 complaints received (March)
- 5 Non-Routine Inspections and 22 Routine inspections carried out with 17 Enforcement actions taken (March)
- 6 Planning files referred (March)

One new Discharge Licence granted for Pontoon Bridge Hotel.

Contract awarded for Water Framework Directive Lake Monitoring requirements.

### Dates to Note

Launch of Mayo Climate Action Plan, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

Looking Forward April: Composting workshop in Ballyhaunis Community Garden 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

Next Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture SPC 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024.



**Directorate Highlights**

**Planning Data for March 2024**

Applications Received:	127
E Planning Applications:	93
Hardcopy Applications:	34
Decisions to Grant:	92
Decisions to Refuse:	6
Forthcoming Decisions:	122
Formal Preplanning App:	11
Appointments at five Planning Clinics on the 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024:	57
Files appealed to An Bord Pleanála:	3

**Events delivered by Communications**

Delivery of Cathaoirleach Awards by Communications Office with 400 in attendance and over 100 nominees being recognised on the night. There was a total of 17 winners across 16 subcategories.

**Disapora Engagement**

Official Council US St Patrick’s Day Travel. NY, Philadelphia, Washington. Itineraries devised and co-ordinated.

**Dates to Note**

**Press Releases/Social Media /Publicity campaigns issued by Communications in March 24:**  
Local Enhancement Programme Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme Cathaoirleach Awards Home to Mayo Festival Grants Funding.  
Mayo Day heads to the heart of the Wild Atlantic  
Mayo Day Comes to Chicago  
Community Climate Action Fund Information.  
Oweninny Wind Farm  
Community Benefit Fund.  
Increased cost of business funding

**Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs**



**CATHERINE McCONNELL**

**Human Resources**

**New Appointments in March 2024** – 1 x Integration Support Worker, 2 x Clerical Officer, 1 x Temporary Clerical Officer, 3 x Retained Firefighters, 2 x Emergency Control Operators  
**Promotions** - 1 x Senior Executive Engineer, 1 x Integration Support Worker, 2 x Executive Planner, 1 x Public Art Coordinator, 1 x Executive Architectural Technician  
**Competitions Advertised** – Dog Warden, Traffic / Litter Warden, Beach Ranger, Sports Development Officer  
**Shortlisted/Screened** – Executive Architect, Principal Emergency Control Operator  
**Interviews held** - Assistant Arts Officer, Principal Emergency Control Operator  
**Retirements in March 2024** - 1 x Senior Executive Officer, 1 x Ganger

**Training Data for March 2024**

18 indoor staff participated in Preparing & Responding to a Serious Incident - Surface Dressing for Engineers - First Aid Response - Safe Pass and Managing the role of PSDP. 63 outdoor staff participated in the following training courses: Mobile Elevated Platform - CSCS-Mini Digger - Preparing and Responding to a Serious Incident - First Aid Response & Refresher Training - Tractor Training - Driver CPC Mod 1 - SLG at Roadworks - Information Update 2 Day - CSCS - Signing Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks - Chainsaw Training for New LA Operatives-C&G - Road Opening & Reinstatement – Advanced and Safe Pass.  
**Training Centre Update:** 1,070 attendees have participated in Castlebar RTC courses for the months of January, February, and March 2024 with 1,500 training days.

**Planning**

Material Alterations on the Draft Westport Local Area Plan 2024-2030 are currently on display and submissions may be made until 5pm on the 16/04/24. The Chief Executives report on submissions received on the Ballina Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2024-2030 has been submitted to the elected members.

**Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge/Road Safety**

Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment. Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising.

**Oifig na Gaeilge**

Programme of events for Seachtain na Gaeilge delivered including arts and heritage events as Gaeilge for adults and children. Co-ordination of Irish language elements of Cathaoirleach’s awards including awards for promotion of the Irish language

**Road Safety**

RS participation, Blue Light Event in Swinford on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024. Mayo Road Safety Plan 2024-2030 passed by the RS Together Working Group. County wide School visits promoting the Safe Cross Code Initiative Campaign

**Governance & Customer Service**

FOI Requests:	10
Insurance PL Claims:	12
Ombudsman Cases:	2 new cases, 1 closed case
Total Calls Answered:	3546

**Property, Internal Audit & Organisational Change**

- The sale of the former Crossmolina fire station was finalised.
- A caretaker’s agreement was put in place for the Coach house of the Mary Robinson Centre with the Victoria House Foundation.



## Directorate Highlights

- On 8 Mar Minister Neale Richmond visited LEO. LEO also hosted Maria Walsh MEP & Alan Dillon TD on 11 March to discuss challenges & opportunities for small businesses.
- **Revolutionary Mayo Women**, exhibition by Charlestown Convent pupils in Castlebar Library.
- Cúpla Focal Clubs now in 5 Libraries
- Travel Journalists visited the county to create awareness of upgraded visitor attractions & experiences available in Mayo.
- 26 Seachtain na Gaeilge events in Mayo library branches including Pop-Up Gaeltacht Day in Castlebar.
- On 28 Mar a panel of young people met in Castlebar Library with the Creative Communities Engagement Officer to discuss their views on events for Cruinniú na nÓg
- Tourism Department liaised with the Castlebar MD to advance 500m of fencing works on the urban section of the Turlough Greenway.
- Minister Thomas Byrne announced MSP 2024 core funding €425K on 21 Mar.
- Launch of West of Ireland Womens Mini Marathon in Ballina on 1 Mar.
- Primary Schools Tri Heroes Event Swim/Run@Lough Lannagh 19 Mar
- **Traveller Ethnicity Dav** hosted in

## Dates to Note

- Tragedy of the Titanic Exhibition in Castlebar Library until 21 Apr.
- **Part 8 Planning Process for Céide Coastal Path:** Drawings were available for public inspection from 13 Feb. to 13 Mar 2024. Closing date for submissions / observations was **28 Mar 2024**. Seven submissions received, a report being prepared for consideration.
- Art In the Landscape – Festival of Change takes place North Mayo on 12 & 13 April.
- Consultations on the new draft Childminding regulations to be held on 29 Mar and 9 Apr.

## Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



### Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- **Local Enterprise Week: 4 to 8 March** included two National Spotlight events & local events such as trade with Northern Ireland; business website consultations; future market trends & signature events with Ballina & Castlebar Chambers of Commerce.
- Approx. 200 students from 17 Mayo secondary schools took part in the **Student Enterprise Programme County Final on 7 March** with students addressed by Minister Callery live from Brussels. “Easy Carrier”, Our Lady’s, Belmullet. “Owen’s Landscaping”, St Louis’ Kiltimagh, & “Fly Fitness” Ballinrobe Community School will represent Mayo at the National Final. Our Lady’s, Belmullet was named Mayo’s “Most Enterprising School” on the day.

### Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Community Recognition Fund 2024 announced. Total of €2,428,540 funding available under 3 application windows **1.** Up to 31 May 24, **2.** 1 Aug to 30 Sept 24, **3.** 1 Jan 25 to 31 Jan 25 (mini 20% of allocation ring-fenced for this final window).
- Recommendations for funding under LEP 2024 submitted to the DRCD for approval.
- MSP delivered another successful Women in Sport Week. Over 20 events organised involving over 200 participants included walks, talks and Come & Try events.
- Mayo Local Authority Integration Team developing Directory of Services database to compile services/supports to LAIT cohorts in Mayo, attending stakeholder meetings, visits to IPAS accommodation centres & plans to host outreach clinics at the centres.

### Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

EOI submitted to DRCD for €30K to enable development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for the County. The DRCD announced funding under ORIS Measure 1 as follows: -

- Brickens Toms Lane Trail, Claremorris €30,000
- Old Head – Louisburgh Trail €30,000
- Cross Beach Access €30,000
- Breaffy Kilcon Loop walk €30,000
- Urlaur Lake €30,000
- Carrowteige Loop Walks €30,000
- Asset Renewal works continue on the Great Western Greenway between Westport and Achill Island primarily consisting of bridge decking, fencing and road crossings.

### Town Regeneration

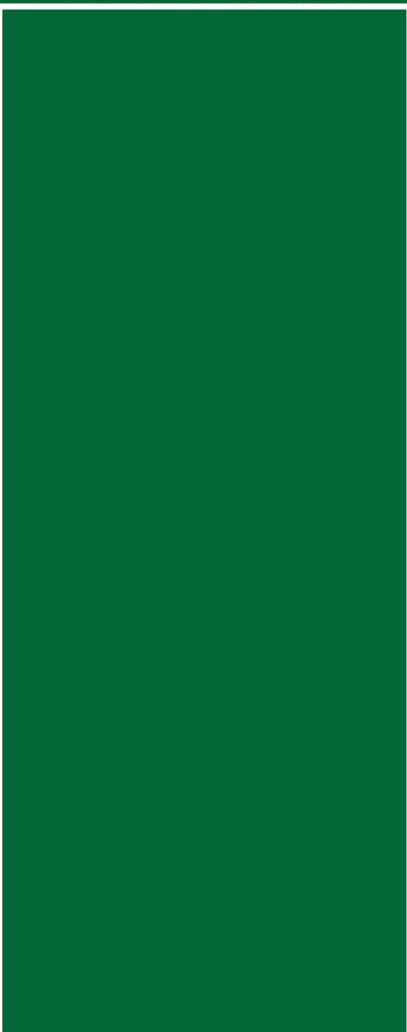
- Continuing engagement with Killala Town Team to augment structures, detail operational plan & progress key projects/actions identified in Town Centre First Plan.
- Inaugural briefing with Ballyhaunis Town Team.
- Collaboration with Ballina MD team on THRIVE Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme.
- Ongoing partnership with Mayo Community Futures.

### Library Services

- Information Stand at the Mind Yourself Youth Conference in Mulranny on 13 & 14 Mar. Students attended from Achill, Belmullet, Swinford & Castlebar Secondary Schools.
- Information Stand at Mayo Autism Camp Resource Fair in Claremorris on 20 Mar.
- Age Friendly talk in Castlebar Library with Nutritionist Siobhan Hennelly on 26 Mar.
- School’s World Book Day- presentation to students @St. Oliver Plunkett N.S. Ballina.
- A range of multilingual children’s books for refugee & international children sourced.
- Easter Egg Hunts & Crafting sessions Castlebar Library & in the Jackie Clarke Collection.
- 495 visitors to the Jackie Clarke Collection in March to date.
- Children’s Activity booklet designed & handed N.S. children visiting The Jackie Clarke.



Directorate Highlights



Dates to Note



Financial Management, Information  
 Systems & Motor Taxation

PETER DUGGAN



APPENDIX A

FINANCIAL REVIEW APRIL 2024

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2024 Adopted Budget  
 Two months ended 29th Feb 2024

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE			INCOME				
		Exp. To Date Feb-24	Budget 2024	Remaining 2024	% Spent 2024	Inc. To Date Feb-24	Budget 2024	Not Rec'd 2024	% Rec'd 2024
A	Housing and Building	5,022,751	28,725,722	23,702,972	17%	4,820,187	27,450,543	22,630,356	18%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	4,331,766	54,151,004	49,819,238	8%	2,916,923	45,628,186	42,711,263	6%
C	Water Services	2,404,504	19,437,281	17,032,777	12%	3,087,539	23,490,255	20,402,716	13%
D	Development Management	2,856,949	18,505,758	15,648,809	15%	1,134,296	8,156,620	7,022,324	14%
E	Environmental Services	3,262,505	21,803,717	18,541,212	15%	982,665	8,090,650	7,107,985	12%
F	Recreation and Amenity	2,424,678	14,675,534	12,250,856	17%	955,534	5,501,500	4,545,966	17%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	324,366	2,063,389	1,739,023	14%	104,878	741,721	636,843	14%
H	Miscellaneous Services	2,530,094	15,792,135	13,262,041	16%	2,228,528	13,946,899	11,718,371	16%
J	Central Management Charges	4,381,077	26,382,836	22,001,758	17%	262,187	1,640,000	1,377,813	16%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	7,438,618	44,660,815	37,222,197	17%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	3,705,031	22,230,186	18,525,155	17%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>27,538,691</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>173,998,685</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>27,636,385</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>173,900,991</b>	<b>14%</b>

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Feb-24	Arrears Feb-24	% Collected
Rents	2,472,004	1,464,635	1,007,369	59%
Rates	43,003,942	6,092,047	36,911,895	14%
Housing Loans	1,171,804	545,341	626,263	47%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft	28
Estimated interest incurred	5,863