



JUNE, 2023

Highlights

Text here

Dates to Note

Text here

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Executive Report

KEVIN KELLY



Community Recognition Fund

In May the Government announced €50 million in funding for over 880 projects as part of the first ever Community Recognition Fund which is designed to support and reward communities that have welcomed families and citizens from Ukraine and other countries.

Mayo County Councils application resulted in the approval of €2,254,126 in respect of 48 projects across the county. Initiatives assisted under the scheme included recreational trails, lighting, outdoor gyms, playgrounds, astro surfaces, amenity areas, skateparks, sports clubs, playgrounds, street furniture, park areas, walks and rural transport.

Ballina based Cosmetics visionary takes top prize at National Enterprise Awards

Advanced Cosmetic Manufacturing is owned and ran by Noreen Hackett, a Cosmetic Chemist with over 10 years' experience in the industry who took the top prize of overall winner at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House on 1st June.

One of Europe's only 'concept to shelves' cosmetics companies, based in Ballina, was set up by Noreen in 2018 before launching to market in 2022 achieving significant success during that time. Recognising an opportunity to enhance the Irish market offering, Advanced Cosmetics Manufacturing was established. The business now works with companies from formulation through to packaging, offering a "Made in Ireland" solution for Irish cosmetics companies. Some of Advanced Cosmetics' clients include SoSu Dripping Gold range, Pestle & Mortar, Bellamianta and Skingredients.

LEO Mayo has worked closely with Noreen over the years to develop her business and she has availed of training including a Start Your Own Business programme in 2018, participating in the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition in 2019, mentoring, and financial supports through Priming And Business Expansion grants.

The Awards, which are an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices to celebrate the best small businesses in Ireland, were held at the Round Room in the Mansion House in Dublin in what is their 23rd year. Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, announced this year's winners in front of representatives from the Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities and small businesses from across the country at the event.

Congratulations to Noreen and all the team at LEO Mayo.



Directorate Highlights

Roads

N5 Westport – Turlough Scheme is to be officially opened by An Taoiseach on 15th June.
N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford scheme to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection in Q3 2023.

Procurement – New e-tenders platform Go Live has been launched.

Architects: - Planning permission lodged for 20 houses at Achill Sound.

Heritage: - Funding of €95,000 secured under Local Biodiversity Action Fund for 6 projects.
Draft Mayo Heritage & Diversity Strategic Plan 2023 -2030 approved by Corporate, Ed., Culture, Heritage & Library SPC.

Conservation: - Tenders issued for works at Belleek Gate Lodge

Parks: - Opening of Tooreen Community Park.

Housing

Expressions of Interest for Housing acquisitions have received 100 submissions.
54 social housing tenants in situ., 27 had valid Termination Notices, 46 had no social housing tenants in situ., 22 of these properties were vacant.

Dates to Note

Roads

The remaining section of the N5 Westport to Turlough Rd to open on 15th June 2023.

SPCs

Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting held on 6th June.

Housing SPC meeting held on 30th May.

National Vacant Homes Officers Network to be held in Mayo on 20th June.

Housing, Roads, Architectural Services and Service Development
TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- Construction works on- going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in August 2024
- N59 Newport – Derrada scheme to proceed to tender in Q2 2023.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- N58 Foxford By -Pass Strategic Assessment Report being re drafted and will be submitted to TII.
- N26 / N59 Ballina By -Pass is at Phase 2 route option stage. Options selection report is being compiled. Scheme to proceed to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation in Q3 2023
- N60 Manulla scheme to proceed to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation in Q3 2023
- Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme.
- Consultant working on Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road.
- Design report submitted to TII for N60 Brickers re alignment at railway overbridge. Awaiting approval from TII.
- Speed limit review ongoing.
- Award of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project has been suspended due to a legal procurement challenge.

Housing

The 2023 target is 151 units and projects are currently underway to meet this target. There was no target set for Mayo for Affordable Housing, however, we are currently looking at a number of options.

HAP & RAS (May - 2023)

- 8 No. delivered under HAP,
- 5 No. delivered under RAS

Total of 1961 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of May.

Leasing (May - 2023)

- 1 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Total: No. 371 households currently supported under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness – 17 No. homeless presentations (May., 2023.)

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

To date: -

- 323 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received
- 298 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility have been issued
- 87 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and 64 approved to date
- 79 Stage 3 Grant stage payments have been made.

Croi Conaithe - 149 applications received, 38 approved

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 19 active in place -

Buy& Renew - 56 applications at various stages in process

Procurement & Efficiency

- New internal procurement thresholds implemented.



Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Directorate Highlights



Fire Services picture above:
 Senior Officers Interagency
 Team for POTUS visit.

Environmental Awareness:
 Green Schools Awards - 24 Mayo
 Schools Awarded with their new
 Green's Flag at an awards
 ceremony in Mc William Park,
 Claremorris.
 Staff Food Waste Recycling event.

The Enforcement Team have
 successfully been awarded
 €110,493.81 for nine (9) projects
 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative
 for 2023.

Climate Action: The launch of
 EasyGo EV chargepoints in Mayo
 was held at Lough Lannagh on May
 30th. All required energy data was
 provided to SEAI by the May 19th
 deadline for Public Service
 Monitoring and reporting.

Dates to Note

National Food Waste Recycling
 Events in Claremorris and Castlebar.

Wagon Days events throughout the
 County.

Waste Management Workshops
 with GAA Green Clubs.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Operations: President of the United States Joe Biden visited Ballina on the evening of 14th April 2023. Civil Defence deployed 30 members to support this historic event. Mayo Civil Defence received support from Galway and Offaly Civil Defence and worked alongside Order of Malta Ireland, An Garda Síochána, The HSE, Mayo Fire and Rescue and MCC to ensure all attendees had a safe and enjoyable experience.

Civil Defence has continued its Community/Event support program for 2023 and have attended 12 sport and community events in April & May - equating to approx. 550 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Equipment Management System (VEMS)

In 2021 the Department of Defence entered into a contract to develop a new on-line VEMS for Civil Defence. Final preparations are underway for the launch of the new VEMS system in second half of 2023.

Training: Civil Defence members continue to maintain their Minimum Training Standard. Members have attended national training with the Civil Defence Branch and the Environmental Protection Agency in preparation for a national radiation monitoring exercise in June also ensuring that members are up to date in the event of the deployment of this service. Local training continues on a weekly basis for all members.

FIRE SERVICES

Community Fire Safety Our Community Fire Safety team continued their proactive engagement and the Schools Summit at the GAA Centre of Excellence where they interacted positively with more than 2000 students who are preparing for their lives after the Leaving Cert exams.

POTUS visit Several Fire Brigade units were placed on standby duty to facilitate the visit of President Biden to locations at Knock Shrine, Mayo Roscommon Hospice, Enniscoke House and St. Muredach's Cathedral at Ballina while Senior Officers, as part of an interagency team worked to ensure the entire visit passed without incident.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Blue Flag Beaches: Mayo has been awarded **12 Blue Flags** for the following beaches: Doega, Elly Bay, Keel, Keem, Mullahgrove, Mulranny, Ross Killala, Silver Strand Dugort, Golden Strand, Old Head, Bertra and Clare Island. The regaining of the 3 flags for Old Head, Bertra and Clare Island was the highest achieved and was highlighted at the awards ceremony. Mayo was also awarded **6 Green Coast Awards**. The Mayo beaches included in the Green Coast Awards are Tranaun Beach on Inishturk Island, Termon Beach, Srah Beach, Cross Beach Belmullet, Rinroe Beach and Carrowniskey Beach Louisburgh.

Veterinary: During the month of May a Dog Licencing campaign was launched. Through radio and social media platforms dog owners were advised that the dog wardens would be checking for dog licences in the following areas in May— Cong, Shrule, Kilmaine, Hollymount and the surrounding areas.

Water & Air team: 13 complaints received (April). 15 Inspections carried out with 2 Enforcement actions taken (April).

1 Discharge Licence application being processed -5 Planning files referred (Apr)

Waste Permitting and Enforcement Update:

1 new Waste Facility Permit was granted. 1 review Certificate of Registration was granted. 1 COR surrender application was received.



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for May 2023

- Applications Received: 126
- Decisions to Grant: 93
- Decisions to Refuse: 5
- Forthcoming Decisions: 117
- Formal Preplanning applications: 20
- Appointments at the five Planning Clinics on 4/5/2023 and 18/05/2023: 56

FOI Requests: 17
Insurance PL Claims: 11
Ombudsman Cases
2 new cases – 2 closed cases
Total Calls Answered: 4553

Road Safety

Public Information updates on severe weather, traffic disruptions, water repairs, recruitment.

Media Responses to local and national Media queries.
Co-ordination of Corporate Advertising.

N5 Official Opening preparations underway in conjunction with the National Roads Office.

Dates to Note

Planning, Human Resources, Communications & Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



Human Resources

New Appointments in May 2023

- 1 Temporary Clerical Officer, 1 Branch Librarian, 1 Senior Staff Officer, 1 Emergency Control Operator, 1 Assistant Engineer, 1 Executive Architect, 27 Seasonal Beach/Pool Lifeguard (includes 3 current staff), 1 Student Placement

Promotions

- 1 Architect Tech Grade 1 (permanent appointment), 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Senior Engineer, 3 Administrative Officers, 2 Senior Staff Officers

Competitions Advertised in May 2023

- Assistant Architect (Part time 3-year contract Heritage Project), Assistant Planner and Senior Executive Technician Civil

Screened/Shortlisted

- Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Community Climate Action Officer

Interviews held

- Clerical Officer, Civil Technician Grade 2, Civil Technician Grade 1, Executive Civil Technician

Retirements in May 2023

- 2 Administrative Officers, 1 Staff Officer (Revenue Collector), 1 Clerical Officer, 1 Ganger, 1 WW Caretaker Grade III, 1 WW Caretaker Grade V

Training Indoor

197 indoor staff participated in the following:

- Climate Action Awareness
- Cardiac First Response
- Time Management
- Building Line Manager Capacity at Grade 6
- Personal Safety at Work & Dealing with Difficult Customers
- Data Protection & Freedom of Information training
- Minute Taking
- Building Line Manager Capacity at Grade 5
- Manual Handling (Indoor)
- Dignity at Work training

Corporate Communications/Diaspora/Oifig na Gaeilge Events

- Visit of Latvian Ambassador to Mayo County Council
- Visit of Argentinian Ambassador to Foxford
- Visit of Mayo of Cleveland and a 14 strong delegation to Achill Island, marking the 20-year twinning between the County of Mayo and Cuyahoga

Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

Dog Licence Inspections, LEADER consultations and survey, CLAR Funding, Septic Tank/Waste-Water Treatment inspections, Photos of the day, Local events/attractions around the county, Library initiatives, Housing campaigns

Oifig na Gaeilge

- Westport library weekly ciorcal comhrà launched
- Translations provided and managed for LCDC, PPN, Corporate Development and N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project



Directorate Highlights

- Advanced Cosmetics Manufacturing Ltd, a Ballina business supported by LEO, won the National Enterprise of the Year at this year's National Enterprise Awards on 1 June
- 650 people participated in 25 Bike Week events co-ordinated by MSP 13-20 May, inc. Family & School Cycles, Maintenance Workshops, Learn2Cycle & Lime Bike demos.
- Cultural Companions, An Age & Opportunity Arts Initiative, launched 30 May.
- Anne McCarthy has taken up the new position of Town Regeneration Officer.
- A tender has been awarded to "Toposopy" for the development of a Visitor Management and a Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Keem Bay.
- The Tourism unit facilitated a media fam trip for Travel Journalists from the BBC from the 9-11 June.
- Time to Read workplace visit - children & teachers from Castlebar Educate Together learned about the Council & its work when they visited MCC on 31 May.

Dates to Note

- Minister Hildegard Naughton will officially launch the Slaintecare Fitsticks -Doogort Trail on Achill Island on 22 June.
- Open Water Swimming - Full programme planned for Summer 2023: Lough Conn - Teenage Girls lessons, Ross Beach - Teenage lessons, Belmullet - all ages lessons, Achill - Lessons - for details click [Here](#)

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Supported by LEO Mayo, students from Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford won 'Best Stand' and students from St Louis Secondary School, Kiltimagh won the 'Best IP Awareness' award at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals which took place on 5 May.
- The Ballina Business Networking Showcase 2023 took place on 26 May and featured guest speakers from the Western Development Commission, Mayo North Tourism, LEO Mayo, and Minister Dara Calleary

Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- €79k allocated between 100 clubs and community groups in MSP's 2023 Return to Sport Small Grant Scheme.
- The Mayo PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement was at the PPN County Plenary in Breaffy House Hotel on 23 May. Up to 100 community groups were represented at the event. Copies of the Wellbeing Vision Statement are available on the PPN website at www.mayoppn.ie
- Mayo's Older Persons Council Information event held on 31 May. The objective of the event was to promote, expand and diversify the OPC.
- A Mayo Community Futures Community Day was held on Clare Island on 29 April. Over 70% of residents attended to vote for priorities for their area.
- 16 Parent and Toddler groups received funding totalling €15,332.
- Mayo County Childcare commenced Diversity and Equality training with 11 early years services working in the County.

Town Regeneration

- Completion of a series of initial meetings with DRCD, DHPLG, National Town Centre First Office, Ballina MD, Community Futures, Slaintecare etc.
- Review of all plans and literature in relation to Killala (MCC's current Town Centre First designated town).

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- At a recent sitting of the Circuit Court, Mayo County Council successfully defended a public liability case / personal injury claim relating to a fall on the Castlebar - Turlough Greenway.
- An application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 23 May for the proposed Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities at Keel, Achill. Viewings are available online [Here](#) or at the offices of ABP, Westport Civic Office or the MCC Planning Office until 7 July. Submissions must be made directly to ABP - closing date Friday 7th July 2023.
- A number of capital projects have been recently completed including the Raheen Wood and Erris Head Trailheads. Claims have been prepared and submitted to the DRCD.
- Plans are progressing to advance much needed improvements works to a 4km section of Greenway between Westport and Newport.

Library Services

- Chess workshops took place in Ballina, Castlebar & Westport 8-10 May for all ages
- Staff demonstrated online library resources in Castlebar library as part of Bealtaine on 17 May.
- National Volunteering Week took place 15-21 May: Open Days in Ballina & Castlebar Libraries, information stand in Castlebar library on 17 May
- Mayo Libraries celebrated Ireland being 50 years in the EU on 9 May with storytelling by Fiona Dowling in Castlebar Library.



Directorate Highlights

Text here

Dates to Note

Text here

**Financial Management,
 Information Systems & Motor
 Taxation**
PETER DUGGAN



APPENDIX A

FINANCIAL REVIEW JUNE 2023

**1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2023 Adopted Budget
 Four months ended 30th April 2023**

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE			INCOME				
		Exp. To Date Apr-23	Budget 2023	Remaining 2023	% Spent 2023	Inc. To Date Apr-23	Budget 2023	Net Rec'd 2023	% Rec'd 2023
A	Housing and Building	7,692,797	24,035,722	16,342,925	32%	6,220,063	23,804,700	16,184,637	32%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	8,913,850	49,856,825	40,942,975	18%	6,105,198	41,526,728	35,421,530	15%
C	Water Services	5,142,393	17,713,680	12,571,287	29%	6,367,176	21,369,276	15,002,099	30%
D	Development Management	5,109,889	14,174,044	9,064,155	56%	1,922,047	4,616,955	2,694,908	42%
E	Environmental Services	5,767,022	17,889,861	12,122,839	32%	1,847,062	6,132,349	4,285,287	30%
F	Recreation and Amenity	4,490,173	13,117,245	8,627,072	34%	1,568,301	4,230,700	2,662,989	37%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	660,520	1,980,731	1,320,211	33%	230,173	683,533	453,360	34%
H	Miscellaneous Services	4,262,070	12,810,708	8,548,638	33%	4,738,164	14,170,424	9,432,240	33%
J	Central Management Charges	8,337,364	24,972,867	16,635,503	33%	546,570	1,600,000	1,053,430	34%
	Rates	-	-	-	-	12,577,797	37,741,670	25,163,873	33%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	6,891,782	20,675,346	13,783,564	33%
	GRAND TOTAL	50,376,078	176,551,683	126,175,605	29%	50,414,353	176,551,681	126,137,328	29%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Apr-23	Arrears Apr-23	% Collected
Rents	3,799,323	2,753,743	1,045,581	72%
Rates	41,065,506	11,605,840	29,459,665	28%
Housing Loans	1,696,998	1,070,092	626,907	63%

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft	22
Estimated Interest Incurred	15,479