



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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Table of Contents

MISSION STATEMENT	3
INTRODUCTION BY CATHAOIRLEACH & CHIEF EXECUTIVE.....	4
MANAGEMENT TEAM.....	8
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES.....	9
CORPORATE & UKRAINIAN RESPONSE DIRECTORATE.....	13
Corporate Services.....	14
Ukraine Response.....	23
HOUSING & EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTORATE.....	26
Housing And Building.....	27
Human Resources.....	45
INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & FIRE SERVICES DIRECTORATE	46
Roads, Transportation And Safety.....	47
Environmental Services.....	69
Parks And Open Spaces	77
Operation And Maintenance Of Piers And Harbour	82
Veterinary Service.....	87
Water Services.....	88
Climate Action	91
Operation Of Fire Service	93
Civil Defence.....	99
PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ARTS AND CULTURE DIRECTORATE.....	101
Development Management	102
Enforcement Of Planning Control.....	104
Community & Economic Development.....	109
Library, Museum, Archives, Creative Ireland And Decade Of Centenaries.....	142
FINANCE DIRECTORATE	144
Finance.....	145
APPENDICES.....	150
Appendix 1: Staff Retirements 2022.....	151
Appendix 2: Performance Indicators.....	152
Appendix 3: Conferences Attended By Councillors 2022.....	153
Appendix 4: Committee Membership.....	154

Mission Statement

“

To maximise economic, social, cultural and community development, deliver efficient and cost-effective services in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner in partnership with local communities, voluntary and statutory agencies.

”



County Hall, Riverside, Sligo,
F91 Y763



City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo,
F91 PP44



Introduction by Cathaoirleach & Chief Executive

We are pleased to introduce Sligo County Council's Annual Report for 2022, which outlines the extensive scope of activities, services and supports undertaken by the Council in support of the communities that we serve.

2022 saw an easing of the coronavirus pandemic across the world, which led to Council Services returning to normal during the year. However, a new challenge presented itself with the advent of war in Ukraine, leading to the establishment of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum in the County. The forum enabled Sligo County Council to collaborate with various organisations and agencies at local level, in the delivery of co-ordinated services for Ukrainian refugees relocating to Sligo.

Sligo County Council continues to face challenges introduced by housing shortages and increases in construction costs. Against this backdrop, the Council in line with Government policy continued to provide a range of housing options efficiently as possible within the limited resources available. The Housing First National Implementation Plan (2022-2026), which was launched in December 2021, was critical in supporting rough sleepers and long-term users of emergency accommodation transition into sustainable and independent tenancies.

During 2022 the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovations, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, to ensure that Sligo is an optimum location for people to live, invest or visit. The O'Connell Street Enhancement Project was completed, construction started on the Queen Maeve Square, which provides an open event space in the centre of Sligo and the National Surf Centre in Strandhill was substantially completed; all projects which ensure Sligo continues to grow its tourism offering. The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo was placed on Ireland's new Tentative List of World Heritage Properties and Sligo County Council will work in partnership with the National Monument Service over the coming years to ensure that the application to UNESCO is successful.

The most valuable resource available to the Council are its people and in 2022, investment continued in training and recruitment to meet national, regional and local objectives. A new Workforce Plan was prepared, which endeavours to provide job security as well as clarity of role to deliver the best possible services to our citizens. The Plan identifies the areas for investment as:

- Climate Action
- Digital Transformation and Change Team
- Regeneration Team
- Housing for All
- Active Travel
- Asset and Facilities Management
- Dereliction Team

We wish to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the Elected Members and the Staff of Sligo County Council throughout 2022. We also wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all the voluntary and community organisations, which the Council interacts with on a daily basis for their on-going collaboration and support.



Councillor Michael Clarke
Cathaoirleach
Sligo County Council



Martin Lydon
Chief Executive
Sligo County Council

Members of Sligo County Council

BALLYMOTE - TUBBERCURRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr. Martin Baker
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Cllr. Tom Fox
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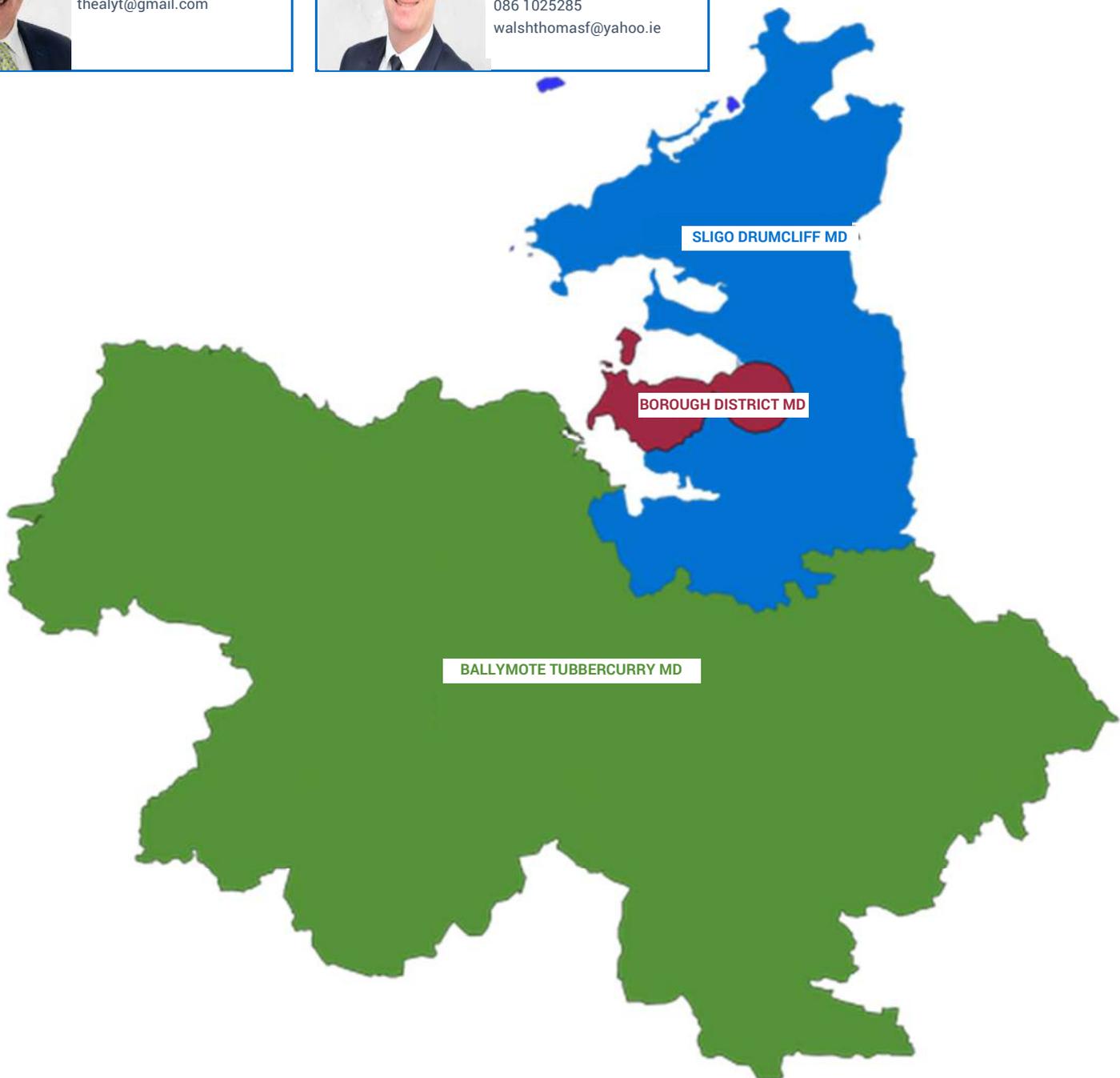
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Mr. John Moran
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Strategic Policy Committees

There are 4 Strategic Policy Committees operating in Sligo County Council, details of which are as follows:

- **SPC 1 – Housing & Corporate**
- **SPC2 – Environment & Infrastructure**
- **SPC 3 - Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture**
- **SPC 4 – Climate Change**

SPC1 – Housing & Corporate

- Councillor Arthur Gibbons, Chairperson
- Councillor Martin Baker
- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Tom Fox
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Paul Taylor
- Alan McMenamin, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Pippa Black, PPN Social Inclusion
- Melinda Swann, PPN Environment
- Paschal Connolly, Trade Union Pillar
- Trevor McDaid, Business Pillar

Meetings Held

- 8th March 2022
- 14th June 2022
- 6th September 2022
- 6th December 2022

Issues Considered

- Housing Delivery Action Plan
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Private Rented Accommodation Standards
- Customer Complaints policy
- Draft Housing Allocation Policy
- Vision for Community Wellbeing
- Implementation of the Sligo Housing and Disability Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Vacant Homes Strategy
- National Remote Work Strategy / Right to Request Remote Working Bill 2021
- Housing Grants
- Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021

SPC2 – Environment & Infrastructure

- Councillor Thomas Walsh, Chairperson
- Councillor Michael Clarke
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Dónal Gilroy
- Councillor Joe Queenan
- Councillor Rosaleen O’Grady
- Sharon Eastwood, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Joan Swift, PPN Environment
- Conor McCarthy, Business Pillar
- Michael O’Dowd, IFA

Meetings Held

- 13th January 2022
- 3rd March 2022
- 12th May 2022
- 14th September 2022
- 16th November 2022

Issues Considered

- All Ireland Strategic Rail Review
- Greenway between Sligo and Enniskillen
- Blue Flag Beaches
- Summer Season
- 2022 Roads Funding
- Active and Sustainable travel
- N16 Lugatober Scheme
- Waste Management Initiatives
- National Waste Management Plan
- Roads Works Programme
- N7 Knock to Collooney Scheme
- Sligo Cycle Network Plan
- Bulky Waste Collection Events

SPC3 – Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture

- Councillor Rosaleen O’Grady, Chairperson
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Gerard Mullaney
- Councillor Arthur Gibbons
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Thomas Walsh
- Councillor Tom Fox
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Aoife O’Toole, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Sheila Scanlon, PPN Social Inclusion
- Emer Knowles, PPN Environment
- Karen O’Hara, Trade Union Pillar
- Aidan Doyle, Business Pillar
- Des Morrison, IFA

Meetings Held

- 23rd February 2022
- 29th June 2022
- 14th September 2022
- 9th November 2022

Issues Considered

- Update on the Sligo 2030 LECP Process
- Sligo Brand Project
- Update on RRDF Projects for Strandhill and Rosses Point
- Planning Circulars issued by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government
- Sense-ability project
- Review of the County Development Plan
- Review of the Cultural and Creative Strategy
- Draft Rates Incentive Scheme (RIS) 2023
- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
- Croí Conaithe Town Fund (Vacant Home Refurbishment Grant)
- Sligo 2030 Strategy
- Draft Local Economic & Community Plan for Sligo (Sligo 2030 – One Voice, One Vision)
- Draft Sligo County Council Culture & Creative Strategy
- Roll out of E-Planning
- Public Art Commissions Plan 2022-2025+

SPC 4 – Climate Change

- Councillor Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson
- Councillor Dara Mulvey
- Councillor Martin Connolly
- Councillor Dónal Gilroy
- Councillor Paul Taylor
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Lisa Moore, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Yvonne Lang, PPN Environment
- Laura Gaffney, Business Pillar
- Bernard Finan, IFA

Meetings Held

- 30th March 2022
- 6th July 2022
- 28th September 2022
- 23rd November 2022

Issues Considered

- Community Climate Action Fund
- National Climate Action Plan
- Local Authority Climate Action Plan
- Work Programme 2022
- Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency
- Energy Bureau and Energy Agency updates
- Corporate Energy Policy
- Climate and energy related projects i.e. SCORE, FASTER





**CORPORATE &
UKRAINIAN
RESPONSE
DIRECTORATE**

A/DIRECTOR:

MR JOHN MORAN

CORPORATE SERVICES

The main services provided by Corporate Services include:

- Administration of Council and Municipal District meetings
- Providing administrative services for the Cathaoirleach
- Support for elected members
- Preparation of the register of electors
- Freedom of Information
- Provision of media and Information Services
- Administration and the delivery of customer services

In addition to the plenary and Municipal District meetings, Corporate Services co-ordinate meetings of the Council's Corporate Policy Group, Joint Policing Committee, Procedures Committee, Twinning Committee and Audit Committee.



Members of Sligo County Council



Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Clarke

Information Services

Corporate Services provides information services to the Elected Members, staff and media, monitors and updates Sligo County Council's website. The section is also responsible for issuing media releases and coordinating responses to media queries. Among the publications produced are the Annual Service Delivery Plan, Annual Report and the Corporate Plan.

Customer Services

The Customer Services Desk is the first point of contact for many people who visit the Council offices or make contact by phone or email and our customer service staff are committed to delivering the best possible quality of service to our customers. The level and range of customer services are reviewed on an ongoing basis and will be included in the Digital Transformation process going forward.

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CLARKE ELECTED CATHAOIRLEACH

Councillor Michael Clarke was elected Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council at its Annual General Meeting on 17th June, 2022. Councillor Clarke was proposed by Councillor Joseph Queenan, seconded by Councillor Dara Mulvey, he succeeds outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Taylor.



Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke with outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Taylor

Councillor Marie Casserly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.



Councillor Dónal Gilroy with Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Marie Casserly



Councillor Clarke welcomed his family, friends and supporters to the Council Chamber, including his partner Katherine, sons Augustine and James.

In his address, Councillor Clarke said his main focus during his term will be on infrastructure, housing and jobs, and advised the Council that he will be seeking a meeting with Minister Ryan in relation to the Eastern Garavogue Bridge, the National Primary Routes N59, N16 and N17.

The Cathaoirleach added 'Over the last thirteen years I have tried my best to work in a constructive way to make this county a better place for its people, and I look forward to continuing to do so in the years ahead.

I also look forward to working with our new Chief Executive Martin Lydon, who has a vision for the county that I share. On jobs, I will be engaging with the Local Enterprise Office to explore every opportunity to grow business in the county.'

The Cathaoirleach concluded his address by advising the Members of his first formal engagement, attendance at the Official Opening of the War of Independence Memorial in Banada on Sunday, where he will deliver a tribute to Civil War legend Linda Kearns. Among her many achievements, Linda was a champion for better working conditions for nurses and was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal for services to nursing.

COUNCILLOR MARTIN BAKER ELECTED CATHAOIRLEACH OF BALLYMOTE-TUBBERCURRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Councillor Martin Connolly was elected Cathaoirleach of Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District at their Annual General meeting which was held on Monday 20th June.



Cathaoirleach Councillor Martin Baker with Councillor Martin Connolly

Councillor Baker's nomination was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Mullaney and unanimously agreed.

In his address, Councillor Baker said he looked forward to working with the Elected Members and staff over the next year to address the many challenges facing the District and the county. Particularly focusing on the current housing crisis, the improvement of roads in the area and progressing the N17 Knock to Collooney project.

Councillor Martin Connolly was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District.

Director of Services Emer Concannon thanked outgoing Chair Councillor Martin Connolly for his service over the last year, congratulated Councillor Martin Baker and wished him well for his term in office.

COUNCILLOR TOM FOX ELECTED CATHAOIRLEACH OF SLIGO-DRUMCLIFF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Councillor Tom Fox was elected Chair of Sligo Drumcliffe Municipal District at its meeting on 20th June. Councillor Fox was proposed by Councillor Walsh with the nomination seconded by Councillor Casserly.



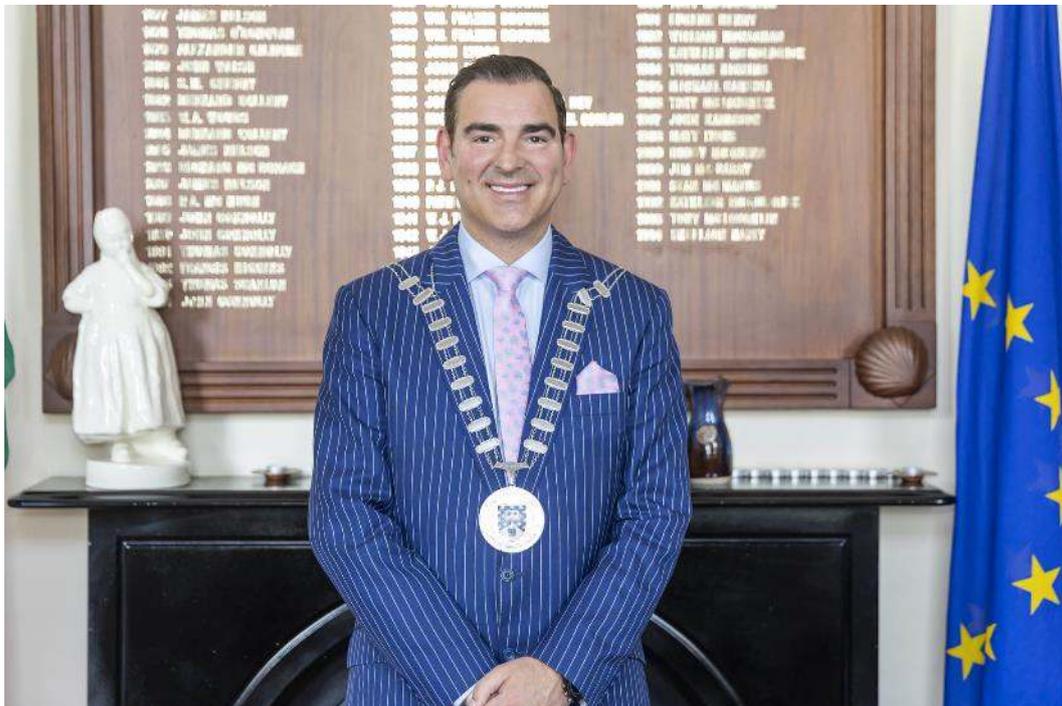
Councillor Fox thanked his proposer and seconder, and said he looked forward to working with the Elected Members and staff over the next year. He had a number of priorities he would like to see advanced in his term, including the re-alignment of the N16 and the Eastern Garavogue Bridge.

Councillor Fox believes it will be an important year for the agricultural sector and marine tourism, and he would also like to see progress in the realm of remote working, as people strive to achieve a proper work/life balance.

Director of Services Jim Molloy thanked outgoing Chair Councillor Marie Casserly for her service over the last year, and committed his support and that of the staff to Councillor Fox for his term in office.

COUNCILLOR TOM MACSHARRY ELECTED MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH DISTRICT OF SLIGO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Councillor Tom MacSharry was elected Mayor of the Borough District of Sligo Municipal District at its AGM on Monday 27th June. Councillor MacSharry's nomination was proposed by Councillor O'Grady, seconded by Councillor Bree and unanimously agreed.



Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady was elected Deputy Mayor.

In his address Councillor MacSharry said 'As our society gradually emerges from the challenges of Covid, our communities are striving for some level of normality. At national level, the economic forecasts may be a cause of concern, with rising costs and inflation rates imposing hardships on many households and businesses.

Positive

It is the job of government at national level, and for us Councillors at local level, to provide robust, targeted supports to those most in need. However daunting the challenges, I still believe there are many reasons to be positive about the future, particularly in this region. There is a vibrant tourism and recreation sector here in Sligo, and the progress we have experienced in recent times is set to continue.

Investment

There has been an unprecedented level of capital investment in our local transport infrastructure, and in recent days we had announcements of the purchase of Lough Gill Distillery by global spirits company Sazerac Our local Enterprise office continues to nurture and mentor new businesses, and I believe this has the potential to lead to a vibrant and thriving local economy. Our tourist offering is the envy of many other counties, with majestic walkways and trails, countless historical sites and outstanding coastal scenery.

Priorities

One of our key priorities is to work with other agencies to see Sligo grow and develop as the key centre of economic growth in the Northwest.

The delivery of a number of key flagship projects will be critical to the delivery of this objective, including the public realm projects we have considered and progressed in this chamber. Another hugely positive development in recent times is the transition of our local IT to the Atlantic Technological University, they will be a major player in the future progress of Sligo.

Strategic importance

We also have an unrivalled cultural and arts platform – the recent Connacht Fleadh and Wild Roots Festival, the upcoming Yeats Celebrations; This is just a snapshot of our hectic festival and events Programme. When Sligo was chosen a few years ago as the location to launch the National Development Plan, it was public recognition of our strategic importance in a regional and national context.'

The Mayor concluded his address with a positive message for his term as Mayor.

'The people in this Chamber have an important role to play in that journey, and I look forward to working alongside you to see Sligo grow and develop and realise its enormous potential.'

Register of Electors

There were 56,456 electors registered on the 2022/2023 Register of Electors in County Sligo, which came into force on 15 February 2022.

The Electoral Reform Act 2022, which was signed into law on 25th July 2022, provided for the modernisation of the electoral registration process, including the introduction of a rolling register and continuous registration, a simplification of the forms, on-line registration, and enabling a single national register database. Since the introduction of the Rolling Register, the number of electors is continuously being updated.

An information campaign is undertaken every year to remind people of their responsibility to check the Register. A national awareness campaign was also developed to support each registration authority in seeking engagement of electors.

An online application system was also introduced in 2022. Voters can now apply for registration or update their details at www.checktheregister.ie Work is ongoing on the development of a single shared database for use by all local authorities to manage and update the Register of Electors.

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information legislation provides people with a right of access to official records held by the Council, and the right to have personal information held corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading. In 2022, 56 requests for access to records were received by Sligo County Council.

Local Representation and Civic Leadership

Administrative support for Cathaoirleach

Corporate Services provides administrative support for the Cathaoirleach and the chairs of the Municipal Districts.

Cathaoirleach's Awards

The 'Cathaoirleach's Awards Ceremony' is hosted annually to publicly honour our County's special volunteers who have given exemplary service to their community. Awards are presented in the categories of Arts and Culture, Community, Sport, Schools, Environment & Heritage, Young Enterprise, and Spirit of Sligo Award. The 2022 Awards ceremony took place in County Hall on 1st February 2023 and were presented to community volunteers across eight categories.

The Cathaoirleach's Awards Roll of Honour for 2022 is follows:

Category	Winner	Presented by
Arts & Culture	Coláiste Muire Ballymote Choir	Cllr Joe Queenan
Community (Individual)	Vanessa Scanlon	Cllr Declan Bree
Community (Group)	N4 Action Group	Cllr Thomas Walsh
Environment & Heritage	PJ O'Neill	Cllr Marie Casserly
Schools	Senior 3rd & 4th Class, St Joseph's Special School	Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady
Spirit of Sligo	Jimmy Currid	Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Clarke
Sports	County Sligo Swim Club	Cllr Declan Bree
Young Enterprise	Fiona Karki	Cllr Arthur Gibbons



Winners of the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2022

The Council also hosts Civic receptions and receptions hosted by the Cathaoirleach to honour people who have given distinguished service or have excelled in a particular endeavour.



Gerry McGwyne has been honoured with a Civic Reception by Sligo County Council hosted by the Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke

International contacts

While Sligo has signed three formal Twinning Agreements – with Crozon, Kempton and Tallahassee – it has developed a range of international contacts and regularly welcomes Ambassadors, dignitaries and other guests to County Hall and City Hall. In recent years Sligo County Council has hosted students from Kempton for work experience under an Erasmus programme. During 2022, a delegation from Sligo County Council met with Council Officials and Chamber of Commerce from Pearl River in New York with a view to exploring a twinning association with the town, which has a strong Sligo population. Sligo County Council’s Twinning Committee will continue to develop our friendship with our ‘twin towns’ across a range of projects, and will explore the establishment of new associations for the Council to consider.



Colombian Ambassador to Ireland Her Excellency Patricia Cortés Ortiz was welcomed to Sligo County Hall by Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Taylor and Chief Executive Martin Lydon in May.



The Indian Ambassador to Ireland His Excellency Ambassador Mishra, accompanied by his wife Reeti visited the offices of Sligo County Council in May.





Her Excellency Ambassador of Chile, Ms. Carla Serazzi as well as Chile-Ireland Chamber of Commerce representatives, visited the offices of Sligo County Council in November.

Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 provided for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee in each Local Authority, to develop greater consultation, co-operation and accountability between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected members, with the participation of the Community and voluntary sector, on the management of policing issues. The Joint Policing Committee consists of 24 members: 13 elected members of the Council, 1 Oireachtas member, 2 Local Authority Officials, 2 nominees of the Garda Commissioner, and 6 Community nominees. The Committee is chaired by Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady. The JPC met on a quarterly basis in 2022 and progressed the actions included in the JPC Strategic Plan.

New Local Community Safety Partnerships are to be established which will build on and replace the existing Joint Policing Committees - they will be more Community led than the existing JPC structures and will provide a forum for State agencies and local community representatives to work together to act on community concerns. Currently three pilot Local Community Safety Partnerships have been established in Longford, Waterford and Dublin North Inner City with an independent Chair and full-time Co-ordinator appointed to each pilot Partnership. They are in the first year of a 2 year pilot, following which the new structures will be rolled out nationally.

Ukraine Response

At National level, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is the lead agency in terms of coordinating the response to the Ukrainian crisis by Government Departments and national agencies. The Irish Government is providing accommodation through the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS).

The Sligo Ukrainian Community Response Forum continues to meet on a regular basis. Building on structures and relationships which were highly effective during the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Forum enables all those involved to work together under the stewardship of the local authority. The role of the Forum is to co-ordinate the Sligo response in the provision of local supports required by refugees, including liaising with local service providers, identifying service gaps and developing solutions and encouraging collaboration among service providers. A dedicated web page has been developed on the Council's website to centralise all relevant information in respect of the Ukrainian Crises, the various agencies involved and their roles etc, link: <https://www.sligococo.ie/ukrainianinformation/>

In addition to its co-ordinating role through the Community Response Forum, the Council is working in conjunction with implementing partners including IPAS, DCEDYI, Irish Red Cross (IRC) and the International Organisation for Migration [IOM] in activating pledges of accommodation made by members of the public via the IRC national register of pledges. From December 2022, Sligo County Council receives pledges for vacant properties directly through a dedicated website www.offerahome.ie.

The Council is also working in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to identify buildings with potential for use as temporary accommodation, and also with the Office of Public Works in relation to a modular homes project on a site at Doorly Park, Sligo.

Land Assets and Facilities Management (including Sligo Harbour)

The Council's Land Assets and Facilities Management Team's role is to:

- direct and manage the decision-making process in relation to leasing, disposal and acquisition of Land Assets on behalf of Sligo County Council along with controlling Income from Council Leased Lands and letting of lands for Agricultural Grazing.
- present reports in relation to proposals for leasing, acquisition and/or disposal of lands (Section 183's) to Management and Elected Members.
- have responsibility of Facility Management and Maintenance for several office accommodation properties occupied by Sligo County Council. This combines Analysis, Decision Making and the Delivery of Results in the Procurement of Services within the Councils Working Environment adhering to Energy Management, Space Allocation, Budget Control & Health and Safety.

The team has identified a programme of work for 2023 to address outstanding facilities issues at County Hall, City Hall and Teach Laighne Tubbercurry, and other Council owned buildings throughout the County.

Governor's House offices were vacated due to urgent conservation issues in 2014. A number of these issues were rectified in 2015, however, substantial works are outstanding. Sligo County Council intends to commence the outstanding works in 2023.



Governor's House

Sligo Harbour

Sligo County Council in conjunction with Triur Construction Ltd. are responsible for the following:

- Management and Control of Harbour and Shipping Activities
- Operation and Maintenance of Sligo Harbour
- Maintenance of Aids to Navigation in Sligo Harbour

A total of 21 no. ships have docked in Sligo Harbour up to end December 2022 and the outturn forecast for 2023 is 25 No. ships. Primary cargos through the port are fishmeal, slack and pulp log.

It is proposed to commence work on the preparation of a draft Sligo Harbour Masterplan the aim of which will be to deliver on the vision for the Harbour lands and to transform this area into a new sustainable urban area with a unique identity in a distinctive setting.



A 60 metre berthing pontoon was installed near Hughes Bridge in 2008 and is proving to be very popular with leisure craft. Sligo County Council propose applying for Department funding to extend the pontoon in 2024.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

In March 2021, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, announced €48 million in funding for a suite of regeneration projects in Sligo town. The projects are being funded under 'Call 2' of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The URDF funds projects aimed at enhancing urban areas to make them more attractive places in which to live, invest and visit. The projects for which URDF support have been approved are:

Sligo Public Realm Plan

The transformation of a number of Sligo's streets and spaces – €19.16 million

City Campus – Sligo's cultural and learning hub

An exciting collaboration between Sligo County Council and ATU Sligo which will involve a new County Library, a new ATU Sligo library, offices and some residential spaces – €28.68m.



**HOUSING &
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
DIRECTORATE**

DIRECTOR:

MR JIM MOLLOY

HOUSING AND BUILDING

The Council's Housing Section is active in the following areas:

- Approving households for social housing support
- Allocation of houses to those on the Housing List
- House maintenance and improvements
- Estate Management
- Homelessness
- Traveller Accommodation
- Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability
- Private Rented Tenancy Inspections
- Local Authority Home loan and Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme
- Provision of new homes

The range of housing options now available to households approved for social housing support includes:

- Local Authority owned or Leased Social Housing
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)
- Voluntary Housing Schemes
- Local Authority Home loan

Maintenance / Improvement of LA Housing Units

The budget provided for the maintenance and repairs of Local Authority Housing Stock in 2022 was €1,842,451. Sligo County Council prioritises repair requests that pose a health or safety risk to the tenant, and repair requests from older people and those with special needs. The Housing Section dealt with over 4,000 repair requests in 2022.

Planned Maintenance and Emergency Works Programme

There was a rolling Programme of works throughout the year. Works included the following items: Windows and doors replacement, heating upgrades, stove and chimney works, kitchen replacements, bathroom replacements, and fencing works.

There is also a programme of Works in relation to,

- a) Electrical Safety certification and associated works and
- b) Fire detection and alarm systems upgrade works, BER's, radon mitigation etc.

Voids Funding Programme 2022

This Programme supports the refurbishment of vacant/void Council properties. The net cost to the Council in 2022 amounted to €720,805.15 as follows:

Expenditure	€1,138,805.15	48 houses
Income Department	€418,000.00	38 houses (€11,000 per house)

10 houses were ineligible for funding due to previous claims dating back to 2015.

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme

The Government has committed significant funding to retrofitting social housing, under an Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme. The original Programme was launched in 2013 and was aimed at retrofitting social homes requiring insulation and energy upgrades. The Programme was revised in 2021 and required Local Authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' Programme, with properties to be retrofitted to a B2 Cost Optimal standard.

A Grant allocation of €1,125,270 for the retrofitting of 36 houses was received from the Department for 2022. The actual cost of the works amounted to €1,167,439, with € 42,169 being funded by Sligo County Council.

Adaptations and Extensions to Local Authority Stock

Each year Government provides funding to the Council to enable it, where necessary, to carry out adaptations and extensions to Council stock. Works in some cases facilitate tenants in being able to leave hospital and return home to their homes.

The Government allocated a sum of €321,824.00 to the Council for 2022. 90% of an allocation or €289,642 was by way of Government contribution with the balance of 10% or €32,182 from the Councils own resources. This allocation allowed adaptation works for 39 units to be carried out in 2022.

In addition, the Government allocated a sum of €126,467 towards three extensions in 2022. Again 90% or €113,821 was by way of Government contribution with the balance of 10% or €12,646 from the Councils own resources.

Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer

Housing Assessment

The Social Housing Assessment Regulations, set out the procedure for assessing households who are seeking social housing support. The assessment determines if the household is eligible and in need of social housing support.

There were 1,639 households on the housing list as of 31st December 2022 - see Table hereunder.

No. of households approved for Social Housing Support 2022	1639
Breakdown as follows:	
No. of households availing of HAP and approved for a transfer	727
No. of Council/RAS/AHB Tenants approved for a transfer	218
No. of households availing of HAP and not approved for a transfer	4
No. of remaining households i.e. Net Housing Need	690

The Housing Section also offers advice on other housing options and supports that households may be eligible to avail of in lieu of social housing and/or while they are awaiting a housing allocation.

Allocations

Sligo County Council allocates properties in accordance with its Allocations Scheme- See Table hereunder for details of offers of tenancy for 2022.

Offers of Tenancy	Accepted	Refused	Pending
106	82	24	0

Disability

The Sligo Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-25 involved the identification of current and future needs (over the next five years) for people with disabilities, as well as highlighting the delivery pipeline and actions to address obstacles in providing disability accommodation in County Sligo.

Under the Strategic Plan, a minimum of 15% of all units in developments of ten units or more will be designed specifically for persons with a disability. It is aimed to meet the needs of wheelchair users by providing half of disability units to meet universal design + standard.

In developments of less than ten units, consideration will be given to providing one unit in each. Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) will also be encouraged to target new build and acquisition projects to cater for persons with a disability.

Consideration will be given to the four grounds of Disability (physical, sensory, mental health and intellectual) under the Regulations and to guidance provided by Government and the Housing Agency. It is important to provide solutions for applicants who are represented in each of these categories and who have indicated their care and support needs.

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)

The implementation of (HAP) is a key Government priority and a major pillar of the Social Housing Strategy 2020. It is a form of social housing support where local authorities can provide housing assistance for households with a long-term housing need including long-term rent supplement recipients. The scheme removes a barrier to employment by allowing recipients to remain in the scheme if they gain full-time employment. HAP will also improve regulation of the rented accommodation being supported and provide certainty for landlords regarding their rental income.

As of 31st December 2022, there are 801 live tenancies, with 114 tenancies having been set up in 2022.

It is the intention of Sligo County Council over a period and in line with Government policy, to transfer all rent supplement applicants and recipients in the county into HAP.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 01/07/2019–30/06/2024

The table below shows the targets and achievements to date under this Programme.

Targets for Delivery/achieved to date

ACCOMMODATION TYPE	Target July 2019-June 2024	Achieved July 2019-December 2022
Group Housing/ Halting site	12	6
Specific Purchase	5	1
Upgrade of existing facilities	9	11
Council Tenancy	21	12
RAS/HAP	17	5
Voluntary Housing	2	11
TOTAL	66	46

70% of the Target has been achieved to date– on Target. The Mid-term review of TAP has been completed with no material changes to the overall programme.

Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration

Differential Rent Scheme

Sligo County Council operates a Differential Rents Scheme on the basis that tenants are charged a weekly rent in accordance with their ability to pay. A new Scheme was introduced on 1st February 2021, which also allows for an enhanced Planned Maintenance Programme.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

The current Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme was introduced on 1st January 2016 to enable tenants buy their homes.

A few changes to the Scheme were approved by Government in December 2021 and came into effect in 2022. The minimum income required for an applicant to qualify under the scheme has been revised from €15,000 to €12,500 per annum. The time required to be in receipt of social housing supports to qualify under the scheme has been changed from one to ten years. For joint tenancies, both tenants must be in receipt of social housing support for at least 10 years.

Among other things, the change provides a pathway for applicants whose primary source of income is the State Contributory or Non-Contributory Pension to qualify under the Scheme.

26 Applications have been approved in principle in 2022.

Housing Community Development Support

Estate Management Programme

Sligo County Council currently manages a housing stock of over 2,300 dwellings and 6 halting sites. Sligo County Council uses the resources of its Estate Management Staff, and it also co-operates with Residents Associations and An Garda Síochána, to ensure that, in so far as possible, all Council estates are pleasant and safe areas to reside.

Sligo County Council has a duty to manage and control its tenancy dwellings and accommodation let under the Housing Acts and to secure and protect the interests of its tenants, tenant purchasers and licensees, as far as is reasonably possible, in the peaceful occupation of those units.



Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, all complaints in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour and Estate Management issues are documented and followed up on in terms of Estate Management policies and strategies. The Estate Management Unit has developed policies designed to be consistent and fair in its approach to dealing with all complaints and aims to resolve issues in accordance with housing legislation and functions. It should be emphasised that due to current estate management initiatives, the incidence of anti-social behaviour in Local Authority estates and sites is low, and most Local Authority tenants are able to enjoy living in their dwellings free from any difficulties associated with anti-social behaviour.

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

All landlords have a legal duty to ensure that their rented properties comply with certain minimum physical standards. These minimum standards are set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 137/2019). Responsibility for the enforcement of the Regulations rests with the local authority.

942 inspections were carried out in 2022. Sligo County Council also issued 298 Improvement Notices to Landlords in the same period.

Administration of Homeless Service-Homelessness

Sligo County Council makes every effort to respond effectively and appropriately to those who present as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. There is an increasing number of people at risk of homelessness who contact Sligo County Council through self-referral, through advocates or through family members.

Homeless Action Team (HAT)

Sligo County Council has a Homeless Action Team (HAT), which regularly meets to assess individual cases and to adopt approaches to best support and assist homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless and to put in place support services for them. This case management approach is key to achieving the principle contained in national policy of a housing led approach, whereby homeless persons should be accommodated, in the first instance, in suitable accommodation with or without supports, rather than in expensive emergency accommodation. This has proven very effective for the Council. Households are assisted with moving to independent living. Assistance can also be provided in certain instances by way of hostel or B & B accommodation. Services are available at a number of locations in Sligo.

The housing shortages are still impacting on the numbers of new homeless presentations to Sligo County Council. The shortage of affordable private rented housing is continuing and is acutely affecting families without savings, on benefits, non-Irish nationals without family network, lone parents, Travellers, and persons with disabilities. There has also been a sharp increase in the number of Notices of Termination issued by Landlords to Tenants. This has exacerbated an already challenging housing situation, with more households now in danger of becoming homeless.

Services

Services are available at the following locations:

- Maryville, Finisklin, Sligo (Sligo Social Services Council CLG) – capacity 15 beds
- Ballytivnan, Sligo (Sligo Social Services Council CLG) - capacity 5 beds
- Shalomar, Finisklin, Sligo (Finisklin Housing Association Ltd) – capacity 16 beds
- Transitional supported housing at Citygate, Mail Coach Road, Sligo- 23 units.
- Two units in Sligo Town for families requiring intensive supports under SLA with Focus Ireland CLG.
- 10 additional emergency homeless singles beds have been provided in a property in Sligo town to cope with high demand.

Sligo County Council continues to be the lead authority for Homeless Services for the Northwest Region (Sligo, Donegal and Leitrim) and is responsible for budget management and the co-ordination of funding for the region.

North West Regional Homelessness Action Plan

The Northwest Regional Homelessness Action Plan was reviewed in 2022 and a new Plan was developed in consultation with the Regional Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum. The consultation phase with all counties in the Northwest (Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo) region noted a sharp increase in the homelessness of families, single people and particularly those from vulnerable groups such as persons with a disability, Travellers, lone parents, survivors of domestic violence and non-Irish nationals. Actions have been identified to prevent homelessness, to protect the current homeless population and to progress this cohort into long-term sustainable accommodation with appropriate supports.

The new Plan was adopted by all three Local Authorities in March 2023, submitted to the Department of Housing and its implementation has commenced.

HAP Place Finder

Sligo County Council has a dedicated employee in the Place Finder Homeless HAP role, who is working to source HAP accommodation for those in homeless accommodation for prolonged periods. The HAP Place Finder is working to explore new opportunities with landlords, agencies and the public and is matching places with clients.

Resettlement Tenancy Support & Sustainment

Sligo County Council aims to minimize the instances of homelessness occurring and to assist in cases where homelessness does occur, has put in place commissioned Resettlement Tenancy Support and Sustainment Services with Focus Ireland CLG and North-West Simon. The aim of these services is to support individuals and particularly families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Services are provided for general needs clients and for clients experiencing diagnosed mental health issues and/or addiction issues.

Housing First

The latest Housing First National Implementation Plan (2022-2026) was launched by the Department in December 2021. The continued implementation of Housing First is critical in supporting rough sleepers and long-term users of emergency accommodation transition into sustainable and independent tenancies. An integrated delivery Programme across housing and health is essential for the success of Housing First. This Programme aims to provide wraparound tenancy and health supports aimed at securing stable housing whilst also addressing individuals' underlying physical health, mental health and addiction challenges.

45 new Housing First tenancies will be created in Sligo over the next 5 years for those persons requiring intensive supports and with a history of long-term homelessness.

There are 11 active Housing First tenancies in Sligo as at end of 2022, with a number of other tenancies proposed in the coming months.

RAS Programme

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Rental Accommodation Programme assists households who are in receipt of Rent Supplement for more than 18 months and who have been assessed by SCC as having a long-term housing need (excluding asylum seekers or other non-nationals who do not have leave to remain in the State permanently).

Sligo County Council has delivered 6 new properties in 2022. There are declining numbers of RAS units available. Property owners generally are tending not to offer units for contract renewals.

Leasing

Units under this Programme can be delivered in a variety of ways to include:

- Multi-unit developments directly leased by Local Authorities,
- Individual units either leased or through rental arrangements that can be acquired using Local Authority delegated sanction, and
- Units leased, purchased or constructed by AHBs.

Sligo County Council is currently in discussions with developers and AHBs for additional units.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

A key component of the [Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness](#) is the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme, which targets the delivery of social housing and also ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible. The maximum cost of repairs allowed under the Scheme is €60,000. There has to be a social housing demand for a property and the property has to be assessed as being viable to provide social housing. Details of the Scheme are on the Council Website. The Council is currently examining a number of applications under this Scheme.

Local Authority Home Loans

The Local Authority Home loan is a government backed mortgage for first time buyers. A first-time buyer can apply for a Local Authority Home Loan to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage, which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis. A person can borrow up to 90% of the market value of the property.

Maximum market values of the property that can be purchased or self-built are:

- €360,000 in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow
- €330,000 in Cork, Galway, Louth and Meath
- €300,000 in Clare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Waterford, Westmeath and Wexford
- €275,000 in Carlow, Cavan, Donegal, Kerry, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo and Tipperary.

10 Applications have been approved in principle in 2022.

Private Housing Grants

Housing Adaptation Grants for older People and People with a Disability Schemes

The allocation from the Department to Sligo County Council for 2022 was €1,445,798. During the year, the Housing Section was also successful in securing an additional allocation of €266,876 to bring the total allocation to €1,712,674. Sums of €1,370,139 were paid to Sligo County Council with the balance of €342,535 (20%) funded from SCC's own revenue resources.

The applicable schemes are:

- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability.
- Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- Housing Aid for Older People

Other Programmes

Acquisitions, including Part V acquisitions:

Sligo County Council acquired 5 no. houses in 2022. Sligo County Council are currently seeking to purchase other units.

MINISTER O'BRIEN BRIEFED ON SLIGO HOUSING PROGRAMME

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien, T.D., spent Tuesday 26th July, in County Sligo visiting housing schemes in Dromore West and Tubbercurry.

His first engagement was at County Hall, where he was welcomed by Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke and Chief Executive Martin Lydon.



In his address the Cathaoirleach said

'We look forward to briefing the Minister over the course of the day on the work being planned and delivered on our housing programme across the county.'

Key Element

The provision of housing services is without doubt the most important service delivered by a Local Authority. While the house building programme is the key element of the service, we have major responsibilities in the roll out of the various grant schemes, these provide a vital support to people in communities all over our county.

Staff

The staff delivering our various housing services and supports in Sligo County Council are exemplary, they take great pride in their work, and show great professionalism and compassion in assisting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.'

After a briefing by Sean Martin, Senior Architect on Sligo County Council’s Housing Delivery Action Plan, Minister O’Brien visited Stephen Street in Sligo town, Sligo City Hall, Dromore West and Tubbercurry.



Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services briefing Minister O’Brien on the new cultural quarter

Cultural Quarter

Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services, briefed Minister O’Brien on exciting proposals for our new cultural quarter and public realm, projects which have the potential to transform Sligo’s public spaces.

Mayor of Borough District of Sligo Municipal District Councillor Tom MacSharry said

‘The core objective of the Plan is to enhance our public spaces, including streets and car-parks, and we are committed to delivering on this ambitious programme in the coming years.



Housing Projects

Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke was joined by Minister O'Brien to officially open Phase 2 of St Farnan's Drive in Dromore West which provides 10. no dwellings. St Farnan's Drive was designed by Sligo County Council Architect's Department and has been constructed in accordance with the Nearly Zero Energy Building Standard(nZEB). The main contractor on this project was P. McHugh & Sons Ltd. The project is part of Sligo County Council's Capital Housing Programme and was funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.



Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke with Minister O'Brien and Minister Frank Feighan at the official opening of Phase 2 of St Farnan's Drive in Dromore West



Cathaoirleach Councillor Michael Clarke, Minister O'Brien, Minister Frank Feighan, Martin Lydon, CE Sligo County Council, Jim Molloy, Director of Services, Architects staff and project contractor

Minister O'Brien joined Cathaoirleach of Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District Councillor Martin Baker for the official opening of Phase 1 of Connolly Park. This first phase of the development provides 4 new apartments (3no.x2bed and 1no.x2bed – Special Needs dwelling) and 6 new 3 bed family houses. Main contractor for Phase 1 of Connolly Park was Brendan Sammon Ltd.

Minister O'Brien visited the site of Phase 2 of Connolly Park which will provide 15 no. units (7 houses and 8 apartments)

Cathaoirleach of Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District Councillor Martin Baker said

'The delivery of ten housing units in Phase 1 and 15 units in Phase 2 is a major element of our Council's housing programme.'

The Minister met with local residents at both locations and commended the Housing staff and other members of the project team for the quality of both developments.



Cathaoirleach of Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District Councillor Martin Baker and Minister O'Brien at the official opening of Phase 1 of Connolly Park



Minister O'Brien visiting the site of Phase 2 of Connolly Park

Sligo East City, Cranmore & Environs Regeneration Masterplan

The implementation phase of the Masterplan is well underway following its launch by the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government in December 2016.

The Regeneration Vision is:

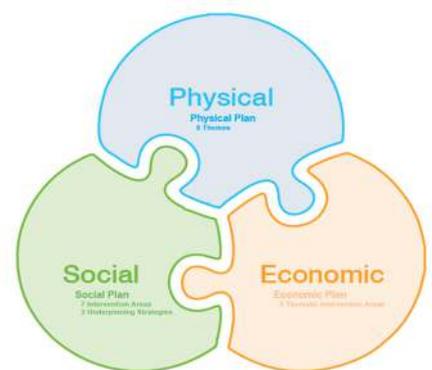
“To make the area a more attractive place to live with better, convenient connections to existing and new facilities, locally and in the rest of Sligo.

To enable individuals and communities in the area to avail of emerging opportunities and access to employment, education, health and family support services.

To secure the area as a location of choice for future generations in which to live, work and visit.”

The Masterplan describes a number of physical projects and social and economic initiatives to address needs. These projects will provide much needed investment to improve housing in the area, open spaces and roads, as well as investment in community facilities and services.

A number of Physical Projects identified in the Masterplan have secured funding to the amount of €20m from the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government. The Council has also leveraged capital funding through the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme to support the construction of the new Community Facility.



PHYSICAL PLAN

The following are details of projects currently progressing from the Physical Plan. These projects have been developed to address issues and opportunities arising from consultation with the community.

Phase 2 – Building & Environmental Upgrades - 130 Houses (Geldof Drive, Joe McDonnell Drive, John Fallon Drive and Devins Drive – West and Carroll Drive)

Refurbishment works on the 130 houses being carried out by the contractor Brendan Sammon Ltd., are progressing as per programme and will see works completed by Q2 2023.

Phase 3 - Building & Environmental Upgrades - 127 Houses (Yeats Drive, Colliery Drive, Langan Drive, Mc Neill Drive and Devins Drive – East)

All 127 houses in this phase have been surveyed and the consultant teams are preparing contract documents, with a view to submitting a Stage 3 application to the Department for approval in February 2023. It is envisaged that the project will go to tender in Q2 2023, subject to Department approval, with a site start date in Q4 2023.

Community Facility

The Cranmore Regeneration Office is continuing to consult with community groups and organisations within the Masterplan area. This is in relation to defining a new brief to deliver a community facility that supports education and community services. Consultations will take place with a view to progressing a revised Stage 1 Capital Appraisal to the Department.

Housing at Joe McDonnell Drive and Link to Chapel Hill Road

The contractor, P.J Treacy & Sons Ltd., commenced works on site on the 25th July 2022, with the demolition of four houses. Works are progressing as per programme, and it is anticipated that the works will be completed in Q4 2023.



Riverside Gate Lodge

Phase 2 works are substantially complete and it is expected the building will be operational in 2023. The building will provide an opportunity for Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG and Sligo Tourist Development Association to support local tourism by providing employment opportunities in customer service and offering barista training.



Pictures of the renovated Riverside Gate Lodge

SOCIAL PLAN

The following are details of projects being progressed from the Social Plan.

The Education Programme supports the following initiatives:

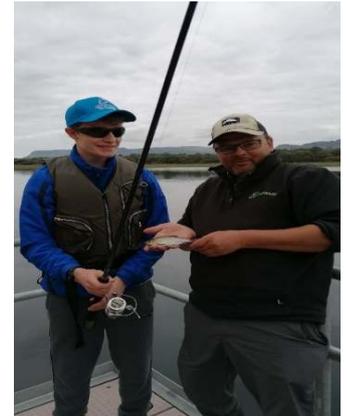
Cranmore Community Safety Group

The Cranmore Community Safety Group reconvened on Monday 10th October 2022.

The aim of the Community Safety Group is to promote cooperation between the various agencies involved and highlight community safety issues in an effort to create a safer environment for all.

Fishing Project

The final Try Fishing taster session of the year was held on Sunday 18th September 2022. The event was organised by the Cranmore Regeneration Project, Education and Enterprise Coordinator in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Sligo Sports Recreation Partnership and the Cranmore Community Co-Op. The session was aimed at parents/guardians and youths aged 12 years and over. It is hoped through continued community participation, ownership of this project will be led by the community with the support of the Cranmore Community Co-Op and Sligo Sports Recreation Partnership.



Education Outreach

In August 2022, the Education team began providing a monthly education information service in Globe House. This initiative is being delivered by the Cranmore Regeneration Project, Education and Enterprise Co-Ordinator. The Education Mentor is available to meet with residents on the first Wednesday of every month to answer any education queries and signpost to resources available.

Community Education and Learning Study

The Digital Audit and Training Needs Analysis project was reviewed post COVID, which resulted in a new proposal called 'Community Education and Learning Study'. This was brought to the Digital Audit and Training Needs Analysis Project Working Group for their feedback. The new proposal draws on learnings from the work from the previous study and feedback from learners in the community.

The new aim of the Community Education and Learning Study is to find out the current education needs, interests, supports and challenges within the community.

Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education Training Board (MSLETB), who are part funders of the project, in conjunction with Sligo County Council, have approved the new proposal.

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

Primary Programme - Time to Read

Sligo County Council in partnership with St. Johns N.S. will continue to run the Time to Read Programme during the 2022/2023 academic year.

The Time to Read programme aims to 'increase the enjoyment of, and confidence in reading whilst encouraging self-discovery and comprehension for the participating children'. The programme involves six volunteer readers from Sligo County Council staff visiting the school to assist eight children from 2nd class with their literacy and reading.

Secondary Programme

World of Work

The World of Work programme provides 2nd year students with an opportunity to meet employees from a local business to learn about the world of work. Sligo County Council is partnered with the Mercy College and has run this programme for two years and it is proposed to do so again during the current academic year.

College Awareness Week

The Cranmore Regeneration Project, Education and Enterprise Coordinator, arranged College Awareness Week events, in November 2022, in partnership with local secondary schools, ATU Sligo, St. Angela's College, a former pupil, and the Education Mentor. College Awareness Week is a national campaign which aims to promote the benefits of going to college, to help students of all ages to become college-ready and to showcase local role models.

The group visited Ballinode Community College and Mercy College where they met with guidance counsellors and facilitated a session with students outlining the options after 2nd level, various routes into 3rd level, mentoring supports and financial supports.

Education & Learning Strategy Review

The Cranmore Regeneration Project, Education and Enterprise Coordinator has consulted with other agencies/organisations of the 'Cranmore Regeneration Project Education Working Subgroup', to review the Education and Learning Strategy. The Strategy objectives are set out in the Sligo East City, Cranmore, and Environs Regeneration Masterplan. The draft review is complete and will be made available to all members of the Cranmore Regeneration Project Education Working Subgroup. The Education and Enterprise Coordinator will present her findings at the next Cranmore Regeneration Project Education Working Subgroup meeting which is scheduled to take place on 17th January 2023.

Community Mentoring and Advocacy Course

Between November 2020 – April 2022 Sligo LCDC, Cranmore Mentoring Programme, MSLETB, Sligo Leader, combined to deliver a programme which has at its heart, the principles of upskilling, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

This programme developed a cohort of community mentors and advocates. Key features were collaborative learning and peer support. Two information sessions have been run to recruit participants for the next roll out of the programme which we hope to deliver in conjunction with MSLETB from Summer 2023.

One to One Mentoring

The Education Mentor continues to be available to meet adults and young people on a one-to-one basis for mentoring. A new mentoring journal has been produced to support this work, which is available to view on the website www.cranmoreconnects.ie.

Mentoring in Europe Event

Celia Keenaghan, CRP Education Mentor, is a member of the Advocacy Committee of Mentoring Europe who in November 2022 presented a position paper *Mentoring in Europe: Towards an inclusive society, connecting cultures and generations*, to Mariya Gabriel European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth at the first ever high-level mentoring event at the European Parliament with Mentoring Europe Advocacy Committee. Ireland's experience in widening participation in Higher Education was represented in a testimony from Lisa Wallace from our community partner Cranmore Community Co-op.



Symposium

A *Symposium on Access to Higher Education: Community Engagement and Mentoring*, was held on the 18th October 2022. Community members and education organisations came together for the first symposium of its kind with events hosted across Ray MacSharry Park, the Abbeyquarter Community Centre and Cranmore Community Co-operative Workshop.

The event was organised in order to share good practice, promote learning and offer community organisations an opportunity to let Higher Education Institutes hear about and respond to issues of community engagement and access to higher education.

The event was opened with a welcome address from Joey Jinks, local resident and Community Learner, followed by an introduction to the partnership between ATU and the Cranmore Regeneration Programme from Linda McGloin, Access Office, ATU and Sean Martin, Senior Architect Sligo County Council. The Guest Speaker was Gysbert Bergsma from Mentoring Europe, who delivered an inspiring presentation on the importance of Mentoring, both formally and informally.

Participants came from the local community, Sligo County Council, ATU and University of Galway and other partners across the region.



HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department provides a key support function within the organisation through the provision of HR related services across the Council including recruitment, training, maintenance of personnel records, industrial relations, payroll, superannuation, performance management, time and attendance etc. It is also responsible for implementing a range of statutory and non-statutory staff related policies and procedures. The HR Department works closely with Unions and Staff Representatives to achieve good working relationships and is committed to the promotion of a good Industrial Relations environment. A significant number of posts have been filled in 2022 via internal and external competition, with 31 recruitment competitions having been held to date to fill positions in various sections including Roads, Housing, Library Service, Energy Efficiency and Climate Vacancies for open posts were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Sligo County Council and Local Government Jobs websites.

Retirements

During 2022, a total of 12 staff retired from the service of Sligo County Council.

(See Appendix 1)

Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department is responsible for formulating and implementing a range of policies and support mechanisms to help staff manage their work-life balance. The HR Department manages the Sick Leave Scheme and provides employee assistance when required. This service is provided through a full-time Staff Welfare Officer available to all staff and through Health Assured, an organisation which the Council has entered into an agreement with to deliver employee assistance as required.

Details of all family friendly policies are available on the Council's intranet, which include Shorter Working Year Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Work Sharing Scheme, Career Breaks, Force Majeure Scheme, Bereavement Leave and Maternity and Paternity Leave.

Payroll

The Human Resources Department is responsible for the administration of Payroll in conjunction with MyPay. Three No. Paygroups are paid on a fortnightly basis, Wages and Wages Pensions, Salary and Salary Pension and Monthly Fire Fighters.

Industrial Relations

It is the policy of the Human Resources Department to foster a good industrial relations climate and, in this regard, regular meetings take place between the HR Department and Union representatives/officials. The Council is committed to resolving IR issues, in an open and co-operative manner as soon as possible once an issue arises.



**INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENVIRONMENT &
FIRE SERVICES
DIRECTORATE**

A/DIRECTOR:

MS EMER CONCANNON

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

Road Transportation and Safety

A total of €31,894,723 was initially allocated to the roads programme for the improvement and maintenance of the public road network in County Sligo in 2022. Work continued on the planning, design and construction of key strategic national, regional and local road projects serving County Sligo and Sligo City.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Department of Transport (DoT), National Transport Authority (NTA) and Sligo County Council were the key funding agencies for this programme.

The tables below show the details of the National, Regional and Local Roads in Sligo:

National Primary Roads

Route	Description	Length km
N4	Sligo City to Roscommon County Boundary	34.35km
N15	Sligo City to Bunduff Bridge	27.04km
N16	Sligo City to Leitrim County Boundary	10.39km
N17	Collooney to Bellaghy	34.06km
	Total	105.84km

National Secondary Roads

Route	Description	Length km
N59	Ballysadare to Mayo County Boundary	47.38km

Regional Roads

Route	Description	Length km
R277	Killaspugbrone to Sligo Airport	1.7
R278	Sligo to Carrickoneilleen	7.63

R279	Cliffoney to Mullaghmore	4.4
R284	Carrowroe to Roscommon County Boundary	26.6
R286	Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary	11.2
R287	Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary via Carrowroe	15.89
R290	Ballysadare to Ballintogher	14.63
R291	Sligo City to Rosses Point	7.83
R292	Sligo City to Strandhill to Ballydrehid	18.23
R293	Ballinaboll to Gurteen to Roscommon Co. Boundary	25.8
R294	Cloonloo to Tubbercurry to Lough Talt	42.5
R295	Ballymote to Keash to Roscommon Co. Boundary	14.6
R296	Ballymote to Bunnannaddan to R294	10.2
R297	Dromore West to Enniscrone to Co. Boundary	29.8
R298	N59 to Lacknatlieva to R297	4.9
R361	Beside Roscommon County boundary	1.6
R869	Sligo City – Western Distributor	2.5
R870	Sligo City – Pearse Road / Markievicz Road	1.37
	Total	241.38

Local Roads

Route	Description	Length km
Class 1	Main Local Roads	600
Class 2	Secondary Local Roads	980
Class 2	Cul-de-sacs	860
	Total	2,440

Regional and Local Roads

Restoration Improvement Grant

An allocation of €7,939,000 was initially provided by the Department of Transport in 2022 for the restoration and improvement of Regional and Local Roads. 63 km of roads at 74 locations throughout the County were improved under this grant in 2022.

The types of work carried out included:

- Laying bitumen macadam surfacing to shape and strengthen the roads followed by surface dressing.
- Laying crushed stone to shape and strengthen the road and double surface dressing the stone to seal the road surface and provide skid resistance.
- Recycling – this was done where there were adequate stone already in the road structure but the road had disintegrated (typically used in bog road locations).
- Replacement of road markings.

Restoration/Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grants

These grants are intended for surface dressing regional and local roads which are still in a reasonable condition and are intended as preventative maintenance to ensure road surfaces do not deteriorate to the extent that substantial repairs are required later. Grants totalling €2,187,500 were provided in 2022 for surface dressing of Regional and Local roads. 98 km of roads at 85 locations throughout the county was surfaced dressed in 2022.

Discretionary Grant

A discretionary grant of €2,273,000 was allocated in 2022 for improvement and maintenance works on Regional and Local Roads throughout the county. Works carried out with this grant included regional/local road maintenance, road repairs, winter maintenance, bridge maintenance, road marking etc.

Drainage Grant

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport provided a specific grant in 2022 of €573,238 for drainage improvement measures. This funding was used to undertake much needed drainage improvement works at 45 no. locations throughout the County.

Climate Adaption Grant

This grant is designed for carrying out road works which have become necessary due to the effects of climate change e.g. preventative measures such as drainage works to mitigate flooding, works at bridges to take account of increased hydraulic loads due to “flash floods”, altering road levels to mitigate flooding and reduce road closure etc. Works at 19 locations were completed throughout the county with an allocation of €418,000.

Community Involvement Schemes

The Department of Transport allocated funding for Community Involvement Schemes in 2022. This grant has funded works on mostly Class 3 local roads that have received little funding over the years. It relies on part funding

coming from the local community. During 2022 Sligo County Council received an allocation of €473,000 under this heading. Improvement works were carried out at 15 locations under this scheme in 2022.

Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads

A grant of €260,000 was allocated in 2022 for Safety Improvement Works. Safety Improvements were carried out at the following locations:

- Sligo Town - Holburn Hill
- L-6611-0 Newtown/ Carraun
- L-2605/L6606 Dooneen
- L-90102 Scotsmans Walk/Shannon Eighter
- L-6105 Coolaney
- L-2101 Ardcotton
- L-7408 Rathcormack
- R284 Soeey village
- R361 Killarght

Local Improvement Schemes

This grant is provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development for local improvements on non-public roads. A local contribution must be paid. This grant scheme improves access to local amenities and agricultural lands. Sligo County Council received grants totalling €558,030 for 2022 and improvement works were carried out at the following 18 no. locations throughout the county:

- Portnacrinna, Kingsland, Boyle
- Kilross, Ballintogher
- Shroofe, Monasteraden
- Knocknacross, Riverstown
- Knockanagher, Culfadda
- Creevagh, Ballyfarnon, Boyle
- Curraghmagap, Easkey
- Carrowhubbock North
- Rathgoonan, Dromore West
- Ballyscannell, Ballinfull
- Cloyspara, Moneygold, Grange
- Powellsboro, Tubbercurry
- Coagh, Killavil
- Kilfree, Gurteen
- Carrownacarrick, Coolaney
- Newgrove, Cloonraher, Lavagh
- Knockalass, Rathmullen
- Kilfree, Gurteen

Bridge Rehabilitation

The Department of Transport provided support for bridge works with a 2022 grant of €472,500. A comprehensive bridge rehabilitation programme was successfully delivered. This programme included refurbishment works on the following 12 Bridge Structures:

- Culnascagh Bridge
- Kilfree Bridge Gurteen
- Foyogues Bridge, Geevagh
- Knockbrack Bridge
- Farnaharpy Bridge, Skreen
- Mullanfad Bridge
- Gortderry Bridge Grange
- Gortkeerin Bridge
- Branchfied Bridge
- Ballygrania Bridge
- Kilsellagh Bridge
- Cullagh Bridge, Carney



Kilsellagh Bridge pre-works



Kilsellagh Bridge Post-Works



Foyogues Bridge, Post-works

Clár Grants

Funding was allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development in September 2022 for works to be carried out on 10 projects under Clár 2022/2023 Local Authority Measure 1. The total grant amount was €407,849. Works on the following projects were either completed in 2022 or will be completed in 2023 -

- Ballymote Community Park – upgrade public toilets to make wheelchair accessible
- St Farnan’s GAA – enhance parking facilities
- North Sligo Athletic Club – Works to track, drainage, lighting upgrades
- North Sligo Playground Grange – upgrade fencing and play equipment
- Tubbercurry GAA – drainage, ducting, install lighting
- Riverstown Town Park – erect low energy LED public lighting around walking track
- Coolaney Mullinabreena GAA – install two ball stops
- Cloonacool Community park – instal 4 no floodlights for training pitch
- Michael Coleman Heritage Centre – upgrade of projector and screen
- Castleconnor Community Council – enhance parking facilities

Other Works

In addition to the above, works and services managed by the Roads Department included:

- Public lighting management and maintenance
- Car park management and maintenance
- Traffic management including traffic signal management and maintenance
- Road Openings
- Beach maintenance including lifebuoy provision and inspections
- Cemetery Maintenance
- Weed Control and treatment of invasive species e.g. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed etc.
- Assist tidy towns/clean coast and other voluntary/community groups
- Planning control/inspections and pre-planning meetings
- Dangerous structures
- Town and village cleaning and upkeep/waste management.

Specific Improvement Grants:

MCR (Mail Coach Road) to Burton Street Link road

It is proposed to complete a Link Road between Burton Street/Pearse Road and the Mail Coach Road, South of Sligo City centre. This link road will form part of an overall plan to encourage a circular route around the city centre in lieu of using the core commercial city centre streets. To progress the development of this scheme a CPO order was published in March of 2020. The CPO was confirmed in 2021. Preparation of the detailed design and tender documents continued in 2022 so as to enable the scheme to go to tender in 2023/24 subject to ongoing support from the Department of Transport.

R284 Verge Strengthening

€50,000 was allocated in 2022 to carry out verge widening and strengthening on the R284. These works continued in the Gleann area North of Geevagh on the R284.

Oakfield Road Upgrade

The existing Oakfield Road links the WDR R869 Maugheraboy Roundabout with the WDR Ballydoogan/Maugheraboy/Larkhill Road area of Sligo town. This is an important link road to the Western Distributor Road and is 500m in length. The Oakfield Road at this location is substandard and lacks facilities for pedestrians and requires realignment and footpath/cycleway provision. Works commenced in 2022 on the preliminary design and planning for this road.

To date this scheme has been jointly funded by the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority (NTA).

R292/R869 Junction

€100,000 was allocated in 2022 to carry advanced works by way of setting back boundaries at southern end of the junction. It is envisaged that further funding will be received in 2023 to reconfigure junction alignment.

O'Connell Street Enhancement Project

The O'Connell Street Enhancement Project is now complete. This Project represents an investment of €4.5million in the inner-city core and defines the Council's commitment to drive the implementation of the Public Realm plan in a global sense. The O'Connell Street project has enhanced the image and setting of the Street through, the upgrading of public spaces, conservation of its built heritage, protection of archaeological items, encouraging people to explore Sligo, and aids businesses to flourish and develop.



The Project has delivered a quality metropolitan space with unique characteristics while maintaining its identifiable cultural and heritage features. The scheme has maximised linkages to other pedestrian areas within the city core and provides the foundation for the creation of a dynamic and vibrant modern city area. The global public realm enhancement strategy for Sligo City recognises the amenity value of the Garvogue River and the web of linkages that connect between O'Connell Street and the River. The enhancement project emphasises these thoroughfares and enhances the quality of the pedestrian experience, while providing improved mobility for people with disabilities within the inner-city.

The project promotes economic development by the provision of a more attractive urban environment, making Sligo more appealing for investors and workers alike. The project provides substantial measures to cater for future smart technologies in the core city area. The enhancement scheme has delivered a focal point to attract investment. The provision of an enhanced urban core has elevated Sligo's market value and its ability to attract new investment, new firms, and its potential to secure sections of the information technology sector. Reduced vehicle congestion and the wider vibrant pedestrian areas will increase community activity and the potential for visitors, which in turn will improve competitiveness for existing commercial premises.

Strategic Non-National Road Improvement Schemes:

Eastern Garvogue Bridge and Approach Roads

The proposed Eastern Garvogue Bridge and Approach Roads will provide a local link road on the eastern side of Sligo City. It is required to overcome the inadequacies of the existing road network in facilitating local travel between the eastern parts of Sligo City without need for travel through the city centre. The development will join communities north and south of the Garvogue River, will improve circulation and will reduce traffic congestion in the city centre.



Eastern Garvoe Bridge and Approach Roads – Site location Map

An Bord Pleanála approved the Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme in 2009. An advanced site clearance and fencing contract was completed in December 2018 securing the northern lands for the construction stage. Archaeological investigations and ground investigations were completed in 2014.

The Scheme is included for construction in the current National Development Plan. It is intended to complete the detailed design in 2023/2024, prepare tender documents and appoint a Contractor to construct the Project in 2024 and to commence construction in 2025.

The scheme is jointly funded by the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and the Department of Transport.



Artist's impression of the proposed Eastern Garvoe Bridge – Looking East

Active Travel Programme

The National Transport Authority announced, in December 2020, a significant new Active Travel Programme. Projects for consideration under this new programme included the following:

- Development of focused transport studies for larger towns, to identify active travel strategies, networks and projects for implementation later in the programme. Sligo County Council are in the final stages of an Area Based Transport Assessment for Sligo and Environs. This process will culminate in the submission of a Local Transport Plan. The plan will deliver high level objectives for all modes of transport within the study area.
- Develop new and improved access to town centres, schools and other major destinations for walking and/or cycling.
- Develop new and upgraded cycle facilities, providing segregation from motorised traffic on key routes in and approaching towns and villages.

- Provide new footpaths for pedestrian connections or upgrading/renewal of existing footpaths.
- Examine filtered permeability schemes, conferring "short-cut" advantage to pedestrians and / or cyclists to access key local destinations.
- Improved access to public transport.

Sligo County Council completed works to the value of €2,024,904m under this programme in 2022. Works funded included improved facilities for pedestrians including footpaths, pedestrian crossings and developing Safe Routes to Schools.

Footpath schemes

The following footpath schemes are being progressed through preliminary designs, statutory process and detailed design for future tendering and construction.

- Ballygawley to Castledargan – options assessment report approved.
- Coolaney to Rockfield - options assessment report approved.
- Carrowroe to Cuilbeg – options assessment report submitted.
- Clarion Road - options assessment report submitted.

Active Travel Pathfinder Projects

Carrowroe to City Centre Active Travel Corridor

This project has been approved under the pathfinder umbrella. A consulting engineer has been appointed to this project and preliminary design work has commenced.

Sligo City to ATU Sligo (Active Travel Corridor incorporating contraflow cycle lanes at Bridge Street / Stephen Street / The Mall)

A consulting engineer has been appointed to this project.

Shared E-bike scheme

The installation of E-bike charging docks has been approved under the pathfinder umbrella at two locations in Sligo city. Preliminary designs have been finalised for the two sites.

Sligo National Roads Project Office

The Sligo National Roads Project Office (Sligo PO) is responsible for the delivery of identified Major and Minor National Road improvement and realignment Schemes. In addition, it is also responsible for the delivery of Greenway Schemes as well as Active Travel Schemes linking nodes on the National Road Network. The office also took over responsibility for the delivery of Pavement Renewal Schemes in Q3 2022.

The following are the Schemes which were being advanced by the Sligo PO for 2022

Major Road Schemes

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Development Scheme

The N4 National Primary Route is the main Inter-Urban link between Dublin and the Northwest Region. A core priority under Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework is the essential requirement to enhance and upgrade accessibility between urban centres of population and their regions, in parallel with the initiation of compact growth of urban centres. This has a crucial role to play in maximising the growth potential of the regional urban centres, one of which is Sligo, and the economy as a whole. The delivery of the N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Scheme was listed as one of the key Schemes to be delivered under Strategic Outcome No. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility' of the National Development Plan.

Following a 30-month construction period, the new road opened to traffic in August 2021, providing just under 14km of Type 2 Dual Carriageway, and just under 1km of Single Carriageway on the National Road Network, completing 27km of Dual Carriageway coming into Sligo. It also provided just under 4.5km of parallel roads to serve the old N4, the local road networks and local access. All local roads with the exception of one in Sheerevagh Td. were either bridged under or over the newly constructed N4 National Primary Route.

It was envisaged that 2022 would see the finishing of the major outstanding works, however the appointed Construction Contractor went into receivership in March 2022 and subsequently liquidation later in the year. This has resulted in delays to the completion of outstanding works which are now expected to be completed in 2023/24.

Following completion of detailed design, a works contract was tendered for remedial works in Castlebaldwin Village which is now bypassed by the construction of the new N4 National Primary Route. These remedial works were required to reduce the carriageway cross section removing redundant right turn lanes, pre-existing national road traffic calming measures, together with footway, drainage, service diversions and all associated works. In addition, the pavement through the village was in a very poor condition and is being replaced as part of the contract. These works which commenced in late November 22 are anticipated to be completed in Q2 2023 and are being managed by the Roads Department of Sligo County Council on behalf of the National Road Project Office.

Surface dressing works were also carried out by the Ballymote Area Office along the old N4 in the townland of Drumfin which is now reclassified as a local road.



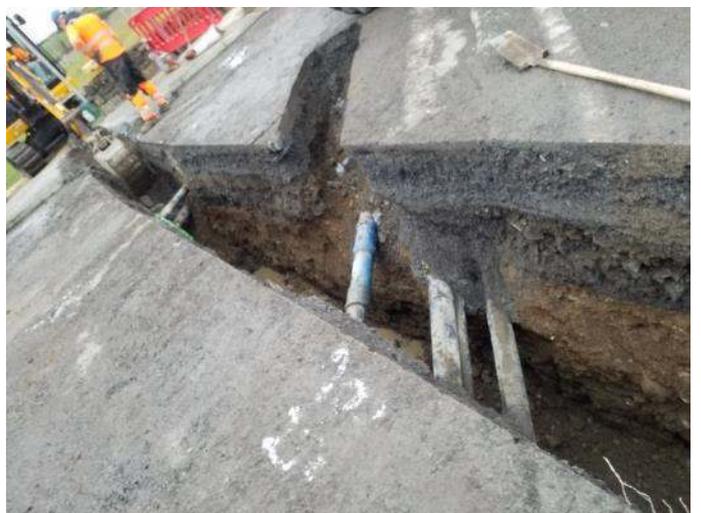
Castlebaldwin remedial works looking northwest



Castlebaldwin remedial works looking northwest



Castlebaldwin remedial works looking southeast



Castlebaldwin remedial drainage works

N17 Knock to Collooney

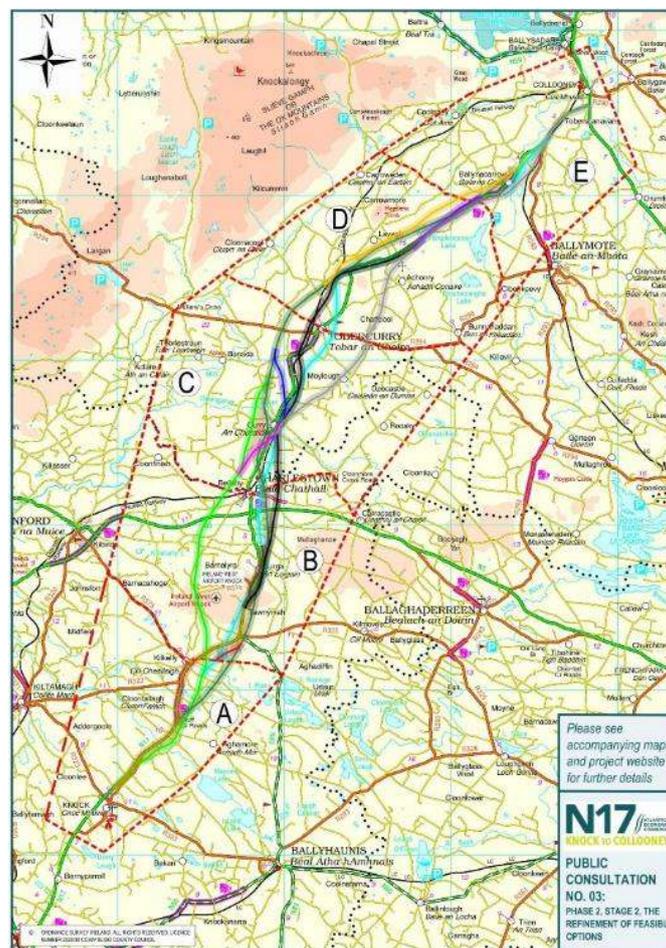
The N17 Knock to Collooney Scheme was identified in the National Development Plan as one of the projects which will be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning during 2018 to prioritise projects which are proceeding to construction in the National Development Plan. The Scheme is listed in the new NDP 2021-2030 as one of the proposed national road projects which were part of the previous NDP and are subject to further approvals. The route forms part of the Ten-T Comprehensive Network and is a core component of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC).

The project is examining options to potentially upgrade sections of the approximately 55km between Knock and Collooney (34km in Co. Sligo and 21km in Co. Mayo).

The development of the Project is being led by the Sligo Project Office, on behalf of Sligo and Mayo County Councils. The Sligo PO are Project Managing this Scheme and are also the Lead Road Designers and PSDP.

Extract from dedicated N17 Knock to Collooney Website

The refined Feasible Options (the ‘Short List of Options’) were released in August 2021 for public consultation. These routes were subjected to further detailed assessment and appraisal under the headings of Engineering, Economy and Environment, which includes input from 11 No. expert sub-consultants. The Emerging Preferred Transport Corridor is expected to be published in January 2023.



Phase 2 Refined Route Options Overview Map

Minor Road Schemes

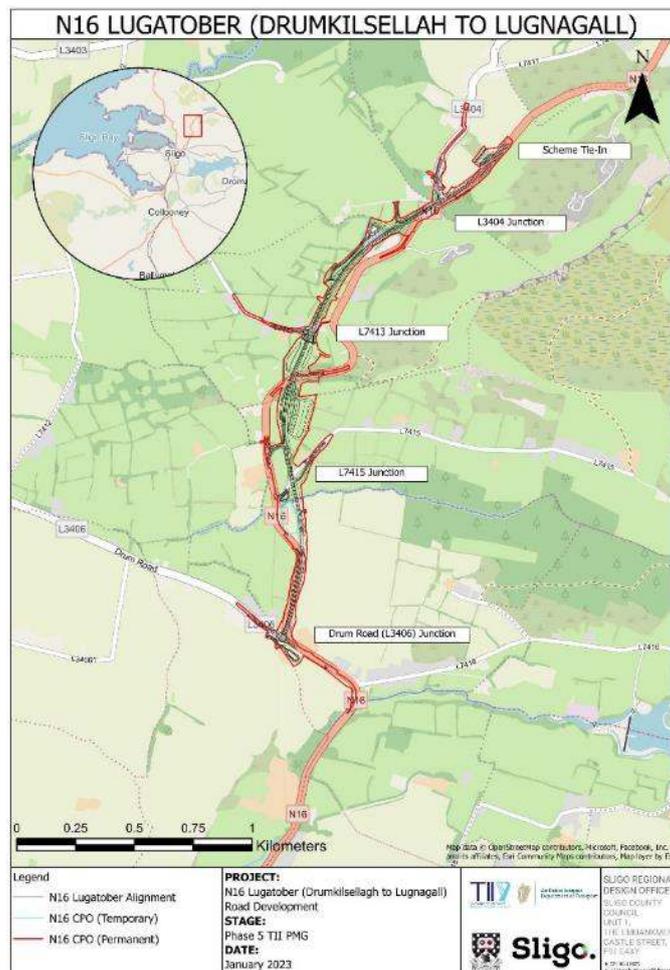
N16 Lugatober

Following the selection of a Preferred Route for the full N16 in County Sligo in 2017, the development of the first of 3 No. Minor Schemes on the N16 commenced. The Sligo Project Office are Project Managers for the scheme having already brought it through Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Barry Transportation were appointed technical advisors to complete the detailed design and administer the main construction contract through phases 5, 6 and 7 of the TII Project Manual Guidelines.

Planning for this 2.5km Minor Scheme at Lugatober was received from An Bord Pleanála in August 2019 and the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was confirmed by Sligo County Council at that time also. The total amount of acquisition necessary for the Scheme is 24 hectares.

Following the serving of Notices to Treat on all properties in 2020, almost 85% of all Land Agreements were finalised in 2022 and a focus in 2023 will be to complete the remaining Land Agreements.

The detailed design and suite of Contract Documents were completed for the Scheme which allowed the tender process for the main construction contractor to be advertised in April 2022. However, due to a limited response from the market, it was necessary to readvertise this contract in July 2022. The tender assessment process is ongoing and it is expected that the contract will be awarded in Q1 2023. The Business Case was also updated and approved by the TII which allowed the scheme to proceed to tender.



N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) - Location Map

N4/N15 Sligo Urban Improvement Scheme

This Scheme which is being managed by the Sligo Project Office, received An Bord Pleanála approval in February 2018. It included the widening and realigning of the National Primary Road from the northern end of Hughes Bridge to north of the Rosses Point Road junction, along with the upgrade of the Rosses Point, Duct Street and Markievicz Road Junctions. The upgrading of the Copper River Bridge along with significant retaining walls, Irish Water Infrastructure, numerous utilities upgrades, all formed part of the Scheme. In addition, the Traffic Management System was upgraded to an Urban Traffic Control System, enabling all junctions to work in conjunction with each other along the Inner Relief Road and adjoining roads. Approximately 4 hectares of land (including temporary plots) was acquired for this Scheme. This Project was fully opened to traffic in 2021.

The close out of this Scheme in accordance with Phase 7 (Close Out and Review) of the TII Project Management Guidelines continued in 2022 and is expected to be completed in 2023.



Looking east from the newly aligned Rosses Point Road (R291) / N15 Junction



Looking south with N4/Markievicz Road junction to the east and the 'Old Swimming Pool' Amenity Area to the west, with the Garvogue River flowing west under Hughes Bridge



Looking south from the northern end of the Scheme with the Rosses Point Road Amenity Area to the west



Looking south with N15/N4/N16 Duck Street Junction and Holborn Hill to the east and Sligo Estuary to the west

N59 Corhownagh to Lugnadeffa Road Improvement Scheme

The Scheme involves the Realignment of the N59 between Corhownagh and Lugnadeffa. The Sligo Project Office are managing this Scheme and are also the Lead Road Designers and PSDP.

The Scheme is nearing completion of Phase 2 (Options Selection) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. The Sligo Project Office are hoping to be in a position to seek approval from the TII to advance the Scheme into Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines in 2023.



N59 Corhawnagh to Crockacullion - Location Map

Greenway Schemes

Sligo Greenway - Collooney to Bellaghy

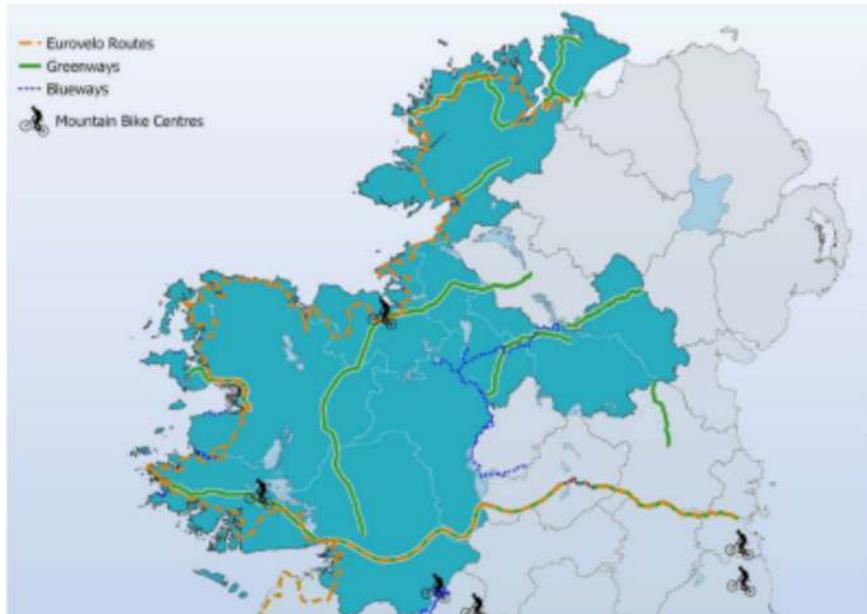
The Sligo Project Office are managing this scheme. The proposed greenway extends over a distance of 35.5km and comprises the provision of greenway facilities linking Collooney and Bellaghy which will provide connections for local towns and communities, and also serve as a major tourist attraction for Sligo and the northwest.

Based upon the options available, the Sligo Greenway will pass through the unspoilt rural Connacht Plains landscape of South Sligo and several small towns and villages including Tubbercurry, the County’s second largest settlement, and Coolaney, site of the National Mountain Bike Centre.

The project will increase the region’s outdoor recreation infrastructure and boost its reputation as a destination for adventure activity and tourism. In doing so, the Sligo Greenway will offer a significant opportunity to open up disadvantaged regions of rural South Sligo to tourism, thereby increasing visitor numbers, lengths of stay, and spending, which will have a positive impact upon rural communities and economies and will encourage and support new enterprise and job creation.

The route length of the Sligo Greenway offers an amenity of regional greenway classification, one with the potential to be 50km in length when linked to Sligo Town, and in excess of 100km, classified as a national route, when eventually linked with Ireland West Airport Knock and to Enniskillen, County Fermanagh via the planned cross-

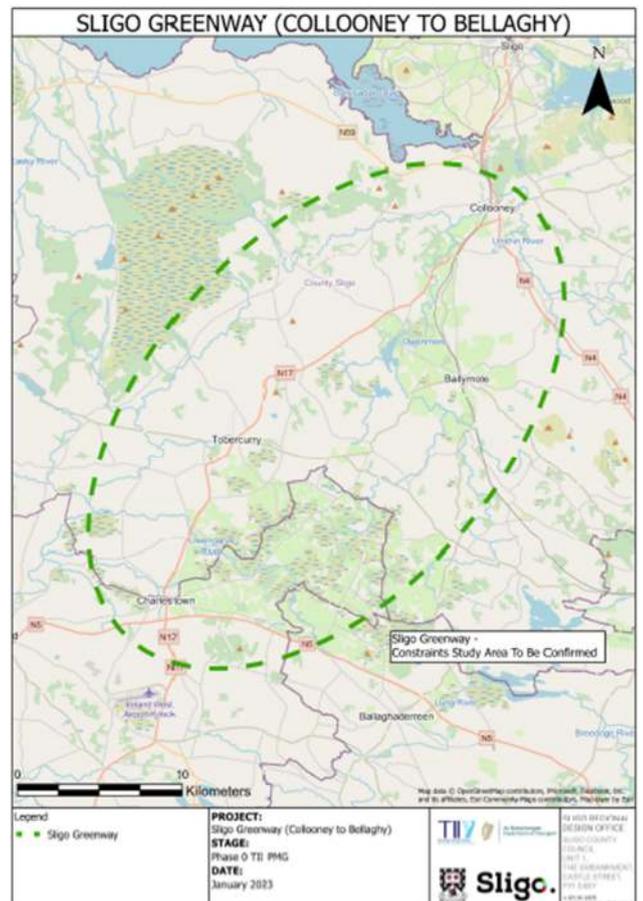
border Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway. The Greenway could form an integral part of the County Cycle Network Plans currently under development as it has the potential to link into the proposed Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Greenway and subsequently provide a branch off the EuroVelo 1 - The Atlantic Coast Route and the Wild Atlantic Way. Refer to map below.



Map showing possible national context for Sligo Greenway

Progress in 2022

The Sligo Greenway project received approval from TII in April 2022 to proceed to Phase 1 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. New TII Project Management Guidelines were issued for Greenway projects in June 2022. Tender documents were prepared and a Tender to procure consultants for Phase 1-4 was published in November 2022. It is hoped that this competition will be awarded in Q1 2023.



Sligo Greenway (Collooney to Bellaghy) – Study Area

Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway (SLNCR)

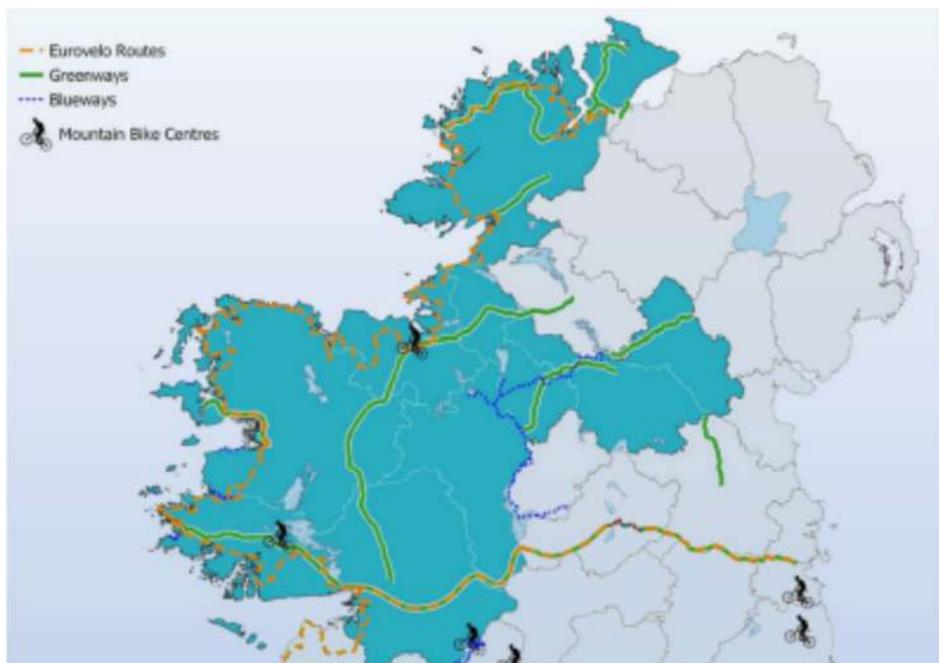
Leitrim County Council are the lead authority for this project with Sligo Project Office having an oversight role. The SLNCR Greenway project is to provide a high-quality greenway from Sligo to Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, passing through Collooney, Ballintogher, Dromahaire, Manorhamilton, Glenfarne, Blacklion, Belcoo and Letterbreen on the way.

The proposed greenway will be a scenic, strategic link that is substantially segregated from motor traffic, offering lots to see and do for a wide variety of users. It will be developed sustainably in co-operation with, and offering real benefits to, local communities.

The development of this project will be compliant with National Policy by promoting walking and cycling in a safe and controlled environment and attracting domestic and international visitors to come, explore and stay in the region. It will connect with existing and planned greenways and blueways and shall make provision for links to other local cycling and walking trails, tourism attractions/experiences and towns and villages along its route.

The Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway is a primary network route with potential to attract local and overseas visitors. The surrounding areas contain attractive scenery and an opportunity for users to interact with nature whilst benefitting from outdoor activity. It is expected that the project would provide opportunity for the development of local tourism-based industry in the area. The Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway would unlock the tourism potential of the counties it traverses. Visitor numbers to local attractions such as the Sligo Way, Cavan Burren Park, Creevelea Friary, Manorhamilton Castle, Rainbow Ballroom and Showband Memorabilia Museum, Enniskillen Castle and the Butter Market would increase.

The Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway could form an integral part of the County Cycle Network Plans currently under development as it has the potential to link into the proposed Sligo Greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy and subsequently provide a branch off the EuroVelo 1 - The Atlantic Coast Route and the Wild Atlantic Way. Refer to map below.



Map showing possible national context for SLNCR

Progress in 2022

Following submission of Phase 0 deliverables, approval was granted by the TII to proceed to Phase 1. Following a tender process, Technical Advisors were appointed to progress Phase 1 to Phase 5 (part) of the TII Project Management Guidelines in Q3 2022. Phase 1 deliverables were prepared in draft in Q4 2022.



SLNCR Greenway – Indicative Study Corridor

Active Travel Schemes

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel Scheme

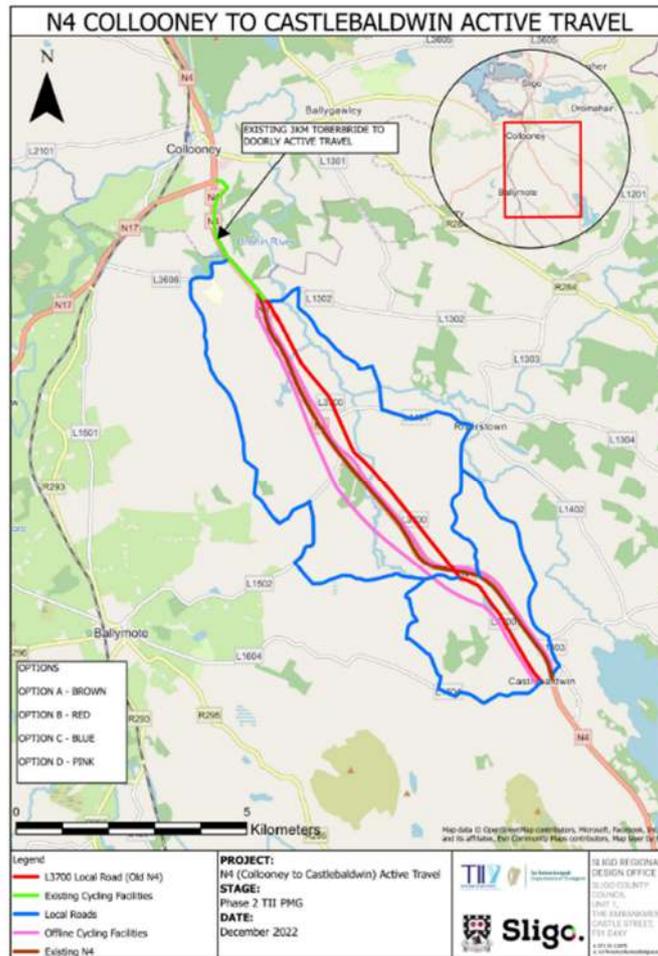
The N4 Active Travel Scheme – Collooney to Castlebaldwin which is being managed by the Sligo Project Office will be a 15km long public walking/cycling facility linking Collooney with Castlebaldwin within County Sligo.

The N4 National Primary Road linking the Castlebaldwin Junction (Roundabout) to the N4/N17 Roundabout was opened to traffic in October 2021 and the former N4 was designated as the L3700 Local Road. As part of this project a new two-way 3km Active Travel Scheme was constructed offline on the eastern side of the L3700 from Toberbride Business Park to Doorly Td. This new Active Travel Scheme is proposed to link with this facility resulting in a continuous active travel link between Toberbride Business Park and Castlebaldwin. Should the Collooney to Toberbride Business Park Active Travel Scheme be progressed to construction, the combination of all three sections would result in a continuous 15km Active Travel Scheme between Collooney and Castlebaldwin. In addition, the proposed Sligo Greenway – Collooney to Bellaghy and the SLNCR Greenway will incorporate the town

of Collooney along their respective routes together with the existing network of walks available locally. These proposed schemes will offer a connection for this Active Travel Scheme.

Progress in 2022

The Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel scheme received approval from TII in April 2022 to proceed to Phase 1 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Phase 1 deliverables were completed and submitted to TII in Q3 2022, and the project is now in Phase 2, Options Selection. Tender documents are being prepared to procure Technical Advisors for Phases 2 to 4 and are due to publish in Q1 2023.



Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel – Indicative Feasible Options

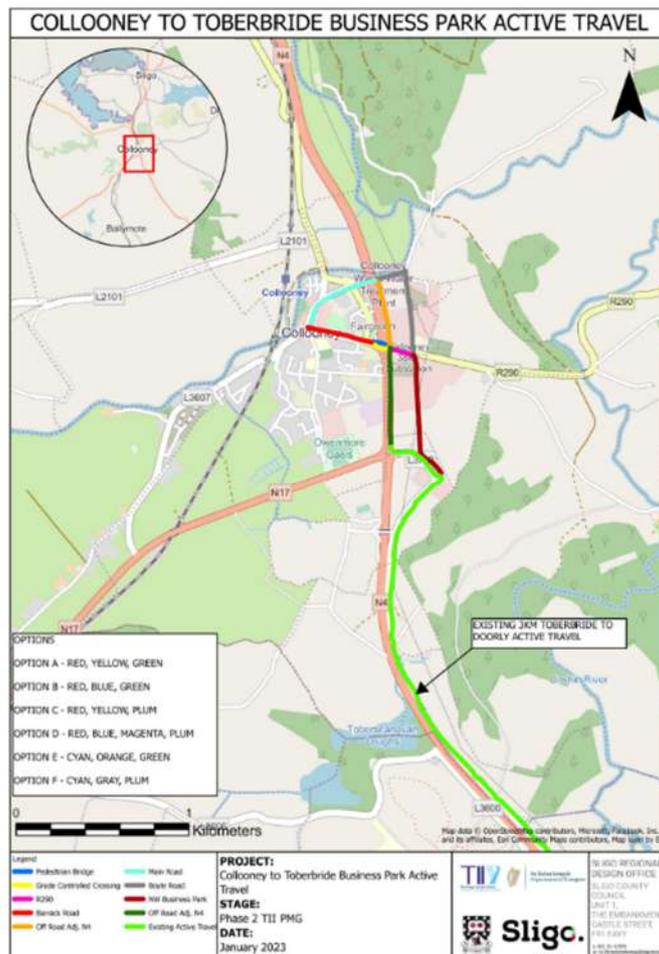
N4 Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel Scheme

The study area for this active travel scheme is located in the eastern part of Co. Sligo and extends from the town of Collooney to Toberbride Business Park, a distance of approximately 1 km. Collooney is located on the Sligo-Dublin rail line, however Toberbride Business Park is currently accessed only by road network with poor facilities available for non-motorised road users between Collooney Main Street and Toberbride Business Park. The N4 Active Travel Scheme – Collooney to Toberbride Business Park, comprises the provision of active travel facilities linking Collooney Main Street and Toberbride Business Park which in turn would connect with an existing 3km Active Travel link between the Toberbride Business Park and Doorly Td. constructed as part of the N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Project and eventually a link to Castlebaldwin should the Collooney Castlebaldwin Active Travel Scheme be successfully advanced. The combination of all three sections would result in a continuous 15km Active Travel Scheme between Collooney and Castlebaldwin.

The proposed Sligo Greenway – Collooney to Bellaghy and the SLNCR Greenway will incorporate the town of Collooney along their respective routes together with the existing network of walks available locally. These proposed schemes will offer a connection for this Active Travel Scheme.

Progress in 2022

The Collooney to Toberbride Business Park Active Travel scheme received approval from TII in April 2022 to proceed to Phase 1 of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Phase 1 deliverables were completed and submitted to TII in Q3 2022, and the project is now in Phase 2, Options Selection. Tender documents are being prepared to procure Technical Consultants for Phases 2 to 4 and are due to publish in Q1 2023.



Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel – Indicative Feasible Options

Pavement Renewal Schemes

A total of €3,740,000 was allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the restoration of road pavements on Sligo’s national road network in 2022. The project locations were:

- N15 Creevykeel to Bunduff Bridge
- N16 Lugatober to County Boundary
- N59 Owenbeg Phase 3 Pavement Recycling & Resurfacing Contract

N15 Creevykeel to Bunduff Bridge

The N15 Creevykeel to Bunduff Bridge Overlay involved the structural rehabilitation and strengthening of 1.95km of the existing N15 pavement between the Townlands of Creevykeel and Bunduff in North Sligo. The Design works, contract documents and procurement process were completed in Q4 2022. Pavement Inlay Works commenced in Q4 2022 and are expected to be completed in Q1 2023.



Resurfacing on N15 between Creevykeel and Bunduff

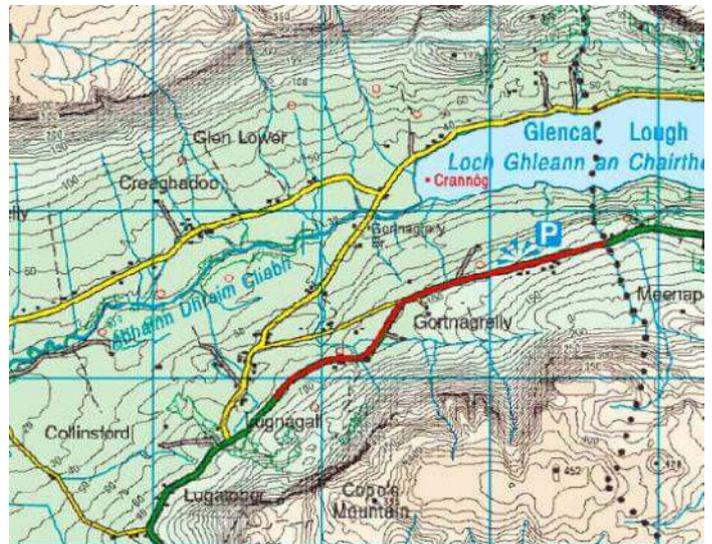


Completed section of surfacing - Creevykeel to Bunduff

N16 Lugatober to County Boundary

The N16 Lugatober to County Boundary involves structural rehabilitation and strengthening of 2.25km of the existing N16 pavement between the Townlands of Lugnagall and Gortnagrelly as per opposite highlighted in Red.

Surveying, Detailed Design and Drainage Investigation works were completed in 2021 and Sligo County Council continues to develop proposals for the scheme, it is anticipated that Sligo County Council will complete proposals and seek approval from TII to progress the scheme to construction in Q4 2024 after N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) road development project is completed.



N16 Lugatober to County Boundary Scheme extent in red

N59 Owenbeg Phase 3 Pavement Recycling & Resurfacing Contract



The N59 Owenbeg Phase 3 which runs from Camcuill to Culleens involves structural rehabilitation and strengthening of 4km recycling of the existing N59. The works will take place in bog rampart and will include recycling of the existing pavement and resurfacing with SMA.

The Design works were progressed and Sligo Regional Design Office developed tender documents for the appointment of a Contractor. It is anticipated that Sligo County Council will progress the scheme to construction in Q2 of 2023.



Pavement structural distress section of N59 Owenbeg (Phase 3)

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Waste Management

Air Pollution

Ban on Smokey Fuels

In 2012 the Department introduced new Regulations extending the restricted area with regard to the marketing, sale & distribution of smoky fuels (bituminous coal). They also made the use of this fuel type, within the restricted area, an offence. Sligo County Council is responsible for the enforcement of these Regulations. This has been a challenge and required a change in habits for inhabitants of Sligo Town and Environs regarding the type of fuel they use to heat their homes. On October 31st 2022, new nationwide regulations regarding solid fuels were introduced. The Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 now replaces the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 as amended. The new regulations introduce an outright national ban on the sale and distribution of 'unapproved' solid fuels with the aim of improving air quality in Ireland.

Litter

Sligo County Council employs 2 full time Litter Wardens having responsibility for specific areas within the County. Routine patrols take place within these areas, in both a pro-active patrol capacity and also in response to complaints received from members of the public and from other government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), An Taisce, etc.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment have a programme of initiatives to support and strengthen Local Authority against litter. These have included:

- On the spot fines of €150
- Allocating grants to the local Authorities to co-fund public anti-litter awareness campaigns
- Introduction of the Protection of the Environment Act 2003, which gives Local Authority powers in relation to litter
- Levy on plastic bags
- Allocating funds to the Local Authorities under the Anti-Dumping Initiative which ensures all litter black spot areas are targeted, cleaned and adequate signage erected together with holding recycling events such as bulky goods amnesty and mattress amnesty etc. Sligo County Council has held these events in the last number of years and they have been very successful.



Littering in Sligo before clean up

Litter Complaints

Sligo County Council operates a Complaints Management System (CRM) where details of all complaints received are recorded in a central database from where they are assigned to the relevant member of staff to investigate and resolve. Investigation of instances of littering or dumping may result in the issuing of legal enforcement notices, fines or prosecutions of offenders (working in conjunction with the County Solicitor and the Courts Service). Litter Wardens also work to clear up the smaller occurrences of littering and illegal dumping and, where necessary, will liaise with the Roads Section of the County in the clearing up of illegally dumped waste.

Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement

Waste Management continues to be to the fore of EI and Governmental priorities. It receives recognition through increased amounts of legislation and funding. Waste enforcement activities continue to be fully recoupable from Governmental funding. This funding originates from initiatives such as the plastic bag levy and landfill levy. The legislation introduced by Government has encompassed producer responsibility which also generates additional monies.

There are ever increasing demands placed on organisations and families but the need for proper waste management continues to be of importance for economic, legislative and environmental reasons.

There is continuing need to avoid the production of waste at source and try and divert as much as possible from landfill. This diversion of waste is achieved through the provision of facilities and services followed by education and enforcement. The Bring Bank Network, Civic Amenity Sites, Composting Site, Kerbside Recycling, Home Composting and the introduction of a separate organic collection all assist towards diverting waste from landfill.

Another element of waste management is trying to ensure that people manage their waste in a manner that avoids the creation of environmental pollution. Ongoing waste enforcement activities will endeavour to reduce this to a minimum.

Waste Management and Enforcement priorities will continue to involve bringing unauthorised sites into environmental compliance, increasing the recycling and recovery rates and to try and ensure that works undertaken by Sligo Local Authorities are carried out in compliance with Environmental Legislation.

Waste Management Planning

For the purposes of Waste Management Planning the country is divided into 3 waste regions. Sligo is in the Connacht Ulster Region. A 6 year plan was agreed in 2015 which sets out a road map for achieving commitments, and is the framework for the prevention and management of waste. The plan is a statutory document and Sligo County Council has obligations to fund initiatives in the plan as well as the regional office based in Mayo County Council. A new national waste management plan is in the process of being developed, which will replace the existing regional waste management plan.

Waste Management Enforcement

The Regional Waste Enforcement Office is in operation since January 2016 with the intention of ensuring the effective implementation of Waste Enforcement policy in the Connaught Ulster Region. A key objective is the delivery of an integrated approach to waste enforcement which will drive consistent enforcement of legislation.

Water Quality, Drinking Water, Air and Noise

Catchment Management

The principal piece of legislation relating to the protection of surface water, groundwater, tidal, and coastal water quality in Ireland is the EU Water Framework Directive. Nationally, work is ongoing on the third cycle of implementing the Directive in Ireland under The River Basin District Management Plan for Ireland (2022-2027).

During 2022, Sligo County Council continued to liaise with the Environmental Protection Agency, LAWPRO, and other state agencies in relation to implementing the current plan and the preparation of the new national plan. Staff from the Environment Section attended the management and implementation meetings for the National River Basin Management Plan. Staff also attended a preliminary meeting relating to the establishment of a Rivers Trust for surface waters discharging to Sligo Bay.



Lough Arrow County Sligo

Nationally, the emphasis is on integrated catchment management and relates primarily to the following specific areas of work.

Discharge Licences

There were twenty active Section 4 licences in County Sligo in 2022. The Environment Section monitored and enforced the twenty Section 4 licences under the Local Government (Water pollution) Act 1977 as amended. During 2022, 162 inspections were carried out relating to discharge to waters licences. Enforcement of Section 4 Licences involved site inspections and assessment of discharge licence results and reports submitted by the licensee, numerous correspondence with licensees regarding and addressing compliance matters. Eighteen Warning/Advice letters were issued.

Planning Application Assessment with respect to Protection of the Environment

Sligo County Council places significant importance on the assessment of the environmental impact of new development in terms of compliance with development plan policies, protection of the environment and achievement of national objectives relating to the protection of water quality detailed in the Water Framework Directive.

The Environment Section takes an active role in the direct assessment of commercial, domestic, agricultural and forestry planning applications, with a view to assessing potential impacts on the environment. Application and enforcement of appropriate planning conditions relating to the protection of the environment and water quality were undertaken. The number of planning applications assessed and reported on by the Environment Section is detailed in the table below:

Planning application and compliance assessments 2022

Planning application assessment of files and compliance assessment / Development type	No. of inspections
Agricultural	18
Commercial	150
Domestic	355
Forestry	3
Preplanning/planning compliance related queries	99



A new County Development Plan and Local Area Plans are currently in the process of being prepared by the Planning Section. During 2022, the Environment Section were involved in the process in terms of policy development in addition to ensuring that the plan takes due account of national requirements detailed in the River Basin District Management Plan 2022-2027 and environmental legislation.

Agricultural Inspections

During 2022, the majority of the agricultural inspections carried out by Sligo County Council relating to enforcement of the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, were in response to complaints received from members of the public and other issues noted by Catchment Management staff. All complaints received during 2022 were investigated as a priority.

Under the routine inspection of agricultural planning carried out during 2022; assessment of applications included assessment of lands available for the spreading of organic fertilisers and appropriate planning conditions relating to the preparation and ongoing review of nutrient management plans included in the schedule of planning conditions. Each of these applications was assessed for their potential impact on water quality, and for compliance

with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations & DAFM Farm Building Specifications. Any issues identified during site inspections were dealt with either through the planning process or by separate warning letter.

Investigative Monitoring

During 2022, investigative monitoring was carried within the Leaffoney River and Eignagh River Catchments. The Environment Section carried out a channel survey in the middle to lower reaches of the Eighnagh River to identify any issues of specific concern and sampling was carried out at 2 feeder stream sites.

The Environment Section also undertook four additional inspections in the Dunmorán River Catchment area. The Dunmorán River discharges to a Designated Bathing Water at Dunmorán Beach and significant importance is placed on the protection and improvement of bathing water quality in County Sligo.

Domestic Wastewater treatment Systems

In 2022, Sligo County Council carried out 12 domestic wastewater treatment systems inspections under and in accordance with the EPA National Inspection Plan 2018-2022. Prior to inspections a letter/awareness leaflet was issued to allow householders to gather documents necessary for production during the inspection and to advise householders on what to expect at such an inspection.

Nine of the inspections carried out were found to be compliant with the requirements of the national regulations representing a compliance rate of 75% for 2022. Three inspections were found to be non-compliant and advisory notices were issued relating to the requirement to take remedial measures as required by national procedures for implementation of the regulations.

Water Pollution Complaints

Sligo County Council received and responded to a wide variety of environmental complaints and incidents during the year. For the 2022 year, all complaints received were addressed and dealt with in a timely fashion, 152 water pollution related inspections were carried out in 2022.

Source Inspections

Significant importance is placed on the protection of public water supply sources in County Sligo. During 2022, 27 source inspections were carried out within the source catchments of Lough Talt, Lough Easley and North Sligo Public Water Supply Scheme catchments with a view to identification issues of concern and protection of the raw water sources.



Lough Talt PWSS Source Catchment

Drinking Water

The quality of drinking water in Ireland is governed by the EU (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 and 2017; the legislation defines what parameters are tested, and the monitoring frequency. All Public Water Supplies (PWSs), regulated Group Water Schemes (GWSs) and Small Private Supplies (SPSs) were monitored in 2022 in accordance with statutory requirements and those set by Uisce Eireann (UE) where relevant.

Public Water Supplies:

Sligo County Council liaised with UE in relation to the PWSs and undertook the following on their behalf:

- Managed the PWSs monitoring program in accordance with European (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as amended.
- Managed the appointed contract laboratory
- Management and reporting of Drinking Water results.
- Liaised with UE in relation to drinking water non compliances and incidents.

Private Water Supplies:

Sligo County Council continued to act as the supervisory authority in relation to the provision of drinking water by GWSs and SPSs and managed the monitoring of GWSs & SPSs to ensure they met the requirements of the European (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as amended.

There are 17 Group Water Schemes and 7 Small Private Supplies registered in the county. All private supplies were monitored in accordance with the frequency detailed in the Drinking Water Regulations 2014. A total of 84 compliance (check and audit) samples were taken in 2022.

Where non-compliances with drinking water standards were detected, the water suppliers were notified, and Sligo County Council liaised with the HSE and water suppliers. Forty-one follow up investigative samples were undertaken after the private supplies carried out remedial works. Two Boil Water Notices were issued to private drinking water supplies in 2022 following consultation and agreement with the HSE. At the end of 2022 one of these Boil Water Notices remained in place.

Sligo County Council completed 12 audits on the small private supplies in the county in 2022. The audits included a review of the treatment system in place and maintenance of same. Advice and guidance were provided to water suppliers in relation to drinking water quality and treatment.

A social media and print media advice notes were issued in relation to private water supplies and the requirements of suppliers under the regulations and in relation to roadside wells.

Bathing Water

Sligo County Council fulfilled our statutory obligations in relation to the Bathing Water Regulations as outlined below:

- Identification of Bathing Waters
- Preparation and management of the annual monitoring programme
- Management, assessment, and reporting of Bathing Water results
- Bathing Water incident management
- Bathing water returns to EPA



Dunmoran Beach

In 2022, Sligo County Council formally identified five beaches under the 2008 Bathing Water Regulations; these were:

Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Streedagh, Dunmorán and Mullaghmore and we received one Blue Flag.

In 2022, 47 bathing water samples were taken during the bathing season at our designated beaches, in compliance with the Bathing Water Regulations and 11 samples were taken at two non-designated bathing waters. Ten Investigative samples were taken from the Bellawaddy river which discharges to one of our designated bathing waters.

Rivers and Lakes

Sligo County Council undertook the river monitoring and managed and supervised the lake monitoring programme in accordance with the EPA National Monitoring Programme

A river and lake monitoring plan was compiled based on the 2022 national monitoring programme and all required river and lake site were sampled. In 2022, 341 river sites and 142 lake sites were sampled in the county.



Staff from the Environment Section undertaking River Sampling

Air and Noise Control Quality

The planning department refers planning applications to the Environment Department for report and recommendations with respect to Air and Noise Control, typically such applications are for commercial premises, quarries, and wind farm applications. During 2022, The Environment Section of Sligo County Council addressed air and noise control measures via all the planning applications /assessments which were received. Planning Conditions relating to noise and air are recommended on all applications submitted to the Section as applicable.

During 2022, two significant wind farm applications were received and assessed by the Environment Section. A music festival application was also received and the Environment Section were involved in planning meetings, assessed the application, applied conditions to the application and carried out site inspections during the festival.

Air Quality

Deco Paints Regulations

In 2022, there were ten garages in operation in Sligo registered in accordance with the national regulations. Four warning letters were issued to Car finishers whose certificates expired under the Deco Paint regulations in 2022.

Solvents Regulations

In 2022, there were four dry cleaning business (Solvent sites) operating in County Sligo. Three warning letters were issued to Dry Cleaners registered by Sligo County Council. One business is new, and we await registrations details under the Solvent Regulations from that site in 2023.

Petroleum Vapour Regulations

In 2022, there was one site approved and registered with Sligo County Council under the Petroleum Vapor Regulations.

Licensed sites under the Air Pollution Act

At the present time there is one active Air Pollution Act Licence in operation in County Sligo. This licence relates to the operation of an Asphalt Plant at a Quarry site within the Ballisodare area. Monitoring reports relating to the operation of the site are submitted on a quarterly basis by the licensee. Inspections were carried out by the Environment Section during 2022 with associated correspondence issued to the company concerned.

Air quality monitoring

Due to unforeseen circumstances the EPA's air quality monitoring unit in Sligo Town was not operational during 2022 and after discussions with the Agency it was decided to relocate it to a more suitable and representative location. The work required to identify & survey an alternative location commenced in late 2022, and the re-installation is expected to be completed, and for the unit to be operational in early 2023.

During 2022, Sligo County Council also worked with ATU Sligo, as well as UCD, in relation to air quality monitoring projects (iSCAPE & WeCount) and are also considering how to possibly incorporate these into the SCORE climate resilience project. This included engagement with local secondary schools and exploring the possibility of installing air quality monitoring units on their grounds so that students could become involved in this work. The data collected from each of these activities will be used to inform local air quality awareness activities, as well as being a very useful way to engage with local citizens on understanding air quality.

Noise Control

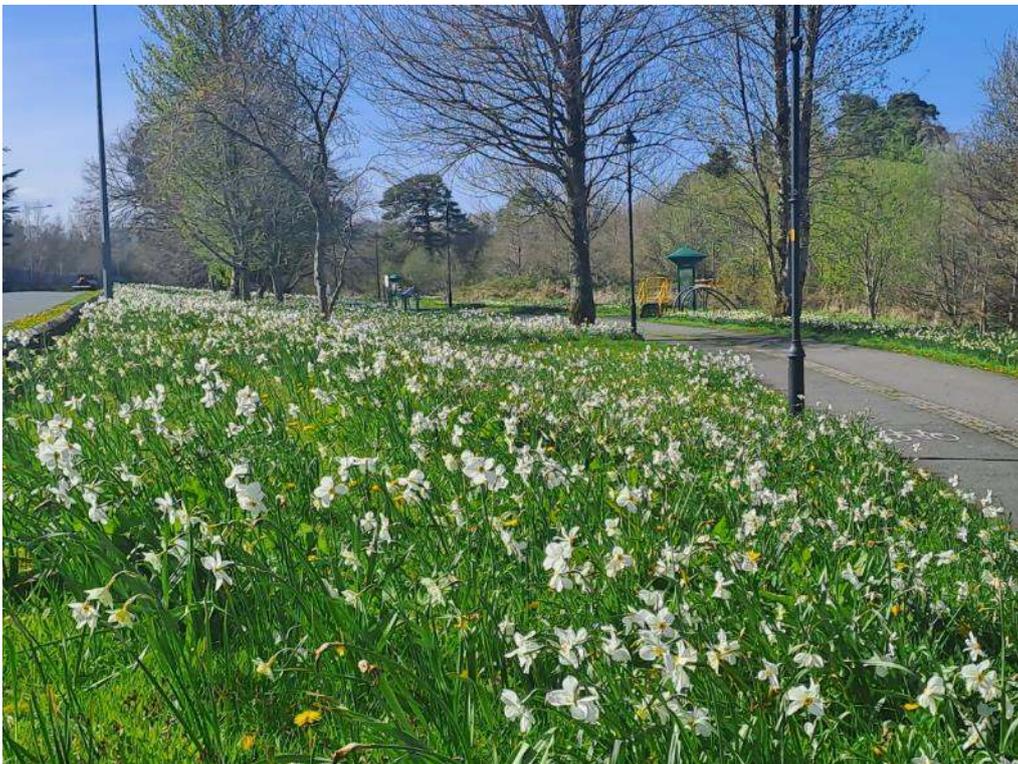
All noise complaints received in 2022 were assessed/investigated. During 2022, fourteen inspections were carried out relating to noise complaints received, with associated correspondence issued to both the complainant and the premises which was the source of the complaint. Advice letters and associated guidance were issued outlining the steps open to any person under the law when they are experiencing nuisance caused by noise.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

With Climate now at the forefront of all National planning policy, climate change targets rely on a shift towards people moving to our towns and cities whereby modal shift targets can be achieved. Parks and recreational spaces play an important role, making our towns and cities more enticing and attractive places to live, while also encouraging people to become more active, and therefore in many aspects, should play a vital role and are a significant commodity in creating modal shift opportunities and achieving Climate Change targets.

With this in mind, emphasis on the availability of local, convenient, and good quality recreation amenities has never been as crucial, and Sligo County Council continue to invest in the development, management and maintenance of parkland and recreational infrastructure for County Sligo.

The Parks Department are responsible for an array of facilities such as O'Boyle Park, Mitchell Curley Park, Cleveragh Regional Park, Doorly Park, Sea View Park, Salmon Point and The Fairgreen, each with different and unique offerings in terms of planting, walkways, and recreation amenities.



Daffodils in bloom at Doorly Park

During 2022, Parks staff continued to improve the quality and attractiveness of these spaces through seasonal planting, weed control, pruning, grass cutting and litter control.

Throughout Spring and Summer, the town centre remained awash with the colour of seasonal planting.

Under the Outdoor Dining Enhancement Investment Scheme 2021, the Fáilte Ireland funded 'Tobergal Lane Outdoor Dining Area' was completed in the summertime and the purpose of this project was to create an all-year-round outdoor dining area and the completed scheme consists of canopies, screens and 105 fully planted and brightly coloured pots of varying sizes which line the laneway and enfold each of the participating businesses.

The Parks department were involved in organising the design and display of the pots and the after maintenance.



Planting carried for Tobergal Lane Outdoor Dining Area

With a greater focus on pollination, our Parks Department have actively cut down on unsustainable grass cutting and have created a number of wild-flower meadows.

Similarly, there has been a considerable reduction in the quantities of chemical weedkiller used throughout Parks facilities, with a move towards more environmentally friendly methods of weed control such as mechanical weed removal.

Cleveragh Regional Park

Cleveragh Regional Park, located on the East Ward of Sligo town, is Sligo towns largest park and the masterplan for the park has been developing on a phased basis as funding becomes available. Ideally situated along the river Garavogue, the park provides links to forest walks and active travel links to Sligo town through Dooley Park.

Having over 6km of walking trails, the objectives of developing Cleveragh Regional Park is to provide an amenity and recreational park to provide for passive and active recreation.

In 2022, an additional 175 metres of jogging / cycling trails were constructed to link into existing trails.

Cleveragh Regional Park also boasts a wealth of other recreational facilities which include a tennis court and Boules court. In early 2022, and in association with Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership (SSRP) and Sligo Bowls Club, Sligo County Council completed the installation of a new clubhouse facility adjacent to the Bowls Court at Cleveragh Regional Park.



175 metres of jogging / cycling trails added to Cleveragh Regional Park



New clubhouse facility constructed for Sligo Bowls Club at Cleveragh Regional Park

Together with the North West Hospice and Kilcawley Construction Ltd, a Memorial Garden was added to Cleveragh Regional Park. This project was completed in early 2022 and in keeping with the surrounding environment, the Memorial Garden incorporates a number of trees including *Fagus Sylbatica* (beech), *Cedrus Deodora* (cedar) and *Aesculus* (chestnut) and the gardens peaceful setting and overall landscape is a very pleasing addition to this magnificent park.



Memorial Garden added to Cleveragh Regional Park

The County Sligo Great War Memorial Garden at Cleveragh Regional Park was also completed in 2022 and now open to the public. The memorial comprises eight upright granite panels engraved with the names of the 613 Sligo men, one woman, and seven Sligo civilians who died in the Great War 1914-1918. The panels have been placed within a landscape setting to act as a place where people can remember and reflect on the loss of so many lives, and the memorial is accessible 24-hours of the day.



The County Sligo Great War Memorial Garden at Cleveragh Regional Park

Doorly Park & Boathouse Quay

In Doorly park and Boathouse Quay, repairs to the riverbank walls and river path are required and together with 'Jennings and O'Donovan', Sligo County Council carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening. In September 2022, the final AA screening report was submitted to Inland Fisheries Ireland, who have confirmed that they are satisfied for these necessary repair work to commence in the summer of 2023.



The Parks Department work closely with the Sligo Sports & Recreation Partnership (SSRP) to ensure continuous improvement of our sports & recreation facilities. In 2022, through this partnership with SSRP, Sligo County Council completed the installation of 12No. new pieces of outdoor gym equipment in Doorly Park.



Outdoor gym equipment installed in Doorly Park



O'Boyle Park

O'Boyle Park is home of Greenfort; a spectacular fort located in the centre of Sligo town, boasting 360° panoramic views of the rolling countryside and Atlantic Ocean. Having been inaccessible for years due to much of it being covered in wild scrub and bushes, this fort has been a hidden jewel of Sligo town.

A considerable amount of work was carried out in 2022 on the 'Greenfort Conservation Plan', with all wild scrub now cleared, facilitating public access so that this wonderful historic fort can be enjoyed by all, while also allowing Sligo County Council to progress in implementing the rollout of the conservation plan.



Site Cleared at Greenfort in O'Boyle Park

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PIERS AND HARBOUR

The Department of Agricultural, Food and The Marine will allow 95% funding support for qualifying rehabilitation and repair works to Piers and Harbours in Sligo in a 2 year programme 2022 – 2023.

This funding is being provided by the EU under the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme.

The first of these Sligo projects was completed in August 2022 with the deployment of the new replacement Bungar Buoy. This Buoy is located approximately midway between Raghly Point and Rosses Point. It is a very important navigation aid for both commercial and recreational mariners using Sligo Bay.



Bungar Buoy: Marine contractors successfully deploy the new replacement Bungar Buoy.

Site investigation and design work was carried out in 2022 for projects such as Mullaghmore and Easkey Pier. These projects will be ready for tender in early 2023.



Aerial view of Strandhill village

Coastal protection measures

Funding for a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study was awarded by the O.P.W in Spring 2021 to investigate Strandhill and at Easkey Coast Road.

A draft report for this study was completed in late 2022. This report will be reviewed by the O.P.W. and the final report will be published in 2023.

Sligo County Council will review the final report's recommendations and see how we can best support any suggested pro-active coastal erosion prevention measures.

Beaches

The Sligo coastline, along the Wild Atlantic Way, is the home of spectacular unspoilt beaches, that are overlooked by majestic mountain ranges.

In 2022 Sligo had 3 beaches (Streedagh, Dunmorán and Rosses Point) that were awarded with a Green Coast/Green Flag by An Taisce and had 1 beach (Rosses Point) awarded the Blue Flag Status. Only 5 beaches in the country received dual award status and Sligo's Rosses Point Beach was one of these beaches that were awarded both a Green Flag and Blue Flag in 2022.

Rosses Point fulfilled all Blue Flag criteria relating to water quality, facilities for visitors, beach management, environmental education, and the provision of information, while also fulfilling the Green Coast Award requirement of community involvement in the management of the site.

2022 was one of the busiest at our beaches with large numbers attending at all the beaches over the summer months. It was a challenging year for our Beach Lifeguards, particularly in Enniscrone where unusual riptides resulted in more rescues than normal.



First Beach at Rosses Point



Rosses Point Beach



Enniscrone Beach



Streedagh Beach



Dunmorán Strand

Casual Trading

The Casual Trading Act 1955 covers open air trading of goods at designated bays throughout the County of Sligo. The Environment Section enforces the Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2018 in order to regulate casual trading on public property. Regular inspections will continue to be carried out by the Council's appointed Trading Officers to ensure that the trading bays are being operated in accordance with legislation.

Bring Banks, Textile Banks & Recycling & Composting Facilities:

The following facilities will continue to be made available to the public:

- Bring Banks (x44 sites)
- Textile Banks
- Recycling Centre Tubbercurry
- Ballisodare Composting Facility

Environmental Awareness

Sligo County Council supports several environmental awareness initiatives including Green Aware Sligo, National Spring Clean, Green Schools Programme and administration of Environmental Grants: Anti Litter & Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme and the Community Environment Action Fund (formerly known as the Local Agenda 21 Grant Scheme).

The Environment Section also works closely with An Taisce, the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the Regional Awareness Office, the PPN, Tidy Towns and many other organisations in promoting various schemes and initiatives throughout the year.

For the past number of years, the Environment Section has delivered various cleanup projects under the National Anti-Dumping Initiative, funding which has been administered by the Connacht Ulster WERLA in conjunction with the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

Projects carried out throughout 2022 included a bulky waste event, including paint collection and mattress collection with 52 tonnes of waste collected and 280 mattresses.

The very successful Bikes for Africa initiative which is also partially funded through ADI has seen hundreds of bicycles donated by members of the public. This particular project is being run in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Ireland.



Bulky Waste Event held on Saturday 27th August 2022

VETERINARY SERVICE

Food Safety

Sligo County Council continued to implement all relevant food safety legislation under the Service Contract between Sligo County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. There have been ongoing discussions centrally regarding the future of the service and a potential transfer to the Department of Agriculture. However there has been little progress so far and the Service Contract was extended in late 2022 for a further year up until 31/12/2023. This includes the supervision of two abattoirs and two small meat manufacturing plants.

Animal Welfare

As it stands, the Council will continue to implement the Control of Horses Act, which has seen a major reduction in abandoned horses. However, under the transfer proposals currently being considered this work may also move to the Department of Agriculture.

The current contract for the Dog Warden Service commenced in January 2020. This was extended in 2022 for one year to cover 2023 and will be retendered during 2023. Re-homing from the shelter continued through 2022 with a number of charities assisting the Council. The numbers of dogs entering the shelter fell during COVID restrictions but has risen again. The Warden re-commenced door to door licence checks again in 2022 and carried out patrols on beaches during the summer. Inspections of Dog Breeding establishments also continued during 2022 and there were 2 premises registered at the end of the year. The National Dog Licence system was introduced by An Post and LGMA in 2018 and An Post now also send out first reminders. The system also has an online portal for dog licences which has continues to be popular with the public.

WATER SERVICES

Sligo County Council Water Services operate under a Service Level agreement with Irish Water, which is in place since January 2014.

2022 once again was a very busy year for Water Services both in Operations and the Capital Section. The areas outlined below were the key drivers for the section throughout the year.

- The continued provision and maintenance of first-class Drinking Water and Wastewater Services daily to the people of Sligo in accordance with the terms of the SLA with Irish Water.
- The continued development of water and wastewater infrastructure Projects in Sligo through partnership with Irish Water.
- The continued implementation of the Irish Water funded “Find and Fix” project to efficiently deliver major leakage savings.

Several projects that were ongoing or completed in Water Services, in conjunction with Irish Water during 2022:

- Rosses Point Sewer Network to Sligo City Wastewater Treatment Works - construction started in Q2 2022 and is due for completion in Q4 2023.
- Tobergal Lane Water Mains Replacement, the works involved the replacement of approximately 100 metres of aged cast iron water mains with new modern pipes.
- Strandhill Water Mains Replacement,
 - Installation of a new watermain on the Shore Road, from the Airport road junction to the Promenade.
 - Installation of a new watermain from the Sandy Cove estate (at the Junction of the Old Airport Road) passed the Rugby Club, along the Top Road to its junction with Buenes Ayres Drive at the former Kelly’s Hotel.
 - Transfer of service connections from the old cast iron watermain to an adjacent existing uPVC watermain on Buenos Aires Drive & the Top Rd towards Ransboro Rd. The works will also involve laying new water service connections from the public water main in the road to customers’ property boundaries and connecting it to the customers’ water supply.
- Kilglass Water Mains Replacement, the works involve the decommissioning of approximately 10km of old problematic watermains from Kinard Reservoir to Bourkes bridge. In addition, over 5.5km of new HDPE water mains will be installed in the area.



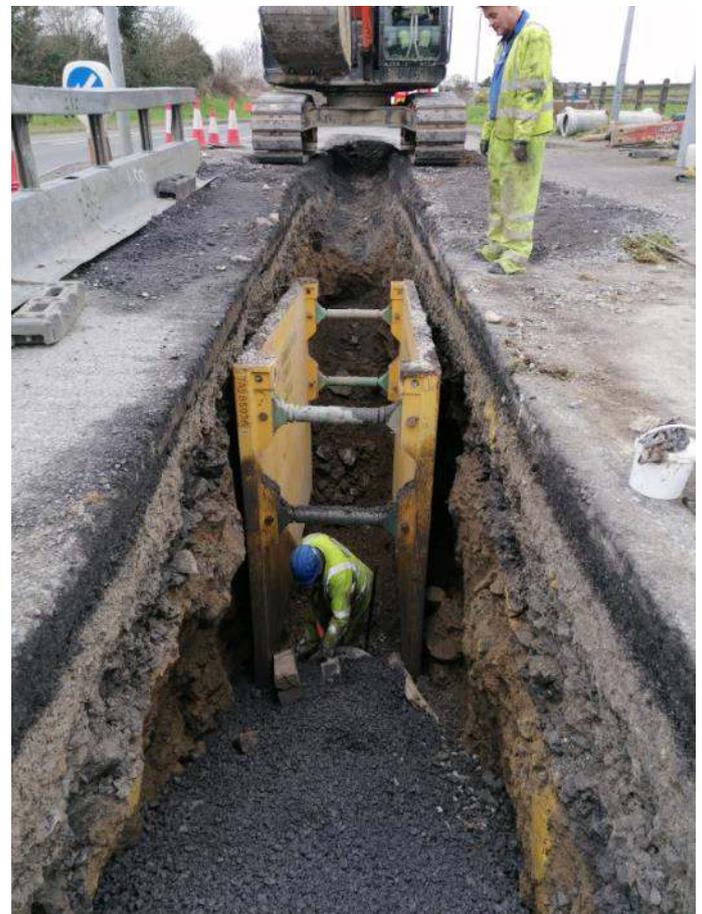
Teesan PS to Scotsman Walk.



Rising Main installation along R291



Installation of manhole Scotsman walk



Pipe laying along R291



Excavation new Pump station and storm tank



Ongoing works at the new Pump station and storm tank



Storm tank at Pump Station in Rosses Point

Rural Water Programme

Water Services acts as the facilitator in the delivery, improvement and ongoing maintenance of the Rural Water Programme funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Rural Water Programme in 2022.

Overseeing subsidy payments to Group Water Schemes which amounted to over 2.5 million annually in 2022. Overseeing the Capital Replacement Programme with the 11 Group Water Schemes employing DBO Contractors to manage their Water Treatment Plants with a view to upgrading and replacing capital and telecommunications components of the water treatment plants.

SCC Submitted a detailed funding submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2022 for two Villages in Sligo to have treated wastewater facilities.

CLIMATE ACTION

Throughout 2022 the Climate Team continued to support staff in other sections in identifying and implementing positive climate actions throughout the Local Authority. A key element from Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 from a local authority perspective is the requirement to prepare an individual Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). These plans will include both mitigation and adaptation measures and will be required to be updated every five years. These plans have to be adopted by February 2024, and preparatory work was started during the second half of 2022.

The LACAP should also satisfy the requirement to produce a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, as per our commitments to the Covenant of Mayors.

As well as this Sligo County Council is also obliged to identify a Decarbonisation Zone within the County, and to produce an action plan which will see various initiatives being rolled out in this area to remove carbon emissions from all areas, including heating and transport, in both the public and private sector. This will be prepared as an element of the LACAP.

There will be a significant amount of effort required to produce this important statutory Plan and to manage the Decarbonisation Zone. This work will be led by the Climate Team but will require significant engagement & input from all sections.

The Energy Bureau was also established during 2022. This is an initiative to support all the LAs in the CARO ASBN region with internal energy management. The Energy Bureau will also assist LAs in identifying and progressing potential energy efficiency projects, with the support of the CARO and SEAI.

EU funding was also secured for the establishment of the Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency. This will be one of three energy agencies set up as part of the LEAP project (Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral regions).

The Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency, once set up, will assist homeowners and businesses in carrying out energy assessments of their homes and buildings, and obtaining grant funding from SEAI, and getting the works carried out.

There are several major projects that were progressed during 2022, and these will continue into 2023:

- **SCORE Project:** Sligo County Council is working with ATU Sligo and other partners on a 4 year cross European project which involves establishing 'Coastal City Living Laboratories' in order to identify and develop ways for coastal communities to adapt & mitigate against the impact of climate change. Funding has been made available to Sligo County Council to participate in this ambitious and important initiative.
- **FASTER Project:** This Interreg Funded initiative will see Local Authorities and third level Institutes across the border regions in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland work together on the installation of a network of rapid electric vehicle chargers along the border area. Both installations should be complete before the end of 2023.
- **Energy Efficiency Works:** As part of the ESB's Smart Energy Services office, under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) Sligo County Council is nearing completion of transforming lighting to LEDs in 4 No. Local Authority buildings. The intention once this project is complete is to consider other areas such as heating, fleet management and renewable energy.

- **Support for Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs):** Sligo County Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland which will see us provide assistance to local SECs by means of providing bridge financing for them when they are engaging consultants to develop their Energy Master Plans. We have agreed to pay the fees involved to the consultants, and then to recoup this from the SEAI via the grant funding that is available to the SECs for this work.

Other projects that are also underway include:

- Smarter Travel Initiatives
- Optimising Power at Work and Reduce Your Use staff energy awareness campaigns
- Climate Action Training for all LA staff
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan and tree planting projects
- Public Lighting Replacement
- Strandhill and Sligo Bay Coastal Survey
- Implementation of Green Procurement Policy
- Air Quality Monitoring program

OPERATION OF FIRE SERVICE

Sligo County Council is statutorily designated as the Fire Authority for the County of Sligo under Section 9 of the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003.

Sligo Fire Service has four broad areas of activity that are mutually supportive in the delivery of an integrated service to the public:

- Fire/Emergency Operations
- Fire Prevention, Community Fire Safety & Building Control
- Major Emergency Planning
- Regional Training Centre

Fire/Emergency Operations

Sligo Fire Service delivers operational emergency fire and rescue services across 4 Fire Brigade Units located in Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry, and Enniscrone.

Fire Operations activity 2022	Numbers
No. of fires attended:	17
No. of Special Services	163
No. of False Alarms	117
Total incidents responded to	450

Following a successful recruitment campaign for retained fire-fighters, 4No recruit firefighters were appointed to Sligo, Ballymote and Tubbercurry Stations in 2022.

Recruit fire-fighters are required to successfully complete a 3-week QQI Firefighting Skills Course, a 2-week Breathing Apparatus Course and a 1-week Compartment Fire Behaviour Course. This is in addition to extensive on station training which is also carried out.

The QQI Level 6 award now includes three new courses, Hazardous Materials, Road based incidents and Pump Operation. A conservative estimate for training, to achieve the Level 6 qualification, is €25,000 per recruit, plus the cost of running the courses.

A €54,211Capital project on the re-surfacing of Enniscrone Drill Yard was completed in 2022 by the successful tender company – Harrington Concrete. The completion of this capital project will enhance the ability of Enniscrone Fire Station to carry out practical training sessions to maintain and improve their training standards in a safe working environment.

The original drill yard was laid in the 1990's and had come to the end of its working life. Senior Fire Officers – with assistance provided by Sligo County Council Health & Safety advisors - procured the new yard which was completed in December 2022.



Enniscrone Drill Yard

In December 2022 Sligo Fire Service took delivery of new S011 G1 as replacement vehicle for current S011 G1 - 1991 Registered Mercedes at a cost of €90,000+VAT. The new S011 G1 is a refurbished 162 Scania providing greater driving safety greater functionality for Multi –purpose Emergency Response vehicle for Temporary Road Traffic Management and other incident types including types Haz- Mat incidents etc.



Fire Prevention / Community Fire Safety / Building Control

Sligo Fire Service undertakes a number of areas of work under the Fire Prevention / Building Control heading. These duties are carried out pursuant to various pieces of primary legislation, which includes, inter alia, the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007, the Dangerous Substances Act, 1972 and the Explosives Act, 1875.

As demonstrated in Table below Sligo Fire Service processed strong numbers of Fire Safety and Building Control Certificates in 2022 which is a good reflection of the state of building construction activity across County Sligo.

In April 2022 Building Control was allocated to the Fire Service section. The Council is designated as Building Control Authority with strong powers to promote and enforce compliance with Building Regulations and Construction Product Regulations. The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings, to provide for the special needs of disabled persons and for the conservation of fuel and energy.

Fire Prevention Activity 2022	Numbers
No. of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) received:	63
No. of Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) received	42
No. of Disability Access Certificates (DAC) received	161
No. of Commencement Notices (CN) received	51
No. of Dangerous Substances Licence (DSL) applications received	10
No. of Licenced Premises (Section 24s) inspected	42

A Community Fire Safety Programme, the aim of which is to reduce fires and fire-related fatalities in the community, is also carried out the Fire Prevention section. This work includes programmes such as Fire Safety Week, Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme, Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the Fireworks Awareness Campaign.

National Fire Safety Week

National Fire Safety Week took place from the 17th to the 23rd October 2022.

The theme for the year was fire safety in the home and encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms, and to test them weekly.

Sligo County Council ran a comprehensive social media campaign to promote fire safety awareness throughout Fire Safety Week 2022.



Primary School Programme

Since 2006, Sligo County Council has been delivering the NDFEM Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme on an biennial basis. It is targeted at 3rd and 4th class primary school pupils, who are approximately 9 and 10 years old. Each of the 70 primary schools in County Sligo are visited by members from their local fire brigade and are given a presentation designed to encourage learning and create awareness.

As part of the programme, the pupils must complete a fire safety checklist of their home and have it signed-off by a parent. This approach endeavours to identify fire safety issues in the home and, by working together as a family, coming up with appropriate solutions.

Fireworks Awareness Campaign 2022

Each year the Department of Justice runs an awareness raising campaign in the lead up to the Halloween festivities to draw attention to the dangers of illegal fireworks and bonfires.

To support this awareness campaign Sligo County Council ran another social media campaign to highlighting the dangers of fireworks in the weeks leading up to Halloween.



Large Crowd Events



Sligo Fire Service works with other statutory response agencies (Sligo County Council, An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, National Ambulance Service, Civil Defence etc.) in pre-planning and assessing Outdoor Event Licence applications for large crowd events.

In 2022 the Wild Roots Music Festival was held at Hazelwood, Sligo from the 3rd to the 5th June 2022 where approximately 12,000 people safely attended the event for each of the three days.

Major Emergency Planning

The Framework for Major Emergency Management was adopted by government decision in 2006. Its purpose is to set out common arrangements and structures for front-line public sector emergency management in Ireland.

The Framework for Major Emergency Management' (2006) established the three Principal Response Agencies: An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Local Authorities which enabled them to prepare for, and make co-ordinated responses to major emergencies caused by serious incidents such as fires, road traffic collisions, aircraft incidents, hazardous substance, severe weather events, etc.

As part of Major Emergency Management planning and pre-incident training, Sligo Fire Service participated in an on-site live exercise at Sligo Airport on Tuesday 13th September 2022.

The exercise also involved crews from Sligo Airport Fire Service, An Garda Síochána, HSE, National Ambulance Service and Sligo Civil Defence.



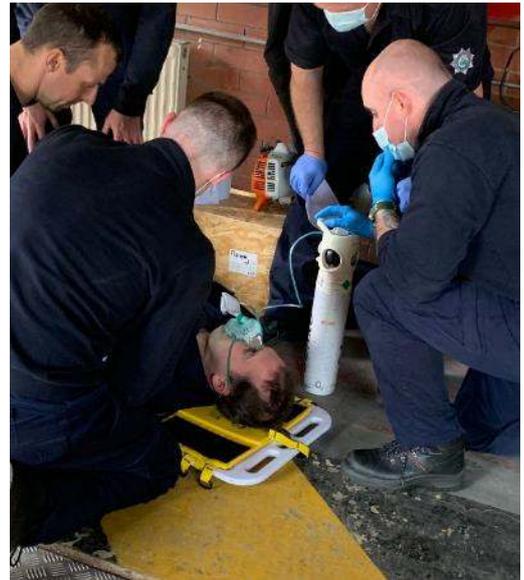
Exercise at Strandhill Airport, September 2022

Regional Training Centre

Sligo Fire Station is the Fire Service Regional Training Centre for the North West, providing national, regional and centralised training. The centre has a breathing apparatus (BA) training building, providing realistic live fire environment to train fire-fighters to the highest and safest of standards in search and rescue techniques in complex burning buildings.

Sligo Fire Service Training Centre courses 2022:

- QQI Level 6 Pump Operators Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- QQI Level 6 Transport Incidents Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- QQI Level 6 Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- QQI Level 6 Compartment Fire Behaviour Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- QQI Level 6 Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- QQI Level 6 Hazardous Materials Course (Including Sligo Fire personnel students)
- NDFEM Managing Fire Service Incidents - Module 1
- NDFEM Managing Fire Service Incidents - Module 2
- Leitrim Fire Service Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher & BA Refresher Courses
- Kerry Fire Service Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher & BA Refresher Courses
- Mayo Fire Service BA Refresher Courses
- FIST Industrial Breathing Apparatus Courses
- Donegal Fire Service CFR-A & EFR Medical Courses
- Mayo Fire Service CFR-A & EFR Medical Courses
- Leitrim Fire Service CFR-A & EFR Medical Courses
- Longford Fire Service Medical courses
- Sligo County Council - First Aid Responder Courses for x 5
- Winch Operator training to Leitrim Fire Service
- Abbvie Emergency Response Team training
- BRUSS Fire Warden Training



Sligo Fire Service Personnel Training 2022:

- Swiftwater Rescue Technician Instructor Course
- Swiftwater Rescue Technician Refresher
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refreshers
- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) courses
- Leadership & Change Training for Junior Officers
- Chainsaw Refresher Course
- ESDS Emergency Service Driving Standard –Re certification Courses
- HP Driver/Operator Course
- Confined Spaces SOG Training
- Continuous on Station Drill & SOGS Training programme



CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence under the leadership of the Civil Defence officer has currently 60 active volunteer members who attend the 6 training centres throughout the county. All volunteers train on an ongoing basis in skills specific to being in a position to provide assistance to the local 3 PRA's in an emergency situation.

This year we had 18 new volunteers joins Sligo Civil Defence. These new volunteers, along with our returning members, have all received certificates in Cardiac First Response, Manual Handling, First Aid Response, Patient moving along with taking part in communications exercises and Risk assessment exercises throughout the term.

Sligo Civil Defence is also under the operational management of Civil Defence Officer. Darren McGough along with the newly appointed Assistant Civil Defence Officer Della Lindsay.



2022 was the busiest year on record for us here at Sligo Civil Defence with 157 duties being attended to by our volunteers, all around the county. We of course had our standing arrangement with Sligo GAA and Sligo Rovers to provide First aid cover to all home games. We also had the addition of the Sligo Rovers Senior Women's teams this year for the first time.

This year we were also delighted to assist with water safety cover for Sligo newest music Festival, Wild Roots Festival which took place in June of this year. It is expected that we will have a much bigger role in this festival in the coming years.

Along with these returning roles, we are also still assisting with some Patient transfers and Hospital assistance with groups such as Cancer Care west and ALONE, with whom we worked with quite closely during the pandemic.

We were also very lucky to be able to help with a Major Emergency exercise which took place out in Sligo Airport. This was an exercise which utilized the skills of the Fire Service, the National Ambulance service, the Gardai and Sligo Airport security and fire Services. The Civil defence were able to help by supplying volunteers on the day to assist in the running of the event and also in providing vehicle support when required.

There was also a follow up event in the Airport where most of the Voluntary agencies in the region attended to help create a volunteer network where we can, in the future, work and train together. The Civil Defence from Sligo and surrounding counties were in attendance along with Mountain Rescue, the Coast Guard and Order of Malta. It was a fantastic opportunity and one I hope will become a regular event.

There is still and increased emphasis on the strict importance of PPE, correct policy and procedure and the highlighting of Volunteer welfare our priorities. All these need to be in place to ensure we can continue to serve our Local Authority, fellow PRA's and those in the community who need us.



Increased expenditure is foreseen for 2023 in acquiring extra PPE long term, sanitization processes for building and vehicles, extra training for new first aid processes and new updated ambulance equipment required to deliver safe first aid practices in a Covid 19 environment. Upgrades too, to existing buildings and infrastructure may also need to be undertaken.

Sligo Civil Defence also took ownership of a new Ford Transit van which was purchased through funding provided by the Department of Defence through Dormant account government funds. This is a welcome addition to our Fleet. We also were able to acquire a 162 registered Ambulance from the National ambulance service to replace one of our older ambulances in our fleet to ensure we have the capabilities to meet any first aid requirements that may come our way.

Civil Defence – What do we do?

Medical Response

Our volunteers are certified from Cardiac First Response (CFR) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) through Civil Defence. Volunteers provide first aid at community to national events.



Search and Rescue

Missing person searches are one of the most popular call-outs for Civil Defence. Our volunteers work in support of An Garda Síochána and/or the Irish Coast Guard. As well as our trained and experienced volunteers, Civil Defence has an extensive range of assets we can offer. These include 4x4 vehicles, boats, command and control vehicles, trained search dogs and remotely piloted aircraft (drones).



Axillary Fire Service

Civil Defence provides second line support to the fire service. Volunteer skills include pumping and transfer of water. During environmental and flooding events Civil Defence provides personnel and equipment in support of the Local Authority Fire Services.



Radiation Monitoring

The role of this service is to take radiation readings in the event of a radiological event. Members of the service are trained in many disciplines such as communication procedures as well as in the reporting of radiation readings.



Communications

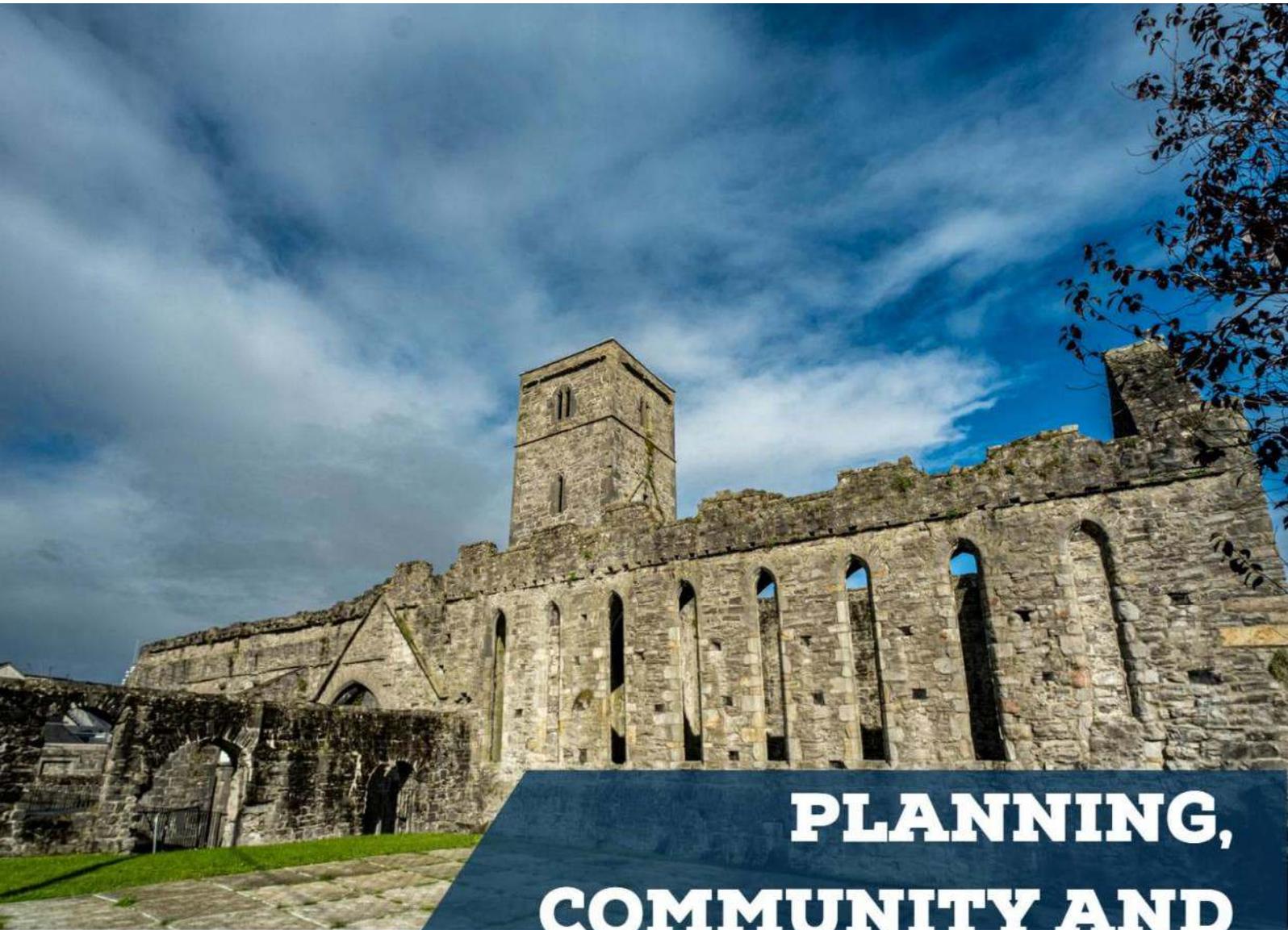
Civil Defence operates several radio communications systems. Civil Defence also operates several TETRA digital radio terminals which provide inter-communication with the primary response agencies, such as the Gardai, HSE and the Fire Services.



Welfare Service

Setting up Evacuation Centres is a role allocated to Civil Defence. Civil Defence supports the Primary Response Agencies during such emergencies, specifically in the registration, feeding and other supports to people in need.





**PLANNING,
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT,
ARTS AND
CULTURE
DIRECTORATE**

DIRECTOR:

MS DOROTHY CLARKE

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Planning section continues to manage development in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations.

A total of 472 planning applications were received in 2022. This is comparable to recent years, and it is anticipated that a similar level of applications will be received in the coming year based on the level of applications currently received in 2023.

The coming year will see the introduction of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT). RZLT, which is an action of *Housing for All*, is a new tax and which is intended to incentivise the development of land identified for housing development. It will replace the Vacant Sites Levy.

On 1 November 2022 the planning authority published Draft Maps identifying all land that may be liable for the tax. These maps have been subject to public consultation and Final Maps (updated to reflect any changes required on foot of submissions received) will be published on 1 December 2023.

The production of the RZLT maps, and the administration of consultation responses, will be a significant area of new work for the planning section.

On 15th December 2022, the Planning Section went live with E-Planning. The project, which is led by the LGMA is being delivered on a phased basis with development, testing, training and roll-out of system features and functionality in a step-by-step process. The project was successfully piloted in Tipperary County Council in Q4 2021, followed by Galway County Council in Q1 2022. Since then, roll out to all other local authorities is currently underway. By the end of 2022, Sligo was the 12th out of the 31 local authorities that went live with E-Planning.

Development Planning Unit (DPU)

The Development Planning Unit is responsible for drafting planning and development policy for Sligo County and City, in consultation with the public, members, officials, prescribed bodies and other stakeholders. The Development Planning team also carries out research, advises on development proposals, facilitates plan implementation and participates in a range of initiatives, at both local and regional level.

Achievements in 2022

Review of Sligo County Development Plan

On 7 March 2022 the elected members directed the Chief Executive to proceed with the preparation of the Draft Sligo CDP 2023-2029. During 2022, the top priority of the Development Planning Unit was the infrastructural assessment of existing zoned lands, as required by the NPF (National Policy Objective 72a), to provide a clear basis for the allocation of lands for future housing and economic development in the Core Strategy of the new Development Plan.

The DPU also prepared briefs and carried out tender procedures for the recruitment of specialist consultants in the fields of SEA, AA, SFRA, LCA, LARES. In addition, the DPU collaborated with the Council's Active Travel Team in the recruitment of transport planning consultants for the preparation of the LTP for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre.

The elected members of Sligo County Council were invited to attend two workshops, in April and in October 2022, to discuss and get a better understanding of the complex, unprecedented national and regional policy requirements governing the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.

Work Planned for 2023

Completion and publication of the Draft Sligo County Development Plan

Work on the preparation of the next Sligo County Development Plan will continue throughout 2023. The following outcomes are envisaged:

- Completion of the infrastructural assessment of zoned lands in consultation with Irish Water, to inform the Settlement Capacity Audits and the Core Strategy of the Draft Plan;
- Preparation of the Housing Strategy, based on the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and on the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026.
- Completion of the Local Transport Plan for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre, which will support the integration of transport with land use and help formulate a public transport and active travel policy framework for the County;
- Completion of the Landscape Character Assessment, providing the basis for development management decisions in rural areas and for the Renewable Energy Strategy accompanying the Draft Plan;
- Completion of the Proposed Draft Plan subject to SEA, AA and SFRA;
- Submission of the Proposed Draft Plan to the elected members for approval prior to its publication, together with the associated documents (HS, LTP, LCA, RES, SEA, AA, SFRA);
- Commencement of public consultation on the Draft Plan, to take place over a minimum of 10 weeks, supported by public displays, meetings, presentations, workshops etc.
- Preparation of the Second Chief Executive's Report on submissions received in relation to the Draft CDP, with recommendations to the elected members regarding proposed amendments to the Draft Plan.

ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

The Enforcement Section's role in this area involves investigating all complaints from the public with regard to unauthorised development, random inspections of developments in progress, and dealing with prior to commencement conditions or conditions which have not been complied with. The Section conducts site visits and issues Warning Letters, serves Enforcement Notices and institutes legal proceeding, as appropriate.

Hereunder are some relevant details of activity for 2022:

- 66 new complaints lodged
- 23 Warning Letters
- 18 Enforcement Notices
- 13 complaints resolved through negotiation. (These include complaints received prior to January, 2022)
- 27 complaints dismissed
- 57 cases closed following enforcement proceedings

Collection of Development Contributions

The Enforcement Section is responsible for the collection of development contributions. Staff resources continue to be allocated to ensure that contributions are paid in a timely manner and to follow up defaulters. The amount of outstanding arrears stands at just above €655,419.49 as at end of 2022. Most of the outstanding money is in respect of unsold new build property, mainly dwelling houses and will be paid in due course on the sale of the properties.

Taking Estates in Charge

The Council commenced the process of taking in charge four estates in 2022 and expects to commence the process of taking in charge of five estates in 2023. The taking in charge fees received by the Council go towards the costs incurred by the Council during the taking in charge process and are also used where there is a shortfall in monies to complete outstanding works in the estate to bring it to a satisfactory standard to take in charge.

The expenditure sum provided under this heading relates to the costs to the Council in arranging for the carrying out of C.C.T.V. surveys of all main runs of foul and storm sewers in housing estates, as part of the taking in charge process. These Surveys are required in order to ensure satisfactory standards of construction.

Vacant Homes Office

The Government has committed in Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness to develop an overall national vacant housing re-use strategy. In February 2018, the planning section prepared a Vacant Homes Action Plan whose aim is to significantly reduce the number of long term empty dwellings and reduce the effect of empty dwellings on the community and bring them back into use.

The first key action to be achieved was the identification of the real level of vacancy in the Sligo and its Environs area. Of the over 8,000 residential properties inspected up to the end of 2022, only 3% were determined to be vacant. A further more detailed survey based on Geo-directory figures is due to commence in summer 2023.



CPO of Vacant Property - No. 1 Charles Street

Under the Government's Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland launched in September 2021, they have committed to launch a CPO Programme for Vacant Properties. In 2021 the Council's Vacant Homes Office compulsorily acquired two vacant properties under the Derelict Site Act 1990. A further three properties were compulsorily acquired in 2022. A programme of compulsory purchases will continue in 2023. All properties that have been compulsorily acquired have been placed on the open market.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant was launched in July 2022 and extended to all rural areas in November 2022 and the Ready to Build Scheme - Serviced Sites for New Homes was launched in September 2022. A full time Vacant Homes Officer has been appointed to administer the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund.

At the end of 2022 we received 22 Vacant Home Refurbishment Grant Applications, by the end of March 2023 this had increased to 72. This number is expected to increase further as the eligibility criteria is revised in May 2023.

Derelict Sites

The Planning Enforcement Section continually monitor properties throughout the county. Where a property has fallen into dereliction or is in danger of falling into dereliction we engage with the owners where they are known to encourage them to carry out the necessary works that are required. It is only where this dialogue fails that we place the property on the Derelict Site Register. The expenditure sum provided in this heading relates to costs carrying out inspections, preparing reports and carrying out emergency repairs to properties.

The Vacant Homes Team will commence the issuing of Derelict Site Levy Notices to the owners of Derelict Sites.

HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION SERVICES

The protection of the natural and built heritage is an important function of Sligo County Council, a countywide asset that is valuable in its own right but also to the tourism and visitor experience in the County.

Heritage

County Sligo Heritage Forum

During 2023, the Heritage Office will continue to support and work with the County Sligo Heritage Forum to develop and implement the fourth County Sligo Heritage Plan (2023-2027).

County Sligo Heritage Plan 2023-2027

The Heritage Plan seeks to protect, conserve, manage and promote the value of Sligo's heritage in recognition of its significant contribution to the quality of life of communities and the socio-economic development of the county. Funding is provided by Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council to support the delivery of Heritage Plan Actions which include the Sligo Community Archaeology Programme, conservation of historic graveyards and medieval churches and heritage awareness programmes during Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week.

Biodiversity

The implementation of the actions set out in the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan will continue with funding provided by the Department through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. The Department, through The Heritage Council has recently established a Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Pilot Programme and it is hoped that Sligo County Council will benefit from the scheme.

Architectural Conservation

In 2022, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocated a total of €121,000 to Sligo County Council under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (20 projects) and the Historic Structures Fund (2 projects). Conservation works vary from roof and window repairs to general stabilization works. The Heritage Office oversees the annual delivery of the conservation grant programme with advice from the Planning and Architectural Sections of Sligo County Council.

Community Monuments Fund

The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. In 2022, Sligo Council Council secured €230,000 for 4 monuments in the County for conservation works, conservation reports and access and interpretation

measures. The Heritage Office oversees the annual delivery of the CMF grant programme as well as delivering capital conservation projects funded under CMF.

World Heritage Site Tentative List

In December 2018, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage opened a call for applications to Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List. Sligo County Council in partnership with Sligo Neolithic Landscapes Group prepared and submitted an application to the tentative list - The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo. The application was submitted on the 30th June 2021. On the 21st July 2022, the new World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland was announced and included The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo. During 2023, Sligo County Council will continue to work with the Department and key stakeholders in the preparation of the nomination dossier for the site.

Priorities for 2023

- Ongoing support for County Sligo Heritage Forum
- Preparation of the County Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy (5 Year Plan)
- Ongoing delivery of Heritage Council funded heritage actions
- Sligo Community Archaeology Programme – Phase 6
- Conservation work to medieval churches in Local Authority care
- Heritage Awareness Programme to include Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week
- Sligo Conservation Plan Programme – The Green Fort, Sligo & Drumcliffe Monastic Site
- Delivery of National Biodiversity Action Plan funded projects
- Delivery of the Building Conservation Grants Programmes – BHIS & HSF
- Delivery of the Community Monuments Fund Programme
- Progress the nomination bid for The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo

HERITAGE WEEK IN SLIGO – A GREAT SUCCESS

Wow, what a Heritage Week that was! After two years of digital projects and online events it was a welcome return to in person events

Heritage Week is a unique opportunity for local communities to host a vibrant celebration of the wonderful natural, built and cultural heritage of our county. Each year Heritage Week is an opportunity to build awareness and enjoyment of our heritage thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation. The themes for Heritage Week 2022 were sustainability and biodiversity, with many events reflecting these throughout the week.



The Moygara Castle Research and Conservation Project committee hosted guided tours.

Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Councillor Michael Clarke said:

A special thank you to all the groups, individuals and communities who took part in hosting events and who made Heritage Week 2022 amazing! Their creativity, collaboration and dedication make National Heritage Week what it is! Without their interest, hard work and voluntary commitment Heritage Week would not be possible.

Thanks also to all those who attended events throughout the week, your support was crucial and greatly appreciated by all the organisers. It was fantastic to gather once again in celebration of our national heritage. We hope that you enjoyed all the events and look forward to doing it all again next year!

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community & Economic Development section supports inter-agency, strategic, collaborative work on a local and regional level in promoting and encouraging community and economic development within the County. It supports community organisations and provides a range of supports and grant aid to community based and non-profit organisations throughout the county. It also encourages volunteerism and active citizenship and promotes social inclusion through various programmes and opportunities. The economic agenda is growing and the section engages on a collaborative basis with stakeholders across the business and economic landscape including the Sligo Economic Forum, Tourism sector the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Diaspora, to mention but a few.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The role of the LCDC is to develop, co-ordinate and implement an integrated approach to local and community development in the county. Its membership is multi sectoral and includes representatives from local government, local development, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.



In 2022 the LCDC focussed on continuing its overview of community activity in Sligo and to oversee the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) including the further development towards finalising the new LECP Sligo 2030–One Voice One Vision. The LCDC is also responsible for overseeing programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Public Participation Network, Healthy Ireland and EU programmes such as PEACE and the LEADER Programme. Some of its work Programmes delivered in 2022 include:

Local Economic & Community Planning (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) provides a roadmap for collective action in relation to local economic and community development in the county. In 2022, the LCDC focussed on the review of the Sligo LECP 2016-2021 and the development of the new **LECP Sligo 2030 – One Voice One Vision**. This was an opportunity to look at the progression of the first LECP actions during its lifetime and to examine areas for further expansion in the context of future LECP planning.

New LECP to 2030 – Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision

Sligo 2030 aims to be an innovative, ambitious, and transformational plan for the whole of County Sligo that will align with local, regional, national, and international policy and strategy guided by the principles of being smart, green, sustainable, and inclusive with focus on four key areas of ambition:



- Growing Sligo into its role as a Regional Growth Centre
- Positioning Sligo to the forefront of smart digital transformation
- Positioning Sligo as an exemplar region in climate action
- Improving the living conditions and health of the people of Sligo

This overarching strategic framework for Sligo was developed by the Council via the LCDC, SPC for Planning Community & Economic Development, with input from the Sligo Economic Forum and JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions). A collaborative process of preparing and adopting the LECP/Sligo 2030 was carried out in accordance with the updated Local Economic & Community Plan Guidelines, Nov 2021 (and previous version thereof June 2015).

The development of a Socio Economic Statement for the County was an important element and bedrock of the Plan. This included a socio-economic profile, needs analysis of the county along with guiding principles, areas of ambition, vision and high-level goals namely:

Goal 1: Sligo will be a Regional Growth Centre that drives sustainable economic activity and employment throughout the region and increases the population across the county.

Goal 2: Sligo will become a smart county and a leader in the utilisation of smart technology through partnership with educational and commercial third parties.

Goal 3: Sligo will be a proactive county in addressing climate change and a model of best practice in climate action with sustainability central to all areas of life.

Goal 4: Sligo will be a healthy and equitable society that supports its vibrant communities and champions active inclusion.

Goal 5: Sligo will celebrate its exceptional heritage, creative sector, and realise its tourism potential in a sustainable manner.

Goal 6: A collaborative and innovative Sligo.

Following extensive community and stakeholder engagement the Socio-Economic Statement was approved by the necessary bodies in January 2022.



Sligo 2030 Stakeholder Engagement Event, Glasshouse Hotel March 2022

Work continued throughout 2022 on the further development of the Sligo 2030 Framework and Implementation Plan with in-depth stakeholder engagement including a workshop in March, 2022 on the working up of deliverable actions and KPI's across on actions across the 6 thematic areas. The Draft Local Economic and Community Plan /Sligo 2030 document was endorsed by the relevant bodies in quarter 4 of 2022 and will be put before members of Sligo County Council for adoption in quarter 1 of 2023.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a national programme which is overseen by LCDC's to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Funded by DRCD it also receives funding from the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020. It is implemented by County Sligo LEADER Partnership with Sligo County Council responsible for the administration of the contract and the preparation of monitoring and oversight reports on behalf of the LCDC. In July 2022, it was announced by DRCD that the SICAP Programme 2018 – 2022 was extended by one year to the 31st December, 2023.



Start your own business training for members of the Ukrainian Community Northside Centre, Sligo – SICAP Verification visit 25th of November 2022

The budget for 2022 was €669,418 with additional funds of €73,101 for Ukrainian supports allocated. The 2023 SICAP allocation was announced in December 2022. The budget allocated was €689,501 for SICAP and €167,473 for Ukrainian Supports. The current SICAP Programme comes to an end in December 2023, and in 2023 a tendering process will commence for SICAP 3 (2024-2028). Members of the LCDC frequently attend monitoring visits of a diverse sample of activities supported under SICAP from English language classes for members of new communities to supports for other target group's e.g. Older people.



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 and Transitional LEADER Programme 2021 -2022



Rural Development Programme

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is a European programme which is overseen by LCDC's to support rural development by supporting communities and individuals to improve the quality of life of all rural dwellers. The programme is Funded by the EU through DRCD. The RDP 2014-2020 is complete, and in 2021 an extension programme 'RDP Transition Fund' was announced by DRCD extending the Programme to the 31st December, 2023. The EU also announced an additional EURI Fund (European Union Recovery Fund) which was delivered in tandem to support rural community's response to the effects of the covid 19 pandemic, this also concludes on 31st December 2023. All funding will be committed by this date, but the Programme completion date is June 2024, to facilitate payment and completion of all projects. The overall budget for the RDP 2014-2020 is €7.6m. Total Transition Programme funding is €2,261,896. All of these programmes are implemented by County Sligo LEADER Partnership with Sligo County Council responsible for the financial administration of the contract and the preparation of monitoring and oversight reports on behalf of the LCDC.

Sligo LAG met 7 times to the end of December 2022. In 2022 a total of 28 projects were approved by Sligo LAG to the value of €1,144,758.20. These projects cover a wide range of themes from the Local Development Strategy (LDS) including Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Basic Services for hard-to-reach communities, Broadband and Rural Youth.



Castle to Cave Camino – Funded under the Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022 – 16th April 2022



As the current Rural Development Programme and Transitional LEADER Programmes come to an end, 2023 will see the commencement of a new LEADER Programme 2023-2027. On 27th October, 2022 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027. The 2023-2027 LEADER funding allocation for Sligo has been set at €6.1 million.

The major investment will support a range of locally-led rural development and enterprise projects over the next five years. The 2023-2027 LEADER funding allocation will be delivered by a Local Action Group (LAG) led approach working to a Local Development Strategy (LDS) similar to the previous LEADER Programme 2014-2020. with indicative LEADER Themes as follows:

1. Economic Development and Job Creation

The need to support the development of the rural economy has been identified as a critical challenge in both the needs analysis and Ireland’s five-year rural development policy - Our Rural Future (2021-2025). Areas of focus within this theme might include:

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification (e.g. glamping on farm)
- Rural Tourism & Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community and Cooperative Enterprises

2. Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

A central focus will be the need to not just support economic development but also to ensure that social inclusion is supported. Ireland is becoming increasingly diverse and it is important to embrace this diversity and ensure that future community development recognises the needs of all members of society. Areas of focus under this theme might include:

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

3. Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

While recognising that climate change mitigation and adaptation is a cross-cutting issue and in this context will be considered for all LEADER interventions, there were a number of specific areas that emerged from the needs analysis process, these might include:

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption

PEACEPLUS

Sligo County Council/Sligo LCDC has been advised by the Special European Union Projects Board (SEUPB) that its indicative budget for the delivery of the PEACE Plus Action Plan is €3,603,788. In 2022, Sligo LCDC established the PEACEPLUS Partnership as a subcommittee to oversee the development and implementation of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Plan. The membership is multi sectoral across 4 pillars set by the funder SEUPB. 1. Elected Members, 2. Relevant Statutory Bodies, 3. Social Partners – Geographic, community representatives, environment and civic society, 4. Social Partners PEACEPLUS Target Groups, and underrepresented groups. There are three thematic strands upon which PEACEPLUS Action Plan content must be designed namely:

- i. Local community regeneration and transformation
- ii. Thriving and peaceful communities
- iii. Celebrating cultures and diversity



These provide scope to incorporate projects focussing on different sectors and activities including health and wellbeing; children and young people; community regeneration including redevelopment and re-imaging of existing community facilities for shared usage; initiatives to build positive relations; social innovation; social enterprise; and community education. All supported projects should be designed to address issues of racism and sectarianism, increase social inclusion and promote civil leadership.

Following tender process Pinnacle Growth Group, supported by Third Sector Connect, have been selected as the preferred tender to develop the Sligo PEACEPLUS Plan. Work on the community engagement /co-design process will commence in 2023.

Participants and PEACE Partnership members at the activity camp for young people delivered under PEACE IV



Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland is a government-led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 has 4 key goals: Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing; and Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.

In 2022 work continued on the delivery Healthy Ireland Programme of activities for Sligo which was funded by the Department of Health and Pobal under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. The Programme delivered a wide variety of projects focussing on the improvement of health across the county. Collaborative Projects such as Take a walk for me (Sligo Arts Service), Stronger for Longer (SSRP) and Connected, Community Safety Register, (Muintir na Tire) were focussed on Age Friendly initiatives and connecting with older people in the aftermath of COVID. Other activities include Breastfeeding Friendly Sligo (Lifestart), Social Prescribing (Sligo FRC) and a host of Wellbeing Programmes/activities run via community groups and also a programme specifically designed for secondary schools.



Urbact Playful Paradigm – Let’s Play Sligo, Rockwood Parade, October 2022

Preparations for Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund commenced in quarter 4 of 2022. Locally it is proposed that Round 4 will maintain and build on the work undertaken by previous Healthy Ireland investment and activity and also build on the work undertaken under the COVID Community Resilience Fund across the communities in County Sligo.



Celebrating 20 years of Diversity in Sligo at the Model Sligo December 2022

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4

The design of the HIF Round 4 has been informed by consultations with various Healthy Ireland stakeholders at both national and local level. As a result, Round 4 represents a more evidenced-based outcomes led approach, with a longer 3-year timeframe and gives LCDC’s more discretion to make changes to both the work being undertaken and how the budget is being spent.



Healthy Sligo Consultation December 2022 at the Glasshouse Hotel



Stakeholder consultations for the making of the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund Strategy

LCDC's were requested to develop and submit a 3-year Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy (HIFLS) for the period of 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025 in consultation with local stakeholders. This work got underway in quarter 4 of 2022 and involves the identification of project outcomes, project outputs, targets and target groups. The implementation of the Healthy Sligo Strategy will remain the primary responsibility of County Sligo LCDC. In this regard the LCDC has established a Healthy Sligo Sub Committee with relevant stakeholders to inform and guide both the development of the plan and its implementation.

Community Activities Fund

The DRCD made an allocation to Sligo LCDC of €268,168 under a new scheme known as the Community activities Fund. This aimed to provide once off funding to support groups with their non-pay running costs for example utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. The application window opened in January 2022 and a total of 123 applications were recommended for funding by the LCDC in April 2022.

Support for the Community & Voluntary Sector

The Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme supports a broad range of community activity in the county including support for community led local development. This Scheme aids community groups such as Tidy Towns Committees, Burial Ground Committees, Festival Committees and Organisers of International / National and Local Events in promoting their area and the county in general.

The grant scheme creates a great opportunity for communities to benefit from an income source to allow them implement programmes, carry out projects and activities at a local level that otherwise might not be possible. The combination of this fund along with a strong volunteering ethos provides for a “bottom- up” approach to local development and citizen participation.

A revenue budget of €130,000 was available in 2022 and 172 committees/groups were approved for grant aid in May. The sum of €10,000 within the overall €130,000 is set aside to assist ‘Rural Towns & Villages’ with the annual cost of Christmas Lighting. This is administered from late October onwards. Each year sees an increase in interest in the Scheme with a rise in the number of applications received.

PPN (Public Participation Network)

2022 was another busy year for Sligo PPN and saw a hybrid model to programme delivery with the reintroduction of face-to-face events.



1. Elections and Representation

- Age Friendly – 2 PPN reps were nominated to the newly established Sligo Age Friendly Alliance – Maria Molloy and Ann Donegan
- Sligo PPN secretariat – Joan Swift from Sligo Cycles replaced Patricia Gardiner as environmental representative
- LCDC – Community Representative Jean Finnerty stepped down from her role as rep on Sligo LCDC and was replaced by Billy Gallagher from Cartron View Point Residents Association
- PPN environment rep Joan Swift represented the network on the OECD panel for the discussion and launch of the new national report “Towards Irish transport systems that work for the people and planet”
- Pippa Black, Social inclusion rep on the Secretariat and SPC1 was elected to the National PPN Secretariat and the newly established Roadmap Implementation group, charged with the implementation of the recommendations in the Mazars report
- The Sligo PPN Resource worker represents the national Resource Worker Network on the PPN National Advisory Committee (NAG). They have also been nominated to the Cross Sectoral committee for Community Development

2. Consultation, Information and Projects

- Sligo PPN were selected as one of 10 PPNs to host the pilot Climate Conversations programme with Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. This explored key priorities for Sligo groups in terms of climate action, highlighted best practise and generated new project ideas. The combined feedback from across the network forms part of the research for the National Climate Action Plan.
- Sligo PPN supported the role out of the national Street Feast initiative and 12 events took place across County Sligo.
- As part of the Sustainable Development Goals week, Sligo PPN worked with the Rivers Trust and LAWPRO to host an information evening aimed at exploring the option of establishing a Rivers Trust initiative in County Sligo.



Participants at the inaugural Rivers Trust Public Information Meeting September 2022

- We all acknowledge the pandemic has had a huge impact on the community sector. Sligo PPN undertook a programme of reaching out directly to every single member group to check on their status following re-opening. The process sought to confirm that groups are still in operation, to update contact details and to identify emerging needs and areas of support needed.
- In 2022, the Social inclusion college of the PPN successfully applied for Sligo to be designated under the Autism Friendly Towns programme and social inclusion reps are currently working with local groups to develop the initiative.
- A new thematic group was established in 2022 focused on housing issues in the county. The network is made up of a range of PPN groups with an interest in this area. The network have secured the support of Social Justice Ireland to work with them to develop a series of policy positions on behalf of the PPN.
- Sligo PPN ran a photography competition in mid '22 aimed at both raising the profile of our member groups and building up a bank of images for use across Sligo PPN communications. The competition featured 2 special categories with Minister Joe O'Brien and CE Martin Lydon selecting their favourite images.



Prize winners in The PPN photo Competition, Shligo Shtyle and Inclusion and Diversity Categories – October 2022

- In October, the PPN launched their Environmental Action Academy toolkit for community groups developed in partnership with Sligo ATU and Sligo Environmental Network. The aim is to support groups to take simple steps to enhance their everyday operation to become more environmentally friendly.
- The social inclusion college of the PPN devised a programme ‘A day in the life’ looking at the challenges the various groups in society navigating the physical environment and service delivery in Sligo.
- The Dream for Our Land is an initiative that brings together the arts and the environment in creating a poetic vision for a just transition to a sustainable future. The project is led by acclaimed poet Stephen Murphy with input from member of our PPN groups.



3. National Interest

- The first PPN conference in 3 years took place in October 2022 in Laois.
- Following the release of the Mazars report a national initiative is now taking place looking at the structure of PPNs and how they operate. A Roadmap Implementation team has been established to devise a plan regarding the translation of recommendations from the Mazars report into practical action.

Social Inclusion

C&ED oversee the management of a number of broader social inclusion Programmes including, Comhairle na nÓg and Age Friendly along with providing support through funding opportunities to other initiatives e.g. Africa Day and LGBTI+, Period Poverty funding from central government funding.

Africa Day

The Community Section were awarded funding by The Irish Aid Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs to organise an event to celebrate Africa Day 2022 in Sligo. This event was held in The Model on Wednesday 25th May, 2022.



It included an address by the Cathaoirleach of the Council Councillor Paul Taylor, Dr. Bláthín Gallagher Chair of The Model and the Indian Ambassador to Ireland, Akliesh Mishra. The event was a showcase of African Culture involving local groups such as Diversity Sligo and the Aremojo Intercultural Group and Sligo Global Kitchen amongst others. It saw a range of African cuisine cooked and presented by ten African countries under the banner of Sligo Global Kitchen – South Africa, Cameroon, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Congo, Somalia and Sierra Leone.

Activities showcased African food, fashion, craft, music and dance. With participatory workshops on singing, hair-braiding, and film. 170 people attended the event, reflecting the diversity of Sligo’s African and inter-cultural community.



Africa Day, The Model, Sligo 25th of May 2022

Sligo Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg is the recognised key national structure for young people aged 12-17 to participate in local decision-making in local authority areas. The Comhairle is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs through their Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund of €25,000 per annum. The AGM for the group is held in October of each year and attracts new members, it explores ideas for including into the annual work plan which are agreed by the general assembly. In 2022, Sligo Comhairle na nÓg AGM returned to an in-person event after two years of being held hosted online, due to the Covid19 pandemic. The event was hosted in the Radisson Hotel, Sligo and coordinated by Foróige with the support of Sligo County Council and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Representation from 11 of County Sligo's secondary schools attended as well as young people from community youth groups based in Sligo Town. There was 81 young people in attendance. Cllr Martin Connolly, Leas Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council was in attendance to open the event. The three topics chosen by the Comhairle to focus on for 2023 were Mental Health, Transport, and youth facilities.

Sligo Community Celebration for Covid Volunteers

An event jointly hosted by the Council, the PPN and the Volunteer centre was held in the Clayton Hotel on Thursday 19th May, 2022 to acknowledge the role of volunteers and community groups in supporting the most vulnerable throughout the pandemic. Volunteers were presented with a commemorative pin and letter acknowledging their contribution by the Cathaoirleach. This linked in with a national celebration hosted by the President on the same night. There were around 120 in attendance on the night.

Age Friendly Programme

The Sligo Age Friendly Programme is overseen by the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance which is Interagency in its membership. It is chaired by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council and includes the following agencies: Sligo County Council, Local Link, Muintir na Tíre, Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Citizens Information Centre, ATU Sligo, An Garda Síochána and MSLETB.

The Sligo Age Friendly Programme commenced working on the development of the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026 in quarter 2 of 2022. This saw in depth county wide consultation with older people on matters that are of concern to them. An interagency workshop was held on the 28th of November 2022 to enable agencies address the issues raised by the older people at the consultations in a collaborative approach. Individual one to one meetings were held with Age Friendly Alliance members and the Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manager throughout 2022 continuing in 2023 as a follow up from the workshop to form responsive actions. The first draft of the strategy was presented to the Age Friendly Alliance meeting on the 21st of December 2022 and was endorsed by all members. The Sligo Older Persons Council was launched on the 29th October, 2022 in the Clayton Hotel during Positive Ageing Week.



Sligo Age Friendly Alliance meeting 21st of December 2022, approval of the First Draft Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026 -Sligo City Hall Chamber



Sligo Age Friendly Alliance meeting 21st December 2022, Age Friendly Alliance member Kate Brown (ATU), Kate Gibbons Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manger SSO SCC, Aisling Smith AO C&ED SCC



Sligo Older Peoples Council launch Clarion hotel 29/10/2022

The Sligo Economic Forum

The Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) has a high-level strategic remit to support and boost the ability of Sligo’s economic partners to be the lead drivers in all matters of economic development for the city and county. In 2022 the SEF considered a range of issues which affect the economic, social and cultural development of Sligo such as the development of the Sligo 2030 strategy, smart city models for Sligo, housing and infrastructural developments, and other strategic opportunities and gaps for Sligo.

The Sligo Economic Forum met on two occasions in 2022.

It consists of representatives from both private and public sectors, tasked with the responsibility of strategically planning and directing the economic vision for Sligo.



Sligo: Live Invest Visit – Brand Bulletin 2022 featuring IDA, EI and ATU, all SEF members

A significant Sligo 2030 Stakeholder Engagement Event took place in March 2022 in the Glasshouse Hotel and virtually with the objective of informing the final stages of the Sligo 2030/LECP which will be of strategic importance to Sligo for the next period. Members of the Sligo Economic Forum, SPC 3 and LCDC contributed to the workshop that was also attended by representatives from KPMG as well as Gwendolyn Carpenter from JASPERS and Gerry Muscat, European Investment Bank.

Sligo: Live Invest Visit

The economic section has continued to develop the Sligo. brand in accordance with the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* Marketing and Communications Strategy.

In line with the emerging emphasis of the Smart and Green agenda as part of the development of Sligo 2030, the brand taglines were updated to:

- **Live Green**, Supporting Sligo as a socially inclusive and sustainable place that cherishes its vibrant communities.
- **Invest Smart**, Supporting Sligo as a champion of innovative growth and smart development.
- **Visit Sustainably**, Celebrating Sligo as a sustainable tourism destination offering rich culture and heritage and a unique natural landscape.

During 2022 a renewed focus on promoting the Sligo. brand was initiated. This included creating local brand awareness by placing brand signage at strategic locations around Sligo including Hughes Bridge, Pearse Road, Sligo Town bus stops County Hall and at the Sligo Rovers Showgrounds.

Sligo. brand signage was also used strategically at significant events in Sligo including the annual IAAT, (Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism) conference in March and the launch of the Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan in City Hall in March. This aided in creating brand recognition and support among the local public as well as the brand stakeholders.



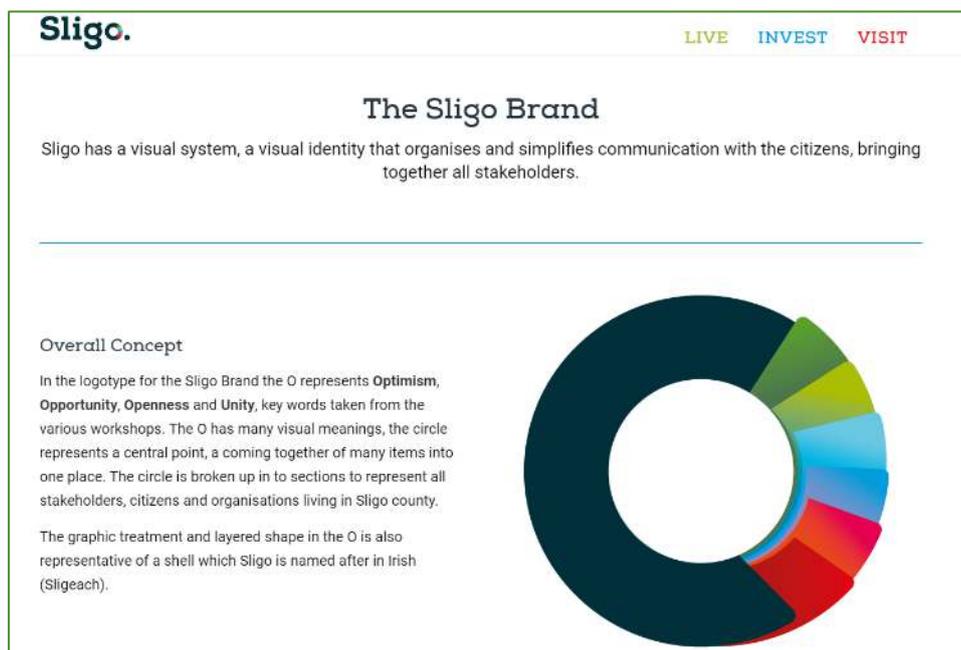
Sligo. Brand Signage 2022



Sligo.ie

In support of the brand the *Sligo.ie* website has been regularly updated during 2022 with 21 new articles promoting the three brand pillars across the website. Four new landing pages were also added to Sligo.ie during 2022:

- Our Brand, Our Story, that is intended to showcase and explain the branding project to website users.
- Business and Economic Supports that incorporates signposting functionality to direct visitors to the supports available through Sligo Economic Forum member agencies and local business networks.
- Sligo Diaspora landing page that provides news and information the global Sligo diaspora.
- Sligo Social Enterprise landing page created as part of the Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise scheme.



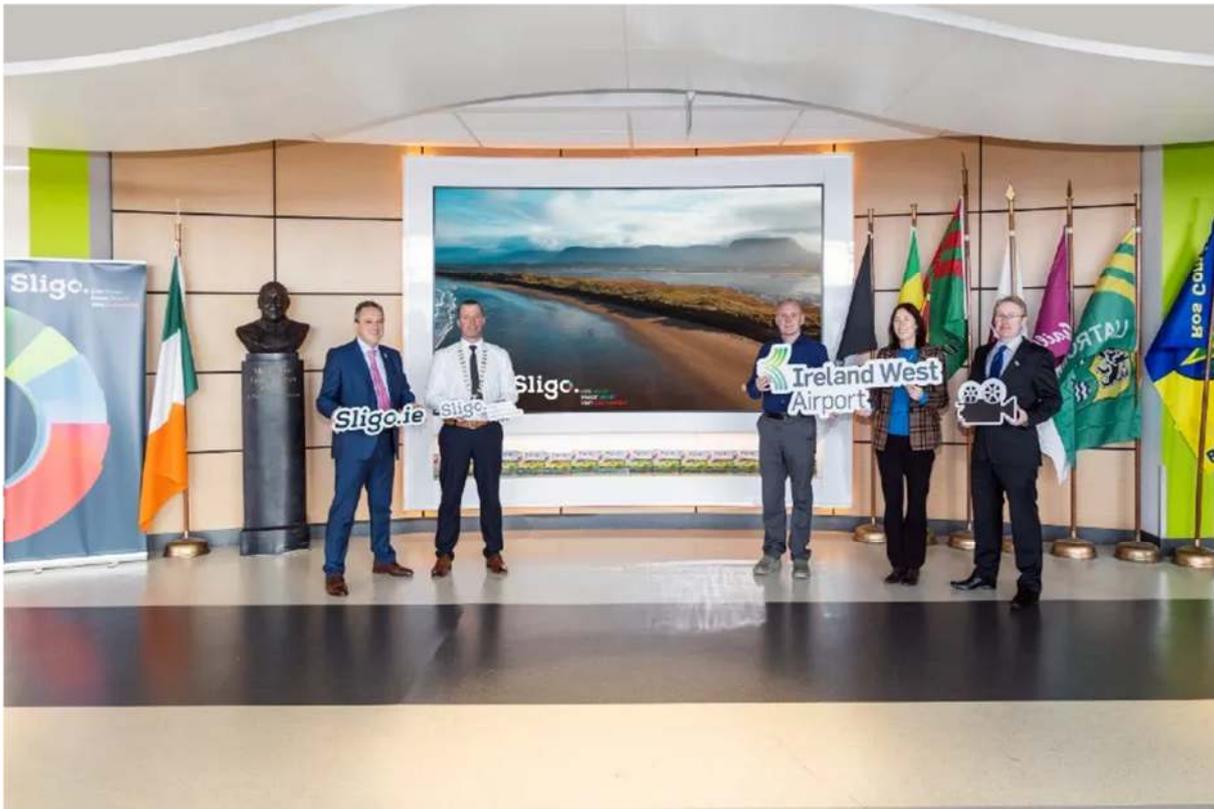
Our Brand Our Story landing page on Sligo.ie

The first issue of the Sligo: Live Invest Visit Brand Bulletin was produced and published in July. This 20-page edition of the Brand Bulletin takes the form of a visual review of the Sligo. brand highlights from January to June of 2022.

Sligo: Live Invest Visit - Brand Bulletin Issue No.1

Sligo: Live Invest Visit Digital Content at Ireland West Airport, Knock

A suite of digital content promoting Sligo as a world class place to live, invest and visit was unveiled at Ireland West Airport in Knock in April. The content includes videos and imagery that forms part of the wider *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* branding initiative. Ireland West Airport Knock has reported 722,000 passengers used the airport during 2022.



Launch of *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* digital content at Ireland West Airport – April 2022

Sligo. Brand Online Promotional Videos

The first in a series of 3 Sligo. brand videos launched on 4th February. The video, titled *“Sligo – so much more than a beautiful place”* has enjoyed a reach of over 50,000 views. It focused on the aspects of modern life in County Sligo and depicts the benefits of living in Sligo; its work-life balance, quality of life, unspoiled landscape, affordability and accessibility.



“Sligo – so much more than a beautiful place” video launch in Strandhill – February 2022

The second Sligo. Brand video released during 2022 promotes the Invest pillar of the Sligo. Brand and was launched on Wednesday 29th June on Sligo.ie and partner social media channels.

The video is called, “Why not make Sligo yours?” and was a collaborative endeavour reflective of the Sligo. Brand principles and features scenes from the Atlantic Technological University, Finisklin Business Park and some of the companies that call Sligo home. The video promotes Sligo as an ideal location for inward investment and highlights the talented workforce in Sligo, its infrastructure, and educational institutions as well as the County’s commitment to sustainable development.

Sligo: Live Invest Visit featured in Go West Magazine

Go West, the annual Ireland West Airport Magazine serves as a guide for air passengers to destinations at home and abroad, with particular emphasis on promoting the West and North West of Ireland. This year’s edition was published in July and features two new Sligo. Brand articles promoting County Sligo. 30,000 hard copies of the magazine are printed annually and a Digital Edition of the magazine is also available to view for free online on the Ireland West Airport website and Facebook page which has over 117,000 followers.



Sligo: Live Invest Visit article in 2022 edition of Go West Magazine

Sligo Social Enterprise Awareness Month – October 2022

During October a Social Enterprise Awareness Campaign was rolled out via the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* social media channels and on Sligo.ie through funding secured through DRCD via the Dormant Accounts Fund as part of the ARISE Scheme, (Awareness Raising Initiatives for Social Enterprise).

This campaign is in support of Objective No. 1 of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022; Building Awareness of Social Enterprise.

As part of Sligo Social Enterprise Awareness Month, a new landing page was created on Sligo.ie, www.sligo.ie/socialenterprise This has been the most visited landing page on Sligo.ie during October.

The new landing page on Sligo.ie contains:

- [Digital Social Enterprise Booklet](#)
- Audio Podcast Series
- Articles on some of the Social Enterprises operating in County Sligo
- Information on Social Enterprise Supports

A series of informational adverts were run on Ocean FM during October and adverts placed local newspapers.

Newly designed social media graphical information posts based on the ARISE key messaging and information on the services provided by some of the social enterprise operating in Co. Sligo were produced and promoted during the course of October on the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts, examples below:



Social Media Infographics



Recording of Sligo Social Enterprise Podcast Series – An Chroi Digital Hub

Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Atlantic Economic Corridor is the term applied to a non-administrative or “linear” region along the Western seaboard, stretching from Kerry to Donegal. The AEC concept is an initiative developed by Government to maximise scale for the region with a shared goal to create a unified, connected and competitive Atlantic economic corridor.

This initiative builds on the input of geographical, sectoral and thematic interests with the aim of building a brighter and sustainable future for the region and specifically for Sligo. It proposes to combine infrastructure, talent,

tourism, smart technology and enterprise assets, and involve economic hubs, clusters and catchments to attract investment, improve competitiveness, support job creation, and offer of an improved quality of life.

On 4th March Minister Heather Humphreys opened the new upgraded facilities at the An Chroi Digital Hub in Tubbercurry that included a smart suite and virtual shop front that were part of the AEC Smart Village and Community Pilot.



Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. at An Chroi Digital Hub – March 2022

County Sligo Diaspora Strategy 2019-2024

A new Sligo Diaspora Landing page has been created on Sligo.ie in June that acts as a central location to help provide news and information to the Sligo Diaspora globally and will host the new Sligo Diaspora Newsletter.

A 24-page Sligo Diaspora Newsletter was produced to help inform our Diaspora of news and events from around County Sligo. The first edition features articles on Andy Rogers from the Sligo Business Network in London, Sligo Walks and the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* brand. The newsletter is available to download from Sligo.ie.

Tourism Promotion & Development

Visit Sligo Marketing Campaign

The Visit Sligo marketing campaign aimed at promoting Sligo as a world class place to visit all-year round was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Michael Clarke on 14th December at County Hall.



Sligo Diaspora Newsletter Issue No.1

The campaign supports the Visit pillar of the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* brand and will showcase Sligo’s many tourism assets, including outdoor recreation and adventure, archaeology and heritage, culture, creativity & food, the perfect place for a relaxing and energising break.

As part of the marketing campaign a new video was released online via the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* social media channels and has received a positive response with over 80,000 views to date. Some of the locations featured in the video include Knocknarea, Easkey, Carrowmore, Streedagh and Lough Gill. The new video also features some of Sligo’s excellent outdoor activities including surfing, walking trails, golfing and horse riding.



Photo from launch of Visit Sligo marketing campaign at Riverside, Sligo – December 2022

Front Row L-R: Aoife McElroy – Fáilte Ireland, Cllr Michael Clarke - Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Martin Lydon – Chief Executive, Sligo County Council, Gail McGibbon – CEO Sligo BID.

Back Row L-R: Dorothy Clarke - Director of Services, Sligo County Council, Aidan Doyle – CEO Sligo Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Cllr Tom Fox – Sligo County Council, Anthony Gray – Restaurateur, Margaret McConnell – Senior Executive Officer, Sligo County Council



Screenshots from Visit Sligo Video

Irelands Content Pool

The Economic Team worked on providing a new bank of images promoting Sligo on the Ireland’s Content Pool website (www.irelandscontentpool.com). The images are available for download by Irish tourism businesses, tourism agencies, international media, journalists and tour operators at home and abroad.

Over 150 high quality photos from around Co. Sligo have been uploaded to the website. Funding for this project was provided by Fáilte Ireland.



National Mountain Bike Trail, Coolaney



Sunset, Dunmoran Strand



Killaspugbrone Loop Walk



Sligo Abbey

Sligo images featured on Irelands Content Pool website

Look Local, Look Sligo Marketing Campaign – December 2022

In collaboration with Creative Ireland funding the *Look Local Look Sligo* seasonal marketing campaign commenced on 1st December and promotes the offerings of local Sligo food and drinks producers for the festive season utilising the Sligo Food Trail members. Online content was created and shared online via the *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* and Sligo Food Trail social media channels featuring, hampers, food themed items, restaurants, cafes and markets.



Social Media Posts – Look Local, Local Sligo December 2022

Support to Festivals & Events:

Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events funding 2022

The Council received notification in January that the allocation for this scheme for 2022 is back to the original level of €23,500. Following advertisement of the scheme and application process, 9 festivals were offered funding for events around County Sligo:

List of Applicants

1. Wild Atlantic Shanty Festival
2. Tubbercurry Old Fair
3. Enniscrone Show
4. Remembering The Armada
5. Ballygawley Music Festival
6. Coleman Irish Music Festival
7. Black Pig Festival
8. Cairde
9. CCE Connacht Council (Sligo Town, 2022)

Faillte Ireland St Patrick's Day Regional Programme

Fáilte Ireland continued to offer of assistance of €25,000 to Sligo County Council for the tourism development and support of a new St. Patrick's Festival in Sligo.

This builds on groundwork commenced in 2021 and contributes in time to the implementation of a themed Development Plan for a St. Patrick's Festival around a USP for Sligo, developing a 3-day cultural programme, and building partnerships and international connections.



"To the Waters and the Wild", Sligo St Patricks Festival Poster

Local Live Performance Support Scheme Phases 3 & 4

2022 saw the wonderful opportunity for performers and all associated in that sector to avail of two phases of the Local Live performance support scheme. The Council in conjunction with Comhaltas and the Connacht Fleadh committee delivered the *Sligo Sounds Good* programme as part of the Connacht Fleadh festival held in Sligo over 20th June to 3rd July. This comprised of a range of live Concerts which took place in the Stephens St Car Park. Other events such as Recitals, Lectures, Talks and Walks of interest were also held and were well attended. This was made possible largely due to the funding from the Local Live Performance Support Scheme Funding. Under Phase 4 of the Local Live Performance Support Scheme 15 separate groups ran events which took place throughout County Sligo on this final phase of the programme between July and October.



Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Taylor with members of the Council, staff, and Comhaltas officials at the Connacht Fleadh official opening in County Hall June 2022.

Irelands Association for Adventure Tourism Conference

Recognising Sligo's growing reputation for adventure tourism, the IAAT annual conference took place in Sligo over two days in March. The event supported by Sligo County Council consisted of local adventure tourism activities on 23rd March with the main conference taking place on 24th March.



Minister Catherine Martin T.D. addressing IAAT Conference – March 2022

Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) is the first-stop-shop for those entrepreneurs starting a small business or expanding an existing one. It provides an integrated support service focusing on the needs of small businesses from the Council's offices in City Hall.

Supports provided include training, mentoring, financial assistance, advice, counselling and promotion of an enterprise culture (including through programmes run in schools). The LEO also signposts clients to the Council's other business-related services and to business-related services operated by other agencies.

The LEO assists broader economic development through for example the advancement of tourism, workspace and city centre developmental activities. The LEO played a key role, with IT Sligo, in sourcing funding, principally through Enterprise Ireland, for the *Aim Centre (Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing)*. The construction phase of that project commenced in January, 2023. Work with industry also commenced in earnest during the latter part of 2022 as the Centre developed its key remit of providing Industry 4.0 information, skills and know-how to businesses, with a specialism in supply-chain automation. While the project has a focus on local and regional businesses, it will be an outward-looking facility that will build international linkages to compliment the national ones already established with key players who can complement its Industry 4.0 objectives. In that latter regard, preparations were well advanced, involving close liaison with the NWRA, for funding to enable international linkages and activities under various EU projects.

Broader economic development is also assisted through the LEO's membership of relevant local development bodies such as Sligo Business Improvement District (Sligo BID) of which Councillor Gibbons and the Head of Enterprise are both directors, the Sligo Local Community Development Committee/Local Action Group and the Economic Forum. An application submitted by the LEO for the development of the night-time economy, in conjunction with the BID, was successful. The LEO is represented on Boards and Committees of developmental bodies such as Sligo County Enterprise Fund Limited in Strandhill (where the construction of a new Digital Gaming Centre adjacent to its existing workspace in Strandhill was largely complete at end 2022), the Tubbercurry Development Company Limited, Enniscrone Leisure Company Ltd. and Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Limited.

At a cross-border and international level, the LEO's activities include sourcing/partnering for external funding (e.g. Co-Innovate Programme, a cross-border programme with InterTradeIreland as lead partner geared towards promoting business efficiency and cross-border trade, which concluded during the year) and is deeply involved in preparatory work around the next tranche of Peace 3 funding, anticipated to come on stream in 2023. Furthermore, together with colleagues in Mayo, Tipperary and Clare local authorities, the LEO is involved in an initiative aimed at fostering trade and business between Pennsylvania and this region.

The Office is also involved in driving a number of Government initiatives locally. It promotes the Micro Finance Ireland loan offering to small businesses. The Office has been very successful in attracting external funding which, together with contributions from the Council and local contributions, has and continues to enable a broad range of projects in the areas of rural recreation, scenic walking routes, town and village enhancement and improvements to vantage points along the Wild Atlantic Way. These projects enhance enormously the attractiveness of Sligo as a place in which to live, invest and visit. They are crucial to promoting the attractiveness from a quality-of-life context of investing in Sligo to businesses considering locating here and, indeed, to retaining talent in those companies already invested in Sligo.



A significant element of the LEO's micro-enterprise funding is provided by the Department of Enterprise and Employment, co-funded by the European Union and channelled through Enterprise Ireland, which also provides key back-up expertise and assistance. In addition, an element of the Office's funding is made available through the Council. It also generates some income from training fees. It also sources funding from external funders such as competitive national and EU programmes and assists where possible other relevant organisations with their applications for such funding.

Fáilte Ireland Capital Funding

The Wild Atlantic Way's acknowledged success and improved visitor numbers continues to attract visitors to the area. Sligo County Council has secured funding from Fáilte Ireland under the Capital Investment Programme with the following investments all underway:

- National Surf Centre Strandhill
- Queen Maeve Square (Cultural Plaza)
- Enniscrone Destination Town
- Platforms for Growth; Beach facilities at Rosses Point and Enniscrone



Projects successfully completed in 2022:

- Outdoor Dining at Tobergal and Enniscrone
- Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre (Phase 1)



Pride of Place

Local communities throughout the county are encouraged to showcase their achievements and have participated in the IPB Pride of Place competition held in association with Co-operation Ireland since its inception in 2004. Entries are accepted in either population categories or single issue categories and Sligo County Council supports entrants in their preparation for and during the judging day. The competition fosters community participation and highlights the importance of communities working together to create civic pride in their area. In 2022, Castleconnor and Carney were selected to represent the county in this All Island competition.

Town and Village Renewal (TVR) Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal (TVR) Scheme 2022, managed by DCRD, successfully approved Sligo County Council for €770,101 in respect of 7 no. locations, as follows:

Collooney	Village Enhancements	€189,351
Riverstown	Village Enhancements	€250,000
Templeboy	Village Enhancements	€230,751
Ballymote	Project Development Measure	€50,000
Strandhill	Project Development Measure	€50,000

Total Match funding in the sum of €85,566 has been allocated towards this scheme between Sligo County Council and Community Contributions. Works on these projects is underway.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

The DRCD successfully approved Sligo County Council for €505,000 in respect of 10 no. projects for ORIS 2022 as follows:

Measure 1 - 7 No Applications to the value of €210,000

Measure 2 – 1 No Applications to the value €200,000

Project Development Measure- 2 No Application to the value of €95,000

Match funding in the sum of €56,108 has been allocated towards this scheme from Sligo County Council and Community Contributions.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022 – Town and Village Renewal

This scheme is funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) as part of "Our Rural Future", the Government's five-year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland. The DRCD have allocated funding of €100,000 for Sligo County Council for 2022.

EU Projects

Sligo County Council C&E/LEO Economic Development Unit successfully completed the SARURE and Trail Gazers Projects in 2022.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Queen Maeve Square (Sligo Cultural Plaza):

This is aligned to the Failte Ireland Capital project with funding of €750,000 secured under URDF. Works are currently underway.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

Of the three applications submitted under RRDF Category 2 Development Stage, Ballisodare Regeneration 2021 was successful to receive funding with the total amount €580,000 awarded. Development works are currently underway.

Previous projects awards include Enniscrone Pavilion & Cliff Baths and Tubbercurry Regeneration. Project works are ongoing.

Matching Funds

Funding has been provided under Matching Contributions for 2022 to allow the Council to benefit from opportunities that might arise to drawdown and match fund a number of grant schemes and programmes during the year. These include initiatives under tourism and recreational development, economic development, social inclusion, rural / community development etc.

MINISTER HUMPHREYS VISITS TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL PROJECTS IN SLIGO

Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys spent Friday 4th March, in County Sligo visiting the many projects funded by her Department under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Her first engagement was at County Hall, where she was welcomed by Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Taylor and Chief Executive Martin Lydon.

In his address the Cathaoirleach said

'Minister Humphrey's provides a welcome opportunity to showcase the many projects around the county funded by your Department, and you will see at first hand the impact this investment has had on our local communities.



Partnership

For many people, your attendance today marks the culmination of years of outstanding local enterprise and spirit to bring their respective projects to fruition. For other initiatives getting underway, your visit will provide the impetus to see them progress. Our experience as a local Authority has been that we are most effective when we work in partnership with local communities and local agencies. This model has served us well and was the key to the planning and delivery of the projects you will see today.

Project team

On commending the spirit of dynamic partnership that has been the backdrop to our Town & Village renewal programme, I must commend our own project team who worked with energy and spirit at every stage of the process. Michael Carty and Ray O'Grady and their staff have been outstanding in overseeing every stage of these projects in conjunction with the Minister's office.

Significant investment

County Sligo has benefited enormously from the funding delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Last week funding of €1.3M was announced for projects in Sligo, the most significant investment in the country. While these projects are hugely important in their own right, they can also be the catalyst for a range of other initiatives to enhance our communities.

Connectivity

In recent years Sligo County Council has devoted considerable resources to the development of our recreational infrastructure, and this can be seen in the range of walkways, trails and amenities provided around our wonderful county.

Our tourist offering is exemplary, and I believe connectivity is key to its further enhancement - as Chair of South and West Tourism, I recognise the critical importance of maximising the major resource on our doorstep. Ireland West Airport Knock is the gateway to the northwest and is key in attracting visitors to the many amenities we are showcasing here today, The investment committed by the Minister to this county and region has transformed many areas and energised many communities.'

After a briefing on the Town & Village Renewal Programme by Director of Services Dorothy Clarke, Minister Humphreys visited a number of schemes throughout the County, including Aughris, Kilglass, Enniscrone, Tubbercurry, Carney, Grange and Calry.



LIBRARY, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES, CREATIVE IRELAND AND DECADE OF CENTENARIES.

Sligo County Library Branches – Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone.

The Library continues to provide library lending services, computer and Wi-Fi access, printing facilities and study space.

- The Word monthly literary event, a collaboration with ATU Sligo
- Right to Read campaign
- Healthy Ireland at Your Library
- Work Matters
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Environmental Awareness events

Library staff continue to liaise with local schools and pre-schools to provide Class Sets and Books in a Box deliveries, to encourage school classes to visit the library, and to invite classes to workshops, author visits, and storytelling events.

Archives and Local Studies

The Archive section continues to oversee the management of Sligo County Council's Archive from the conversion of Council records held in storage to Archival material, along with a strategic programme to process the Sligo Gaol Archives.

The Local Studies service located in the Westward Building supports local historians in their research and act as a resource for both the second and third level educational sectors.

Arts Service

The Service delivered a number of actions under the Sligo Arts Plan 2020-2025 Strategic Priorities.

The Strategic Priorities were delivered through by the Arts Programme under the following headings:

Arts Practitioners - Priority 2

Support for arts practitioners of all art forms is a key priority. Artists were supported through the provision of residencies, professional development (training, upskilling), mentoring, talks and information sharing sessions.

Arts Participation – Priority 3

The Primary Colours visual arts programme for Primary schools delivered residencies, gallery tours and workshops to 171 children and employed eight artists.

A Children’s Community Garden project was intergenerational and employed two artists.

Nine Festival events were held under the Bealtaine programme, celebrating creativity as we age.

Three artists were employed by the Arts Service to deliver two outdoor projects for Culture Night.

Arts Infrastructure, Ecosystem and Economy - Priority 4

Sligo County Council awarded 27 grants to arts venues, organisations, festivals and events.

Through the Creative Ireland Programme, inter-agency and cross sector collaborations have developed to strengthen the creative ecosystem and economy.

Art in the Public Realm – Priority 5

A public art commissions plan was developed and was adopted by Council in June 2022. The Plan sets out a number of approaches to commissioning over the coming years, utilising Per Cent for Art funding derived from capital projects delivered by the Council throughout the County.



FINANCE DIRECTORATE

DIRECTOR:

MS MARIE WHELAN

FINANCE

Income and Expenditure Account

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure by Division	Notes	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
		2022 €	2022 €	2022 €	2021 €
Housing & Building		13,611,152	12,540,593	1,070,558	1,296,755
Roads Transportation & Safety		27,532,923	21,488,676	6,044,246	6,279,415
Water Services		4,836,317	4,804,792	31,525	(74,457)
Development Management		5,740,604	1,886,895	3,853,708	3,587,067
Environmental Services		7,460,791	1,336,690	6,124,101	6,036,510
Recreation & Amenity		5,067,391	328,705	4,738,686	4,333,147
Agriculture, Food and the Marine		714,222	450,059	264,163	219,043
Miscellaneous Services		8,051,834	6,903,689	1,148,145	63,851
Total Expenditure/Income	15	73,015,233	49,740,099		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax				23,275,134	21,741,331
Rates				14,354,540	14,113,574
Local Property Tax				11,007,018	11,404,973
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	16			2,086,424	3,777,216
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(1,599,682)	(2,859,754)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				486,742	917,462
General Reserve at 1st January 2022				(16,536,991)	(17,454,453)
General Reserve at 31st December 2022				(16,050,249)	(16,536,991)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		474,909,997	471,587,136
Infrastructural		1,187,420,641	1,187,467,842
Community		9,291,016	9,063,942
Non-Operational		13,527,340	19,673,719
		1,685,148,993	1,687,792,640
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	285,485,440	274,388,573
Long Term Debtors	3	19,914,783	21,745,306
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	330,384	296,053
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	8,055,372	9,743,008
Bank Investments		16,184,916	15,262,617
Cash at Bank		931,803	1,489,147
Cash in Transit		1,625	1,625
		25,504,100	26,792,449
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6	30,991,692	27,696,143
Finance Leases		62,563	15,641
		31,054,255	27,711,783
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		(5,550,154)	(919,334)
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	70,324,010	77,522,901
Finance Leases		109,549	203,394
Refundable deposits	8	932,732	950,213
Other		2,320,000	2,320,000
		73,686,292	80,996,507
Net Assets		1,911,312,770	1,902,010,677
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	1,685,148,989	1,687,792,635
Income WIP	2	280,830,621	270,516,754
General Revenue Reserve		(16,050,249)	(16,536,991)
Other Specific Reserves		32,264	32,264
Other Balances	10	(38,648,854)	(39,793,985)
Total Reserves		1,911,312,770	1,902,010,677



Motor Tax

The Motor Taxation Offices for County Sligo are located in County Hall, Riverside, Sligo Telephone: 071 911 1830 and in Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo Telephone: 071 911 1719, where applications for Motor Tax are processed for owners of vehicles which are ordinarily kept in County Sligo. All business relating to Motor Tax offices can be found on our website at www.sligococo.ie/Services/MotorTaxation/

In the year 2022, €3,319,209 was paid by the registered owners of vehicles to the Motor Tax Offices in Sligo and Tubbercurry for Motor Tax transactions. This was a 24% increase from the €2,673,430 recorded for the year 2021. The increase in office based transactions related to the easing of Covid-19 public health restrictions and the return to regular opening hours for public counters meaning customers had more opportunity to complete in-person transactions.

Declaring a Vehicle Temporarily off the Road

New procedures were introduced in 2013 for declaring a vehicle is temporarily off the road so that customers do not have to pay motor tax for that period. Since 1st October 2013 it is necessary to declare in advance that a vehicle will be off the road and not in use for a period of between 3 and 12 months using Declaration of Non-Use of a Motor Vehicle Form RF150. The declaration of non-use must be made in the same month that the current motor tax disc expires. If arrears in motor tax are due these must be paid in full plus a minimum of 3 months motor tax, before a declaration of non-use can be made.

Motor Tax Online

www.motortax.ie is an online service provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and motor tax customers are encouraged to tax their cars online to avoid queuing delays at their local offices.

Statistics from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport statistics show On-Line Motor Tax transactions for Co. Sligo as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ➤ 31% in 2011 | ➤ 62% in 2018 |
| ➤ 35% in 2012 | ➤ 64% in 2019 |
| ➤ 39% in 2013 | ➤ 80% in 2020 |
| ➤ 48% in 2014 | ➤ 82% in 2021 |
| ➤ 53% in 2015 | ➤ 77% in 2022 |
| ➤ 56% in 2016 | ➤ 82% in 2021 |
| ➤ 58% in 2017 | ➤ 77% in 2022 |

Driving Licences

The Road Safety Authority assumed full responsibility for the driving licence service in 2013. The National Driver Licence Service office in Sligo is located at Ground Floor, Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo – Telephone: 0818 700 800 and is open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday and from 9am to 2pm on Saturdays. See also www.ndls.ie.

Procurement

The primary procurement objective for Sligo County Council is to get optimum value for money while complying with all EU Directives, National Legislation, Public Procurement Policy, Circulars and Guidelines. The key procurement principles incorporate fairness, openness, transparency, mutual recognition, non-discrimination and proportionality.

Sligo County Council actively uses central procurement arrangements where they are suitable to our needs.

These arrangements have been put in place by the Office of Government Procurement and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre for public sector bodies.

The Procurement Section under the guidance of the Procurement Officer is in place to provide a dedicated in-house resource for the organisation in respect of Public Procurement requirements.

Formal responsibility for Procurement Governance is assigned to the Head of Finance.

Procurement within the organisation is decentralised, with buyers in all areas of the council, with most of the high value procurement being conducted using the two electronic procurement portals: www.etenders.gov.ie and www.SupplyGov.ie. Suppliers interested in tendering for contracts should ensure to register with both of these portals.

In 2022 Sligo County Council procured more than 200 contracts for supply of goods and services or works. The majority of procurement activity relates to the Roads and Housing programmes.

Information Systems (IS)

The Information Systems (IS) department manages all the Council's Information Communications technology (ICT) both hardware and software. The ICT infrastructure spans multiple locations in the County and is utilised by close to 400 users. The department is responsible for the ICT infrastructure and for planning the future ICT requirements of the organisation. In an operations capacity, the department has responsibility for multiple ICT systems spread across the County in a Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure. The department is also responsible for the management of the councils' data which ranges from file servers to a considerable number of databases. The section is constantly reviewing and refining its technology infrastructure as new challenges emerge.

Key Achievements in 2022

- Over 3,500 calls were successfully resolved by the IT Support Team.
- Continued Strengthening and upgrades of our Cyber security defences include a new Privileged access system.
- Cyber security awareness campaign for all desk-based council staff.
- Working in collaboration with 11 other councils on the National MyCoCo Project
- Development of Microsoft Power Automate applications to reduce paper processes.
- Procurement and setup of a new Digital Services platform for the citizens of Sligo with Granicus, work continues in 2023 to go live with new online digital services.
- Setup of a new office for the Sligo Regional Design Office on Castle Street Sligo.
- Procurement, setup and roll out of a new Geographical Information Systems Platform on sligococo.maps.arcgis.com this has modernised both our external and internal digital mapping and spatial data environment.
- Worked with the Planning section to launch ePlannig for Sligo with <https://planning.localgov.ie/>
- Started the Irish Water Transition project with Water Services.
- Major Upgrade of Financial Management System (FMS), Agresso to Milestone 7.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1:

Staff Retirements 2022

- Joseph Feeney
- Robert Lindsay
- Philip Boyle
- Seamus Regan
- Michael Kennoy
- Eithne Clancy
- Joe Gethin
- Gerry Keegan
- Brian McGonigle
- Collette Sweeney
- Michael Feeney
- Kevin Colreavy

APPENDIX 2:

Performance Indicators

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 sets out the functions of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) which includes examination of the performance of local government bodies against forty-two indicators. The Local Authorities Performance Indicators report in respect of 2021 was published by NOAC in November 2022. Sligo County Council's performance in each service area in 2021 compared to other local authorities is included in this report in each of the relevant sections. This report is available for viewing at https://noac.ie/noac_publications/report-50-noac-performance-indicator-report-2021/

APPENDIX 3:

Conferences Attended by Councillors 2022

Conference/Seminar Title	Venue	Date(s)
Social Media Use in Political Campaigns Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	4 th – 6 th February
*AILG Training – Module 1	Mullingar, Co. Westmeath Clonakilty, Co. Cork	17 th February 19 th February
Tourism & Digital Marketing Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	4 th – 6 th March
*AILG Spring Seminar	Buncrana, Co. Donegal	23 rd – 24 th March
*LAMA Spring Seminar	Kilkenny	11 th – 12 th April
Suck Valley Way Conference	Roscommon Town	27 th – 28 th April
Town Twinning Conference	Connaught Hotel, Galway	8 th May
*AILG Training – Module 2	Monaghan	14 th May
*AILG Training – Module 3	Athlone, Co. Westmeath	16 th June
*AILG Autumn Seminar	Trim, Co. Meath	14 th – 15 th September
Celtic Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	30 th Sept – 2 nd October
*AILG Training – Module 4	Sligo	27 th October
*LAMA Autumn Seminar	Monaghan	9 th – 11 th November
Celtic Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	11 th – 13 th November
*AILG Training – Module 6	Navan, Co Meath	25 th – 26 th November

*LAMA: Local Authority Members Association

*AILG: Association of Irish Local Government

APPENDIX 4:

Committee Membership

County Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd.	<p>Clr Thomas Healy Clr Donal Gilroy</p>
Strandhill Community Maritime Co. Ltd.	<p>Clr Declan Bree Clr Rosaleen O'Grady Clr Tom MacSharry Clr Sinead Maguire</p>
Enniscrone Leisure Ltd.	<p>Clr Joe Queenan Clr Michael Clarke</p>
Sligo North West Airport Co. Ltd.	<p>Clr Martin Baker Clr Sinead Maguire Clr Thomas Walsh Clr Donal Gilroy</p>
The Model	<p>Clr Sinead Maguire Clr Marie Casserly Clr Tom Fox Clr Michael Clarke</p>
Hawk's Well Theatre	<p>Clr Rosaleen O'Grady Clr Sinead Maguire</p>
County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society	<p>Clr Declan Bree</p>
Sligo Regional Sports Centre	<p>Clr Marie Casserly Clr Dara Mulvey Clr Gerard Mullaney Clr Paul Taylor</p>
Sligo Tourism Limited	<p>Clr Rosaleen O'Grady Clr Paul Taylor Clr Gerard Mullaney Clr Arthur Gibbons</p>
Sligo Volunteer Bureau	<p>Clr Donal Gilroy</p>

Sligo BID	ClIr Arthur Gibbons
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Co.	ClIr Donal Gilroy ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Marie Casserly
Michael Coleman Heritage Centre Co Ltd	ClIr Paul Taylor ClIr Martin Connolly ClIr Michael Clarke
Sligo Music Fest Co. (trading as Sligo Live)	ClIr Marie Casserly ClIr Tom MacSharry ClIr Gino O'Boyle
Arigna Enterprise Fund Ltd.	ClIr M Baker
Association of Irish Local Government (A.I.L.G)	ClIr Michael Clarke ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady
County Sligo Heritage Forum	ClIr Donal Gilroy
Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB	ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Marie Casserly ClIr Arthur Gibbons
Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)	ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Donal Gilroy
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	ClIr Martin Connolly ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Michael Clarke
I.P.B. Insurance	ClIr Martin Baker
Sligo Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)	ClIr Martin Connolly ClIr Marie Casserly ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Donal Gilroy

	<p>Clr Dara Mulvey Clr Tom Fox Clr Tom MacSharry Clr Sinead Maguire Clr Gerard Mullaney Clr Paul Taylor Clr Arthur Gibbons</p>
Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA)	<p>Clr Paul Taylor</p>
Local Community Development Committee – LCDC	<p>Clr Joe Queenan Clr Dara Mulvey Clr Tom Fox</p>
Regional Health Forum West	<p>Clr Donal Gilroy Clr Declan Bree Clr Dara Mulvey</p>
Disability Consultative Committee	<p>Clr Martin Baker Clr Declan Bree Clr Thomas Walsh Clr Gino O’Boyle Clr Rosaleen O’Grady Clr Tom Fox Clr Michael Clarke</p>
Sligo Harbour Advisory Committee	<p>Clr Gino O’Boyle Clr Rosaleen O’Grady Clr Tom Fox Clr Michael Clarke</p>
Chair Designate for SPC’s	
Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning	<p>Clr Rosaleen O’Grady</p>
Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure	<p>Clr Thomas Walsh</p>
Housing and Corporate	<p>Clr Arthur Gibbons</p>
Climate Change	<p>Clr Sinead Maguire</p>
Procedures Committee	<p>Clr Rosaleen O’Grady Clr Thomas Walsh Clr Joe Queenan</p>

	<p>ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Marie Casserly ClIr Arthur Gibbons</p>
<p>Community & Voluntary /Festivals and Events Grants Assessment Committee</p>	<p>ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Donal Gilroy ClIr Paul Taylor ClIr Dara Mulvey ClIr Martin Connolly</p>
<p>Arts Assessment Panel</p>	<p>ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Paul Taylor ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Tom Fox ClIr Martin Connolly ClIr Arthur Gibbons (replaced C. MacManus)</p>
<p>Public Art Steering Group</p>	<p>ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Donal Gilroy</p>
<p>Decade of Centenaries Steering Group (9 CC Members)</p>	<p>ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Michael Clarke ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Donal Gilroy ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Martin Baker ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Marie Casserly ClIr Arthur Gibbons</p>
<p>Western Inter County Railway Committee</p>	<p>ClIr Thomas Healy ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Arthur Gibbons</p>
<p>Sligo Town Twinning Committee</p>	<p>ClIr Rosaleen O'Grady ClIr Declan Bree</p>
<p>County Sligo Placenames Committee</p>	<p>ClIr Declan Bree ClIr Gino O'Boyle ClIr Tom Fox</p>

	<p>CLlr Marie Casserly CLlr Michael Clarke CLlr Gerard Mullaney</p>
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	<p>CLlr Martin Baker CLlr Gino O'Boyle CLlr Paul Taylor CLlr Joe Queenan</p>
North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	<p>CLlr Tom Fox</p>
NUI Galway	<p>CLlr Sinead Maguire</p>
Lifestart Childcare Board of Directors	<p>CLlr Martin Baker</p>
North West Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum	<p>CLlr Arthur Gibbons</p>