

SLIGO County Council

Annual Report 2009



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FOREWORD

Introduction by Cathaoirleach



Councillor Gerry Murray
Cathaoirleach

Sligo County Council has a major role to play in promoting County Sligo as a suitable location for sustainable investment and jobs, and this role is even more critical at a difficult time for economy. I believe the relationships we have developed with local agencies and the various communities will be key factors in helping Sligo overcome the many challenges facing us and lay the foundations for growth and development in the future.

One major asset we have is the spirit of enterprise and endeavour evident all over County Sligo. I have been fortunate in my term as Cathaoirleach to experience at first hand the excellent work carried out by our many dedicated volunteers; I have the highest admiration for these committed, selfless people who give generously of their time for the common good, and they are an inspiration for the wider community. Sligo County Council has worked in active partnership with these communities over the years, and the results can be seen in the many amenities, environmental and other projects which have greatly enhanced our county.

It has been a privilege to formally honour many of these special people at receptions held in their honour in County Hall, and through the efforts of Sligo's Volunteer Centre, people are guided to the local groups that suits their interests and abilities.

Over the last few years Sligo County Council has invested heavily in our county's infrastructure. In the area of water services alone, we have invested €110 million on our Waste Water Capital Programme, and a contract has been signed for the construction of a major new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh.

While all local authorities are operating in a time of severe budgetary restraint, we will continue to work hard to provide a quality service for the people of County Sligo.

Councillor Gerry Murray
Cathaoirleach

FOREWORD

Introduction by County Manager



Hubert Kearns
Sligo County Manager

Five new members were elected on to Sligo County Council following the local elections of 2009. The outgoing and retiring members deserve great credit for their contribution over the course of their service, and I look forward to working alongside the newly elected members in the years ahead.

Sligo County Council delivered a number of important projects in 2009, and the development of our roads network continued with the opening of Phase 1 of the Western Distributor Road and a series of road improvement schemes, including Mullaghroe in Gurteen. The commitment of our roads and water services staff was very much in evidence over the Christmas and New Year period when they worked day and night to treat our roads and maintain water supplies throughout the County in very difficult weather conditions.

There was also significant progress in terms of our water and waste water infrastructure with the opening of the Sligo Main Drainage Treatment Plant at Finisklin, which has been designed and constructed to the highest international standards. It has a capacity to treat waste water for a combined domestic and commercial population equivalent of 50,000 with a capacity for future expansion to 80,000. The facility will also ensure the protection of a quality environment in Sligo Bay. Over the last five years Sligo County Council has invested €110 million on our Waste Water Capital Programme and a contract has been signed for the construction of a major new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh.

The last year has also seen the opening of the redeveloped Model Arts Centre, an excellent facility which will enhance Sligo's reputation as a leading centre for contemporary culture in Ireland.

This is a very challenging time for local authorities, as we face the challenge of planning and delivering services in a very difficult economic climate. We will continue to work with the resources available to us to plan and deliver an important range of services to the people of Sligo.

Hubert Kearns
County Manager

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sligo/Drumcliffe Area Elected Members



Cllr. Veronica Cawley
Labour Elected 2004
 St. Martin, Rathbraughan, Sligo
 (071) 9170267
 087 6494723
 cawleyveronica@eircom.net



Cllr. Patrick Barry
Fianna Fáil Elected 1999
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Cllr. Hubert Keaney
Fine Gael Elected 2009
 Drum Road, Rathcormac,
 Co. Sligo
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Cllr. Jude Devins
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 Ballytivnan, Sligo
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Cllr. Joe Leonard
Fine Gael Elected 1985
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Cllr. Matt Lyons
Fine Gael Elected 2009
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Sligo/Strandhill Area Elected Members



Cllr. Declan Bree
Independent Socialist Elected 1974
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 (071) 9145490 / 087 2470802
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Cllr. Rosaleen O'Grady
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Cllr. Jim McGarry
Labour Elected 1991
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Cllr. Deirdre Healy-McGowan
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Cllr. Tony McLoughlin
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Cllr. Sean MacManus
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dromore Area Elected Members



Cllr. Mary Barrett
Fine Gael Elected 1991
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Cllr. Michael Clarke
Independent Elected 2009
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Cllr. Joseph Queenan
Fianna Fáil Elected 1999
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Cllr. Dara Mulvey
Fine Gael Elected 2009
 Rockfield, Coolaney,
 Co. Sligo
 087 688 5050
 dfmulvey@gmail.com

Ballymote Area Elected Members



Cllr. Martin Baker
Fianna Fáil Elected 2004
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 (071) 9127472 / 9165650
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Cllr. Pat McGrath
Fine Gael Elected 2004
 Ardnaglass, Ballymote,
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Cllr. Thomas Collery
Fine Gael Elected 2009
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Cllr. Gerard Mullaney
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Management Team



Mr. Hubert Kearns
County Manager



Mr. Tom Kilfeather
Director of Services,
Infrastructure &
Environmental Services



Ms. Dorothy Clarke
Director of Services,
Housing, Social, Cultural
& Corporate Affairs,
Community & Enterprise
& the Arts



Mr. Bartley Gavin
Acting Director of Services,
Cranmore Regeneration
Project



Ms. Paula R. Gallagher
Acting Director of Services,
Planning, Sligo Borough
Council, Sligo Harbour,
Enforcement & Heritage



Ms. Marie Leydon
Head of Finance



**HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES,
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
& LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE**



Housing & Building

The Housing Section of Sligo County Council provides a number of very important services, covering every aspect of social housing:

- Assisting people who are in need of housing and who cannot afford it from their own resources.
- Provision and management of traveller accommodation.
- Liaison with approved Voluntary Housing Organisations and other agencies in the provision of accommodation.
- Encouragement of home ownership through the Shared Ownership Scheme, Tenant Purchase Scheme, Affordable Housing Scheme and various Loan options.

Outlined below are some of the specific Housing Services that Sligo County Council provides.

- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme,
- provision of social housing under traditional design and build, part v acquisitions and open market acquisitions.
- extensions to existing local authority houses,
- improvement works to privately owned houses in lieu of local authority housing,
- loans for house purchase and improvement,
- mortgage allowance scheme for tenants surrendering local authority or rental subsidy accommodation and purchasing or building a house for their own occupation,
- maintenance and management of local authority housing and traveller accommodation,
- rental accommodation scheme,
- "Tenant Purchase" sale of local authority houses to tenants,"
- "Shared ownership" a dwelling house bought between the local authority and the tenant, the tenant pays a mortgage on a percentage and rents the remaining part off the local authority
- support for the provision of social housing projects by voluntary housing bodies under the Capital Assistance and Rental Subsidy schemes,
- provision of affordable housing under traditional design and build and part v
- delivery of accommodation services for homeless people,
- inspection and enforcement of private rented accommodation

2009 proved to be a very challenging year for the Housing Section of Sligo County Council. This was due to the current economic climate, which affected the housing market, and the financial allocation received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and an increase in the number of applications for social housing.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

As a result of the reduced financial allocation from the Department, the Housing Section has made every effort to complete existing schemes and to provide opportunities for those who are most in need on the housing list.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Housing Capital Allocation for 2009 was €11,500,000, which was made up as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Housing Supply Allocations | €11,075,000 |
| • Remedial Works Schemes | €425,000 |

During 2009, the Council completed a housing scheme at Mountain Road, Tubbercurry, comprising of 18 units of accommodation.

The Council has always had a policy of purchasing houses on the open market where the houses represent value for money and where a demand exists. Two houses were purchased on the open market in 2009 and, in addition, work commenced on two rural houses during the year.



HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES & LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Housing & Building

PART V

In recent years where house ownership has become more difficult for households to achieve due to the increasing price of housing, Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, has proved an invaluable source of affordable housing providing Sligo County Council with assistance in delivering the Housing Capital Programme.

The Housing Strategy states that 20% of eligible sites, which are the subject of new residential development, are to be set aside for the development of social and affordable housing. However, the downturn in construction has resulted in a marked reduction in the number of units coming on stream.

During 2009, a number of properties became available for Social Housing in the following developments:

- 6 No. Social Houses at Ard Laighne, Coolaney
- 6 No. Social Houses at the Hawthorns, Carrowroe
- 3 No. Social Houses at Alysbery Court, Strandhill
- 1 No. Social Houses at the Mill Centre, Coolaney

The associated fall off in planning applications has exacerbated this and currently one development is scheduled to deliver units post 2009, Greham & O'Dowd at Enniscrone.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS

Since the beginning of the Planned Maintenance Programme in 2002, much progress has been made in the general upkeep of Council housing stock. Works typically include replacement of worn out doors, windows, fascias and soffits. The emergency repair funds are used to carry out repairs to housing stock other than those repairs listed in planned maintenance and deemed eligible in accordance with the Tenant Hand Book.

The Council allocated a sum of €50,000 in 2009 towards Environmental Improvements works.

RENTS

Rents are assessed and reviewed on an Annual basis. Rents, including arrears are collected by a number of different methods – Household budget deductions through the Post Office, or direct payments can be made to Sligo County Council or Sligo Borough Council. Rent payments can also be paid by Standing Order through the bank or with the local revenue collector. Rents payable on Local Authority dwellings are assessed under a Differential Rents Scheme. A Differential Rents Scheme means that the rent is based on the income of the household with deductions allowed in respect of any dependent children in the house. During the year, rents were reviewed to bring them into line with trends in the economic climate.

HOUSING LOANS

Sligo County Council process a number of housing loans each year. From April 2009 all housing loans are now assessed and recommendations issued by the Affordable Homes Partnership which is based in Dublin. All applications are now subject to strict credit checks which are carried out by the Irish Credit Bureau.

SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME

This scheme offers home ownership in a number of steps to those who cannot afford full ownership in one step in the traditional way. The applicant will initially acquire a share of between 40% and 75% of the house and rents the remaining percentage from the Local Authority with the intention of purchasing the remaining equity from the Council within a 25 year period. They too, are now assessed by the AHP (Affordable Homes Partnership).

HOME CHOICE LOANS

Home Choice Loans is a mortgage provided through a number of local authorities for First Time buyers who cannot get sufficient finance from a bank or building society.

Home Choice Loan will provide up to 92% of the market value of the house purchased.

The maximum loan amount will be €285,000. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest bearing mortgage which is repaid on a monthly basis

The mortgage term will be for a maximum of 30 years and will only be available for newly built homes. Galway County Council is the central processing unit for Local Authorities in this region.

TENANT PURCHASE

Persons who have been tenants of a local authority house for a period of at least one year may apply to purchase their rented house outright or by means of Shared Ownership under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. The purchase price will be the market value of the house in its existing state of repair and condition, less various discounts. The applicant wishing to purchase their home should seek a mortgage from a financial institution.

IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN LIEU OF RE-HOUSING

This Scheme allows Sligo County Council to improve or extend privately owned houses, occupied or intended to be occupied, by an approved applicant for housing as an alternative to the provision of Local Authority Housing. Sligo County Council pays the full cost of the works and the applicant then makes repayment on the amount. These repayments are calculated in a similar manner to the Differential Rent Scheme and apply for a period of 15 years.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

3 no units at Carbury Cove, Sea Road, Sligo were disposed of through the new mechanism of "Direct Sales" whereby the approved applicant purchases the property directly from the developer: The delivery of Affordable units is dictated by the same constraints as that pertain to Part V in general

Housing & Building

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Sligo County Council introduced an Estate Enhancement Scheme for local authority housing estates in the County in 2007 and was successful in securing partial funding of €155,000, over the lifetime of the Scheme, from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government under the Sustainable Communities Fund. Designed as an annual programme, the Scheme provided investment for 15 estates over a period of three years 2007-2009.

The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- To promote an enhanced quality of life within the associated local authority housing estates.
- To improve the environment of the estate.
- To improve the aesthetics of local authority housing estates.
- To maximise the potential of green areas within the estates.

The Council spent a sum of €100,000 on Environmental Enhancement works in 2009 to local authority estates under a programme running from 2007 to 2009. Works were carried out at

- Mc Guinness Court, Aclare
- Mountain View, Tubbercurry
- Woodbrook Heights, Ballisodare,
- Hill Crest, Strandhill,
- Sycamore Heights, Cliffoney,
- Corpus Christie, Tourlestrane

Typical works undertaken as part of the scheme include landscaping, painting, provision of garden furniture rehabilitation and cleaning up of green areas.

Outcomes:

- The investment in the estates will have a positive impact on the visual appearance and physical environment of the estate and create an aesthetically pleasant and desirable residential environment.
- The capital investment in the estates will act as a catalyst to those in the community to continue to maintain and improve their estates.
- In many communities local infrastructure works have provided the impetus, and have been the forerunners to, a wider range of local development activities and projects. In this regard, community infrastructural works are the catalyst both to an improved local physical fabric and wider local socio-economic development.

NEW GRANTS SCHEMES

Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability

The Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. The type of works allowable under the scheme include the provision of

- Access ramps,
- Downstairs toilet facilities
- Stair lifts
- Accessible showers

- Adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access
- Extensions
- Any other works which are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability

The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and can be between 30% - 95% of the approved cost of the works.

Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme

The Mobility Aids Housing Grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing. The works aided under the scheme include:

- Grab Rails
- Access Ramps
- Level Access Showers
- Stairs-lifts
- Other minor works deemed necessary to facilitate the mobility needs of a member of a household

The effective maximum grant is €6,000 or 100% of the cost of the works, whichever is the lesser. The grant is available to households whose gross annual household income does not exceed €30,000.

Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People

The Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary structural repairs or improvements. The type of works grant aided under the scheme includes:

- Structural repairs or improvements
- Re-wiring
- Repairs to/replacement of windows and doors
- Provision of heating, water and sanitary services
- Dry lining

The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and can be between 30% - 100% of the approved cost of the works.

Housing Grants paid in 2009

| GRANT NAME: | NO OF GRANTS PAID | TOTAL AMOUNT PAID |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Housing Aid for Older People | 88 | €483,135.56 |
| Housing Adaptation - Disability | 54 | €307,821.90 |
| Mobility Aid Grants | 32 | €132,249.55 |
| Total paid in 2009 | 174 | €923,207.01 |

Housing & Building

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Voluntary Housing is provided by non-profit independent organisations that provide rented houses for people who cannot afford to buy their own houses or specific groups such as the elderly, homeless, people with special needs or disabilities. A recipient of a Voluntary house must be registered on Sligo County Council's housing list, however, while the tenant enjoys all the rights of a County Council tenant they are unable to avail of a tenant purchase on this house.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Sligo County Council has adopted a Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013 which lays out the target for Traveller accommodation for that period. Sligo County Council will continue to consult with individual traveller families and traveller support groups with a view to identifying the most appropriate accommodation for individual families.

Travellers seeking standard housing from both Housing Authorities will be accommodated, where possible, in existing or new local authority estates and applications for such housing will be processed in accordance with the Local Authority's Scheme of Letting Priorities.

TENANCY SUSTAINMENT SERVICE

In co-operation with voluntary groups Focus Ireland and North West Simon Community Sligo County Council provides a Tenancy Sustainment Service to tenants.

The aim of the service is to focus on practical ways to sustain tenancies, rather than seeking to solve all client problems - to support the household through the process of moving in and maintaining their home

This is achieved by developing a care plan between the Tenancy Sustainment Officer and the tenant.

A Care Plan may cover any of the following issues:

- Tenancy Agreements,
- Form-filling,
- Mental health,
- Physical health,
- Addiction
- Debt and arrears management,
- Training and employment,
- Social contacts and activities
- Support groups,
- Family contacts,
- Leisure Self-care and Advocacy

The service provided by Northwest Simon Community is shared between Sligo County Council and Leitrim County Council.

In 2009 Sligo County Council contributed an amount of €4,000 to the Northwest Simon Community.

Sligo County Council would hope to continue to support the Tenancy Sustainment Service subject to adequate funding being available.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKS SCHEME

The contract commenced to upgrade 11 No older dwelling houses in the county.

The primary objective of this exercise was to enhance the Energy performance of each of the respective dwellings to achieve a minimum rating of C1.

Works to be carried out to each of the individual units is as follows:-

- Upgrade in insulation levels.
- Installation of oil heating in lieu of solid fuel.
- Upgrade of plumbing/heating controls.
- Installation of High specification Doors and Windows.
- Installation of solar panel heating.

The overall cost of Contract was: €200,569.00

Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government. Energy efficiency

Recoupment:
(75% of the overall cost) €150,426.75

Internal Capital Receipts. Contribution:
(25% of the overall cost) €50,142.45

The contract was completed in December 2009.



Corporate Services

Corporate Services includes a range of important functions, including administration of meetings, providing training and other supports for elected members, the provision of Information Services, and the delivery of the highest standards of customer service.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Sligo County Council expects its services to be appraised to the highest standards, and the Customer Service Desk enables the authority to provide a professional, friendly customer-focused service. The 'Desk' provides a first point of contact for visitors to County Hall, or people who e-mail or phone the Council. The introduction of the e-direct correspondence tracking system ensures that queries are dealt with promptly and efficiently.

Two of the most important functions provided by Corporate Services staff are the administration of Higher Education Grants and the compilation of the electoral register.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

Sligo County Council assisted 574 students under the current Higher Education Grants Scheme. There were 234 new applicants and 340 continuing students. The scheme is administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

In the academic year 2009/2010 Sligo County Council assisted 113 students with the special rate of Maintenance Grant. A total of €2.5 million was allocated by Sligo County Council to students in maintenance and fees.

While the Minister for Education and Science has indicated that the administration of the scheme will be the responsibility of the Vocational Education Committees in future years, formal confirmation to this effect has not been issued and provision for the administration of the scheme in the next academic year has been included in this year's Annual Budget.

ELECTIONS

Local Elections were held in June 2009. Five new councillors were elected and, at the Inaugural Meeting held on 19 June 2009, Cllr Gerry Murray was elected Cathaoirleach.

A high quality Register of Electors is essential for the successful operation of the electoral system and of the democratic process itself. Sligo County Council prepares the Register of Electors annually and, as always, a major effort was made to achieve the highest possible degree of accuracy and comprehensiveness in compiling the Register. The Draft Register of Electors was printed on the 1st November 2009. There were 51,983 electors registered on the 2010/2011 Draft Register.

NUMBER OF ELECTORS BY AREA

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Ballymote | 8,531 |
| Dromore West | 8,914 |
| Sligo/Drumcliffe | 12,852 |
| Sligo/Strandhill | 13,428 |
| Tubbercurry | 8,258 |
| TOTAL | 51,983 |

HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES & LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Communications Office

The Communications Office provides information services to the Elected Members, staff, media and general public, as well as providing administrative support to the Cathaoirleach. The office also administers Freedom of Information requests and Access to Information on the Environment requests on behalf of the Sligo Local Authorities.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Information is compiled and relayed to the general public through a variety of means, including press releases and features, posting information on our websites, and publication of an e-newsletter. A monthly podcast and radio programme is also produced by Communications staff.

ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

The Communications office endeavours to ensure its publications are available to all its customers. The Local Authorities websites have been upgraded to make them fully accessible, and the weekly roads and traffic report has also been extended to include information on footpath repairs, which are of particular interest to people who are visually impaired or reliant on wheelchairs.

PODCAST

In December 2007 Sligo Local Authorities launched a podcast facility to their websites which allows people access a broadcast of news and information on-line. The facility enables Sligo Local Authorities to provide news to a listening audience.

For the last two years podcasts have been produced on a monthly basis and have been broadcast through the Local Authorities' websites and on local radio station Ocean FM. Broadcasting information in this way enables Sligo Local Authorities the ability to convey important information to people who are reliant on this medium.

TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

Sligo Local Authorities have introduced 'Text Alert' facility to enable people to report traffic management problems around the streets of Sligo. The text messages are relayed via the Communications Office to the Authorities' Traffic Wardens who respond immediately to the scene of the alert.

Following a successful 'piloting' of the initiative in conjunction with the Sligo Branch of the People with Disabilities Ireland (PWDI), the system was extended to the wider community, and any member of the public is now be able to report traffic management problems for immediate attention. This facility is a 'First' for Local Authorities in Ireland in terms of traffic management and enables our Traffic Wardens to respond instantly to the public's concerns on traffic issues.

OPEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authorities are encouraged to devise programmes to inform the general public of their functions, aims and objectives. While the Communications Office hosts a number of visits from local schools under our 'Open Local Government Programme, which has been extended to include visits from local Disability Groups. To date three groups from the Rosses Sheltered Workshop have completed the 'Open Local

Government' course and members of the group have been presented with certificates by the Cathaoirleach of the Council. County Hall hosted an open day for local disability groups in December 2009 to mark the International Day for people with disabilities.

WEBSITES

Many of the main service areas, including Finance and Motor Tax, enable customers to transact their business online. The Communications Office works with the Information Technology Section to monitor, review and update the Sligo Local Authority websites on a regular basis. On-line customers can subscribe to a menu of information services, and can register for our monthly e-magazine, monthly diary of events or weekly roads report.

Websites: www.sligococo.ie, www.sligoborough.ie



Launch of website www.sligo.ie

GENERAL INFORMATION SERVICES

The office co-ordinates a range of other information services:

- Weekly Roads Report
- Monthly Diary of events
- Advertisements
- Annual report and other publications
- Press releases
- Response to press queries

The Communications Office reviews the delivery of information services on an ongoing basis to ensure information is prepared and conveyed in a clear, understandable and accessible manner.

**HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES,
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES &
LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE**

Human Resources

During 2009 work continued on the implementation of a new HR payroll system. The background to the project is that a large number of local authorities identified as a priority the need for an automated HR system. This project was developed to respond to this need and also to address the findings of a number of reports on the future direction of the Human Resources function within Local Authorities.

On a national level at the end of 2009 all twenty seven local authorities in this project are actively involved in implementation. The HR database is running live in sixteen sites, with the payroll module live in seven of these sites. Time and Attendance, Superannuation and Recruitment are also running live in a number of sites. .

Work is continuing locally on the project and the following modules went live during 2009:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Org Structure (HR) | 26 January 2009 |
| 2. Recruitment | 12 March 2009 |
| 3. Payroll (Indoor Staff) | 26 June 2009 |
| 5. Time & Attendance (Indoor Staff) | 27 July 2009 |
| 4. Payroll (Outdoor Staff) | 13 November 2009 |
| 6. Time & Attendance (Outdoor Staff) | 13 November 2009 |

It should be noted that the Time and attendance module was piloted in July and rolled out on a phased basis to 65% of the indoor staff at the end of the year with plans to include the remainder of staff by April 2010.

SUPERANNUATION MODULE

A large volume of preparatory work was completed to bring records up to date and verify service with other counties. It is planned that work on inputting data to the new system will commence in mid 2010 and will take approx 3 months to implement.

THE MAIN BUSINESS OBJECTIVES OF THE INTEGRATED HR SYSTEM INCLUDE:

To purchase and implement a fully integrated Human Resource System, Superannuation System and Payroll system that meets the requirements in all local authorities.

To implement a modern Payroll package to meet the requirements of the local authorities.

To meet statutory obligations proposed in regard to the provision of benefit statements pursuant to the Pensions Act 1990.

To implement more efficient HR processes in local authorities.

To ensure that more timely and accurate returns and statistics are available for the DEHLG.

To allow the DEHLG access to data for statistical purposes, and policy planning.

To provide systems, tools and processes to deliver HR, Payroll and Superannuation strategic objectives.

To enable local authorities to meet statutory reporting obligations with confidence in the accuracy and validity of the data e.g. Revenue, CSO.

To provide systems and processes that are flexible and can be changed quickly in response to the continually changing environment consistent with increased levels of devolution.

To promote transparency and sharing of appropriate information by making appropriate information available online to employees, managers and supervisors as needed.

To reduce the amount of time spent on routine tasks by automating them and applying workflow rules.



Human Resources

TRAINING

Due to budgetary constraints, 2009 saw a much different approach to previous years with regard to the Training & Development of Staff. Much of the training delivered was in the area of Health & Safety training. Sligo Local Authorities realise the importance of having all staff equipped with relevant Health & Safety Training and, accordingly, all staff received essential Health & Safety Training relevant to their post in 2009.

PARTNERSHIP

A number of initiatives were part funded in 2009 through funding secured by the Partnership Committee from LANPAG.

One such application was the Work Experience Programme carried out in conjunction with the National Learning Network. Sligo Local Authorities have hosted visits from Local Disability groups under its 'Open Local Government' programme and the National Learning Network was one of the groups taking part in this programme. The aim of this project was to develop a 'pilot' programme with 2 trainees from the National Learning Network who worked 2-3 days per week over a 3 month period within Sligo Local Authorities. It was anticipated that the trainees would develop employability skills and the motivation to learn. Other skills such as communication, teamwork and critical thinking were to be developed. The project also promoted career development as well as giving trainees an insight into the importance of safety and welfare in the workplace.

Another project which was rolled out was the Health screening for all staff. All staff were given the opportunity to visit their own G.P. to have a number of recommended tests carried out. These tests included as follows:

- Height/Weight/BMI risk factor analysis
- Blood pressure
- Blood tests:- full blood count, cholesterol, kidney function, liver function, diabetes, thyroid function test

A maximum of €60 towards the cost of the G.P. visit was refunded to each employee who participated in the Health screening programme.

Funding was approved towards Sligo County Library Housebound Service. The Housebound library service will be a lifeline to the many residents of County Sligo who are unable to visit a branch library due to illness, mobility impairment or disability. The aims of the Housebound Library Service project are as follows:

- To encourage and support independent use of the library service by all residents in the county
- To Provide access to library materials on a regular basis

HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES & LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Sligo Fire Authority

Sligo Fire Authority has had one of its busiest years to date; hosting the National Finals of the Rescue Organisation Challenge in our Sligo Headquarters in March in which teams from all over Ireland competed for the prize of representing Ireland in the world championships. This was an honour to host and the fire-fighters that volunteered their time to train, compete and arrange the event are indicative of the calibre of staff we are so fortunate to have. The Road Safety Authority also attended and brought their "Shuttle Bus" containing the motorbike and car simulators, bicycle simulator and break reaction time test to mention a few of the attractions for the public. The event was well supported by our community and provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of road safety.

The "National Schools Programme" launched by the Minister involves the provision of fire safety awareness in the home to all third class students in every National School in the county. This proved a highly popular initiative and principals, teachers and schools were very accommodating and we look forward to continuing to develop in the area of community fire safety.

During 2009, we again accommodated approximately 2,500 visitors in groups to the fire station. Each group was provided with a tour of the facilities, information was given on our equipment and work and most importantly we promoted fire safety.

The Department has provided funding for us to purchase two new "Fire Engines" this year, and the contract is to be awarded to the supplier at a value of over half a million euro.

This year shall see completion of the new Fire Station in Ballymote, designed by our Borough architects. This stylish and modern building shall enhance the streetscape. The Brigade shall now once again have a station to be proud of and capable of serving the needs of this modern community.

Sligo Fire Station Headquarters has also received funding for some upgrading works to provide an improved and safe work environment.

The operational side of the service has again had a busy year, particularly during the spring when large forest fires caused hundreds of acres of forestry to be destroyed. These incidents have been investigated by the Gardai and I wish to thank them for their assistance in this area.

The Brigades throughout the county have experienced a busy year in 2009 with a total of 875 incidents attended. These were distributed as follows; Sligo 538, Ballymote 142, Tubbercurry 112 and Enniscrone 83. Approximately 51% of incidents attended were fires, 14% of incidents involved accidents on our roads and 13% were false alarms. Chimney fires accounted for 14% of calls.

Despite the advertising campaigns highlighting both Fire Safety and Road Safety the Brigades again attended multiple fatalities in both these areas of our work.



The "Incident Command System" has now been implemented using the existing resources and records the procedures implemented at an incident. In order to carry out our operations in a safe and efficient manner staff undergo regular training in scene safety, safe operating procedures and undertake their duties in accordance with our safety statement. The provision of emergency first responder training, defibrillator training, hazardous chemical training and rescue and fire fighting techniques ensure that we can respond to incidents in accordance with the Fire Services Acts of 1981 and 2003.

The "Framework for Major Emergency Management" continues to provide the guidance for the implementation of a coordinated response by the "lead agencies" to any major incident or event. The cooperation between the Gardai, HSE and Fire Service continues to develop and has proved very worthwhile in improving the service provided to the community.

Fire prevention work strives to achieve a safer environment through certification, inspection and when necessary enforcement. There has been a reduction in the number of Fire Safety Certificates being applied for but this reduction has been more than absorbed by the increased work associated with licensing, community fire safety and the National Schools Programme.

The Fire Service provides information and training on fire safety management and fire fighting to all sectors and groups in the community. This includes hundreds of adults being formally trained in the use of fire extinguishers and the ongoing community safety programme using the mobile demonstration unit.

People must remain vigilant in the home and on the roads as this is where most life threatening incidents occur each year.

Sligo Fire Authority

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE FIRE SERVICE

The health and safety of employees and the public we serve is to the forefront of the service we provide. There is a very strict training and disciplinary regime in the Fire Brigade as is necessitated by the sometimes difficult and dangerous environment in which Fire-fighters work, as has been regrettably highlighted by recent tragedies. The responsibility now placed upon the "Incident Commander" in dealing with even minor events is continually increasing and training highlights the need for continual improvement. Every member of staff is now obliged to participate in training and act in the appropriate manner to avoid endangering others or themselves. Failing this, disciplinary procedures are implemented.



Civil Defence

With no increase in its annual grant from the Department of Defence for the past 2 years, 2009 saw Civil Defence at its busiest yet with 73 events attended, equating to 500 volunteers assisting, and equalled 506 hours of voluntary work. All this is achieved in conjunction with the volunteers' jobs and family life. This is what Civil Defence is about, doing its best to be there for the community no matter what. It is thanks to the dedication of these volunteers that Civil Defence is able to continue to assist in time of need.

In addition to those volunteering hours, changes within the first aid skill, as laid down by Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council, Further Education & Training Awards (FETAC) and Occupational First Aid Assessment (OFAA), were introduced to the volunteer training program. 59 volunteers successfully qualified as Cardiac First Responders, 59 as Occupational First aiders. 6 volunteers are attending training to reach the level of Emergency First Responder. Examinations at this level take place in April 2010. Three volunteers are also attending training for Emergency Medical Technician and their examinations are due in June 2010.

With the economic downturn in full swing Civil Defence has seen an increase in calls from potential volunteers with time on their hands and an interest in the skills offered by Civil Defence in the hope that the skills attained will benefit them in the future.

Strategic plan for Civil Defence for 2010-2013 is currently being compiled and will be introduced in June 2010 outlining Civil Defence hopes and aspirations for the next three years.



Civil Defence volunteer demonstrates First Aid as part of the training programme.

HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES & LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Sligo County Library

IMPROVED SERVICES & DISABILITY ACCESS

Improved Services and Disability Access continued to be a priority for Sligo County Libraries in 2009.

As well as the provision of disabled toilets, directional signage, software (JAWS and ZOOMTEXT), induction loops and an increased addition of ramps for ease of access we also provided the following;

- Stair Lift fitted in Sligo Central Library.
- Automatic Doors fitted in Local History Library, Bridge Street and Enniscrone Branch Library.
- Additional Braille Signage fitted in selected Branch Libraries

The **Museum Building** on Stephen Street was also refurbished and re-fitted to allow Library Staff relocate upstairs, increasing staff flexibility, whilst also providing a new meeting room to the rear of the building. All of these changes were undertaken in the hope that all sections of our community feel at home and welcomed whilst using this public service.

A new **Library Van** was also purchased in 2009 and fitted with a wheelchair lift as well as improved side steps for ease of access to and from the vehicle. This will further add to the libraries ability to reach the requirements of all the community to whom we serve.

Preliminary work has begun in relation to the proposed new **Ballymote Community Library**. A suitable location on Teeling Street, Ballymote town, has been acquired and work is underway in scheduling contracts to fit out the building. Once completed this fully equipped and accessible Community Library will be among the best in the country providing an extensive up-to-date Book & Audio/DVD collection, Internet and Wifi access, Local History Material and Meeting rooms.



Wheelchair access ramp in place at Sligo Central Library.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE 2009

Mr Niall Williams, twice IMPAC nominated author, returned for his second tenure with Sligo county Library in October of 2008, continuing until late spring 2009. Writers' workshop's fully subscribed & under the guidance of Niall was held for all interested parties. He visited numerous schools and other groups to give courses in creative writing as well as meeting "budding writers" informally at his office. Courses in literary history were also conducted for library staff over a period of twelve weeks which gave a valuable insight to library staff into the chronological background of the material with which they work. He also undertook two main projects;

- the launch of the *Cathach Electronic Journal*
- The *Secondary Schools Prose and Poetry Competition*

THE CATHACH

The Cathach is an online literary magazine, published by Sligo County Libraries, with the aim of showcasing quality new writing in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. While honouring the literary traditions of Sligo and the Northwest, *The Cathach* features work from both new and established writers in Sligo and throughout Ireland. At a time when many smaller literary magazines are facing difficulties, it aims to provide a vital outlet for the best contemporary writing, making exciting new work freely available to a vast online readership around the world. This journal is part of the continuing support for Literature of Sligo County Library, without which it would not exist.

The name *The Cathach* derives from 'The Battle of the Book'. Colmcille, during a visit to Abbot Finian's monastery copied a very beautiful psalter. Finian claimed the copy as well as the book, but Colmcille refused. The dispute was brought to Dermott, High King of Ireland who decided in favour of Finian with the words: 'To every cow its calf and to every book its copy.' In consequence, in 561 AD, the High King and Colmcille engaged in battle on the slopes of Benbulbin. Aided by an angel, Colmcille won. Thousands of men were slain and the King forced to concede the copy of the psalter to Colmcille. But immediately afterward, as a penance, Colmcille left Ireland and went into self-imposed exile in Scotland, hoping to convert as many people as he had caused to die.

As a further, twenty-first century chapter in this story perhaps, all of the authors included in *The Cathach* have given their work freely. It has been our aim to present it here in a way that complements that generosity, and with the hope that it will lead you to further reading of their work.

List of Contributors (in order of appearance): Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, Dermot Healy, Mark Roper, Libby Hart, Joan McBreen, Carlo Gebler, Dermot Bolger, Peggy Gallagher, Nick Miller, C.M Millen, John Jennett, Elizabeth Fox, Patricia Byrne, Manchan Magan, Jimmy Murphy, Kerrie O'Brien, Martin McCabe, Brian Leyden, Andrew King, Michael Farry, Oritsegbemi Emmanuel Jakpa, Jaki McCarrick, Eileen Sheehan

Sligo County Library

SCHOOLS WRITING COMPETITION

Following the success of last year's inaugural Schools Creative Writing Competition, Sligo County Library, in partnership with The Sligo Champion, ran the competition for a second year, expanding it to include Senior and Junior Poetry as well as Fiction. All schools were contacted and entries were invited from second level students throughout the county. As with last year, there was a tremendous response from both male and female writers in all class ranges, and the standard this year was even higher. All of the work was submitted anonymously to three judges, and the resulting winners of the three categories were chosen. The Prizegiving Ceremony took place in Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street, Sligo on 28th April 2009. Author Niall Williams, who is also Sligo Libraries "Writer-in-Residence", was present on the day for the prizegiving as were Mayor Cllr Veronica Cawley and Cathaoirleach Cllr Jude Devins.



School writing competition at Sligo County Library.

JUNIOR POETRY

1. I Didn't Understand, Lisa Coggins, Mercy College, Sligo
2. Life Path, Niamh O'Donnell, Mercy College
3. Climate Change, Ellen Prendergast, Sligo Grammar School

JUNIOR FICTION

1. Servant Of God, Amy Kelly, Mercy College, Sligo
2. Heroes Sinead Reilly, Mercy College, Sligo
3. The Night Out, Helena O'Dea, Mercy College, Sligo

SENIOR POETRY

1. Gruaige, Hilary Bowen-Walsh, Sligo Grammar School
2. Reminiscent, Hilary Bowen-Walsh, Sligo Grammar School
3. Emotional Vacuum, Julie Patterson, Sligo Grammar School

SENIOR FICTION

1. The Deleted Scenes, Adrienne McManus, Sligo Grammar School
2. Case Closed, Liam O'Flaherty, Sligo Grammar School
3. The Cave, Eamonn Bell, Sligo Grammar School

FRONTLINE

"Frontline Training" is a course taken by library staff which has shaped the practice of reader development; changing the way public libraries in Ireland and beyond engage with their customers. The Frontline course is designed to embed the reader-centered approach in the everyday thinking of staff who work directly with books and readers in public libraries. The course content, approach and technology have been shaped by a wide range of feedback from the people who use it, both as individuals and through consultative groups.

The course was first developed with English public libraries in 2005 in partnership with the Society of Chief Librarians as part of the Branching Out initiative funded by the Arts Council of England. Frontline is currently being used by 102 English library services, as well as library services in Scotland and Australia. It is used by every public library service in Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Within Sligo Library Service, Senior Executive Librarian Ms. Pauline Brennan was first to undertake this course and once finished, became facilitator for Senior Library Assistants Ms Brenda Cawley and Eimear Sullivan and Library Assistant Ms Michelle Curley. All four staff members were awarded their certificates on Monday 19th October during a Staff Training Day in Sligo Central Library by County Librarian Mr Donal Tinney and praised for the high level of work that they had undertaken.

Sligo Library Service is continuing to roll out this course to other staff members to further aid them in their duties to provide the highest service possible for the public to whom we serve.

BISTO SHADOWING GROUP

This year in Sligo Central Library we participated in The Children's Books Ireland Bisto Shadowing Scheme for young readers, which follows - or 'shadows' - the judging of the short listed books. This programme is designed to encourage classroom or library groups to read, analyze and debate the titles short-listed for the Bisto Book of the Year award. It introduces the children to a broader range of reading materials than might otherwise be the case.

Children from six schools were invited to be involved in this experience. The shortlist of books was announced on March 11th. The children were encouraged to read the ten books on the shortlist which they admirably achieved. The weekly meetings to discuss the books were a lively and entertaining affair. All of the children were enthusiastic participants with specific likes and dislikes and were well able to voice these. The closing date to vote for our favourite book was May 8th. The book which achieved the biggest vote was Airman by Eoin Colfer with Kate Thompson's Creature of the Night coming in at a very close second.

The eagerness and enthusiasm of the children who participated was very contagious. The library staff involved really enjoyed the whole experience and plan to do it again next year.

Sligo County Library

MULTICULTURAL POLICIES

Sligo Libraries are committed to multiculturalism and recognise the importance of the various non Irish national communities in our society as a whole. As such a number of implemented strategies have continued.

- A link from our website to the Sligo Immigrant Organisation website <http://sioinfo.com> was established in mid 2008 to further portray our services to this section of the community.
- Our policy of foreign title collection development, both adult and juvenile has continued, increasing stock throughout the year.
- The Sligo Immigrant Organisation, in 2009, ran two photography competitions entitled "Our Sligo" and "Sligo – history, culture and fun". The entries were displayed for public view in Sligo Central Library thus raising the profile of both community services and the working relationship between them.

WRITING GROUPS & BOOK CLUBS

To further encourage and promote reader development among our customers, Sligo Library Service has a number of Book Clubs and Writers groups set up in various branches. These groups promote the pleasure of reading and develop the members appreciation of literature at all levels. Please contact the various Branch libraries for more details.

SLIGO CENTRAL LIBRARY

Inkwell Writers group meet on Wednesday nights at 8pm. Central Library Book Club meets at 6.45pm on last Thursday of every month. Catacombs Book club, Sara Book Club & the Maugherow book club are also supported by Sligo Central Library.

The Inkwell Writers Group, based in Sligo Central Library held a 'Live Mike' in the Yeats Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo on Wednesday 22nd April 2009. The night consisted of readings by members of the group and other invited guests, including published writers. All at attendance remarked on what was an entertaining, enjoyable evening. This group hopes to have their first publication of collected works released in early spring 2010.

TUBBERCURRY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Leyney writers' group have been established a number of years now with two successful publications behind them. This group continues to meet regularly to share and discuss their latest works.

Bookworms Book club meets on the second last Thursday of every month. Active retirement Bookclub meet on the last Thursday of every month.



Tubbercurry Library.

The fourth annual Tubbercurry Literary Festival was held on Tuesday 21st July 2009 at 7.30pm in Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry. Tubbercurry has a long established literary tradition and this has been reinforced by the establishment of the Leyney Writers. This group decided to organise the first literary festival in 2006 and this was the fourth such event. The culmination of the evening was the announcement of the winners of the three competitions organised which were (a) a short story competition (b) a free verse poetry competition and (c) a rhyming poetry competition. To celebrate the town's literary tradition members of Leyney Writers read from their work during the evening in Teach Laighne.

TIGER RISING BOOK LAUNCH

As part of Library Ireland Week 2009, Sligo County Libraries in conjunction with Home School Community Liaison Co-coordinators' Ellen McKiernan, Una O'Gara and Sandra McNulty, held the official launch of the "One City One Book" project in Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street on Monday 9th March 2009 at 11am. 'Let's Read Together' was the theme of this project and Sligo Library Service were delighted to be involved with and support this innovative project which aim was to promote literacy. Primary Schools throughout the County were supplied with copies of Sligo's chosen book "Tiger Rising" as well as Borough & Council Representatives, Library Staff and leading sporting figures in the region. As such, a wide demographic of Sligo's population encountered this small but captivating work of fiction and hopefully helped to realize the primary aim of the campaign.

SLIGO COUNTY LIBRARIES:

Combined Statistics of five branch libraries for the period January to September 2009

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 2009 1st Quarter Issues | 50,654 | 2009 2nd Quarter Issues | 49,939 | 2009 3rd Quarter Issues | 57,321 |
| 2009 1st Quarter Visitors | 36,885 | 2009 2nd Quarter Visitors | 39,688 | 2009 3rd Quarter Visitors | 45,991 |
| 2009 1st Quarter Internet Use | 5,670 | 2009 2nd Quarter Internet Use | 6,110 | 2009 3rd Quarter Internet Use | 6,639 |
| 2009 1st Quarter Ref/Loc History | 1,093 | 2009 2nd Quarter Ref/Loc History | 1,503 | 2009 3rd Quarter Ref/Loc History | 1,648 |

Sligo County Library

EVENTS

January 2009

Sligo Central Library

The official launch of Sligo born Author Alan McMonagle's latest publication "Liar Liar" was held in Sligo Central Library on Thursday 8th January 2009. A large crowd of friends, family and interested public attended the affair, even though the weather was extremely cold, which was a testament to the gifted writer. Both the Mayor and Cathaoirleach and Writer-in-Residence Mr. Niall Williams were invited especially and all spoke in glowing terms regarding the publication.

February 2009

Computer Classes

Computer Classes were held in Sligo Central Library on the 4th February 2009 as part of the AONTAS Adult learner's festival.

March 2009

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2009

To celebrate World Book Day in 2009, Sligo Libraries held the launch of Sligo VEC's latest Publication "Emerging Voices" on Thursday 5th March. All sections of the Community were invited to attend. The publication itself is a combination of collected writings from various members of the VEC as well as an educational workbook containing a variety of literacy and numeracy exercises.

National Tree Week: Sunday 1st March to Saturday 7th March 2009

Sligo County Libraries, in conjunction with Sligo County Council's Environment Section, distributed 150 sapling trees of Irish native stock (inc Ash, Birch, Rowan and Alder) to our customers over the period of National Tree Week on a first come-first served basis. One City One Book

One City One Book Official Launch: Monday 9th March 2009

As part of Library Ireland Week 2009, Sligo County Libraries in conjunction with Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinators Ellen McKiernan, Una O'Gara and Sandra McNulty, held the official launch of the "One City One Book" project in Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street on Monday 9th March

2009 at 11am. 'Let's Read Together' was the theme of this project and Sligo Library Service were delighted to have been involved and supported this innovative project which aims to promote literacy.

Internet Safety for Parents: Wednesday 11th March 2009

An Instructive talk by Mr. Roy Mitchell from the National Centre for Technology in Education on the topic of Internet Safety was held in Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street, Sligo on Wednesday 11th March 2009 at 8pm. This lecture was organised in co-operation with The Office for Internet Safety (OIS) www.internetsafety.ie and the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) www.ncte.ie

April 2009

Inkwell Writers "Open Mike" Night. 22nd April 2009

The Inkwell Writers Group, based in Sligo Central Library held a 'Live Mike' in the Yeats Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo on Wednesday 22nd April 2009 from 8pm to 10pm. The night consisted of readings by members of the group and other invited guests, including published writers.

Sligo Libraries Writing Competition: 28th April 2009

Following the success of last year's inaugural Schools Creative Writing Competition, Sligo County Library, in partnership with The Sligo Champion, this year ran the competition for a second year. It was expanded to include Senior and Junior Poetry as well as Fiction.

May 2009

Photo Exhibition: 1st May to 20th May

An exhibition of Beginners' photographs were displayed in Tubbercurry Community Library. The exhibition showcased the work of local students attending The Cloonacool School of Photography, who had just completed their first beginner's course. The work displayed included a wide range of subject matter and some very creative compositions.

Organic Vegetables Workshop: Thursday 7th May

Learn how to grow your own Organic Vegetables with helpful hints and tips was held on Thursday 7th May at 7.00 pm. The event was free and all were welcome.

Sustainable Energy Ireland Workshops for Primary Schools were held in Sligo Central Library from Tuesday 19th until Friday 22nd May 2009

3 workshops were run per day with a number of primary schools invited to attend and take part in the various activities.

Storytelling in Sligo Central Library: Tuesday 26th May

In order to celebrate Africa Day; Sligo Libraries hosted a Storytelling event for Primary Schools.

"You Lucky Thing" Book launch: Wednesday 27th May

The launch of Helen O'Leary's latest publication You Lucky Thing took place in Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street at 7pm on Wednesday 27th May. The launch was the concluding event of Sligo's Bealtaine Festival programme. You Lucky Thing is primarily a book of photographs of lucky objects, rituals, habits and sayings, uniquely local and Irish.

June 2009

Questseekers Reading Challenge

Sligo Central Library invited children to join the Quest Seekers Summer Reading Challenge 2009, the theme of which is the power of the imagination. The official launch was in July and all members signed up as a Quest Seeker were issued with a membership card, poster and stickers.

HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES & LIBRARIES DIRECTORATE

Sligo County Library

July 2009

Storytelling with Joanne Mitchell: Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July 2009

"Cairde 2009" – 7 days of music, theatre, film, street performances, family events, poetry, exhibition and workshops. Sligo Central Library was the venue for interactive storytelling with Joanne Mitchell.

Tubbercurry Literary Festival: 21st July 2009

The fourth annual Tubbercurry Literary Festival was held on Tuesday 21st July 2009 at 7.30pm at Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry. Tubbercurry has a long established literary tradition and this has been reinforced by the establishment of the Leyney Writers.

August 2009

Questseekers Reading Challenge

Sligo Library Service invited all participants to Sligo Central Library on Monday 24th August at 3.00pm to celebrate the end of Quest Seekers Summer Reading Challenge. Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerry Murray, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jude Devins, County Librarian Donal Tinney and Executive Librarian Patricia Keane were on hand to award all with certificates, medals and goodies "galore" for all children who participated.

New DVD Collection

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerry Murray and Deputy Mayor Cllr Jude Devins were on hand to officially launch the start of the new DVD collection now available from the Sligo Library Service. The collection which spans both Juvenile and older age groups focuses on classical movies and educational documentaries which can be watched on numerous occasions.

September 2009

The Cathach was officially launched on Monday 21st September 2009 in Sligo Central Library. Both well established published and novice writers as well as Cllrs Gerry Murray, Tony McLoughlin and Hubert Keaney and TD Eamon Scanlon were present for the occasion.

Fas eLearning

Information and Registration days:

Sligo Central Library, Stephen Street, Sligo: Tuesday 1st September 2009 from 11am to 3pm.

Tubbercurry Community Library, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo: Thursday 3rd September 2009 from 9.30am to 1pm.

October 2009

GIY (Grow it Yourself) organisation met in Sligo Central Library on 12th October '09 at 7.30 pm.

Children's Book festival: Activities October '09

14th October: Educational Puppet shows By Kids Party Club 10am to 1pm. Primary Schools were invited to attend.

20th October – 23rd October

Author David Donoghue hosted creative writing workshops and author readings in Sligo Central Library 20th & 23rd October. Enniscrone National School 21st October and Tubbercurry Community Library 22nd October 2009.

22nd October:

FÁS, in partnership with the Sligo County Library Service, introduced the FÁS eLearning at the Library Project' to the Sligo and Tubbercurry libraries. This learning programme began in Sligo Central Library from 9.30am until 12.30pm on Thursday 22nd October.

28th October:

3 Puppet Shows were held in Sligo Central Library hosted by Chris Thompson.

November 2009

GIY Group

The GIY (Grow it Yourself) organisation met in Sligo Central Library on Tuesday 3rd November '09 at 7.30 pm. This Group, chaired by Niall McAlister, was formed so that organic farmers and like minded plant and vegetable enthusiasts had a forum where they could voice their opinions.

FAS eLearning official Launch

The FAS eLearning official launch took place on Thursday 12th November 2009 at 6pm in Sligo Central Library. This event officially recognised the classes and workshops already underway in Sligo Library branches facilitated by FAS co-coordinators.

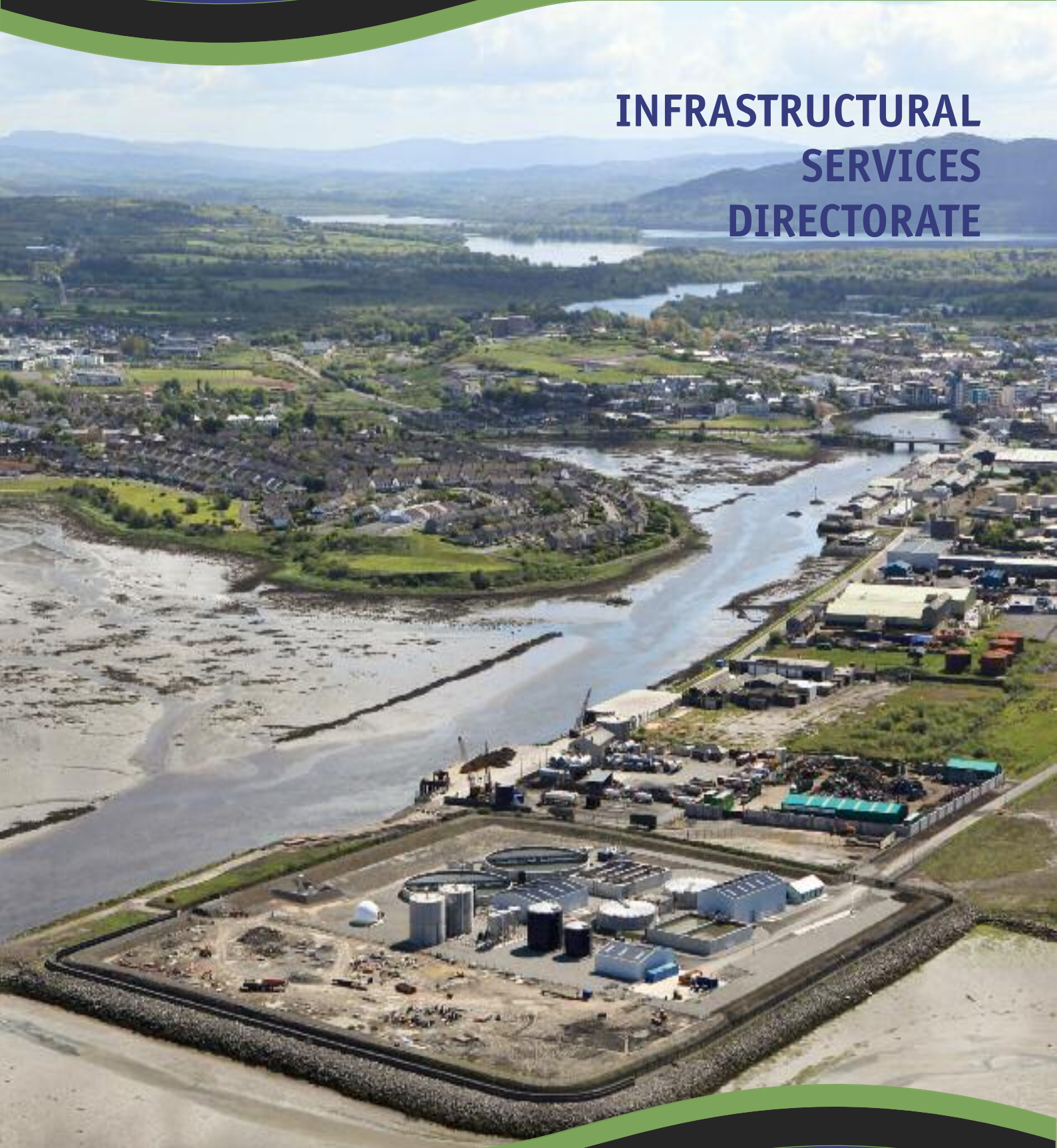
December 2009

Citizen's information presentation

TPhilip McCabe, Development manager of County Monaghans Citizen Information service visited Sligo Central Library to discuss issues such as;

- Pensions
- Tax relief benefits
- Social welfare entitlements
- Grant applications
- Redundancy

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE



INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Water Services

Water Services Infrastructure has expanded significantly within Sligo and recent changes in Drinking Water legislation and EPA licensing of all wastewater discharges have seen the requirements of the service provided increase.

In County Sligo there are 9 no. Public Water Schemes. Their Operation and Maintenance include 7 no. water treatment plants, 1,600km of water mains network including Service Reservoirs and water pumping stations, supplying drinking water with a total average usage of 33,000 m³/day in 2009.

The Operation and Maintenance of County Sligo sewer network consists of 32 No Wastewater treatment Plants and 185 km of sewer network including pumping station, rising mains.

WASTEWATER DISCHARGES (AUTHORISATION) REGULATIONS 2007

During the year 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency issued no Discharge Licences for wastewater Treatment Plants but Discharge License applications for an additional 9 No. Wastewater Treatment Plants & 14 No. Waste Water Discharge Certificates of Authorisation were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

NON- DOMESTIC WATER SERVICES CHARGES

Local Authorities are required to meter all non-domestic water connections as part of the Government's National Water Pricing Framework. Veolia Water Ireland Ltd. continues to implement this project on behalf of the Council. Water and wastewater charges are now charged on a metered basis and a charge for water of €1.27 per cubic metre and wastewater €1.03 per cubic metre was applied in 2009.

WATER CONSERVATION

Following completion of Stage 1 and 2 of the Water Conservation Programme in 2008, the next Stage concerns leakage control and establishment of a mains rehabilitation programme. A proposal for the rehabilitation of watermains throughout the county at a cost of €54 million was submitted to the Department for approval in 2008. Approval was granted in 2009 for phase 1 with a budget allocation of €4.7M and will proceed to tender in 2010. A significant reduction of water usage was achieved by the end of 2008 and this reduction remained constant throughout 2009. Full time staff are employed in leak detection, monitoring and repairing of leaks.

WATER SERVICES - PROJECT OFFICE

The Water Services project office of Sligo County Council has responsibility for project management and administration of all water services infrastructural development projects. The projects are funded via the:

- Water Services Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme

Projects completed under the investment programme in recent years include the following;

- **Sligo Main Drainage Wastewater Treatment Plant (DBO Contract)**

This new Wastewater Treatment Plant (50,000pe), Pumping Station and Sludge Hub Centre at Finisklin, Sligo was completed during 2009. The total project cost was €37M. The plant is now fully operational and the 2010 operation and maintenance costs will be approximately €1.2M.



Sligo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- **Teesan / Lisnalgur Sewerage Scheme (Serviced Land Initiative)**

This Service Land Initiative scheme involved the provision of water mains, foul and storm sewers, and a foul sewage pumping station to service the zoned catchment in the Teesan/Lisnalgur area. Construction of the scheme was completed in Q3 2009 and the outturn scheme costs were €4.6M.

- **Mullaghmore Water Supply Scheme – Stage 2**

This scheme involved the provision of approximately 2km of pipeline infrastructure and associated works in the village of Mullaghmore. All works associated with this contract were completed in Q3 2009 at a total cost of €280,000.

- **Enniscrone Bundled DBO Scheme**

The Enniscrone (and six villages) bundled DBO scheme was completed in July 2008 at a total cost of €5.0M. The project is now in year 2 of the 20 year O&M contract which will cost approximately €0.6M in 2010.

- **Water Conservation – Advance stage 3 Works – Gurteen Pipeline (South Sligo RWSS)**

The replacement of 2 km of poor quality asbestos water mains along the R294 in South Sligo was completed in November 2009. The cost of these works was €300,000.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Water Services

- **Kilsellagh Water Treatment Plant**

The construction of the new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh has been completed and is now fully operational. It will serve Sligo City and its environs including the Rosses Point peninsula and the North Fringe area. The new plant, which includes a new 2,200m³ treated water reservoir, will have a maximum throughput capacity of 400m³/hr. The estimated DB project cost is €7.8M.



Kilsellagh Water Treatment Plant.

Other projects currently at various stages of planning and procurement include;

- **Water Conservation Stage 3 Works**

A detailed report on Stage 3 Mains rehabilitation for the County & Borough areas was submitted to the Department during 2008. The estimated cost for the entire Stage 3 works was €54M incorporating 11 phases. Following a request from the Department a detailed works proposal for 5 phases was submitted. In December 2009 the Department approved Phase 1 works on the Sligo & Environs scheme. The procurement of site investigation works is currently ongoing and it is anticipated that the rehabilitation contract will proceed to tender in Q4 2010. The budget for Phase 1 is €4.7M.

- **Ballinacarrow Sewerage Scheme**

This scheme involves the provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure and network improvements in the village. The preliminary report has been submitted to the Department. The cost estimate for the scheme is €3.3M.

- **Cliffoney Sewerage Scheme**

This scheme involves the provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure and network improvements in the village. The preliminary report has been submitted to the Department. The cost estimate for the scheme is €5M.

- **Grange, Strandhill & Tubbercurry Grouped Sewerage Improvement Scheme**

These three schemes involving the provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure for the towns of Tubbercurry (5000PE), Grange (2500PE) and Strandhill (4500PE) are to be advanced as a single DBO project. The upgrade of Ballinacarrow WwTP, funded from the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme, has also been added to this project to deliver further value for money. The report on tenders has been approved and a preferred bidder has been selected. The budget cost for the project is €10.8M.

- **Lough Talt Regional Water Supply Scheme**

The Preliminary Report which assessed demands, sources, treatment options, and storage and network improvements has been completed and submitted to the Department for approval. The project as outlined in the PR is proposed to be advanced in four phases;

1. Proposed new water treatment plant (12,500m³)
2. Intake works
3. Network improvements
4. South Sligo interconnector.

The PR cost estimate for completion of the entire scheme is €31M with the costs for Phase 1 estimated at €8.7M. Part 8 planning for phase 1 and land acquisition procedures are being progressed.

- **Sligo & Environs Sewerage Scheme (G) (Rosses Point / Cregg / Ballinacarrow Network)**

This scheme relates to the provision of pumping stations and associated pipeline infrastructure for the transfer of raw sewage effluent from the Ballinacarrow, Cregg and Rosses Point catchments to Sligo Main Drainage WwTP for treatment. Planning and land acquisition procedures are being progressed. Detailed design and tender documentation can be progressed pending formal approval from the Department and the necessary loan approval. The estimated scheme cost in the preliminary report is €4.5M.

- **Water Conservation Stage 3 Works**

This project relates to the second phase of the rehabilitation works proposal submitted to the Department for mains rehabilitation on the Lough Talt RWSS. The procurement phase will be advanced pending budgetary approval from the Department.

- **Ballymote & Collooney Sewerage Schemes**

This project involves the review and upgrade of existing sewerage schemes in Ballymote (3000PE) and Collooney (1400PE). The two schemes have been bundled into one project in order to deliver the best value for money. The project is currently in the planning phase and pending Department approval of the project brief the procurement and appointment of the Client's Representative will be advanced.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Water Services

- **Sligo & Environs Sewerage Scheme Phase 2**

Sligo Sewerage Scheme (Network Improvement). This project relates to proposed improvement works to the existing combined sewer network in Sligo City. The preliminary report highlighted 28 sections of the network which require improvement works based on network modeling and localized flooding issues. It is also proposed to carry out CCTV surveys on other parts of the network to establish a prioritized schedule of works which can be advanced on a phased basis.

- **Carraroe Sewerage Scheme**

A revised Preliminary Report for the provision of foul and storm water drainage in Carraroe has been completed. Pending approval from the Department and the necessary funding the scheme can be advanced to the next stage.

- **Sligo Main Drainage Stage VI – Cummeen Sewerage Scheme**

This scheme involves the installation of sewerage infrastructure in the Cummeen, Rathonagh areas which will facilitate the removal of existing septic tanks and also service the future development needs of the catchment. The purchase/takeover of existing infrastructure built by private developers will be an integral part of the project. Pending formal approval from the Department and the necessary finances, the scheme can proceed to detailed design and procurement phases.

Projects funded under the Rural Water Programme included the following;

- **Watermain in Carrowhubbock , Enniscrone**

This scheme involved the replacement of approximately 300m of existing water main and the installation of 1300m of new pipeline with a total of 15 service connections. The scheme was taken off the public water supply from Lough Easkey WSS. This contract is now completed. The total project cost was €150,000.

- **Ballymote Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade Works**

This project involved the upgrading of the existing wastewater treatment plant to provide automated fine screening/ new pumping station with 2 nr duty/ standby pumps and various instrumentation such as flow measurement, Dissolved Oxygen probes, dial out alarm, etc.. These works have been completed. The total project cost was €240,000.

- **Riverstown Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrading**

This project involved the upgrading of the existing wastewater treatment plant in Riverstown to provide automated fine screening and flow measurement. These works are completed. A manual rake screen has been provided at the pumping station upstream of the WWTW. This contract is now completed. The total project cost was €92,000.

- **Easkey Sewer Network Improvements**

The scheme involved the construction of a new pumping station in the townland of Castletown, Easkey. It consisted of a pump sump, duty and standby pumps, control kiosk and associated site works. This development will facilitate treatment of wastewaters from the western side of the village. This contract is now completed. The cost for this scheme is approx €185,000.



Easkey plant.

- **Lough Easkey Water Treatment Plant Upgrade works**

A detailed review of the plant process has been undertaken. It will consist of installing instrumentation, signalling in Lough Easkey WTW and linking it back to the existing SCADA in the Old Jail for remote monitoring and improved controlling capabilities.

- **North Sligo Water Treatment Plant Sludge System Upgrade works**

This project involves the upgrading the Sludge System at the North Sligo WTW. This will involve the installation and commissioning of a Picket Fence thickener, centrifuge, polyelectrolyte dosing units and associated works.

- **Bunninadden Wastewater Treatment Works upgrading Works**

This scheme involves the upgrade of the wastewater treatment works in the village of Bunninadden. Part 8 planning and tender documents for the scheme are currently being progressed. The budget for the scheme is €560,000 and it will be part funded from development contributions.

- **Ballintogher Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrading Works**

This project involves the upgrade of the wastewater treatment works in the village of Ballintogher. The scheme will be progressed pending formal agreement between Sligo County Council and the developer and the necessary financial approvals.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Water Services

- **Ballinacfad Wastewater Treatment Works**

This scheme involves the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity of 350PE in the village of Ballinacfad. It is bundled with the Tubbercurry/Grange/Strandhill scheme. An interim plant upgrade has been put in place pending construction of the new plant. The tender price for the scheme is €0.90M.

- **Cliffoney WWTW Interim Works**

This project involves a temporary plant upgrade to the existing wastewater treatment works for the village of Cliffoney pending the construction of a new plant under the investment programme. Planning and procurement for the temporary plant is currently being advanced.

- **Drumcliffe WWTW upgrade Works**

This WWTW was identified in the shellfish pollution reduction plans for Drumcliff bay as requiring upgrade. Following a review of the plant process options, planning and procurement for the upgrade works will be advanced.

- **Lough Talt Public WS (Rathnakelliga Area) Upgrade Works**

This scheme involves minor upgrade works at Rathnakelliga reservoir including re-routing of pipework, valves and associated works.

- **Keash GWS – Contract No. 2**

This group water scheme consisted of 13km of water main and 125 no. service connections. The scheme is supplied from the existing source at Lough Labe. The cost for the provision of the scheme is €0.9M.

- **Coolaney Road GWS**

This group water scheme consisted of laying almost 5 km of pipelines with a total of 56 service connections and 3 bulk meters. The scheme is connected to the public water supply from Collooney. Work commenced on this contract in May '09 and was completed on site in November '09. The cost for the provision of the scheme is €0.47M.

- **Ballintogher Stage III GWS**

This group water scheme consisted of laying 4.1km of watermains with a total of 26 service connections and 2 bulk meters. The scheme is connected to the public water supply. The cost for the provision of the scheme is €444,629.97. This scheme was partly funded under small schemes programme.

- **Glackbaun GWS**

This scheme consisted of the provision of water main of approximately 17.5km of water main ranging from 180mm to 63mm, the construction of a booster pumping station and the construction of a 286m³ reservoir. There are 133 no. service connections on this scheme and the contract cost of the scheme is €1.35M.

The following private group water schemes are in various stages of the taken over process to become part of the public water supply network. Works required as part of this process include the installation of valves, bulk meters, non-domestic meters, new pipelines and ancillary works. Cuilmore GWS; Finned/Castletown GWS; Ballygawley GWS; Cooga GWS; Lissaneena GWS; Drumfad GWS; Castleconner GWS; Cannaghanally GWS; Emlaghfad GWS; Kilcat GWS; Lugawarry / Lugnadeffa GWS; Coolaney Road GWS; Ballintogher Stage III GWS.



**INFRASTRUCTURAL
SERVICES
DIRECTORATE**

Road Transportation & Safety

National Primary, Secondary, Regional and Local Road – Maintenance and Improvement & Support to Roads Capital Programme

A total of over €15.75 million was expended on the maintenance and upgrade of public road network in County Sligo in 2009. Work has also progressed on the planning, design & construction of key strategic national and non national road projects serving County Sligo and Sligo City - the gateway city of the north-west. The National Roads Authority and the Department of Transport non-national roads division in addition to Sligo County Council were the key funding agencies for this programme.

A total of €507,000 was also expended on the upgrade of non-public roads under the Local Improvement Scheme of works in 2009.

The Road network in County Sligo is summarized as follows:

| ROUTE | LENGTH KM | % OF TOTAL |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| National Primary | 102.7 | 3.9 |
| National Secondary | 47.4 | 1.8 |
| Regional | 222.6 | 8.4 |
| Local | 2,271.1 | 85.9 |
| Total | 2,643.8km | 100% |

The tables below show the details of the National and Regional Roads in Sligo.

| National Roads in Sligo | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| ROUTE | DESCRIPTION | LENGTH KM |
| N4 | Sligo City to Roscommon Co. Boundary | 33.3km |
| N15 | Sligo City to Bunduff Br. | 26.4km |
| N16 | Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary | 8.4km |
| N17 | Collooney to Bellahy | 34.6km |
| | Total | 102.7km |

| National Roads in Sligo | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| ROUTE | DESCRIPTION | LENGTH KM |
| N59 | Ballysadare to Mayo Co. Boundary | 47.4km |

| Regional Roads in Sligo | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| ROUTE | DESCRIPTION | LENGTH KM |
| R277 | Killaspugbrone to Sligo Airport | 1.7km |
| R278 | Sligo to Cornalaghta | 6.7km |
| R279 | Cliffoney to Mullaghmore | 4.4km |
| R284 | Carrowroe to Rosc. Co. Boundary | 26.6km |
| R286 | Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary | 8.1km |
| R287 | Carrowroe to Leitrim Co. Boundary | 11.9km |
| R290 | Rathrippon to Ballintogher. | 11.0km |
| R291 | Sligo City to Rosses Point | 6.5 km |
| R292 | Sligo City to Strandhill to Ballydrehid | 16.3km |
| R293 | Ballinaboll to Gurteen to Rosc. Co. Boundary | 25.8km |
| R294 | Cloonloo to Tubbercurry to Lough Talt | 42.5km |
| R295 | Ballymote to Keash to Rosc. Co. Boundary | 14.6km |
| R296 | Ballymote to Bunnannaddan to R294 | 10.2km |
| R297 | Dromore West to Enniscrone to Co. Boundary | 29.8km |
| R298 | N59 to Lacknatlieva to R297 | 4.9km |
| R361 | Roscommon Co. Boundary to Killaraght to Rosc. Co | 1.6km |
| | Total | 222.6km |

Local Roads are categorized into Local Primary, Secondary or Tertiary and are summarised as follows:

| CLASS | LENGTH KM | % OF TOTAL |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Primary | 581.6 | 25.6 |
| Secondary | 1,008.0 | 44.3 |
| Tertiary | 681.5 | 30.1 |

Division B | Roads, Transportation and Safety.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Road Transportation & Safety

NATIONAL ROADS

A total of €4,447,357 was allocated in 2009 by the National Roads Authority towards the maintenance and improvement of the 150km of national road network in County Sligo.

NATIONAL ROAD MAJOR SCHEMES

A total of €2,660,000 was allocated in 2009 to the planning & design of major national road schemes as follows:

- **N17 Tobercurry Bypass**

Following design revisions and cost management exercises the Preliminary Design, Environmental Impact Statement, Compulsory Purchase Order and Business Case are to be finalised and submitted to NRA in 2010. Publication of CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

- **N17 Collooney – Charlestown**

The above project is progressing through the planning process and Preliminary Design, EIS, CPO and Business Case are due to be finalised and submitted to NRA in 2011. Publication of CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

- **N4 Realignment Collooney – Castlebaldwin**

The above project is progressing through the planning process and Preliminary Design, EIS, CPO and Business Case are due to be finalised and submitted to the NRA in 2011. Publication of CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

- **N4/N15 Sligo to County boundary**

The above project is progressing through the planning process and Preliminary Design, EIS, CPO and Business Case are due to be finalised and submitted to NRA in 2010. Publication of CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

- **National Roads Pavement & Minor Improvement Works**

A total of €500,000 was allocated to pavement & minor improvement works. Pavement condition surveys were carried out to identify sections of road in most need of repair. Localised pavement repair/improvement works were then carried out under a number of contracts in 2009 on the N15, N16, and N17 & N59.

- **National Roads Maintenance**

A total of €1,102,357 was allocated towards national roads maintenance in 2009. Works carried out included general maintenance, winter maintenance, bridge maintenance, route lighting, road resurfacing.

NON-NATIONAL ROADS

A total of €10,198,969 was allocated by the Department of Transport non-national roads division towards the maintenance and improvement of non-national road network in County Sligo in 2009. A further €507,000 was allocated towards the improvement of non-public roads under the Local Improvement Scheme. It should be noted that the overall 2009 Department of Transport allocation represented a 28% drop when compared with the 2008 allocation.

STRATEGIC ROAD SCHEMES

- **Eastern Garavogue Bridge & Approach Roads**

The planning phase for the Eastern Garavogue Bridge & Approach Roads Scheme was completed in 2009 with the approval by An Bord Pleanála of the Environmental Impact Statement and Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme. This represented a significant milestone in the development of this project and it is now possible to proceed to detailed design and towards construction. This project is considered essential for the regeneration of eastern parts of Sligo city and for the ongoing development of the region.

- **Western Distributor Road**

2009 saw the construction of Phase 1 of the Western Distributor Road. The Western Distributor Road starts from the Caltragh Interchange on the Sligo Inner Relief Route and heads in westerly direction to the Strandhill Road via Magheraboy, Oakfield and Ballydoogan. At the Oakfield Road junction the road links to the proposed new IDA Business Park at Oakfield, which will open up this land for development.

Phase 1 of the scheme involved road construction from the Ballydoogan Road junction to the Strandhill Road, between Mitchell Curley Park and Kevinsfort Estate, and through Kevinsfort Heath at its northern end. The contract was awarded to Gerald Love Contracts in January 2009 and construction commenced on site in February 2009. The construction works comprised of a 550m section of 10m wide single carriageway with verge, cycle lanes and footpaths on both sides. The contract also included associated earthworks, including rock and soft material excavation, drainage, significant utilities and ducting, retaining wall and revetment construction, significant boundary walls and accommodation works, landscaping, lighting, signage, traffic signals and ancillary works. The works also included one signalised T-junction at Ballydoogan, two priority junctions and two signalised pedestrian crossings along the route and a revised entrance to Mitchell Curley Park from the new road. Safety of the public was given extensive consideration as part of the construction works, given that the road runs between an existing play area and football pitches and a residential area. Substantial completion was achieved on the scheme in December 2009.

The Form of Contract used for phase 1 was the new Public Works Contract for Minor Building and Civil Engineering Works Designed by the Employer, which was introduced nationally for Government funded infrastructural schemes in 2007. The Sligo Western Distributor Road Phase 1 scheme was one of the first in the country to be let under this Form of Contract.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Road Transportation & Safety

The Compulsory Purchase Order for Phase 2 of the Western Distributor Road Scheme will be published in 2010. On completion, this scheme will provide access to the IDA Business Park at Finisklin, the proposed IDA Business Park at Oakfield, zoned residential land, Strandhill Airport, western areas of Sligo and the community sports and Park facilities, from the N4 dual carriageway, the main north-south road corridor through Sligo City. The development will eliminate the need to access all of the above from the City centre, thus reducing journey times and congestion in the city centre. The development will also relieve traffic congestion on existing roads on the western side of Sligo and improve access to and from the area for existing residents.



Western Distributor Road looking North.



Western Distributor Road looking south from Mitchell Curley Park Entrance.



Western Distributor Road at Kevinsfort Heath.

ROAD RESTORATION PROGRAMME 2008 – 2010

The current three year multi-annual road restoration improvement programme commenced in 2008 and continued in 2009. A total of €6,582,000 was expended under the road restoration programme on improving and maintaining a total of 95 sections of the non-national road network.

LOCAL ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

A sum of €4,751,570 was invested in maintenance and improvement of the local road network in 2009 under the road restoration programme allocation. In addition the 2009 "own resource allocation" of Sligo County Council towards the general maintenance of the local road network was €600,000 which due to funding constraints represented a 40% drop in the figure allocated in 2008.

REGIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

A sum of €1,829,500 was invested in maintenance and improvement of the regional road network in 2009 under the road restoration programme allocation.

A sum of €830,000 was expended on the general maintenance of the Regional Road network in 2009 under the Discretionary maintenance grant.

NON-NATIONAL ROAD SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A total grant of €2,121,000 was allocated by Department of Transport towards the following improvement projects in 2009 under the specific improvement grant scheme.

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| CLASS | LOCATION | BUDGET € |
|-------|----------------------------|----------|
| R297 | Muckduff | 70,000 |
| R284 | Drumiskabole/Union | 300,000 |
| R286 | Ballinode | 300,000 |
| R292 | Knappaghmore | 360,000 |
| R294 | Mullaghroe / Cuilprughlish | 255,000 |
| R297 | Castletown | 108,000 |
| R292 | Tully | 225,000 |

Bridge improvements funded under Specific Improvement Grants.

| CLASS | LOCATION | BUDGET € |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| L49014 | Cloonaughil Br | 90,000 |
| L4902 | Lough Easkey Br | 48,000 |
| L63071 | Moorelands Br, Dromore West | 56,000 |
| L64101 | Pollacheeny Br | 41,000 |
| L7131 | Curraghmore Br,Cliffoney | 51,000 |
| L74601 | Cullaghbeg Br, Drumcliffe | 63,000 |
| L7608 | Union Br, Collooney | 58,000 |
| R284 | Foyouges Br, Geevagh | 96,000 |
| Total | | 2,121,000 |

All the above bridge projects were completed in 2009. The works carried out included strengthening, repair and replacement as necessary to bridges supporting public roads, taking cognizance of the built heritage of pertinent structures.



Foyouges Bridge- pre works 2009.



Foyouges Bridge - post works 2009.



Foyouges Bridge- pre works 2009.



Foyouges Bridge - post works 2009.

**INFRASTRUCTURAL
SERVICES
DIRECTORATE**

Road Transportation & Safety



Templehouse Bridge.

The R292 Knappaghmore, R297 Muckduff, R292 Tully projects are now completed. Improvements works will continue on other projects in 2009 subject to ongoing Department of Transport funding. These projects help to improve access to the region, promote economic activity and improve road safety.

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Sligo received a Discretionary Improvement Allocation of €351,000 in 2009. This was allocated to miscellaneous improvements to the non-national network including enhancements to footpaths in towns and villages.

Improvements included:-

- Construction and improvements to public footpaths in towns and villages.
- Improvements to public lighting network
- Improvement to road signage.
- Improvements to bridge infrastructure.
- Miscellaneous Road & Drainage and junction improvements.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

A budget of €507,000 towards the improvement of non-public roads was allocated by Department of Transport for this programme in 2009. A total of 17 improvement projects were undertaken.

ROAD SAFETY ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENT

€265,000 was allocated in 2009 by the Department of Transport under the low cost safety improvement scheme to undertake improvements at seven number locations on the non-national road network. A total of €185,000 was also allocated by the National Roads Authority towards road safety remedial measures at four number locations on the national route network in County Sligo in 2009. Sites were chosen where the incidences of collisions were high historically. Engineering measures such as enhanced signage and lining, improved junction definition, pedestrian crossings have been introduced at these locations.

ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION/EDUCATION

Sligo's Road Safety Officer continued to be proactive in promoting safety on the road networks in County Sligo in 2009. National and local radio and the print media are used to target audiences, particularly the young, to change behavioural habits on the roads and to promote general safety. Particular schemes for 2009 included:

- a. Support of Students' Union in promotion of road safety in Sligo IT which has a core target audience of several thousand 18 to 23 year olds.
- b. Support of road safety promotion during Connaught Motor Rally's Sligo Stage. Target audience of male drivers in age range 20 to 40 years old.
- c. Arrange annual campaign re hi-visibility vests for rural pedestrians. Over 1,000 complimentary vests distributed to vulnerable rural pedestrians via Gardai, rural Bus Eireann transport services and public representatives.
- d. Practical support to cycle training initiatives in national schools.

All fatal road traffic collisions continue to be jointly inspected by Gardai and the Road Safety Officer.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The Department of Transport established the National Sustainable Travel Office in February 2009 to support the implementation of the newly published Smarter Travel Policy Document: 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future - A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020. The policy recognises the vital importance of continued investment in transport to ensure an efficient economy and continued social development, but it also sets out the necessary steps to ensure that people choose more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. This was followed in April 2009 by the publication of Ireland's first National Cycle Policy Framework, which outlines the necessary actions to deliver 10% mode share for cycling in Ireland by 2020. The Government's vision behind the policy is "to create a culture of cycling in Ireland".

A Local Authority Network was established on the 14 July, 2009 to support the delivery of the Government's Smarter Travel Policy at national and local level. The Network is comprised of a nominated official from each Local Authority and members of the National Sustainable Travel Office of the Department of Transport. Sligo County Council is a member of this network which meets three times a year with meetings of subgroups taking place more frequently throughout the year. The Local Authority Network provides for structured liaison between central and local government to ensure that the Government's vision contained in Smarter Travel is delivered consistently and in accordance with best international practice at local level in Ireland.



Bus Bays on Cleveragh Drive.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Road Transportation & Safety

In April 2009, Sligo County Council applied for funding under European Mobility Week for the permanent re-allocation of road space to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Sligo County Council was one of nine successful Local Authorities to receive funding under this scheme. A total of €39,000 was spent on the conversion of Vehicle Parking Bays to Bicycle Parking Bays and the conversion of existing road space to Bus Bays along Sligo City Commuter Routes. Bicycle Parking was provided at Market Cross (3No), Wine St Car Park (4No), Quay St Car Park (2No), Hyde Bridge (2No), Stephen St Car Park (2No) and St Anne's Car Park (2No). Bus Bays were provided at Ballytivnan Road (2No), Doorly Park Road (1No) and Cleaveragh Drive (2No). All work was complete by European Mobility Week, 16th-22nd September 2009.



Bicycle Parking at Market Cross.

In September 2009 Sligo County Council applied for funding under the Smarter Travel Areas Competition, a €50 million investment in sustainable travel over five years, to support the delivery of an integrated suite of measures to transform travel and mobility patterns to meet the vision of Smarter Travel by 2013. Sligo County Council applied for the provision of dedicated cycle lanes on the commuter routes to Sligo from Strandhill, Rosses Point, Ballisodare and Collooney and also for the environmental enhancement of the pedestrianised O'Connell Street. A total of 39 applications were received from Local Authorities but Sligo was not one of the 11 applications which were shortlisted for Phase 2 of the competition. The initial feedback from the Department of Transport was that Sligo had an excellent application and it may be considered for funding in the future. However the reopening of the pedestrianised O'Connell Street to vehicular traffic raised issues regarding Sligo's commitment to sustainable travel.

HEALTH & SAFETY 2009

The Health & Safety function of Sligo Local Authorities is managed by the Infrastructural Services Directorate. The focus in 2009 was the further development, introduction and maintenance of Safety Management Systems across various Directorates of the organisation.

Considerable resources continue to be given to the ongoing training of administrative, technical and site based staff in the area of health & safety. Systematic monitoring, measuring and review of workplace health & safety performance was carried out throughout the year and the Safety Management System Programme was revised to reflect this

Health & Safety continues to be an integral element of the Local Authorities undertakings.



Sean Fallon Bridge.



**PLANNING &
ENFORCEMENT
DIRECTORATE**

PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

Planning

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

During 2009 the planning department received 608 planning applications, representing a decrease of (40%) on the previous year's intake but consistent with national trends with regard to the construction industry. Applications for single dwellings remain the most popular, amounting to just over 45% of all applications made.

The Development Management Team issued 569 decisions during the year with a refusal rate of 6.7%. Appeals have only been made to An Bord Pleanala in respect of 6.3% of all decisions made by Sligo County Council. Of those decisions appealed, An Bord Pleanala reversed our decision in only 25% of cases which is the lowest reversal rate of the 29 County Councils in the state.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

As in previous years the Development Management Team is committed to continuously improving the standards of customer service it provides to all the various stakeholders in the planning process. During 2009 Sligo County Council maintained its excellent record for efficiency when 82.4% of all planning decisions were determined in eight weeks or less. The low number of invalid applications (2.5%) continues to be amongst the best results of Planning Authorities nationally. The low invalidity rates can be attributed to the ongoing commitment of planning staff and the continuous engagement between the Development Management Team and the Planning Agents who submit the majority of all applications. The relatively low rate of refusals is, in a large part, due to the extensive level of pre-planning consultations which take place between County Council Planning Officials and prospective applicants, primarily in the form of face to face meetings held in County Hall or Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry. A total of 858 pre-planning meetings were held in 2009.

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.

DRAFT SLIGO AND ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010- 2016 (SEDP)

The Development Planning Unit progressed the review of the Sligo and Environs Development Plan by consulting with infrastructure and service providers and community groups and associations. This entailed sending out 204 letters to service providers and 292 letters to other groups and organisations.

Two public consultation meetings were held to inform the public and elicit views on the development plan review. These meetings took place in the Sligo Park Hotel and in the Clarion Hotel in January 2008.

Submissions were invited from the public and as a result 291 submissions were received by the closing date. The First Manager's Report on pre-draft submissions was issued to the Borough and County Council Members for their consideration. At subsequent meetings of both Local Authorities, the members directed the Manager to prepare a Draft Plan for Sligo and Environs.

Plan preparation work was undertaken by the Development Planning Unit in collaboration with the Borough Planning Section, the Architects' Department, the Heritage Officer, the Roads Section and the Parks Department. The DPU was assisted by specialist consultants in the production of the Sligo City and County Joint Housing Strategy, Joint Retail Planning Strategy and the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

All documentation associated with the Draft Plan was printed in-house. Following the preparation of the Proposed Draft SEDP, the members of both Local Authorities amended and approved the Draft Plan for publication.

DRAFT NORTH FRINGE LOCAL AREA PLAN

In parallel with drafting the new SEDP, work progressed on the North Fringe Local Area Plan. A public consultation meeting was held on the 24 January 2008 and subsequent submissions were invited. The Draft North Fringe Plan was prepared by the National Building Agency (NBA) in close co-ordination with the Draft SEDP.

DRAFT QUAY QUARTER URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

The National Building Agency was engaged to undertake an urban design study of Sligo's Quay Quarter, which resulted in an Urban Design Framework (UDF) for this area of the town. The Draft Quay Quarter UDF was incorporated as an integral part of the Draft SEDP.

RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES (RPS) FOR THE SLIGO AND ENVIRONS AREA

Following the publication (in 2006) of the National Inventory for Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for Sligo, the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government recommended that all structures on this database be protected. Detailed work was subsequently done to identify which NIAH structures are not currently included on the RPS. A Proposed Draft RPS was eventually compiled and submitted to the Members of the Local Authorities. The approved Draft RPS included 346 structures of regional and national importance.

Specialist consultants were employed to assess the structures that warrant listing or otherwise on both the Sligo & Environs and County RPS. On completion of this exercise, additions/deletions will be formally proposed under Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act.

DRAFT CHARLESTOWN-BELLAGHY LOCAL AREA PLAN

Responding to the wishes of local residents and councillors in Bellaghy and Charlestown, the Development Planning Unit of Sligo County Council and the Forward Planning Section of Mayo County Council agreed to undertake the preparation of a joint Local Area Plan for the Charlestown-Bellaghy area, assisted by CAAS (planning and environmental consultants). Pre-draft consultation took place in the form of a public workshop held in Charlestown in October 2008. Work continued on the preparation of a Draft Plan.

SLIGO DOCKLANDS LOCAL AREA PLAN

Work on the Docklands Plan was progressed by identifying and compiling mailing lists of relevant stakeholders and resident groups. Zoning and general objectives for the area are to be set out in the adopted SEDP 2010-2016.

PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

Building Control & Enforcement

The principal Activities of the enforcement section include: -

- Enforcement of planning control.
- Collection of development contributions and securing bonds.
- Monitoring/liasing with developers to ensure housing estates are completed to a satisfactory standard for taking in charge.
- Building Control.
- Dangerous Structures.
- Derelict Sites.

ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

The Council's role in this area involves investigating 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.

Unauthorised development includes development works, (which are not exempted) which are carried out on a site without the benefit of planning permission, and development which is not in compliance with the terms (drawing, site layout, etc) or the conditions of the grant of planning permission.

The Enforcement Section investigates all cases of unauthorised development, which comes to its attention. It will conduct a site visit and examine the planning history of the site and may issue a warning letter or serve an Enforcement notice on the Developer, as specified under the Planning and Development Act 2000. There are strong legal powers available to enable the Council to deal with offenders, and legal action is taken where necessary. There are heavy penalties where a person is convicted in the Courts for carrying out unauthorised development.

SERVICE INDICATORS

A total of 242 complaints in relation to unauthorised development were lodged with the Council during 2009. The Council carried out over 1000 inspections, investigated 225 new complaints; issued 225 Warning Letters served 107 Enforcement Notices, and initiated 24 prosecutions. During the same period 260 complaints were resolved or dismissed.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS

Complaints can be made in writing, by e-mail or by telephone. A complaints form is also available online to facilitate the making of a complaint. Full details should be given to include the nature and extent of the development, the person (if known) who is carrying out the development and accurate location details (preferably indicated on a site location map) to facilitate inspection by the Council.

All complaints are treated confidentially. It is the policy of the Council that the name of the person who provides information to it on enforcement issues is not released to a third party.

COLLECTION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS & SECURITY BONDS

A revised Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by the Council under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 in November 2006. This scheme sets out the level of contribution required for each type of development as well as the basis for levying the contribution. Contributions from the scheme will fund the provision of necessary infrastructure throughout the County. In addition, special contributions are payable in respect of waste – water schemes in Coolaney, Dromore West, Bunninadden, Carney, Gurteen, Castlebaldwin, Ballintogher and Rockfield.

Procedures are in place to ensure that development contributions are paid to the Council. Where the contributions are not paid, appropriate action is taken, up to and including legal action.

BOND

The Council imposes a condition on all housing schemes requiring that development works shall not commence until adequate security for the satisfactory completion of the development has been submitted to and accepted by the Planning Authority. Particular attention is given by this section to ensuring that adequate security is in place in respect of all housing developments. The security is only released when the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the Council and, or has been taken in charge. The phasing of the security is permitted in certain circumstances.

TAKING ESTATES IN CHARGE

Monitoring of Housing Estates / Taking in Charge

A Legal obligation has been placed on Local Authorities, under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, to take in charge housing estates where certain conditions have been met. A revised T.I.C. policy was adopted by the Council in 2008.

Many new housing estates have been built in the County over the last number of years. The activities of the Enforcement Section are geared towards ensuring that these estates are completed to a high standard and to allow the Council (where the developer or residents desire) to take them in charge. 9 estates were taken in charge during the year, with a further 27 applications on hands at the end of 2009. Over 200 inspections were carried out.

TAKEN IN CHARGE PROCESS

Any request to have a housing estate taken in charge by the Council must be accompanied by a completed application form, fee, appropriate certification and written confirmation in relation to the maintenance of open spaces. It is the policy of the Council to have carried out by an agent, on its behalf, a Closed Circuit TV survey on all main runs of foul and storm sewers, to ensure satisfactory standards of construction prior to taking any estates in charge.

PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE

Building Control & Enforcement

BUILDING CONTROL

Sligo County Council is the building control authority for Sligo Local Authorities. The objective of the Building Control Section is to encourage good building practice and to ensure that buildings are constructed correctly and that access for people with disabilities and elderly is provided for in building plans. The Council is required, under inspection targets set nationally, to inspect between 12% and 15% of new works which were notified by way of the submission of a Commencement notice. In 2009 the Council inspected 39 Buildings (15%).

The Council continues to pay particular attention to compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations (which deals with access for people with disabilities). A high level of compliance has been achieved in this area.

In addition it is the policy of the Council when in receipt of a Commencement Notice for 2 or more houses or for commercial or industrial premises to require the developer, to submit drawings showing compliance with Part M – Section 11 (c) BC Act 1990. This has the effect of making both the developer and the architect / agent aware that Part M should be complied with both at the design and at the construction stages. Every effort is made to deal with breaches without seeking a resolution in the courts.

COMMENCEMENT NOTICE

This is a notice submitted by a developer to inform the Council of intent to carry out building works. It must be submitted to the Building Control Section of the Council at least 14 days and not more than 28 days before the commencement of any works which require compliance with The Building Regulations.

A commencement Notice is required for:

- The erection of a Building
- The Material Alteration or Extension of a Building
- A Material Change of use of a Building
- Works in connection with the material alteration of a shop, office or industrial building.

A commencement Notice Form is available online or it can be obtained directly from the Building Control Section of Sligo County Council.

DANGEROUS STRUCTURES OR PLACES

The Enforcement Section deals with structures or places which are a danger or likely to be a danger to the public. A notice may be served on the owner requiring works to be carried out to prevent the structure or place from being dangerous. The Council may also carry out such works itself and recover the costs from the owner.

DERELICT SITES

The Council is required by law to establish and maintain a Register of Derelict Sites. All reports of dereliction are investigated and Notices of Intention to enter the site on the register are served on the owner/occupier of the site in question (where appropriate). Any written representations are considered before deciding whether to enter the site on the Register. The Council can also serve notices on an owner or occupier of a derelict site specifying the measures to be taken to prevent land from becoming or continuing to be a derelict site.

During the year, 64 inspections were carried out throughout the County. In addition, the Council served Notice of its intention to enter ten sites in on the Derelict Sites Register. Three sites were registered during the year, and in addition notices of certain measures to be taken to prevent dereliction were served on three owners.



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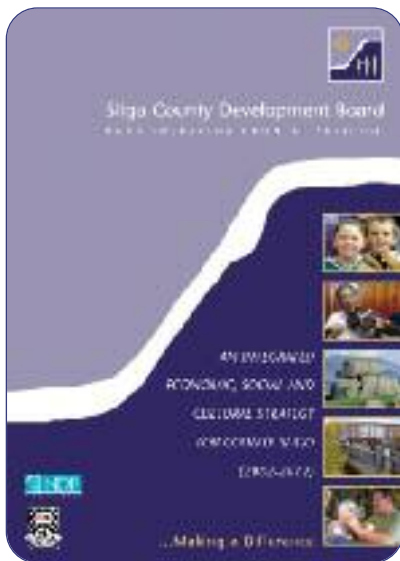
Community & Enterprise

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Community and Enterprise Department facilitates the County Development Board which is a key structure in the county charged with devising and overseeing the implementation of a Ten-year Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Co. Sligo 2002-2012.

Sligo County Development Board (SCDB) brings together representatives from Local Government and Local Development sectors, State Agencies operating at local level, and Social Partners, including the Community and Voluntary Sector. The purpose of the Board is to improve co-ordination amongst local service providers and to promote economic social and cultural development in County Sligo.

In 2009, the Board undertook a review of its ten year strategy and developed an Action Plan for delivery for the period mid 2009-2012. The Review takes into account the changing and emerging circumstances and important developments at a national, regional and local level. An emphasis has been placed on inter-agency co-operation & improved co-ordination of local public service delivery. Overarching Strategic actions of the Board include developing and improving the public profile for Sligo including the development of a Creative Sligo Brand.



The Board also developed its website www.sligocdb.ie to raise awareness of its many initiatives and examples of local agencies working together. This was launched by the Chair of the County Development Board in December 2009.

OTHER PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

1. Social inclusion and equality
2. Economic Development
3. Cultural Development
4. Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee – PEACE III Action Plan 2008-2010

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Group

The Social Inclusion Measures Group is a statutory sub-committee of the County Development Board, facilitated by the Department of Community and Enterprise. It provides a forum for co-ordinating the delivery of social inclusion activities in County Sligo and to identify and address any gaps and overlaps between agencies in the delivery of social inclusion work within the county.



(L-R: Backrow) – Conor Corduff, Chris Gonley, Geraldine Timlin, Hugh MacConville (Chairperson), Aisling Smyth, Mary Hough, Darragh Severs, Trevor Sweetman. (L-R: Front row) – Claire Galligan, Rita McNulty, Marcus Hufsky, Ann Donegan, Siobhan Gillen.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Comhairle na nÓg Shligigh is a County Sligo Development Board Project set up as part of the National Children's Strategy (2000), Comhairle na nÓg provides a forum for young people to discuss local and national issues of relevance to them. In 2009, the County Development Board was awarded a grant of €20,000 by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs for the development of the initiative. Comhairle na nÓg involves a working partnership between Sligo County Council's Department of Community and Enterprise, Sligo County VEC and Foroige. Along with a Programme of activities the grant has enabled Foroige to employ a dedicated Youth Worker to work on the ground with young people to increase participation in the Comhairle na nÓg. Aims of the initiative include, creating a model of best practice, with emphasis placed on increasing the participation of young people through its AGM and in particular the participation of harder to reach young people. The initiative also aims to link Comhairle na nÓg into the policy making role of local agencies and in particular Local Government through structures such as Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) and Joint Policing Committees (JPC's).

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COMHAIRLE NA NOG AGM

The 8th Sligo Comhairle na nÓg AGM hosted by the County Sligo Development Board took place in the Clarion Hotel on the 13th October, 2009. 120 enthusiastic young people from schools and youth clubs/organisations from all over the county were present making it the highest attendance to date. Topics discussed in facilitated workshops included Alcohol & Drug Use along with an open debate on general youth issues which included Mental Health, Bullying, Road Safety & Youth Facilities. The topics raised will form part of the Comhairle na nÓg's work plan for the coming year.



The information generated at the workshops will be compiled and reported to Sligo County Council along with other relevant agencies. On a national level, feedback from the Sligo AGM will be given to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) and to Dáil na nÓg with the hope of effecting positive change for young people in County Sligo.



Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2009.

The AGM also featured democratic elections to elect 25 young members to form Sligo Comhairle na nÓg for a period of 2 years. During this term they act as the collective voice of young people in County Sligo by lobbying on a range of issues affecting young people today. The elected membership mirrors that of Sligo County Council including the number of Councillors and its electoral areas. Five members of the Comhairle na nÓg were also elected to represent Sligo at the Annual Dáil na nÓg Event in Dublin in March 2010. Elected members of Sligo County Council have been very supportive of the initiative.



First Vote at Comhairle na nÓg 2009.

INTERAGENCY TRAVELLER STRATEGY GROUP

The Interagency Traveller Strategy Group is responsible for monitoring progress on the implementation of the County Development Board's Interagency Traveller Strategy for County Sligo 2007-2012. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to enhance interagency co-operation in the delivery of service and supports to the Traveller Community. The Strategy focuses on a series of integrated actions under the following thematic areas: Accommodation, Health, Education Training & Employment, Childcare and Youth.

The actions outlined in the Strategy are funded mainly through the resources of the participating agencies and some actions involve the pooling together of resources of a number of agencies. The Group is convened by the Office of Community & Enterprise and chaired by the Director of Service, Community & Enterprise, Arts and the Environment.

SLIGO EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

In 2009 the County Development Board established Sligo Education Working Group, chaired by the Department of Education and Science and Sligo Education Centre. The Group is a sub-committee of the SIM Group. Its focus is to:

- Identify gaps in service provision
- Promote collaboration among agencies dealing with early school leavers
- Identify areas of concern outside the influence of the relevant agencies where the CDB might be able to lend its support
- Develop community education and support
- Target support locally within schools
- Promote broader policy level responses to educational disadvantage.

In 2009, the group carried out an audit of services to early school leavers in the county, carried out a piece of research on Early School leaving in Co Sligo which included consultation with early school leavers. Both these pieces of work assisted the group in determining its priorities in targeting early school leaving in the county.

Members of the Group include: Dept of Education, Sligo Education Centre, Sligo County VEC, FAS, IT Sligo, St Angela's College, Sligo County Council, Sligo Leadership Partnership Company (SLPCO), National Education Welfare Board, Youth-reach, Foroige, Youth Action Project Sligo (YAPS), Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment & Development (RAPID), Sligo Travellers Support Group, Dept of Social and Family Affairs, Home Youth Liaison Service.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The role of the Local Authority in economic development is to enable the conditions for economic growth in relation to infrastructure, including broadband, land for industry use, energy, environmental protection as well as supporting research and education/training measures.

The role of the County Development Board in Economic Development is to co-ordinate the work of member organisations' economic development activities and work on agreed 'added value' economic initiatives for the county and to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and to increase job opportunities.

Economic Development Sub-committee of the County Development Board (CDB)

An Economic Development Sub-Committee of the CDB was established in 2009 and its work involves member agencies taking on a shared leadership role in the economic promotion of County Sligo and managing the implementation of the economic actions in the CDB's Priorities for mid 2009 – 2012. It also provides a focal point for the economic promotion of the county.

The work of the Sub-Committee is guided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and operates within the context of relevant national, regional and local policies, including:

- National Development Plan, National Spatial Strategy, Towards 2016, Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Regional policies including those of Enterprise Ireland, IDA, FÁS, and the Western Development Commission
- Local policies including those of the Sligo County Enterprise Board, Sligo County Council, the Sligo County Development Plan and the Sligo & Environs Development Plan

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Michelle Yewlett | IDA Ireland (Industrial Development Agency) |
| John Reilly | County Enterprise Board |
| Martin Henry | Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority) |
| Michael Quigley | Sligo LEADER Partnership Co Ltd |
| Miriam Scanlon Trill | FÁS (Irish National Training and Employment Authority) |
| Niall McEvoy | Institute of Technology Sligo |
| Noelle Cawley | Fáilte Ireland North West |
| Peter Greene | Employment and Business Organisations |

POSITIVE RESPONSE AS 300 ATTEND JOBS TRAINING, EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE PROMOTION EVENTS

Over the past seven months the Sligo County Development Board agencies joined forces and hosted four very successful Enterprise, Training & Education events. A total of over 300 people attended four events held in different areas of County Sligo aimed at helping people get back to work or to set up their own businesses.

In a unique venture, up to 20 local public service agencies joined forces to promote local enterprise, training and education across Sligo from venues in Enniscrone to Tubbercurry to Sligo town. The events provided people with the opportunity to seek advice in confidence from all the major agencies. Over 300 people attended the events to seek advice in confidence from all the major agencies.

The Chairman of the County Development Board's' Economic Development Sub-committee, Shaun Purcell CEO Sligo County VEC, said the success of these promotions was that they were a coordinated collaborative response to the needs of the community. He said "We in the County Development Board will continue to respond to the educational needs of the people of Sligo in terms of upskilling for people in employment and in providing courses for people who have recently been made redundant. The key here is creating opportunities and confidence."

Niall McEvoy, Head of Innovation at the Institute of Technology, Sligo said "Now is a good time to refresh your skills or consider setting up a business. These One Stop Shop promotion events organised by the County Development Board are the place where you can discuss your career plans, where information on Enterprise, Training and Education is available and where you can find out first hand what supports are available to these wishing to start up their own business.

| Economic Development Sub-Committee Members 2009 | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| NAME | AGENCY/BODY |
| Shaun Purcell (Chairperson) | County Sligo Vocational Education Committee |
| Rita McNulty | Director of Services, Sligo County Council |
| Brian Scanlon | Sligo County Community Forum |
| Carole Brenan | Enterprise Ireland |
| Cllr Tony McLoughlin | Sligo County Council |
| Frank Fox | Dept. Education & Science |
| Hugh McConville | Irish Congress of Trade Unions |
| Ian Brannigan | Western Development Commission |

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Rita McNulty, Director of Services for Community, Enterprise, the Arts and Environmental Services with Sligo County Council said "At a time when local enterprises are facing unprecedented challenges, I believe a lot of people benefited from the opportunity to engage with the agencies to gain advice and information. Sligo is acknowledged as the key centre of economic growth in the Northwest and it is important that we provide the necessary supports to facilitate new and potential enterprise and also provide the necessary training and upskilling supports to the people of Sligo."

It is hoped to host further promotion events in 2010 to reach out to those people who need support in the current economic climate.

ADDRESSING DEFICITS IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN CO. SLIGO IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPT OF COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The provision of quality broadband throughout County Sligo was one of the priority actions agreed by the County Development Board (CDB) in its Action Plan 2009 – 2011. It was considered by the CDB that if County Sligo does not get a quality broadband service, available throughout the whole county, that it would have huge negative consequences for education, social and business development in the future for Sligo.

There had been concerns for some time, as a result of a previous postal survey by the Council, that the rural parts of Sligo were not adequately served by Broadband as the existing coverage by wireless Broadband providers in the County did not cover the entire county, resulting in areas where the quality of the service was below an acceptable level or even non-existent. Furthermore it was found that the maps of the National Broadband Scheme, announced in January 2009 by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, would not fully address the blackspots in coverage in rural Sligo. Although there were many Broadband companies operating in County Sligo, most were focused on the higher population density areas which had a significant negative effect on Broadband access to rural communities thus depriving these people of the same services that were available to urban dwellers.

Following a successful application for funding to Co. Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd technical surveys were carried out to determine current Broadband coverage, quality and potential in the county.

SURECOM Network Solutions were commissioned to conduct these Benchmark Surveys and to map the area of service availability and throughput from the existing operators within the County. The survey is underway at present and involves the use of specialised drive testing tools and the survey will allow for a complete overview of the Broadband Services provided by Mobile Operators in County Sligo.

In addition, the Council in collaboration with the Institute of Technology Sligo carried out a Broadband survey of Fixed Lines (via Telephone Line). The public were asked to log onto their own PCs at their homes/businesses throughout the county so that the quality and speed of their broadband connection could be recorded.

This is the first Broadband benchmark studies of its kind to be undertaken in any County and the results will be used as a measure of the effectiveness of the current Broadband Strategy in Sligo.

Meetings have already taken place with senior officials and technical advisors from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources involving officials of the Community & Enterprise Section of the Council, the Institute of Technology, Sligo and SURECOM.

It is hoped that the survey results will influence the Department of Communications when they are rolling out the National Broadband Scheme in County Sligo.

INTERAGENCY TOURISM

Sligo County Development Board (CDB) is developing a county-wide tourism strategy as agreed in its Priority Action Plan for mid 2009-2012. The lead agency for this CDB priority is Sligo County Council, through the Community and Enterprise Department.

Under the auspices of the Economic Development Sub-Committee of the CDB, a Tourism Sub Group was formed with representatives from the relevant organisations and sectors, both public and private. The work of the Sub Group is building on the Failte Ireland North West Regional Strategy and is examining a range of areas including marketing, infrastructure, co-ordination, branding and promotion.

The Committee draws on the expertise of existing agencies and committees such as Failte Ireland North West, the Marketing Sligo Forum, Institute of Technology, Sligo, the Sligo Leader Partnership Co., Sligo Tourist Development Association, Irish Hotels Federation etc. The aim is to ensure that all relevant players with interest and expertise are contributing to a 'joined-up' tourism plan for County Sligo. It is expected that proposals and initiatives will be identified by the end of 2010 and presented to the CDB for consideration.



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PEACE III

Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee, a sub-committee of Sligo County Development Board is currently delivering actions under the Peace III Programme in Sligo. This EU funded programme aims to address issues related to sectarianism and racism and to develop positive relations between minority and majority communities and across the border. Following the initial work on developing the Sligo Action Plan 2008-10 and the tendering and application process many of the funded projects got underway during 2009. All projects fit like jigsaw pieces into the overall Action Plan and the following project actions gives an indication of the variety of activities that can be undertaken:

- Inter-Faith
- Diversity Training
- New Communities
- Women & Peace
- Travellers & Peace
- Sport & Peace
- Rural Peace
- Urban Peace
- Conflict Resolution
- Youth Education
- Culture / Arts & Heritage
- Political / Historical

Phase 2 of the Peace III Programme will commence in 2011 and activities under a newly developed Action Plan will run from 2011-2013. Further information is available at www.sligocdb.ie



SLIGO VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Introduction:

Sligo Volunteer Centre is an information & referral service for voluntary activity in County Sligo. They offer advice to people who wish to volunteer and also offer support to "Not For Profit" organisations who wish to involve volunteers.

2009 continued to be a year of growth and expansion for Sligo Volunteer Centre. As is demonstrated in our figures, we continue to attract people to volunteer who have not previously been involved in volunteering. We see this as an important element of what we have to offer to the general public and indeed the sector as a whole. If we can continue to attract new people to volunteer it secures the future of participation and active citizenship.

In these changing and indeed challenging economic times, we continue to attract a high calibre of volunteer who have not only time, but a high level of skills to offer to Community & Voluntary organisations in County Sligo. Through the year ahead, we see an important role for the centre in harnessing & directing the skills and commitment of such volunteers who through circumstances have found themselves unemployed or underemployed.

Staff:

The staff & roles within the centre are as follows;

Ms. Ciara Herity, Manager

Ms. Alison Gately, Placement Officer (Part time post)

Ms. Paula Naughton, Outreach & Development Officer (Part time post)



The First Group of participants in Sligo Volunteer Centre's Volunteer Management Training receiving their Certificates from MEP Marian Harkin.

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2009 FACTS & FIGURES

- 252 volunteers registered with our service and were offered the support of our Placement Officer and other staff members.
- 55% of those volunteers who registered in 2008 had never previously volunteered
- 36 Community & Voluntary Organisations registered with our service. Between these and previously registered organisations 153 volunteer vacancies were registered.
- From January 2009 to the end of December 2009 Sligo Volunteer Centre made 201 placements within a variety of Community & Voluntary Groups. In relation to the total numbers of volunteers who registered in 2009, the placement rate was 83%.
- All placements made in 2009 generated 11,513 voluntary hours to local groups.

PILOT PROGRAMMES

On occasion Sligo Volunteer Centre takes the lead on programmes to meet a specific area of need or to promote volunteering to a particular sector. In these cases we may be the main lead or support the appropriate Community & Voluntary Group in getting the project off the ground. One such programme was the Cross Border Activity Day in March 2008.

BRANCHING OUT TO VOLUNTEER

In 2009 Sligo Volunteer Centre held a "Branching Out to Volunteer" event in Tubbercurry. This event gave Sligo Volunteer Centre the opportunity to raise awareness of Volunteer Involving Organisations operating in the Tubbercurry area. It also gave these groups an opportunity to showcase their work & recruit further volunteers. It also assisted in raising the awareness of the services Sligo Volunteer Centre can offer to groups in the Tubbercurry area. This in turn increased the volunteering opportunities available for people interested in volunteering in Tubbercurry. Sligo Volunteer Centre placed a folder with all of the current volunteer opportunities in Tubbercurry Library, which will continue to provide the people of South Sligo with up to date information about all of the opportunities available both in Tubbercurry and around the county. This event was a great success and Sligo Volunteer Centre would hope to repeat this type of event throughout Sligo Town and county.



Branching out to Volunteer Tree.



Paula Naughton presenting the Volunteer Opportunities to Tubbercurry Library.

GIVE IT A SWIRL DAY – THE NATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTEERING 2009

Volunteers all around the County came out in force for the various local projects as part of Give it a Swirl Day 2009 - the National Day of Volunteering. Give it a Swirl is an initiative of Volunteers Centres Ireland who encourage as many projects as possible to be rolled out throughout the country. Give It a Swirl- the National Day of Volunteering is designed to provide people of all ages with an opportunity to get involved locally and try their hand at something new. Sligo Volunteer Centre along with local communities was involved in several projects in Sligo town and county.

CLEAN UP COLLOONEY DAY

12 volunteers came out in force on Saturday 26th September for Give it a Swirl Day with Collooney Tidy Towns. All of the volunteers are to be complimented for their hard work on the day. Paula Naughton, Sligo Volunteer Centre's Outreach & Development Officer, presented all the volunteers who took part with certificates to acknowledge their participation in the event. The work that was carried out included litter picking, weeding and bulb & flower planting for next year.



Volunteers getting stuck into the tasks at hand.

HEALTH/THERAPY TASTER SESSIONS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AS PART OF POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

Tuesday 29th September in Sligo and Wednesday 30th September in Tubbercurry saw 20 holistic therapists provide taster treatments for older people at the Positive Ageing Health & Beauty Event. Therapists along with students from North Connacht College provided Holistic Treatments to older people from Sligo Town and around the county. Feedback from therapists and recipients was excellent! Positive Ageing Week is a week of events organised by the Sligo LEADER Partnership and other agencies to focus on the positive aspects of ageing and to promote services available to older people.



People from a range of active age groups availing of the therapies offered by volunteers.

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TECHNOLOGY DAY FOR OLDER PEOPLE AS PART OF POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

38 volunteers kindly gave of their time and expertise to support Older Person's in learning about new technologies. The volunteers involved included pupils from the Sligo Grammar School and St Attracta's in Tubbercurry. Volunteers were on hand to provide basic skills on how to use the internet, how to look up holiday offers, set up an e-mail account, e-mail family and friends and pay bills and much more. This event proved a great success and is a positive step towards narrowing the gap in knowledge of older persons.



Some GIAS Participants & Volunteers enjoying their Technology Day.

SLIGO TRAVELLERS SUPPORT GROUP INTERCULTURAL SPORTS DAY

Saturday 17th October saw the Sligo Travellers Support Group Intercultural Sports Day take place. The sun shone brightly on all of the athletes and the volunteers who took part in the Intercultural Sports Day at IT Sligo's Sports grounds. 9 Volunteers coached and assisted participants and put them through their paces through to the finishing line. The day proved to be a great success and was enjoyed by all who took part. It was great to see children from all of our various communities in Sligo enjoying themselves together.

LINKAGES IN THE WIDER SLIGO COMMUNITY

Sligo Volunteer Centre strives to make invaluable links within the community in which we work. Where possible and relevant to our goals we are happy to provide our expertise and input around volunteerism to local committees and initiatives. Below are listed some of the committees on which we are represented and also some activities to which we have contributed.

Pride of Place Competition

Each year Sligo Volunteer Centre sits on the assessment panel for these awards for Sligo County Council. The awards are for communities who through volunteerism and community spirit demonstrate a pride in their community.

Older Persons Forum

This forum is for a collective approach to the provision of services for older people in Sligo. Sligo Volunteer Centre is represented on this forum which is run by Sligo LEADER Partnership Company.

Care & Repair Scheme

Out of the Older Persons Forum, a desire to host a Care & Repair Scheme in Sligo arose. The scheme will allow older people to access both a "Minor Household Repair" service as well as a "Trades Referral Service". The services will be provided by volunteers. Sligo Volunteer Centre is involved as part of a steering committee that is currently looking at the development of the scheme in Sligo.

Big Brother Big Sister Advisory Committee:

The Big Brother Big Sister Programme is managed by Foroige. It involves an adult volunteer being "buddied" with a young person in need of extra support or mentoring. Sligo Volunteer Centre were asked to sit on this advisory committee to contribute towards ideas in relation to recruitment, retention and selection of volunteers for the programme.

Community Development Sub committee:

The committee is a Sub Committee of Sligo LEADER Partnership Company. The role of the committee is as a policy, review and discussion forum at County level for key stakeholders in the development of appropriate responses on a collaborative basis in strategic areas of concern to the Social Inclusion Programme. Sligo Volunteer Centre currently sits on this committee and continues to do so into 2010.

SLIGO COUNTY COMMUNITY FORUM

Introduction:

The Sligo County Community Forum was established in 2000 as a voice for the community and voluntary sector in County Sligo. With a registered membership of over 660 groups, the Forum acts as a network in County Sligo to enable the Community & Voluntary sector to meet and address common issues and concerns, and put forward those views at a county level.

The Forum Executive met ten times during 2009. A review of minutes highlights some of the key issues of concern at Forum meetings during the year

- Governance Issues
- Nominations of Executive members to other boards
- Nominations of members to the Strategic Policy Committees
- Overseeing the work of the support worker
- Reviewing and amending the Constitution
- Funding and tendering opportunities
- Advocacy work on community 'cuts' and portrayal of ethnic minorities in the Press
- Charitable Status
- Establishing local fora

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

E-Bulletin

In January 2009 the Forum launched its E-Bulletin for community and voluntary organisations in County Sligo. This has proved to be a very successful initiative with over 400 groups picking up the E-bulletin every month, and many groups reporting back that they send it on to others. The E-bulletin is sent out around the first week of every month.

Training for Membership Groups

Between April and July 2009 four training sessions were delivered for workers and volunteers involved with community and voluntary organisations in County Sligo. All of the training events were very successful, with very positive feedback on the evaluation forms. On average ten people attended each session and all of the training sessions were designed and delivered by Claire Galligan, Development Consultant to the Forum.

The training sessions delivered were:

- **Developing Presentation Skills:** This was a half day session held in St. Anne's Community Centre in Sligo.
- **Developing Leadership Skills:** This was a full day session held in Tubbercurry.
- **Carrying out a community needs analysis:** This was a full day session held in the Northside Community Centre.
- **Filling out funding applications:** Evening session held in Easkey.

Forum Representation on other structures

A core role of the Sligo County Community Forum is to act as a voice for the community and voluntary sector on various local, regional and national boards and local government structures. During 2009, executive members from the forum actively participated on 20 different structures:

| Executive members from the forum | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| County Development Board [cg1] | Tom Mc Gettrick and Brian Scanlon (re-nominated 2009) |
| Social Inclusion Measures Groups (SIM) | Claire Galligan (nominated 2009) |
| Strategic Policy Committee: Economic Development and Planning Policy | Chris Davis (nominated 2009) |
| Strategic Policy Committee: Environmental Policy | Brendan Queenan (re-nominated 2009) |
| Strategic Policy Committee: Transportation and Infrastructural Policy | Michael Rochford (re-nominated 2009) |
| Strategic Policy Committee: Housing Policy/Social and Cultural Development | Sharon Boles (re-nominated 2009) |
| Sligo County Childcare Committee | Margaret Conlon (re-nominated 2009) |
| Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership | Gerald O'Connor |
| North West Regional Drugs Task Force | Margaret Conlon |
| Sligo Joint Policing Committee | Membership nomination 2009: Cluid Housing Association |
| Sligo Heritage Committee | Larry Mullin |
| Sligo Volunteer Centre | Larry Mullin |
| West-on-Track | Joe Walsh |
| HSE Regional Suicide Working Group | Gerald O'Connor |
| Western River Basin District Advisory Council | Michael Rochford |
| County Sligo VEC | Sharon Boles (re-nominated 2009) |
| Western Alliance Forum | Thomas Mc Gettrick |
| Border Area Forum | Thomas Mc Gettrick |
| Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum | Sharon Boles and Thomas Mc Gettrick (re-nominated 2009) |
| Comhairle na nÓg Shligigh | Larry Mullin |

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ADVOCACY

In October 2009 the Forum presented its pre-budget submission to the Government. As well as focusing on the cuts that were being proposed to community and voluntary organisations, the submission identified the need to retain community employment schemes for community and voluntary organisations, retention of the rural social scheme and the minimisation of the impact of cuts on children and families, especially those dependent on social welfare.

In October 2009, Sligo County Council invited submissions for its new proposed Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) scheme for 2010-2014. Sligo County Community Forum submitted a proposal outlining the need to retain eight seats for the community and voluntary sector, 2 on each SPC. All seats requested were allocated by Sligo County Council in the new SPC scheme.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

From the outset, in 2009, Sligo County Community Forum had a clear goal to enhance their communications with their membership and the wider community in County Sligo.

NEWSLETTERS

Sligo Forum produced two newsletters in 2009, one in April and one in November. Both newsletters were 8 pages and were distributed by post to the 640 groups who are members of the County Forum.

WEBSITE AND WEBSITE LAUNCH

Over 2009 the Forum website www.sligocommunityforum.com was developed. Training was undertaken by the support worker and the administrator to update the site on a regular basis and this has been ongoing. Very positive feedback to the website has been received and there is evidence that people 'check it out' now and again to see what the Forum is up to.



Margaret Conlon, Chairperson, speaking at the launch.

In September Sligo Forum launched its website at the council chamber. 25 people were in attendance. The website was officially launched by the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Cllr. Gerry Murray.



Forum members and guests at website launch.

PRESS RELEASES

The local press published seven of the press releases produced by the Forum in 2009. The Forum also utilised the 'notes' pages to highlight events and meetings happening in different areas.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Over the course of 2009, the Sligo County Community Forum has collaborated with a number of agencies and organisations:

- Application for Anti-poverty awareness seminar made with the Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM) of the County Development Board for 2010: This application was made to highlight the issues facing those in poverty and the policy response. Action being led by Sligo County Community Forum.
- Newsletter focusing on volunteerism: collaboration with Sligo Volunteer Centre to compile the second newsletter
- Collaboration with Sligo County Council, Community and Enterprise and Sligo Leader in undertaking a Broadband Survey of County Sligo to measure the level of service in the county and advocate for better broadband infrastructure for rural areas.
- Supported St. Angela's College to promote community support training initiatives and assesses interest for them in the project through the Forum e-database.

NEW CONSTITUTION

Following a process of negotiation, in December 2009 a new constitution was adopted by the Forum executive. The main changes made in the constitution are:

- 4 representatives from each Local Electoral Area in the County can be nominated to the Executive
- Nominations to the County Community Forum will take place every four years, no more than 6 months after the council elections (nominations to the Forum will take place early in 2010)
- Three out of 4 representatives in each area and all sectoral representatives will be required to resign their seats before a new nomination process takes place
- Elections of officers within the Executive will take place annually at an AGM

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REVIVING LOCAL AREA FORA

It was a goal of the Chairperson in 2009 that local fora would be revitalised. Meetings were held in each of the forum areas in late 2009. There was a small attendance at each meeting. The Forum is currently reviewing its communication strategy with local areas.

DIVERSITY TRAINING

In March 2009 Sligo County Community Forum in association with Claire Galligan Consultancy submitted a tender proposal to the Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee to carry out a 'Diversity Training' Project.

The partnership was successful in their bid. In 2009 work on the project began. The Forum Executive participated in 'Anti-Racism and Intercultural Training' facilitated by Siobhan Molloy. A number of other events and programmes will be taking place as part of the Diversity Training Project in 2010.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

In 2009, Sligo County Council became a sponsor of the Junior Achievement Ireland Programme. Junior Achievement is a voluntary organisation which works with public and private organisations throughout Ireland offering schools a range of enterprise and science programmes for students aged 5-18 years. The aims of Junior Achievement are to teach enterprise skills to young people and to target those at risk of early school leaving. Programmes are delivered in primary and secondary schools by trained volunteers from participating organisations with support from the teacher. Nine volunteers from both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council participated in and delivered the programme during the year.

Students create and run viable businesses as part of Junior Achievement's "Company Programme". On completion, they are invited to enter the National Company Competition. The winning teams from each of the Regional Finals are selected to represent their schools in the National Final – *the RDS Student Innovation Awards* which took place on the 27th and 28th of April 2009. One of Sligo's secondary schools was the winning team who went on to become the overall winners of the RDS Student innovation Awards 2009. They represented Ireland in the Junior *Achievement European Company of the Year* Competition 2009 in Rotterdam on 2nd and 5th of July 2009.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The ongoing work of managing accounts, updating the Forum membership database, filing, taking minutes and all of the associated administration work has been ongoing throughout the year. The Forum has been very lucky in having the support the FAS Community Employment Scheme. Through this they have employed Catherine Brennan who has been a major asset to the Forum in carrying out all of its administration work.

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Climbing Wall at Doorly Park – provided by RAPID Dormant Accounts Funding in 2009.

ABOUT RAPID

The RAPID Programme (Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment & Development) was launched in 2002 by the Minister for State for Local Development Eoin Ryan T.D. The RAPID Programme is now managed by Pobal under the auspice of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. There are now 51 areas in cities and towns around Ireland involved in the RAPID Programme, including the following parts of Sligo Town:

1. Cranmore Estate
2. Forthill Estate / Cartron Estate
3. Garavogue Villas / Doorly Park
4. St. Joseph's Terrace / St. Brigid's Place / Pilkington Terrace
5. Maugheraboy / Jinks Avenue / Tracey Avenue

The RAPID Programme has three specific objectives:

1. To develop a specific integrated policy focus across the Social Inclusion Measures identified in the National Development Plan directed at the social groups who are excluded, especially where cumulative disadvantage is pervasive.
2. To tackle, in particular, the spatial concentration of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion within the 51 identified designated disadvantaged areas.
3. To stem the social and economic costs of social exclusion by developing a range of integrated measures such that the physical, social and community infrastructure of designated communities is developed to allow them harness the social capital and capacity necessary for economic and community development.

The following Principles underpin the implementation of the programme:

- Community Participation and Local Ownership
- Promotion of Strategic Planning
- Co-ordination of provision of State Services
- Targeting of additional services, investment and facilities
- Building on Existing Structures
- Complementing existing initiatives

SLIGO RAPID PROGRAMME

A Focus on Disadvantage

Vision: "For communities and agencies to work together with a common purpose to eliminate disadvantage within the five RAPID areas of Sligo" The RAPID Programme in Sligo is co-ordinated at a local level by Pamela Anderson based in the Community & Enterprise Department and by an Area Implementation Team comprising of the following agencies – FÁS, VEC, Dept Social & Family Affairs, Sligo LEADER Partnership Company, Health Services Executive, Northside Community Resource Centre, Sligo Family Centre, Sligo Education Centre, Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Council, Garda Síochána and three community representatives representing the RAPID communities. The remit of the **Area Implementation Team (AIT)** is to take responsibility for the planning and implementation of the programme locally. The RAPID Programme is monitored by the City/County **Social Inclusion Measure (SIM)** group to ensure that all plans developed are fully integrated with the CDB and agency strategies.

Achievements of Sligo RAPID Programme to date

The RAPID Programme in Sligo over the past year has achieved many tangible and intangible results through the work and commitment of the Area Implementation Team to developing the programme at a local level.

The RAPID Local Area Plan 2008-2012 sets out the objectives and actions to be covered by the AIT in this period. This plan features community consultation, analysis of statistical data gathered from State and Voluntary agencies and development of thematic Action Plans.

The Plan features a number of Strategic Themes:

- Health & Family Support
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Youth Support
- Education
- Employment and Training
- Physical Environment.

Under each theme, an action plan has been developed and this is implemented by sub-groups.

PROJECTS IN RAPID AREAS

Dormant Accounts Funding in 2009 (DAF)

A number of applications were successful under the RAPID Additionality Fund in 2009 including:

1. **Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership 1** – provision of Climbing Wall at Doorly Park in partnership with Sligo Borough Council; Provision of specialist sports wheelchairs for use when playing basketball, netball etc.

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2. **Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership 2 (SSRP)** – The sporting programmes funded in 2008 and 2009 have been very successful in engaging young people from disadvantaged areas in a variety of sports including Swimming, Boxing, Dance, Gaelic Football, Angling and Court Games. Many of these sports were a new and exciting experience for the children. Without the RAPID funding it would not have been possible to run these activities at an affordable rate. SSRP, community organisations and sporting clubs have worked very closely in rolling out the various programmes and this has added significantly to the success of the sporting programmes to date.



Cranmore Boxing Club

3. **MCR Community Centre** was awarded funding in 2009 to develop a Lone Parents Group. This programme will be delivered in 2010 and based at the Centre. This will be a holistic programme that is inclusive of support, advocacy and based on personal and community development. The types of courses included will be Child Development, Caring for Children, Basic Computer Skills, Home Management/Budgeting, Personal Development, Assertiveness, Body and Soul Care, Communications and Health and Fitness.
4. **Glenview Stars Youth Soccer Club** – as a result of a successful application to the RAPID Additionality Dormant Accounts Fund, Glenview Stars were awarded funds to upgrade the changing room facilities on the training ground at Forthill. This has helped them to increase their membership and cater to both home and visiting teams when they have their matches.

COMMUNITY SAFETY TASKFORCE

The RAPID Co-ordinator convened this group which involves Gardai, Fire Officers, Housing Staff, Cranmore Regeneration Staff, County Veterinary Officer and community and voluntary group members in designing solutions to issues affecting the RAPID estates. An extensive action plan has been developed to progress initiatives in this area.

- **Illegal Money-lending Group** – arising out of the Community Safety Taskforce, this group works on the serious issue of money-lending which badly affects the lives of some residents in Sligo Town. Through community education, advocacy, awareness raising and referral to the various advice and enforcement agencies, the group is tackling this issue. Group membership includes RAPID, Money Advice and Budgeting Service, Credit Union, Sligo Social Services, Sligo Gardai, St Vincent de Paul, Cranmore Regeneration Project, community groups, local residents and business owners.

PEACE III RAPID URBAN COLLECTIVE

Nine different community and voluntary organisations have come together under the RAPID umbrella to promote anti-sectarian, anti-racist and reconciliatory practice through sports, youth activities, arts and education work. The involvement of Sligo residents in cross-border and single identity work during 2009-2010 has enriched the experiences of several hundred participants of all ages, ethnicities and social backgrounds in fulfilment of the aims of the Sligo Peace III Taskforce Action Plan. The success of this initiative was acknowledged nationally when the Collective was asked to contribute to a Good Practice DVD featuring other Peace III funded projects.

The six projects comprising the RAPID Urban Collective are:

Touch the Sky Performance Group involving the Model Arts and Niland Gallery and RehabCare is a cross-border artistic political discussion project involving persons with a disability from Sligo and Northern Ireland and culminating in a piece of work for public exhibition in 2010.

Win Together is a sports-themed project operated by Sligo Immigrant Organisation, working to engage with members of the immigrant worker community, Irish adults and members of the many ethnic groups based in Sligo Town. This project involves soccer and volleyball tournaments which integrate rather than divide people by nationality and ethnicity and in so doing, raise issues of racism and prejudice through lively discussion and social contact. This sport event, both volleyball and football tournaments, aims to fight racism through team working and fair competition.

Youth Boxing, Dance and Equestrian Project organised by Sligo Traveller Support Group involves Travellers from North and South of Ireland with settled communities using the cultural traditions of boxing and horsemanship and contemporary dance to celebrate difference.

Schools Cross-Border Initiative, facilitated by Sligo Education Centre, is an educational initiative in which parents, schoolchildren and teachers from Sligo Town meet with their counterparts in Northern Ireland to work towards common goals and engage in dialogue and activities about cultural, national and religious difference. There are cross-border residentials, outdoor pursuits and team-building to help learn about each other's cultures and undergo training in conflict resolution and management.

Soccer – the Beautiful Game is a project managed jointly by MCR Community Centre and Cranmore Community Co-operative and involves a diverse range of young people from these RAPID areas and Globe House coming together to share their common passion for football. While learning soccer skills and team playing, the young people are also looking at issues that can bring conflict to the game such as sectarianism, lack of respect for difference and racism.

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Inter-cultural Training Programme – Positive Relations

As part of the Peace III RAPID Urban Collective, Sligo Northside CDP and Resource Centre is providing an Intercultural Training Programme. The aim of the training is to enable participants to challenge racism and sectarianism and other negative attitudes which can result in discriminatory practices against minority groups and individuals. The objectives are to deliver a programme which examines concepts and issues of diversity, equality, cultural difference, sedentarism, racism and sectarianism and which promotes an understanding of life from the perspective of members of minority groups.

Festival

The culmination of the 2009-2010 work undertaken by the Urban Collective under the umbrella of the RAPID Programme, will be a Festival to showcase the performances and new skills learned as a result of the various endeavours. This will take place in autumn 2010.

RAPID ECO-BAGS PROJECT

One of former Mayor Veronica Cawley's last official functions in 2009 involved presenting prizes to the winners of the RAPID Eco Bag competition. The event was held in the Mayor's Parlour in City Hall and was the culmination of the environmentally-themed design competition organised through the schools in the RAPID areas of Sligo. RAPID operates in five areas of Sligo City to reduce disadvantage and promote investment, agency and community co-operation and strategic planning.

The competition was promoted around all of the schools servicing RAPID areas of Sligo City and was a roaring success with over 200 entries being received. The four winning designs are reproduced on the reusable shopping bag which has been issued to all households in the RAPID areas to promote environmental issues. Sligo Institute of Technology student, Fintan Smith, worked on this competition as part of his student placement within the County Council. All of the entries, including the winning designs, were on display during June 2009 in the foyer of the City Hall.

The four winners, who were presented with prizes by Mayor Cawley, were: Chloe Scanlon from Our Lady of Mercy National School, Paris Sheridan from St Edward's National School, Aisling Foley from Mercy College, Deáglán Connolly-Bree of Sligo School Project.

The Eco Bag competition was organized and funded through Sligo County Council Environmental Section Anti-Litter/Anti-Graffiti Grants.

Mayor Cawley spoke about "the important messages that were being conveyed through the entries in the competition – "Save energy", "Keep Sligo Green", and "Reduce Litter" – environmental messages that our young people believe in and which every one of us should accept. It is the role of the wider community to continue with our task of promoting the need for protecting and preserving our unique environment. Our younger generation has grasped the wider significance of this issue, and through their example my hope is that the people of Sligo will follow in their footsteps."



Eco bag winners and parents with Cllr Veronica Cawley.



Design for Eco bag competition by Aisling Foley.

Contact details for Sligo RAPID Programme are:

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SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Background:

Joint Policing Committees were established under Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. They offer local authority elected members, An Garda Síochána, members of the Public & members of the Oireachtas, the opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of life within communities, by working together as a collective body. A Joint Policing Committee was established in the Sligo County Council Administrative Area in December 2008.

Membership of the Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committees:

- 13 local authority elected members with at least 2 from each local electoral area. Each political grouping on the County Council must be represented on the JPC. The Cathaoirleach is an ex-officio member.
- 5 members of the Oireachtas. Each political grouping represented by Oireachtas members should have representation among the five.
- **The County Manager** who is an ex-officio member and a person nominated by him.
- 2 Garda officers nominated by the Commissioner and accompanied by other Garda Officers as need arises.
- 3 persons representing the Community and Voluntary sector in the county.

Functions of the JPC:

To serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendation on matters affecting the policing of the Sligo County Council administrative area by:

1. Keeping under review:

- levels & patterns of crime, disorder & anti-social behaviour in that area.
- factors underlying & contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.

2. Advising the Local Authority and the Gardaí on how best they might perform their functions.

3. Arranging & hosting public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area.

In accordance with the JPC guidelines an annual work plan must be developed and agreed by the members. A priority action of the 2009 Work Programme was the establishment of three sub committees as follows:

(i) Road Safety

A Road Safety Road Show is planned for October 2010 to highlight the dangers and consequences to young people of driving without due care.

(ii) Rural Isolation / Older People

The establishment of a Friendly Call Service is being researched by this group; this is a free telephone service for older people offering a telephone call one to two mornings per week to check in with people.

(iii) Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Working with the North West Alcohol Forum and North West Regional Drugs Taskforce around raising awareness of this issue and the interventions/help available.

The Joint Policing Committee is a facilitating body and a forum for discussion. It engages with local communities to the greatest degree possible as they are an important resource in tackling many of the issues currently being addressed by the Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committee.



Members of the Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committee.

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PLAY & RECREATION – COUNTY PLAY DAY

Sunday the 5th July saw Doorly Park taken over by children and families for County Play Day, part of the National Play Day initiative. This initiative is promoted by the National Play and Recreation Resource Centre (NPRRC), the key aim of which is to promote traditional games and activities and give all children an opportunity to take part.

A collection of events relating to play and sports was organised through collaboration between Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Childcare Committee and Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership. Representatives from the Rugby Club and Sligo Rovers were on hand to provide outdoor sporting and play activities. For the little ones, activities such as arts and crafts, messy play and face painters were provided. Story telling has always been a huge tradition in Ireland and the children and parents were treated to a wonderful story telling event provided by Sligo Library services.

One of the highlights of the day was the arrival of the Fire Engine, and the fire fighters kept the attention of all children, big and small, with demonstrations of fire hoses and the workings of the engine. The event closed with races - parents and children participated in the many races from 100metres sprint to sack races. In excess of 80 families participated in the day.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

In 2009, Sligo County Council became a sponsor of the Junior Achievement Ireland Programme. Junior Achievement is a voluntary organization which works with public and private organisations throughout Ireland offering schools a range of 17 enterprise and science programmes for students aged 5-18 years. The aims of Junior Achievement are to teach enterprise skills to young people and to target those at risk of early school leaving. Programmes are delivered in primary and secondary schools by trained volunteers from participating organizations with support from the teacher. Nine volunteers from both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council participated in and delivered the programme during the year.



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TIDY TOWNS

Sligo County Council has worked in partnership with Tidy Towns groups providing advice and financial support for a long number of years. This relationship has led to:

- a steady increase in group marks
- improvements in the physical enhancement works in towns and villages
- the promotion of community development.

Sligo County Council has run a local Tidy Towns competition for the past number of years and judging for the 2009 competition took place in early May with the judging panel comprising of staff from various departments within the Council. There were 114 entries from across the county including entries from schools and local businesses. A Special Merit Award was given to Mrs. Violet Henry, in recognition of all her hard work over many years in keeping the roadside, adjacent to her house, at Lugnadiffa filled with flowers and shrubs and enhancing the countryside.

Tidy Towns Committees who entered the National Tidy Towns Competition were also eligible for the Tidy Towns Grants Scheme to assist their on-going activities. Members of Tidy Towns Committees also attended a free workshop on Wildlife and Natural Amenities, arranged by Sligo County Council, in the National Parks & Wildlife offices in Ballinacree.

PRIDE OF PLACE 2009

The Pride of Place Competition, a Co-operation Ireland competition, now in its 7th year recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community groups make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area. It differs from other similar projects in that they specifically recognise the involvement of the local community in all aspects of rural and urban life including regeneration projects, promoting social inclusion and cohesion and the promotion of heritage and environmental awareness. Nominations are made by Local Authorities, who see at first hand what is being carried out at local level.

Sligo County Council in co-operation with Sligo Borough Council once again nominated groups to represent Sligo in the All Island competition. Sligo has been awarded prizes and has been shortlisted for prizes every year since its first entries in 2004.

In 2009 achieved the following results:

- Ballintogher Community Enterprises
- Runner up - Category 1 Population 0-200
- The C.R.I.B. Youth Project & Health Café
- Runner up - Single Issue Category – Youth

"Being involved in Pride of Place gave us, the staff, volunteers and young people of the C.R.I.B. the opportunity to really stop and reflect on all that we do here. It made us recognise how much each individual project does, but when interconnected creates something even greater than any one by itself. We had to profile all aspects of our work and did this through

words and pictures. Having to detail all aspects made us realise how much actually happens here! We were well supported and encouraged by staff in the Council and developed new relationships which opened new opportunities of working together. All in all Pride of Place was a positive experience and we were very privileged to represent Sligo nationally and take home a runners up prize in the Youth Section!" Anne Marie Regan.

- Cranmore Community Co-operative Society
- Runner up - Housing Estate Category
- Belt Torc Co. Ltd
- Shortlisted – Single Issue Category – Heritage

"For Belt Torc Company in Moyough, entry and participation in the 'Pride of Place' competition was a very positive and enriching experience. We endeavoured to detail some of our achievements, and realised in the process how much we had achieved in recent years. Making our presentation to the judges at local level was an interesting and enjoyable experience. Even though we did not in the end win a National Award, we learned a lot from attending the Awards Ceremony in Downpatrick, Co.Down. The sheer breadth and scope of voluntary achievement in Ireland is amazing, and gives encouragement to us all to continue with our efforts." Brian Cahill.

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR – GENERAL GRANT SCHEME 2009

The Community & Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme 2009 attracted 133 valid applications from a wide and varied selection of Community and Voluntary Organisations working in County Sligo.

In 2009, the Scheme was divided into two categories:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Community & Voluntary Sector General Grant | 70 applications |
| (b) Burial Ground General Grant | 63 applications |

(a) Community and Voluntary Sector General Grant

The aim of this Grant Scheme is to support and encourage the work and activities of Community and Voluntary Organisations throughout the County.

A total of 70 applications were received and Groups were awarded grants of between €200 and €1500.

(b) Burial Ground General Grant

The aim of this Grant Scheme is to support and encourage the work and activities of Burial Ground Committees who carry out excellent work in the upkeep and maintenance of their burial grounds. A total of 63 applications were received. Grant aid of €400 was given to county based burial ground committees.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Arts & Cultural Services

VOLUNTEER CENTRE 2009:

Sligo Arts Service and Programme 2009

Sligo Arts Service develops the arts in Sligo, so that the distinct contribution of the arts to people's lives is fostered. Sligo Arts Service makes available high quality experiences across the arts to the benefit of Sligo citizens, visitors and artists. Employing a range of support mechanisms and working with a variety of partners, Sligo Arts Service works to ensure that Sligo's long-standing reputation as a cultural county is secured and built upon.

In its Annual Budget Sligo County Council made funding provision that supports the individual artist, together with vital support for arts venues, networks, festivals, events, commissions, residencies, programmes and projects. Budgetary cutbacks impacted on the allocation of grants and on programme provision.

Under Contribution to the Arts, Sligo County Council provides significant support to Sligo's important network of arts organisations who have national and international reach, namely The Model, Blue Raincoat Theatre Company, Sligo Art Gallery, The Hawk's Well Theatre and Sligo Live. These organisations act as core infrastructural pillars that support artists and arts projects. Furthermore, they provide employment and do important outreach and education work with communities across the city and county. Maintaining support to these organisations through the downturn will be crucial to sustaining Sligo's reputation as a 'cultural county'.

Sligo County Council also provides essential financial support to a broad range of voluntary and community based festivals and events and to individual artists through contributions and advertised grant/bursary schemes. Sligo Arts Service regards this network as the backbone of arts and cultural activity at local level.

Sligo County Council Arts Service delivers high quality public arts services for the people of Sligo, together with a highly regarded annual arts programme that is responsive to local community need. Through its strategy 'Space for Art' (Sligo Arts Plan 2007-2012) provision is made for safeguarding the cultural and artistic life of the city and county.

Culture Night Sligo

Sligo City celebrated its first Culture Night on Friday the 25th September from 6-10pm and the phenomenal success of the initiative has illustrated the transformative power of Arts and Culture in a time of recession. The streets of Sligo were alive on Culture Night with thousands of people pouring into the city streets to socialise and to take advantage of the diverse range of free events on offer. Sligo's offering was one of the largest of the nationwide Culture Night programme, and illustrated the rich diversity of artistic life in the county.

Culture Night was co-ordinated locally by Sligo Arts Service, nationally by Temple Bar Cultural Trust. The event was funded by Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Council, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and RAPID and delivered by artists, local arts organisations, cultural groups and the individuals listed in the programme of events. Bus Eireann Sligo came on board as a key partner through the Sligo Music Bus concept.

Culture Night Sligo offered Sligo citizens of all ages a great opportunity to explore a creative Sligo. 50 free cultural events and workshops provided a snap shot of Sligo's arts and cultural offer.



Peace III

In 2009 Sligo Arts Service successfully secured funding to deliver two innovative Peace III projects; The Yeatsian Legacy with partners The Model, Institute of Technology Sligo and Omagh District Council; and The Legacy of Belief. Over a 2 year period 2009-2010, these projects will engage with communities in Sligo, Derry, Omagh, Belfast and Portadown through cross border, cross community and cross cultural programmes that work towards peace and reconciliation, and, through creating these events and opportunities, celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in Sligo. These Projects are delivered by Sligo Arts Service & Partners, supported by the PEACE III Programme, managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Sligo County Council on behalf of Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee.

Per Cent for Art

In 2009 the Public Art commissions series Unravelling Developments concluded having produced 10 art projects in the county and city. These projects were funded solely by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government "Per Cent for Art Scheme". The commissions involved significant levels of community involvement, which proved to be very popular. Feedback from the public confirmed that the projects completed are of high artistic quality and capture distinctive aspects of Sligo.



Art at Salmon Amenity Area.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Arts & Cultural Services

MUSIC PROGRAMME

Sligo celebrated the 10th **Vogler Spring Festival** with another gathering of outstanding Irish and International performers. Having secured a place as one of Ireland's most distinguished classical music festivals, the festival at St Columba's Church Drumcliffe once again played host to many of the world's great musicians and composers. Over the four-day May Bank Holiday weekend capacity audiences attended nine concerts covering three hundred years of music. Music critic Michael Dervan was commissioned by Sligo Arts Service to write an article marking 10 years of the Vogler Spring Festival 2000-2009. The article looked at classical music performance/promotion in Ireland, and the issues affecting Sligo and the regions, as a background to the Vogler Quartet in Sligo residency 1999-2004 and the first Vogler Spring Festival 2000.

SLIGO MUSIC FESTIVALS

The Sligo Music Festivals Report by Fergus Sheil offered the commissioners (Sligo Arts Service and The Model) a range of individual recommendations to maximise the work of the three key festivals at the centre of the report - Sligo New Music Festival, Sligo Festival of Baroque Music and the Vogler Spring Festival - as well as making a significant recommendation to the development of music more broadly in Sligo. Sligo Arts Service presented the findings and recommendations of the report to the music sector in Sligo and work is ongoing and will be further developed in 2010 to promote and develop Sligo Music.

Sligo Arts Service funded Con Brio to run the high calibre **Sligo Music Series** and **Sligo Jazz Project** in hosting the annual August event which brings top international jazz professionals to tutor and perform in Sligo town.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES & MUSIC: KNOWING THE SCORE

Following the completion of a two year research project examining Local Authorities' contribution to music development in Ireland, a National Music Symposium was held during March 2009 to launch the research report. Entitled "Local Authorities & Music: Knowing the Score," this publication is the result of a partnership project between Wexford County Council, Sligo County Council, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra and the Arts Council, which was undertaken by Research Fellow Ailbhe Kenny, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. This publication recognises Local Authorities as a vital part of the current and future infrastructure for music development in Ireland.

ARTS AND EDUCATION

For over a decade **Live Music in the Classroom** Phases 1& 2 and Visual Arts Awareness Programme **Primary Colours** have fostered innovative, long-term partnerships between primary schools and creative professionals in County Sligo. These partnerships involve artists, performers and teachers working in new ways to inspire thousands of children, and to challenge how they work and experiment with new ideas.

ARTS AND HEALTH

Sligo has an adopted policy and strategic framework for arts and health, as expressed in the 'HE+ART' Arts & Health Strategy 2007-2012. In the intervening two years aspects of the strategy such as the implementation of core programme strands focusing on Older People and Children and the Arts in Mental Health have been implemented, but due to the economic downturn the setting up of an Arts & Health Service for Sligo has been put on hold. Augmented by local, national and international research, 'HE+ART' taps into over a decade of learning acquired by health service users, older people, children, artists, arts administrators and health professionals.

The annual programme of arts and health work in partnership with the HSE West Services for Older Peoples and Health Promotion is ongoing in schools and community groups and the **Bealtaine Festival Sligo** again celebrated creativity in older age community with a month long festival of events, workshops and exhibitions. Among numerous events, singer Cathy Jordan was commissioned to write and perform a new song 'These Old Feet' and photographer James Fraher exhibited a stunning exhibition of portraits of older people from around the city and county.

COUNTY SLIGO YOUTH THEATRE

Never has there been a time where it is more important to provide forums and opportunities for young people to develop and explore their creative talent. Sligo Arts Service views youth theatre as a pivotal resource for the development of youth arts in the city and county invests in it accordingly by funding the independent Board of County Sligo Youth Theatre and its professional Director to deliver one major production and a weekly programme of workshops. It is worth highlighting that a number of former Youth Theatre members have set up their own enterprises in Sligo e.g. Daft Antics.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Section is responsible for a wide range of services spanning three programme groups. The objectives outlined in the councils Corporate Plan (2004-2009) are to;

- Provide a clean living environment for the citizens of Sligo
- Promote the conservation of areas of natural environmental value
- Protect and improve water and air quality in Sligo
- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill

During 2009, the focus was to continue to introduce and implement measures to achieve these corporate objectives.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Waste Management
- Water Quality Management
- Pollution Control
- Beaches
- Water Safety
- Casual Trading
- Environmental Awareness
- Environmental Enforcement
- Litter Management
- Noise Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Climate Change

AGRICULTURE & EDUCATION

- Food Safety

MISCELLANEOUS

- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The level of interest in waste minimisation and effective waste management has dramatically increased in recent years and diverting waste from landfill is one of the greatest waste management challenges facing our Country. The Connaught Waste Management Plan (2006-2011) re-emphasises the waste management targets to be achieved in order to comply with National and EU targets, namely: Recycle 48%, Thermally Treat 33% and Landfill 19% of our waste. However, in order to reach the ambitious target of 48% recycling of household waste, the 'third bin' for organic kitchen waste needs to be introduced to the collection system.

The brown bin was introduced on a limited basis at the end of 2009 to increase the percentage of organic waste that is diverted from landfill. This is required under the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations

2009. Virtually all commercial and business premises will be required to segregate their organic waste and present it for collection separately. This will see the Waste Enforcement Officer's carrying out inspections of premises to ensure that they are compliant with the Regulations, as well as further consultation and cooperation with the private waste collectors operating in the County.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Recycling Centres

Dry recyclable wastes are catered for the general public at Greenstar Civic Amenity Site, Deepwater Quay, Sligo and Tubbercurry Recycling Centre and Connolly Park, Tubbercurry. The use of these facilities continues to grow and complement the separate kerbside collection of dry recyclable materials, which is available throughout Sligo. It is also envisaged that during the course of 2010, a facility for the disposal of Household Hazardous waste will be provided at the Tubbercurry Civic Amenity site.

Glass is diverted from landfill via a network of 40 bottle banks located throughout Sligo town and county. A total of 1,339 tonnes of glass were recycled in Sligo in 2009.

Ballisodare Composting Facility

This Composting Facility at Union Road, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo opened in June 2008. This facility accepts green waste and sells peat free compost generated at the site. There has been significant development at the site during the course of 2009 with new equipment being purchased and the site itself being improved. The site continues to be a great success. Home composters could also be purchased at this site for €35 which also helps to divert organic waste from landfill.

Landfill

Landfill is the least preferred option in dealing with waste, however, landfill is required to deal with waste that cannot be recycled, composted or thermally treated. Therefore, the development of a North Connaught Landfill to deal with this interim waste, and to ultimately deal with the 19% of residual waste in 2013, continued to be discussed by all relevant Local Authorities in 2009.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Funding of Enforcement Office

Proceeds from a number of initiatives at national level including the Plastic Bag Levy and the Landfill Levy are providing 100% funding for waste enforcement teams in Local Authorities across the country.

- Historic landfill issues and
- General compliance with all waste regulations that are currently in force.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Environmental Services

Role of Enforcement Office

The main role of the Waste Enforcement Section is in to ensure that waste is properly managed in a way that avoids environmental pollution, increases diversion from landfill rates and does not allow for non compliant operators to have a competitive advantage over compliant operators. The areas that the office worked on in 2009 included:

- Waste facility and waste collection permits
- Waste Presentation (including WM (Food Waste) Regs 2009)
- WEEE recycling
- Waste movements (including exports)
- General complaints
- General advice
- Illegal dumping
- Burning complaints
- Ban on Smokey Fuels
- Farm plastics
- End-of-Life vehicles
- Historic landfill issues and
- General compliance with all waste regulations that are currently in force.

STATISTICS

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Waste Management related complaints/queries | 567 |
| Waste Management Inspections | 519 |

End-of-Life Vehicles

One of Sligo County Council's waste management priorities in 2009 was the Waste Management (End-Of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006. Enforcement of these Regulations was carried out by inspections, road checkpoints and by two aerial surveys, which identified sites where scrap vehicles were being stored in a manner that could result in environmental pollution. Subsequent investigations and enforcement measures were carried out at these sites. In 2009 there was one registered Authorised Treatment Facility in Sligo where members of the public could deposit their old cars free of charge.

Waste Presentation

The work carried out with Waste Presentation has resulted in an improved waste collection service for the county, and a greater volume of waste being collected and disposed of in an appropriate manner. This area will continue to require a significant investment of effort to ensure that services continue to improve and expand.

Multi Agency Approach

As well as carrying out inspections at various sites, a number of coordinated multi agency approaches to waste enforcement were employed. This included the carrying out, in conjunction with the Gardai and other local authorities, of regular road check points relating to waste movements. This exercise also helped to increase public awareness of the waste enforcement section.

Historic landfill issues

These are landfills which operated without a licence (no national legislation in place at time of operation) but are now required to be regularised via legislation and the Code of Practice titled "Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites". This work

primarily involves determining and breaking the links between the source of pollution, pathway of pollution and the receptor. Significant work was undertaken in this area in 2009 in identifying these facilities and in determining the environmental risk associated with some of them. This body of work will continue into 2010 and beyond.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The role of the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) is to promote positive environmental action throughout County Sligo. The Environmental Awareness Officer works in tandem with schools, community groups and members of the public to encourage them to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

In the first quarter of 2009, the EAO organized a number of initiatives with community groups and organisations throughout the county. One of the most successful environmental education campaigns is Green Schools Programme. However, due to the absence of our EAO from April 2009, all of this work was carried out last year by An Taisce and our Green Projects Officer.

Sligo County Council continued to work with the Green Schools during 2009. With the help of An Taisce's local Green Schools Development Officers, five seminars were organised during the autumn months to support teachers, Green Schools Co-Ordinators and others involved in the Programme. These events were well attended, with some 42 schools sending representatives. For the first time, a seminar was offered in Tobercurry, which facilitated attendance from the South of the County. By the end of year, there were 82 registered Green Schools in Sligo County. Of these, 62% had been previously awarded the Green Flag and most had already renewed their Flag on several occasions. Given the time limits that apply once the first Flag has been achieved, this shows a high level of sustained commitment to the Campaign amongst Sligo schools.

The four Green Schools 'themes' on which participating schools focus in turn are: Litter & Waste, Energy, Water and Travel. In 2009, Sligo was selected by An Taisce to pilot their proposed new theme of Biodiversity. The pilot commenced in a small number of schools in September with a view to launching the theme nationwide in 2010.

The Anti-Litter Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant and Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund offers financial support to groups that wish to organize environmental projects or raise awareness of environmental issues. **The Local Agenda 21 – Environment Partnership Fund** promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. In 2009, 16 groups received funding under this grant scheme. €9,604 was granted from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which must be matched by the local authority, bringing a total of funding to €19,208.

Funding of €25,000 was awarded to 12 groups for public education and awareness initiatives on litter and graffiti under the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Awareness Scheme 2009.



Riverstown Outdoor garden 2009 winner.

**COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS
& CULTURAL SERVICES &
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE**

Environmental Services

LITTER

In 2009, the Sligo County Council continued its vigorous campaign in its effort to combat illegal dumping activity under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 – 2003 as amended.

The following is a breakdown of enforcement measures carried out during 2009.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of Complaints/Investigations/Queries/Inspections | 430 |
| No. of On-the-spot fines issued | 19 |
| No. of On-the-spot fines paid | 17 |
| No. of Convictions paid | 4 |
| No. of Section 9 issued | 2 |

Operation Clean Sweep continued in 2009 and has so far been introduced to seven towns and villages in the county.

Litter Monitoring surveys were again carried out by Sligo County Council from March to June by the Litter Warden in towns and villages in the county.

BRING BANKS

There are a total of 40 bring bank sites in the county and borough area of Sligo. Eleven of these sites have CCTV systems installed to combat the affects of illegal dumping. Enforcement of such illegal dumping by our Waste Enforcement Office and our Litter Warden continued to be priority in 2009. Through this enforcement action and the employment of a dedicated Bring Bank maintenance person, the Bring Banks in Sligo are now in excellent condition, so much so that other Councils are looking at the techniques employed by Sligo, which have achieved substantial savings.



CASUAL TRADING

In 2009 the Council had Designated Trading Areas at 7 locations in the County -

- Rosses Point
- Enniscrone
- Coolaney
- Tubbercurry
- Ballymote
- Riverstown
- Dromore West

There were 13 No. Traders licensed in the County. Regular inspections were carried out by an authorised officer to ensure that the trading areas were being operated in accordance with the Casual Trading Bye Laws.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality monitoring and management is governed by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and provides for water management on the basis of River Basin Districts (RBD's). The WFD aims to provide a new, strengthened system for the protection and improvement of water resources and water-dependent ecosystems. The WFD required that our waters achieve at least good status and that none of our waters deteriorate by 2015. Extended time frames allowing until 2021 to comply with the provisions of the Directive have been included for groundwater and specific surface waters in the relevant River Basin District Management Plans.

The functional area of Sligo County Council is located within three River Basin Districts, the Western RBD (most of County Sligo is in this RBD), the Shannon International RBD and the North Western International RBD. The overall objective of river basin projects is to establish an integrated monitoring and management system for all waters within a River Basin District, to develop a dynamic programme of management measures and to produce a River Basin Management Plan. The plans identify the specific environmental objectives to be achieved by the end of 2015 and the programme of measures which will be undertaken to achieve the objectives. Sligo County Council is responsible for the implementation of the River Basin Management Plans. Environment Section staff were actively involved throughout 2009 in the consultation process and preparation of the river basin district management plans. The River Basin Management Plans were published in 2009 and are due to be adopted in 2010. Sligo County Council must commence implementation of the plans in July 2010. The plans place considerable demands on local authority resources in terms of achieving the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

In 2009, as part of routine annual work programmes, the Water Quality Management Section continued the monitoring, protection and improvement of water resources and enforcement work as outlined below;

Environmental Services

Water Pollution

Enforcement of water pollution legislation is an important element in protecting and improving water quality in County Sligo. In 2009 the Environment Section dealt with 99 complaints relating to water pollution issues. Warning letters and enforcement notices were issued under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 as amended, where necessary. A key role of the Environment Section is the provision of advice in relation to the protection of water quality and related pollution issues.

Discharge Licences

Sligo County Council is the responsible licensing authority for discharges to waters and sewers in accordance with the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended. The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No 272 of 2009) were introduced in 2009 and place an obligation on Public Authorities to carry out functions in a manner that protects and improves water quality to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Public consultation was also carried out on proposed new groundwater regulations during 2009 and the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations were subsequently issued in early 2010.

28 premises are licensed to discharge to waters under Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 as amended and 73 premises are licensed to discharge to sewers under Section 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended. Significant work was undertaken in 2009 in relation to regulating discharges to sewers under Section 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended in Sligo Borough, Strandhill, Enniscrone and Tubbercurry. Sligo County Council commenced a number of reviews of existing discharge to waters licences as per requirements under the new Surface Water Regulations 2009.

As part of routine work programmes discharges to waters and sewers were investigated throughout the county to ensure compliance with water pollution legislation, with enforcement action taken where necessary.

Catchment Management

Protection and improvement of water quality includes surface water, groundwater, estuarine and coastal waters. The main sources of water pollution are agriculture, forestry, industrial discharges, wastewater treatment plant discharges and effluent discharges from un-serviced developments. It is the objective of Sligo County Council to control the aforementioned developments and activities, through planning and development policies and through the enforcement of national water quality legislation, to ensure they do not adversely affect water quality. The River Basin District Management Plans have identified the current water quality status of surface waters and groundwater bodies in County Sligo and the current catchment management programme of inspections will be expanded to ensure the requirements of the Water Framework Directive is achieved. Targeted inspections in specific catchment areas will be central to improving "poor" and "moderate" status waters and protecting "good" and "high" status waters into the future.

Designated Shellfish Waters

In 2009, Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay were designated as shellfish waters in accordance with the Shellfish Waters Directive and the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006). These Regulations require the preparation of Pollution Reduction Programmes for each designated shellfish area with the objective of protecting or improving water quality in the designated shellfish areas. The DOEHLG has prepared Pollution Reduction Programmes for Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay which must be implemented by Sligo County Council. Reports on the implementation of the Pollution Reduction Programmes must be submitted to the DOEHLG on an annual basis. The Pollution Reduction Programmes aim to achieve protection and improvement in water quality through the use of the following actions or measures;

- Improvements in local authority wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Licensing of local authority wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Agricultural wastewater surveys
- Domestic wastewater surveys
- Licensing of commercial premises under Section 4 and 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended.

Increased catchment management surveys will be required in these particular catchment areas into the future in order to bring about improvements in water quality as required by the Pollution Reduction Programmes. The Pollution Reduction Programmes may be reviewed at intervals to determine if additional actions or measures are required.



Shell fish Waters - Sligo Bay.

Environmental Services

Source Protection

Agricultural and domestic wastewater inspections are routinely carried out, with follow up enforcement action taken where necessary. In 2009, the Environment Section worked with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), on the Draft Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo. The Groundwater Protection Scheme was finalised in 2009 and the new Groundwater Protection Scheme is taken into consideration in the routine assessment of planning applications received by Sligo County Council. Cryptosporidium risk assessments were carried out on the 6 public water supplies within the functional area of Sligo County Council as per Environmental Protection Agency recommendations. Feeder stream monitoring was carried out in the source catchments of specific drinking water supplies.

Planning Applications

The Environment Section assesses and makes recommendations on all forestry, commercial, and agricultural planning applications in addition to domestic planning applications located in sensitive areas throughout County Sligo. Planning applications are assessed in terms of potential environmental impacts and recommendations made regarding appropriate planning conditions. The Environment Section also has a role in the assessment of compliance with planning conditions. In 2009, 150 planning applications were assessed by the Environment Section. In total 241 inspections were carried out by Environment Section staff relating to planning issues in 2009 including quarrying activities.

The Section was also involved in making a submission in relation to the draft Sligo and Environs Development Plan and the draft County Development Plan and draft Mini-area Plans.

Site Suitability Assessments

In 2005 a panel of approved site assessors was set up in conjunction with the Environment Section. The Environment Section is responsible for the regulation of the approved panel and we continue to work closely with the panel to ensure a consistent approach to site assessment. The Environmental Protection Agency published a new wastewater treatment manual – CODE OF PRACTICE: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10) in 2009, replacing the previous code of practice published in 2000. All planning applications for one off houses are now assessed in accordance with the requirements of the new code of practice as per DOEHLG requirements. Preliminary discussions were carried out in 2009 to carry out a review of the site assessor's panel to take into consideration the requirements of the new EPA manual. It is proposed to progress this issue further during 2010.

NOISE POLLUTION

The Environment Section provides advice and information on residential and commercial noise under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. In 2009, 44 inspections were carried out by the Environment Section relating to noise nuisance with appropriate advice and guidance provided.

AIR POLLUTION

Sligo enjoys excellent air quality, and is fortunate not to have heavy industry discharging to the atmosphere. Sligo County Council continued to enforce two Air Pollution Licences.

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

Most of the monitoring programmes outlined below are carried out by Sligo County Council's laboratory staff in the Councils well equipped laboratory.

DRINKING WATER

The quality of drinking water in Ireland is governed by the EC (*Drinking Water*) (No. 2) Regulations, 2007. During 2009, 13 Public Water Supplies, 14 Private Group Water Schemes and 24 Public Group Water Schemes were monitored in Co. Sligo in accordance with these regulations. Regular consultation was maintained with the Health Service Executive in relation to drinking water to ensure public health was protected. In addition, Sligo County Council reported to the Environmental Protection Agency on drinking water quality throughout the year.

DRINKING WATER ABSTRACTION POINTS

Public Water Supply abstraction points were monitored in accordance with the EC (Surface Water intended for the abstraction of drinking water) Regulations, 1989. This monitoring together with our catchment management work helps to ensure that our drinking water sources achieve maximum protection.

URBAN WATER WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS

The quality of final effluent from urban waste water treatment plants in the County was monitored to ensure compliance with standards set by the EC (Urban Wastewater Treatment) Regulations, 2004. During 2009, all UWW Treatment plants in County Sligo were monitored in accordance with these Regulations. Significant investment under the Water Services Investment Programme should help to address deficiencies at some of these plants.

RIVERS AND LAKES

In 2009, monitoring of Sligo's rivers and lakes was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This monitoring was carried out by the EPA on behalf of Sligo County Council. A total of 244 river samples and 40 lake samples were taken during 2009.

Environmental Services

BATHING WATER

Five bathing areas in County Sligo were monitored in accordance with the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992 (S.I 155 of 1992) and amendments, during 2009. These included the designated bathing areas at Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Rosses Point, and the Green Coast Beaches at Streedagh and Cliffoney. During 2009, all five beaches complied with the mandatory bathing water standards set by the Regulations. With regard to Blue Flag Awards, which are based on compliance with a number of standards, including water quality for the previous bathing season (i.e. the 2008 bathing season), only one beach in Sligo was awarded the Blue Flag for 2009. Mullaghmore Beach was awarded the Blue Flag, however, due to on-going problems with cattle on the beach, no lifeguard cover could be provided for health and safety reasons, and therefore the Blue Flag had to be withdrawn for the 2009 season. Rosses Point beach failed to comply with the strict guide standards set by the Regulations during the 2008 bathing season and therefore was not awarded the Blue Flag for 2009. The water quality at Enniscrone Beach complied with the strict guide standards during 2008, however because this beach had lost its Blue Flag in 2008 (based on water quality for 2007), two clear consecutive years of compliance with the guide standards were required by An Taisce in order for Enniscrone to regain its Blue Flag status for 2009. Dunmoran and Streedagh beach retained the Green Coast Award for excellent water quality and beach management.



Rosses Point.

WATER SAFETY

In 2009, Sligo County Council employed the following staff on our beaches for the Bathing Season.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rosses Point | 2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June. 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August. |
| Streedagh | 2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June. 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August. |
| Enniscrone | 2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August. |
| Dunmoran | 2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in July & August. |
| Strandhill | 2 Part-time Beach Wardens for weekends in June. 2 full-time Beach Wardens for July & August. |
| Enniscrone | 1 Part-time Beach Warden for weekends in June. 1 full-time Beach Warden for July & August |

Sligo County Council Beach Bye-Laws govern the beaches at Enniscrone, Mullaghmore, Streedagh, Rosses Point, Dunmoran, Aghris and Strandhill, Co. Sligo.

Enforcement of the Bye-laws by Life Guards, Beach Wardens and Authorised Staff was priority and a total of 8 fines were issued in 2009.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE, ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Environmental Services

FOOD SAFETY

Sligo County Council enforces Food Safety Regulations in small slaughterhouses and small meat manufacturing plants under Service Contract to the FSAI. The Service Contract between Sligo County Council and the FSAI which is common to all local authorities was drawn up following negotiations between the City and County Managers Association, The FSAI and The Local Authority Veterinary Service. The current contract was adopted by the Council in 2006 and will be in place until 2010. It is currently proposed to merge the Food Safety Authority, The Irish Medicines Board and the Office of Tobacco Control and this is expected to happen by the end of 2010.

Funding for the service is provided by Central Government through the FSAI. The budget was reduced in 2009 and further reductions are expected. The challenge will be to ensure that the core Food Safety functions are prioritised.

There are currently two abattoirs under the supervision of Sligo County Council. The supervision involves pre- and post- slaughter checks on all animals along with continuous monitoring of hygiene and welfare standards and BSE controls. Both Plants were approved under the new legislation in 2007 and are now operating under full export standard. One of the results of the new legislation was to remove the distinction between small throughput plants and export plants. Both operators have undertaken training in HACCP which is a food safety management system and have introduced HACCP plans in their premises. One Slaughter premises had an additional approval granted in late 2007 to slaughter farmed deer. Two Small Meat Manufacturing premises also come under Sligo County Council supervision. The FSAI audited the Approvals given to these premises during 2009 and no significant issues arose.

Sligo continues to participate in a project in the North West designed to promote and market meat produced by Small Abattoirs. This came about following discussions between the Local Authority Veterinary Service, Leader and the Department of Community, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs. It is hoped to provide a platform for these businesses to market the quality product they produce.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Control of Dogs Act and The Control of Horses Act are the main pieces of welfare legislation that the council has responsibility for.

Implementation of the Control of Dogs Acts involves investigation and seizure of stray dogs and checks for dog licences. The number of dog licences issued in 2009 was 4,631. This has been the result of a lot of work on the ground by the warden. Considerable work has also been done in re-homing dogs where possible. The "Adopt a dog" section on the web-site is proving very useful in re-homing dogs. Pictures and a brief description are put on the web and the contact details for the shelter are also given. In 2009 of the 276 dogs which entered the Shelter 39 were re-claimed, 173 were re-homed, 62 were put to sleep and two remained in the shelter at the end of the year. Complaints continue to be investigated as they arise and one successful court case was taken in 2009 involving a restricted breed dog.

The expected increase in the Dog Licence fee has been incorporated into the Dog Breeding Establishments Bill which is currently before the

Oireachtas. It is hoped that the fee will be increased to €20 once this is enacted. The proposal to introduce Bye Laws for restricted breeds is on hold pending the passage by the Oireachtas of the same legislation. It will however be reactivated once this is passed.

The issue of stray horses continues to be monitored and is a cause of concern. Difficulties persist at some locations where individuals are persisting to keep horses despite not having permission to do so. There was also a significant increase in calls from members of the public concerned about the welfare of horses. This problem has become more acute as the economic situation has deteriorated and is being seen throughout the country. Any solution will involve a co-ordinated approach.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The public sector is required to lead the way on Energy Efficiency in Ireland and is committed to achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 33% savings in energy use by 2020. Under the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012, Local Authorities must adopt specific targets and measures for reducing emissions. Thus, in early 2009, a Working Group of committed staff representing all Directorates was formed to develop a Climate Change Strategy for Sligo Local Authorities (SLA).

The initial task was to measure existing energy use and in carrying this out, the Group identified several low/no cost opportunities for remedial action, which they implemented without delay. To establish SLA's carbon footprint, 2008 was selected as the baseline year, for which data were collated under a number of headings, including heat energy, electricity usage, fleet emissions, public lighting and staff travel. The four main areas of energy use were identified as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Water Services: | 38% |
| Street Lighting: | 27% |
| Buildings: | 25% |
| Fleet: | 11% |

Building Energy Ratings (BERs) were undertaken for all public buildings and an Energy Audit of County Hall was carried out by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) under their Public Sector Mentoring Programme. On foot of this, SEI grant-aid was obtained to improve energy-efficiency at Riverside, including new light-fittings, motion sensors, heating controls and insulation. These measures contributed to immediate energy-savings at County Hall: a comparison of electricity bills for the 2009/2010 mid-winter period showed a 9% drop in consumption and a 26% drop in cost, as against the same period in 2008/2009.

In consultation with staff, the Working Group considered all aspects of SLA's functions to identify a wide range of actions that could, directly or indirectly, result in energy savings and a reduction in carbon emissions. This exercise yielded an extensive list of potential measures, in areas including building energy use, water services, waste management, transportation, procurement and communications. These measures formed the basis of a Draft Climate Change Strategy approved by Management at the end of the year. In 2010, it is planned to dedicate resources to Climate Change implementation, to select priority projects for action and to secure training for key staff.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS Approved for Attendance by Councillors – 2009

| DATE | DETAILS OF ALL CONFERENCES APPROVED FOR ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS IN 2009 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9th to 11th Jan. | Local Government Planning Services, Westport |
| 15th/16th Jan. | Positive Farmers Conference, Limerick |
| 16th to 18th Jan. | Effective Communication for Councillors, Waterford |
| 23rd 24th Jan. | Antrim Tourism Conference, Antrim |
| 23rd to 25th Jan. | Local Government Planning Service, Waterford |
| 30th Jan to 1st Feb. | Effective Communication for Councillors, Waterford |
| 6th to 8th Feb. | Scoil Gheirhidh Merriman 2009, Galway |
| 6th to 8th Feb. | Information and Communications, Glendalough |
| 10th Feb. | Sustainable Jobs for Dundalk & Beyond, Dundalk |
| 13th/14th Feb. | AMAI Annual Conference, Letterkenny |
| 17th to 18th Feb | Facilities Management Conference, Dublin |
| 20th/21st Feb. | North South Confederation of Councillors Seminar, Castlebellingham |
| 20th/21st Feb. | Freedom of Information, Limerick |
| 19th to 20th Feb. | Ireland's Waterways Adare |
| 25th to 27th Feb. | Election 2009, the Challenges, Dublin |
| 26th to 28th Feb. | Maximising your Vote |
| 27th/28th Feb. | Elections 2009, Dublin |
| 27th/28th Feb. | Understanind Hospital Radio/the Irish National War Memorial 1919-2009, Dublin |
| 27th Feb./1st March | Colmcille Winter School, Colmcille |
| 3rd to 5th March | Public Relations and the Media, Letterkenny |
| 3rd to 6th March | International Local Government Convention, Killarney |
| 4th to 8th March | Kerry Environmental Conference, Ballybunnion |
| 5th March | Inspiring Wemens Day Conference, Dublin |
| 5th/6th March | Special Olympics Conference, Sligo |
| 6th to 8th March | Local Sustainable Tourism Management, Rosscarberry |
| 6th to 8th March | Climate Change, Clonmel |
| 13th to 15th March | Building Energy Regulations, Bushpark |
| 20th to 22nd March | Planning & Deveopment Control, Bushypark |
| 26th/27th March | The Economic & Social Benefit of Preserving or Cultural Heritage, Kerry |
| 27th March | National Tidy Towns, Westport |
| 27th/28th March | Sustaining Rural Development, Mitchelstown |
| 2nd April | BMW Assembly Annual Conference, Roscommon |
| 2nd/3rd April | ACCC Conference, Kilkenny |
| 4th/5th April | Enironmental Management: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Government, Killashee |

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS Approved for Attendance by Councillors – 2009

| DATE | DETAILS OF ALL CONFERENCES APPROVED FOR ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS IN 2009 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16th/17th April | LAMA Spring Conference, Portlaoise |
| 22nd/23rd April | Rural Dwellers - A Threatened Species |
| 1st May | West on Track, Claremorris |
| 14th to 16th May | Retirement Planning, Castlebellingham |
| 29th to 31st May | Supporting Family Carers |
| 26th to 28th June | Byrne/Perry Summer School |
| 28th June/3rd July | Synge Summer School, Rathdrum |
| 3rd to 5th July | From the Canvass to the Council Chamber, Cork |
| 3rd to 5th July | Planning Law & Practice, Ballyconneely |
| 19th to 24th July | MacGill Summer School, Glenties |
| 24th to 26th July | Planning & Builing Energy Regulations, Bunclody |
| 31st July/2nd Aug. | Effective Communications, Connemara |
| 9th to 14th Aug. | Parnell Summer School, Rathdrum |
| 14th to 16th Aug. | Role of LG in Protecting Water Resources, Furbo |
| 16th/22nd Aug. | Merriman Summer School, Ennis |
| 20th/23rd Aug. | Humbert Summer School, Ballina |
| 21st to 23rd Aug. | Local Government and the Arts |
| 28th Aug. | Omagh Arts Seminar, Omagh |
| 28th to 30 Aug. | Irish Language Course for Councillors, Gweedore |
| 4th to 6th Sept. | Planning and the European Law, Waterford |
| 9th - 12th Sept. | AMAI Annual Conference, Killarney |
| 11th to 13th Sept. | Benedick Kiely Literary Weekend , Omagh |
| 13th Sept. | Self Build and Renovate, Dublin |
| 15th to 17th Sept. | Social Housing, Athlone |
| 16th Sept. | Island of Ireland Partnership - Letterkenny |
| 18th to 20th Sept. | Planning & Development Bill 2009, Galway |
| 24th to 26th Sept. | Carlow Tourism, Carlow |
| 25th/26th Sept. | Training for Councillors, Limerick |
| 26th - 28th Sept. | Local Government Seminar for Councillors Limerick |
| 2nd to 4th Oct. | La Touche Legacy Conference 2009 |
| 8th to 10th Oct. | Blackwater Valley Tourism Conference - Mallow |
| 9th/10th Oct. | North south Confederation of Councillors Seminar, Castlebellingham |
| 10th Nov. | Equality in a time of change, Education - Dublin |
| 16th/18th Oct. | Challenged L.A.s Promoting Community Development |

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS Approved for Attendance by Councillors – 2009

| DATE | DETAILS OF ALL CONFERENCES APPROVED FOR ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS IN 2009 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23/25 Oct. | Voluntary Housing & Sheltered Housing for Elderly |
| 30th Oct./1st Nov. | Public Policy Making - Westport |
| 30th Oct./1st Nov. | Health & Safety Seminar - Carrick on Suir |
| 3rd/4th Nov. 09 | Ceifin Institute - Ennis |
| 6th/7th Nov. | LAMA Winter Conference, Castletroy |
| 9th Nov. | International Polibics & the Global Economic Crisis |
| 10th Nov. | Mainstreaming Equality - Dublin |
| 11th Nov. | Sustainability 'Joining up our Future -Enniskillen |
| 12th Nov. | Respond: Trends & Issues in Housing - Dublin |
| 12th Nov. | Energy, Efficiency in Historic Houses |
| 18th Nov. | Travellers Conference - Monaghan |
| 19th Nov. | Environmental Goods & Services in Business Sector |
| 19th Nov. | 7th Irish National Radon Forum - Dublin |
| 20th/22nd Nov. | Council Budgets 2010 Letterkenny |
| 26th/28th Nov. | Promoting Partnership in Tourism - Ennistymon |
| 27th/29th Nov. | Fiance 2010 Plus - Bunclody |
| 4th/6th Nov. | Constituents on the Net - Clondalkin |
| 8th/9th Dec. | Seminar on Local Government -Bushypark |
| 10th Dec. | Steps towards Change - Dublin |
| 18th/20th Dec. | Equality Modern Day Ireland |

Finance Department

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2009

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

| EXPENDITURE BY DIVISION | GROSS EXPENDITURE 2009 | INCOME 2009 | NET EXPENDITURE 2009 | NET EXPENDITURE 2008 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Housing & Building | €5,759,221 | €5,238,790 | €520,431 | €931,765 |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | €18,842,511 | €14,360,922 | €4,481,588 | €3,942,094 |
| Water Services | €10,851,747 | €4,431,283 | €6,420,465 | €5,437,940 |
| Development Management | €5,221,485 | €1,374,157 | €3,847,328 | €3,992,454 |
| Environmental Services | €6,472,296 | €1,756,018 | €4,716,277 | €5,131,515 |
| Recreation & Amenity | €3,666,123 | €331,644 | €3,334,480 | €3,745,509 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | €7,274,968 | €6,718,738 | €556,229 | €493,122 |
| Miscellaneous Services | €6,410,885 | €3,206,148 | €3,204,737 | €3,497,435 |
| | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditure/Income | €64,499,236 | €37,417,701 | | |
| | | | | |
| Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund | | | €27,081,535 | €27,171,834 |
| | | | | |
| Rates | | | €4,747,159 | €4,700,580 |
| Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant | | | €16,036,229 | €18,731,673 |
| Pension Related Deduction | | | €961,562 | - |
| County Charge | | | €3,461,495 | €3,281,063 |
| | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers | | | (€1,875,090) | (€458,518) |
| | | | | |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves | | | (€1,357,871) | (€2,357,131) |
| | | | | |
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | | | (€3,232,961) | (€2,815,649) |
| | | | | |
| General Reserve @ 1st January 2009 | | | (€4,285,150) | (€1,469,501) |
| | | | | |
| General Reserve @ 31st December 2009 | | | (€7,518,111) | (€4,285,150) |

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2009

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Operational | €222,863,566 | €214,259,057 |
| Infrastructural | €1,396,421,530 | €1,392,357,995 |
| Community | €8,900,308 | €8,900,308 |
| Non-Operational | - | - |
| | €1,628,185,403 | €1,615,517,360 |
| WORK IN PROGRESS AND PRELIMINARY EXPENSES | €134,392,787 | €121,918,085 |
| Long Term Debtors | €18,210,696 | €18,799,493 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stocks | €214,823 | €200,367 |
| Trade Debtors & Prepayments | €11,344,048 | €14,592,108 |
| Bank Investments | €2,988,498 | €2,856,327 |
| Cash at Bank | - | - |
| Cash in Transit | €21,962 | €1,498 |
| Urban Account | €925,803 | €991,931 |
| | €15,495,134 | €18,642,232 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR) | | |
| Bank Overdraft | €8,824,004 | €9,561,660 |
| Creditors & Accruals | €14,355,114 | €13,712,745 |
| Urban Account | - | - |
| Finance Leases | €165,000 | €119,087 |
| | €23,344,118 | €23,393,492 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES) | (€7,848,984) | (€4,751,260) |
| Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year) | | |
| Loans Payable | €62,789,825 | €57,118,747 |
| Finance Leases | €170,820 | €439,949 |
| Refundable deposits | €1,850,291 | €1,841,667 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |
| | €64,810,937 | €59,400,363 |
| NET ASSETS | €1,708,128,965 | €1,692,083,314 |
| FINANCED BY | | |
| Capitalisation Account | €1,628,185,398 | €1,615,517,355 |
| Income WIP | €129,862,184 | €116,731,937 |
| Specific Revenue Reserve | €1,103,774 | €1,103,774 |
| General Revenue Reserve | (€7,518,111) | (€4,285,149) |
| Other Balances | (€43,504,279) | (€36,984,603) |
| | | |
| TOTAL RESERVES | €1,708,128,965 | €1,692,083,314 |

Motor Taxation

The Sligo Motor Taxation Offices at Cleveragh Retail Park, Sligo and Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry issue Driving Licences, Learner Permits and Vehicle Licences.

The Offices are part of a national network which operate the National Vehicle Driving File based in Shannon, Co. Clare. The network is linked to the Driver and Vehicle Computer Services Division of DOEHLG and the Roads Safety Authority.

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2009 :

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Postal Applications | 8,257 (13.45%) |
| Postal Vehicle Licences issued on same day | 98% |
| Total Vehicle Licences issued in 2009 | 61,381 |
| Total Driving Licences issued in 2009 | 7,013 |
| Discs issued 'on line' in 2009 | 25.96% |
| Cumulative Total of business transacted in Sligo Motor Taxation Offices in 2009 | €11,098,266 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - FIRE SERVICE | | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| F.1 FIRE SERVICE MOBILISATION The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire. B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire. C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents. D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents. | 4.45 4.30 | 4.49 4.31 |
| F.2 PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCES AT SCENES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes. B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes. C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes. D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes. E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes. F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes. | 59.30 29.94 10.76 55.98 33.08 10.94 | 55.33 33.67 11.00 42.20 47.71 10.09 |
| F.2 PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCES AT SCENES In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total number of incidents in respect of fire. Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes. Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes. Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes. Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire). Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes. Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes. Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes. | 511 303 153 55 393 220 130 43 | 591 327 199 65 218 92 104 22 |
| F.3 FIRE PREVENTION The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received. B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid). C. Total number of applications deemed invalid. | 128 128 4 | 92 92 7 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION | | 2008 | 2009 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CP.1 PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL/ COMHAIRLE NA N-OG SCHEME The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme. | 45.45 | 51.35 |
| CP.1 PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL/ COMHAIRLE NA N-OG SCHEME In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total number of local schools and youth groups. Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme. | 33 15 | 37 19 |
| CP.2 GROUPS REGISTERED WITH THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY FORUM The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum. | 666 | 664 |
| INDICATORS - CORPORATE ISSUES | | 2008 | 2009 |
| C.1 WORKING DAYS LOST TO SICKNESS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave. B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave. | 6.13 0.59 | 6.34 0.50 |
| C.1 WORKING DAYS LOST TO SICKNESS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave. Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave. | 8137 787 | 7632.50 603.20 |
| C.2 STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: | 6.1 | 2.6 |
| INDICATORS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | | 2008 | 2009 |
| WATER | | | |
| E.1 UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for | 44.12 | 43.00 |
| E.1 UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total volume of water supplied (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for Volume of unaccounted for water (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for | 132867 58625 | 32584 14011 |
| E4: HOUSING WASTE SENT FOR RECYCLING The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling. B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling. C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities). | 17.05 2361.74 2751.11 | 17.31 3506.88 6361.65 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| E4: HOUSING WASTE SENT FOR RECYCLING In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside. | 13849.08 | 20258.88 |
| | Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling. | 2361.74 | 3506.88 |
| | Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities). | 2751.11 | 6361.65 |
| E5: HOUSEHOLD WASTE SENT FOR LANDFILL The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill. | 82.95 | 82.69 |
| | B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill. | 11487.29 | 16752 |
| E5: HOUSEHOLD WASTE SENT FOR LANDFILL In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total tonnage of household waste collected. | 13849.08 | 20258.88 |
| | Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill. | 11487.29 | 16752 |
| E6: RECYCLING FACILITIES In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area. | 50 | 40 |
| | The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area. | 2 | 2 |
| GLASS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 50 | 40 |
| | B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | C. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 52 | 42 |
| | D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 4.27 | 3.45 |
| GLASS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 50 | 40 |
| | The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| CANS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 50 | 40 |
| | F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | G. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 42 | 40 |
| | H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 2 | 2 |
| CANS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 42 | 40 |
| | The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| TEXTILES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 10 | 0 |
| | J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | K. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 12 | 2 |
| | L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 0.99 | 0.16 |
| BATTERIES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 18 | 0 |
| | N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | O. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 20 | 2 |
| | P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 1.64 | 0.16 |
| OILS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 0 | 0 |
| | R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 1 | 2 |
| | S. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 1 | 2 |
| | T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 0.08 | 0.16 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| OTHER MATERIALS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling. | 0 | 0 |
| | V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | W. The total number of facilities for recycling. | 2 | 2 |
| | X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population. | 0.16 | 0.16 |
| LITTER E7: LITTER PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of full-time litter wardens. | 2 | 2 |
| | B. Number of part-time litter wardens. | 5 | 5 |
| | C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population. | 0.57 | 0.57 |
| | D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued. | 229 | 86 |
| | E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid. | 96 | 30 |
| | F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines | 1 | 1 |
| | G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines. | 0 | 0 |
| | H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997). | 1 | 7 |
| | I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003). | 8 | 0 |
| | J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003). | 7 | 2 |
| | K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free). | 10.42 | 26.32 |
| | L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter. | 50.00 | 36.84 |
| | M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter. | 33.33 | 36.84 |
| | N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter. | 4.17 | 0.00 |
| O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter. | 2.08 | 0.00 | |
| E8: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCEMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution). | 4988 | 741 |
| | B. Number of complaints investigated. | 4994 | 3506 |
| | C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary. | 4935 | 4290 |
| | D. Number of enforcement procedures taken. | 622 | 176 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - HOUSING | | 2008 | 2009 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| H1: HOUSING VACANCIES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock. B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects. C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects). D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting. E. The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting. | 1997 1893 4.07 76.62 23.38 | 2082 1955 3.99 84.62 15.38 |
| H1: HOUSING VACANCIES In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The average number of dwellings in local authority stock. The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects. The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects). The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting. The average number of empty dwellings available for letting. | 1997 1893 77 59 18 | 2082 1955 78 66 12 |
| H2: AVERAGE TIME TAKEN TO RE-LET AVAILABLE DWELLINGS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling. The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit. | 54 3 | 18.62 8.25 |
| H3: HOUSING REPAIRS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received. | 89.95 | 71.88 |
| H3: HOUSING REPAIRS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | The number of repairs completed. The number of valid repair requests received. | 2300 2557 | 437 608 |
| H4: TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme. | 50.0 | 40.0 |
| H4: TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Number of Traveller families accommodated. Target number of Traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the local Traveller accommodation programme. | 3 6 | 2 5 |
| H5: ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Total number of registered tenancies. B. Number of dwelling units inspected. C. Number of inspections carried out. D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A). | 3990 60 60 1.50 | 4343 300 300 6.91 |
| H5: ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARDS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total number of registered tenancies. Number of dwelling units inspected. Number of inspections carried out. | 3990 60 60 | 4343 300 300 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - HOUSING | | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| H6: GRANTS TO ADAPT HOUSING FOR THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application. | 10 | 16 |
| | B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application. | 10 | 22 |
| H7: PRE-TENANCY FAMILIARISATION COURSES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Total number of new local authority tenants. | 185 | 88 |
| | B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses. | 100 | 100 |
| INDICATORS - LIBRARY SERVICES | | 2008 | 2009 |
| L.1 LIBRARY PUBLIC OPENING HOURS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries. | 42.4 | 36.05 |
| | B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable). | 22.63 | 18.29 |
| | C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings. | 100 | 66.6 |
| | D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings. | 100 | 66.6 |
| | E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings. | 100 | 66.6 |
| L.1 LIBRARY PUBLIC OPENING HOURS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries. | 42.4 | 36.05 |
| | Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable). | 22.63 | 18.29 |
| | Number of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings. | 2 | 2 |
| | Number of full time libraries that have evening openings. | 2 | 2 |
| L.2 LIBRARY VISITS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population. | 2311.39 | 2256.38 |
| | Total number of visits to full-time libraries. | 140750 | 137400 |
| | In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | | |
| L.3 LIBRARY STOCK The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide). | 3.34 | 0.49 |
| | B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books. | 3.54 | 3.47 |
| | C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items. | 0.18 | 0.23 |
| L.3 LIBRARY STOCK The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Annual expenditure on stock. | 203463.95 | 29954 |
| | Total number of books issued. | 215667 | 211218 |
| | Total number of other items issued. | 10901 | 14093 |
| L.4 INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH LIBRARIES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population. | 419.03 | 372.71 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - LIBRARY SERVICES | | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| L.4 INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH LIBRARIES In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total number of Internet sessions provided. | 25516.55 | 22695.98 |
| INDICATORS - MOTOR TAXATION | | 2008 | 2009 |
| M.1 NUMBER OF MOTOR TAX TRANSACTIONS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter. | 53359 | 53124 |
| | B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post. | 8793 | 8257 |
| | C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone). | 15628 | 17791 |
| | D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter. | 68.60 | 67.10 |
| | E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post. | 11.30 | 10.43 |
| | F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone). | 20.09 | 22.47 |
| M.2 TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS MOTOR TAX POSTAL APPLICATIONS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application. | 8617 | 8104 |
| | B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application. | 101 | 121 |
| | C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application. | 3 | 0 |
| | D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application. | 72 | 32 |
| | E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application. | 98.00 | 98.15 |
| | F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application. | 1.15 | 1.47 |
| M.2 TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS MOTOR TAX POSTAL APPLICATIONS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application. | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| | H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application. | 0.82 | 0.39 |
| M.3 TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS DRIVING LICENCE APPLICATIONS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application. | 5771 | 3296 |
| | B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application. | 2090 | 2696 |
| | C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application. | 750 | 603 |
| | D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application. | 550 | 418 |
| | E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application. | 63.00 | 47.00 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - MOTOR TAXATION | | 2008 | 2009 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| M.3 TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS DRIVING LICENCE APPLICATIONS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application. | 22.81 | 38.44 |
| | G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application. | 8.19 | 8.60 |
| | H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application. | 6.00 | 5.96 |
| M.4 PUBLIC OPENING HOURS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Average number of opening hours per week. | 32.5 | 32.5 |
| INDICATORS - PLANNING | | 2008 | 2009 |
| P.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISION MAKING INDIVIDUAL HOUSES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of applications decided. | 471 | 300 |
| | B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks. | 321 | 245 |
| | C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information. | 67 | 46 |
| | D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000. | 29 | 9 |
| | E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought. | 74.42 | 75.94 |
| | F. Percentage of applications granted. | 90.41 | 91.67 |
| | G. Percentage of applications refused. | 9.59 | 8.33 |
| | H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | 61.54 | 64.29 |
| | I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | 38.46 | 35.71 |
| | Number of applications granted. | 377 | 275 |
| | Number of applications refused. | 40 | 25 |
| | Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | 8 | 9 |
| | Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | 5 | 5 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - PLANNING | | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of applications decided. | 30 | 21 |
| | B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks. | 15 | 10 |
| | C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information. | 15 | 11 |
| | D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000. | 0 | 0 |
| | E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought. | 77.87 | 81.19 |
| | F. Percentage of applications granted. | 86.67 | 85.71 |
| | G. Percentage of applications refused. | 13.33 | 14.29 |
| | H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | 66.67 | 70.0 |
| | I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | 33.33 | 30.0 |
| | Number of applications granted. | 26 | 18 |
| | Number of applications refused. | 4 | 3 |
| | Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | 6 | 7 |
| | Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | 3 | 3 |
| | OTHER: NOT REQUIRING ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of applications decided. | 513 |
| B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks. | | 427 | 277 |
| C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information. | | 83 | 46 |
| D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000. | | 3 | 4 |
| E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought. | | 75.16 | 76.09 |
| F. Percentage of applications granted. | | 92.98 | 96.00 |
| G. Percentage of applications refused. | | 7.02 | 4.00 |
| H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | | 91.30 | 90.48 |
| I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | | 8.70 | 9.52 |
| Number of applications granted. | | 477 | 312 |
| Number of applications refused. | | 36 | 13 |
| Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | | 21 | 19 |
| Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | | 2 | 2 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - PLANNING | | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| OTHER: REQUIRING ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of applications decided. | 2 | 5 |
| | B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks. | 1 | 3 |
| | C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information. | 1 | 1 |
| | D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000. | 0 | 1 |
| | E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought. | 108 | 101 |
| | F. Percentage of applications granted. | 100 | 60.0 |
| | G. Percentage of applications refused. | 0 | 40.0 |
| | H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | | 100 |
| | I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | | 0 |
| | Number of applications granted. | 2 | 3 |
| | Number of applications refused. | 0 | 2 |
| Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala. | 0 | 1 | |
| Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala. | 0 | 0 | |
| P.2 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated. | 256 | 250 |
| | B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed. | 77 | 81 |
| | C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations. | 193 | 183 |
| | D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters. | 219 | 247 |
| | E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices. | 126 | 110 |
| | F. Number of prosecutions | 35 | 24 |
| P.3 PLANNING PUBLIC OPENING HOURS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Average number of opening hours per week. | 37.5 | 36.10 |
| P.4 PRE-PLANNING CONSULTATION The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held. | 1262 | 858 |
| | B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation. | 10.42 | 7.93 |
| P.5 NEW BUILDINGS INSPECTED The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority. | 33.51 | 15.12 |
| P.5 NEW BUILDINGS INSPECTED In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority. | 376 | 258 |
| | Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected. | 126 | 39 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - PLANNING | | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| P.6 TAKING ESTATES IN CHARGE The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year. | 28 | 26 |
| | B. Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question. | 15 | 9 |
| | C. Number of dwellings in respect of column B. | 205 | 207 |
| | D. Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission. | 35.71 | 57.69 |
| | E. Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in. | 2 | 6 |
| | F. Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard. | 0 | 3 |
| | Number of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission. | 10 | 15 |
| | Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in. | 2 | 6 |
| | Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard. | 0 | 3 |
| | INDICATORS - RECREATIONAL SERVICES | | 2008 |
| REC.1 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority. | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| | B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority. | 0.13 | 0.13 |
| REC.1 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | A. Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority. | 6 | 6 |
| | B. Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority. | 8 | 8 |
| REC.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY-FACILITATED LEISURE FACILITIES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population. | 3605.02 | 3437.07 |
| REC.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY-FACILITATED LEISURE FACILITIES In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities. | 219524 | 209297 |

Service Indicators

| INDICATORS - REVENUE COLLECTION | | 2008 | 2009 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REV.1 HOUSE RENT The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent. B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old. C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old. D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old. | 91.06 19.13 12.47 68.41 | 87.43 11.48 10.76 77.76 |
| REV.1 HOUSE RENT In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Amount due at year end from House Rent. Amount collected at year end from House Rent. Amount of arrears at year end from House Rent. Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 4-6 weeks old. Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 6-12 weeks old. Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are more than 12 weeks old. | 4472050.00 4072401.00 76434.04 49831.10 273383.90 | 4838894 4230807 608087 69806.22 65444.39 472836.40 |
| REV.2 HOUSING LOANS The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report: | A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans. B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old. C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old. D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old. | 79.59 1.32 5.66 93.02 | 73.89 1.93 3.44 94.63 |
| REV.2 HOUSING LOANS In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Amount due at year end from Housing Loans. Amount collected at year end from Housing Loans. Amount of arrears at year end from Housing Loans. Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old. Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old. Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old. | 1969963.00 1567912.00 5290.01 22753.73 374007.30 | 1734646 1281704 452941.98 8760.76 15562.22 428619 |
| REV.3 COMMERCIAL RATES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates. | 84.73 | 76 |
| REV.4 REFUSE CHARGES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end. | | 0 |
| REV.5 NON-DOMESTIC WATER CHARGES The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges. | 48.33 | 47 |
| INDICATORS - ROADS | | 2008 | 2009 |
| R1: ROAD RESTORATION PROGRAMME The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data: | Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum. Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum. | 157.25 1.7 | 81.25 0.80 |