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Cathaoirleach's Introduction



I am pleased to introduce Sligo County Council's Annual Report 2001. It was a busy and exciting year for this Council, and it was encouraging to see many important initiatives brought to fruition.

One of the key objectives of the 'Better Local Government' process is the provision of a quality, accessible service to customers. In 2001 work started on the 'one stop shop' facility in Tubbercurry, which will provide a range of services to the people of South Sligo – including new branch library and motor tax facilities. It will also house the Tubbercurry Area offices and will accommodate a range of other public services, including the North Western Health Board and Teagasc.

Another major development in 2001 was the opening of Strandhill Housing Scheme. A total of 27 houses were constructed, which included 19 'affordable' houses. One very positive facet of the project was the Council's 'Estate Management Initiative', which encourages genuine participation of residents in the management of their estate. This is one of the first initiatives of its kind in the country, and it has generated a vibrant exchange of ideas and information between the Council and the new householders.

I firmly believe that the key to the continuing development of Sligo and the Northwest is the provision of a proper transport infrastructure serving the region. Sligo County Council has ambitious plans for our road network, particularly on the National Primary Routes N4 and N17, and I hope that with the support of the Department of the Environment and the National Roads Authority, we can see progress in the short term. Our rail and air links are also of critical importance, and I and my colleagues will continue to advocate improvements to these essential services for the people of Sligo.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony McLoughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cllr Tony McLoughlin
Cathaoirleach, Sligo County Council



County Manager's Foreword



The Council's activities remained at a high level in 2001 in line with the continuing economic upsurge. Spending in the year totalled €75 million which is a very considerable investment in infrastructure and public services in the county. Towards the end of the year there were definite indications that economic growth was tapering off; this was particularly evident from a fall off in the number of planning applications and enquiries. This reduction in economic growth poses an acute problem for the Council given our relative dependence on Central Government for finance and it is likely to be a major issue for us in future years.

The highlight of the year was the official opening, in June, of the newly refurbished County Hall by Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment and Local Government. This development includes a modern Council Chamber, extended and improved office facilities and a modern bright entrance foyer and reception area. The new facilities have been warmly welcomed by Members, staff and customers and we are now able to deliver much improved services in facilities that are conducive to efficient and effective local government.

Another highlight of the year was the official opening of the newly refurbished Model Arts and Niland Gallery by her Excellency President Mary McAleese. The Council played a leading role in the development of the Centre which houses, in a newly provided gallery, the highly acclaimed municipal art collection. The provision of a proper and fitting space for this collection has been an objective of the Council for many years and I am pleased that we have succeeded in this and have, in the process, provided Sligo with a first-class contemporary arts centre and restored to its former glory the Model School, one of Sligo's most important heritage buildings.

Given the improved economic performance of recent years and the increased emphasis by Government on balanced regional development, we are likely to see a much greater level of growth and development in Sligo in the next few years. This growth must be managed to ensure that the high quality environment which we currently enjoy is not damaged. During the year, work re-commenced on the land use and development plan for the Borough of Sligo and its environs which encompasses the area where the greatest development pressure is likely to occur. This plan will set out the direction in which Sligo will grow in the coming years; it will plan for Sligo becoming a strong urban centre with a critical mass of services, infrastructure and population to facilitate the growth of investment, business and employment that can benefit the entire North-West region.

As part of the Government's programme of local government reform, significant changes in the Council's management structure were made in 2001. This involved the introduction of a divisional system and the appointment of 4 Directors of Service. The Directors will have managerial responsibility for large divisions of the Council's operations and will service the Council's Strategic Policy Committees. Other structural and grading changes were also introduced and I am glad to report that at year's end the transition to the new system has been relatively smooth. Given the increasingly complex and changing nature of society, further changes in our structures and methods of operation are inevitable in the future. The changes which we have implemented therefore are only the beginning of a process of ongoing change and evolution that will be necessary for the delivery of effective local government in Sligo in the years ahead. Nonetheless, we have made a significant start to this process and I wish to record my appreciation for the enthusiasm, commitment and understanding both staff and members showed for these changes during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hubert Kearns,".

Hubert Kearns
County Manager

Council Members

Sligo/Drumcliffe Electoral Area



Cllr. Pdraig Branley
Fianna Fáil
'Omra', Pearse Road
Sligo
071-69454/50600



Cllr. Jimmy Devins
Fianna Fáil
Mail Coach Rd, Sligo
071-52970



Cllr. Patsy Barry
Fianna Fáil
Grange, Co. Sligo
071-63168



Cllr. Ita Fox
Fine Gael
Colgagh, Calry
Co. Sligo
071-44932



Cllr. Joe Leonard
Fine Gael
Cloonaghbawn,
Ballinfull, Co. Sligo
071-63443/63548



Cllr. Brian Scanlon
Labour
No 5, Molloway Place
Sligo
071-46093/62774

Sligo/Strandhill Electoral Area



Cllr. Declan Bree
Labour
1 High Street, Sligo
071 - 45490



Cllr. Albert Higgins
Fianna Fáil
Carraroe, Sligo
071-60129



Cllr. Jim McGarry
Fine Gael
Oakfield, Sligo
071-61515



Cllr. Roddy McGuinn
Fianna Fáil
19 Langan Dr., Sligo
071 - 43891



Cllr. Tony Mcloughlin
Fine Gael
'Beechlawn'
Barnasraghy, Sligo
071 - 60768



Cllr. Sean MacManus
Sinn Féin
9 Johnston Court
Sligo
071 - 54040



Cllr. John Perry
Fine Gael
Teeling St., Ballymote
071- 51011

Ballymote Electoral Area



Cllr. Leo Conlon
Fine Gael
Coolmurla, Geevagh
078-47112



Cllr. Michael 'Boxer'
Conlon
Fianna Fáil
Rinnatruffane
Geevagh, Co. Sligo
078-47187



Cllr. Gerry Murray
Fine Gael
Calterane, Gurteen
Co. Sligo
071-82016



Cllr. Alfie Parke
Non-Party
Cloonagashel
Ballymote, Co. Sligo
071-83031



Cllr. Eamon Scanlon
Fianna Fáil
Keenaghan
Ballymote, Co. Sligo
071-83113/83490



Housing and Building

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

- > Helping people who are in need of housing and who cannot afford it from their own resources.
- > Provision/management of traveller accommodation.
- > Liaising with approved Voluntary housing organisations and other agencies in the provision of accommodation.
- > Encouragement of home ownership through shared ownership, tenant purchase, affordable housing and various loan options.
- > Monitoring standards with regard to private rented dwellings.

Housing Construction

The Capital allocation from the Department of the Environment and Local Government for 2001 was made up as follows:

Local Authority Programme	£4,000,000
Residential Caravans	£100,000
Remedial Works	£60,000
	£4,160,000

Because of the level of activity in the Construction Programme, the Council received additional funding from the Department to bring the allocation up to £6,483,700.

The end of 2001 marked the half way stage in the Council's Multi-annual Housing Programme. The target for the 4 year programme is 240 "starts" and the number achieved by the end of 2001 was 141.

Completed 2001		In Progress		Nearing Completion	
Easkey	5	Geevagh	8	Ballisodare	10
Keash	4	Grange	14	Collooney	10
Strandhill	8	Coolaney	8	Ballymote	18

The Council continued its policy of purchasing on the open market with houses being purchased in Collooney and Tubbercurry



Affordable Housing Scheme, Collooney

Housing Loans

People who wish to purchase or build a house but cannot get a loan from a building society, bank etc, may be eligible for a loan from a Local Authority. The maximum house purchase loan is £100,000 and in 2001, Sligo County Council paid out £66,500 in house purchase, construction and reconstruction.

Loan Approvals 2000

Purchases	1
Construction	1
Reconstruction	7

Loan Approvals 2001

Purchases	2
Construction	1
Reconstruction	4

Loan Payments 2000

Construction	£120,000	2 houses
Tenant Purchase	£157,721	15 houses
Reconstruction	£45,486	12 houses

Loan Payments 2001

Construction	£44,000	1 house
Tenant Purchase	£92,270	4 houses
Reconstruction	£22,500	4 houses

In 2001, fourteen houses were sold with 4 only obtaining County Council loans.

Tenant Purchase

Tenants of local authority houses for at least one year can apply to purchase their rented house outright or by means of shared ownership under this scheme. The price of the house will be its market value in its existing state of repair and condition, less various discounts.

In 2001, seven loan applications were approved under the scheme compared with four in 2000.

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. Initially, ownership of the house is shared between the shared owner and the Local Authority. In 2001, Sligo County Council was allocated £250,000 to purchase/construct houses under the scheme. Twenty five applications were processed and there were 15 completed transactions. This compares with 7 completed transactions in 2000.

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.

During 2001, twelve houses were upgraded, at an average cost per house of £20,384. The number of houses upgraded is an increase of one on last year.



Atlantic View, Strandhill

Affordable Housing

In 2001, a development of 19 houses was completed at Strandhill, Co.Sligo. The houses were built by Noel Regan & Sons, Ishlawn, Ballyderreen Co Roscommon to a very high standard. The prices ranged from £79,500 to £92,500. The price represented excellent value given the standard of the house, the prime location and magnificent views. This was the first development of its kind in the county with mixed Local Authority and Affordable Houses on the one scheme. The residents have formed an association and one of their first tasks completed has been the renaming of the estate *Atlantic View*.

Construction has commenced on the following affordable housing schemes:

Dromore West	6 houses
Collooney	10 houses
Ballymote	12 houses
Total	28 houses

These houses are expected to be completed by mid - 2002.

Estate Management

2001 saw the establishment of the Estate Management function within Sligo County Council. Damien Willis was appointed as Estate Manager in August and this has allowed the introduction a dynamic and caring presence of the Council within estates over the county.

Initially Damien set about forming links with existing resident associations and began to develop mechanisms to form tenant groups where they were not in existence heretofore.

The first tenant training programme was piloted in Strandhill in November and was successful in terms of integrating new residents and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

Housing Strategy

Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 required that Housing Strategies be drawn up by Planning Authorities and integrated into their development plans. The Act makes communities' needs for Social and Affordable housing a material planning consideration which must be taken into account in formulating development plan policies, preparing a housing strategy and deciding on planning applications and appeals.

In preparing the draft strategy, the Council sought submissions from the general public by means of public notices in the local and national media.

A draft Plan was prepared by the Council's Housing Strategic Policy Committee which was adopted by the Council at a special meeting on 23rd July 2001.

The Strategy outlines the demands for housing within the County and Borough Council areas and in particular the need for social and affordable housing. The Strategy also considered factors relating to the supply of housing in the county and the social and affordable policy implications.

The key conclusions of the Strategy can be summarised as follows:

- > A total of 4832 additional household formations are projected over the period 2001 – 2006.
- > It will be the policy of the Council to receive 20% of land zoned for residential development for social and affordable housing
- > The Strategy encourages a more sustainable approach to rural development and supports the sustaining of rural communities within County Sligo
- > This Strategy will provide a basis for a programme of land zonings within the County area
- > The Housing Strategy also aims to concentrate residential development – where possible – in locations where there is easy access to education, employment and other commercial and community facilities.
- > The provision of a suitable range of housing types and sizes will diminish the uniformity of suburban type development and will facilitate the further integration of social and affordable housing into existing communities.

Homeless Action Plan 2001 - 2003

During the year the Sligo Homeless Forum was extended to include representatives from existing service providers such as the North Western Health Board, Sligo Social Services, Sligo County Council, Sligo Corporation, St. Vincent de Paul, Finisklin Housing Association, Co. Sligo VEC, Sligo Gardai, Probation Service. The Forum developed a policy which was approved by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and involved an interagency response to the issue of homelessness.

The Forum looked at the existing accommodation and services available and also the causes and extent of homelessness in Sligo. The strengths and weaknesses of these services were identified.

The main points of the policy are:

- > That a "seamless service" be developed between local authorities, the North Western Health Board and Voluntary bodies and that the services be reviewed on an ongoing basis so that the actual needs of the homeless rather than the perceived needs are being addressed.
- > Facilities and accommodation for the following categories of need were identified:

Homeless Men (Indigenous):

Homeless Men (Transient):

Homeless Women (transient & local)/Victims of Domestic Violence:

(a) Discharge from Institutional Care, Voluntary Hostels

(b) Older persons in institutional care

Project for Ex-Offenders

Semi-sheltered Accommodation for 15-20 year old Single

Parent Families

'Wet House' together with trained staff

Other Accommodation

Housing Maintenance

During the year the Council completed a condition survey of all its housing stock. The condition survey will allow the preparation of a 6 year rolling programme of house repairs and which will feature a portion of expenditure set aside for planned maintenance and a portion set aside for emergency repairs.

Rents

Rents payable on Local Authority dwellings are assessed under a Differential Rents Scheme based on income of the household. During the year rents were reviewed to bring them into line with increase in disposal income and to meet the ever increasing demand for maintenance and estate management initiatives.

Essential Repairs Grants

The principal benefit of this scheme is that it enables structural repairs to be carried out to prolong the life of a house for an elderly resident. The maximum grant available under the Scheme is £6,000 (€7,618) with 2/3 of the cost being recouped from the Department of the Environment & Local Government.

In 2001, 49 approvals were issued during the year and 53 grants were paid out totalling £162,249 (€203,728.21)

Disabled Person's Grants

The Disabled Person's Grant Scheme allows Sligo County Council to make a grant for the provision of house adaptations to meet the needs of the household member who is disabled. Due to the ever increasing number of applications, the grants are awarded on a priority basis, with a focus on those cases where the applicant's disability seriously impacts on their quality of life.

In 2001, the amount payable under the Scheme was £14,000 (€17,776) with 2/3 of the cost being recouped from the Department of the Environment & Local Government. 135 approvals were issued during the year and 60 grants were paid out totalling £200,732 (€254,877.06)



Colmcille Drive, Rosses Point

Planning and Development

Planning Control

A total of 1107 applications for planning permission were lodged with the Council in 2001, in comparison to 1305 received in 2000.

79% of applications were granted in 2001 and of that 75% were decided in two months. The most common reason for refusal relates to conformity with the Development Plan and suitability of sites for treatment of effluent

Other relevant statistics

	No.	%
Applications decided during 2001	946	
Permission granted	748	79%
Permission refused	198	21%
Appeals lodged with Bord Pleanala	47	5%

Planning and Development Act 2002

The year 2001 saw the commencement of additional provisions under the Planning & Development Act 2000, including those relating to Plans & Guidelines, Events & Fairs and Land Acquisition. The year also marked the re-organisation of Sligo County Council's planning functions, with the creation of a new Enforcement Unit and the re-establishment of the Development Planning Unit, each with their own dedicated staff. Together with the existing Development Control Section, these Units will enable the Planning Authority to respond more efficiently and effectively to the planning and development needs of the county. Re-organisation has also been necessary to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the new planning legislation, all of which will be in force by Spring 2002.

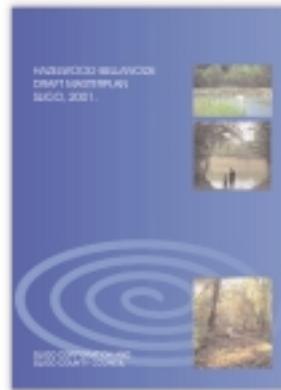


Camross Estate, Ballymote

Development Planning

Review of the Sligo City and Environs Development Plan

In recent years, development pressure on Sligo Town has extended to the outskirts of the Borough and to towns and villages throughout its hinterland. As a co-ordinated response was clearly required, Sligo Corporation and Sligo County Council jointly engaged the National Building Agency (NBA) on a consultancy basis to review the existing Development Plan for the Borough and to prepare a new 'Sligo City & Environs Development Plan'. The study area extends to the wider environs of Sligo Town, from Grange in the north to Collooney in the south, and in due course it is intended to prepare Local Area Plans for more than a dozen settlements within this sub-region.



< Hazelwood - Bellanode Draft Masterplan Sligo, 2001. Drawn up between Sligo County Council and Sligo Corporation.

The NBA team works closely with the Development Planning Unit and is overseen by a Steering Group representing both Planning Authorities. In the course of 2001, survey work for the Development Plan was advanced, consultations with relevant bodies/organisations were held and a preliminary framework for the development of the sub-region over a 20-year period was prepared. To comply with the requirements of the Planning & Development Act 2000, public notice of the intended Development Plan review/preparation was given at the end of December 2001, thereby formally commencing the new 2-year statutory period for this process. In addition, a Draft Local Area Plan for the Hazelwood-Ballinode area of Sligo Borough/Environs was produced: this was publicised in November and generated considerable local interest

Development	Applications Received 2001	Applications Received 2000	Applications Received 1999
Dwelling Houses	792 (72%)	977	751
Domestic Extensions	174 (16%)	203	222
Agricultural	19 (2%)	17	13
Industrial/Commercial	50 (4%)	66	75
Telecommunications	17 (1%)	-	-
Other Developments	55 (5%)	42	47
Total	1107	1305	1108

Opposite: Table A. Applications received in 2001 and a comparison with previous years.

Planning and Development

Input into the National Spatial Strategy

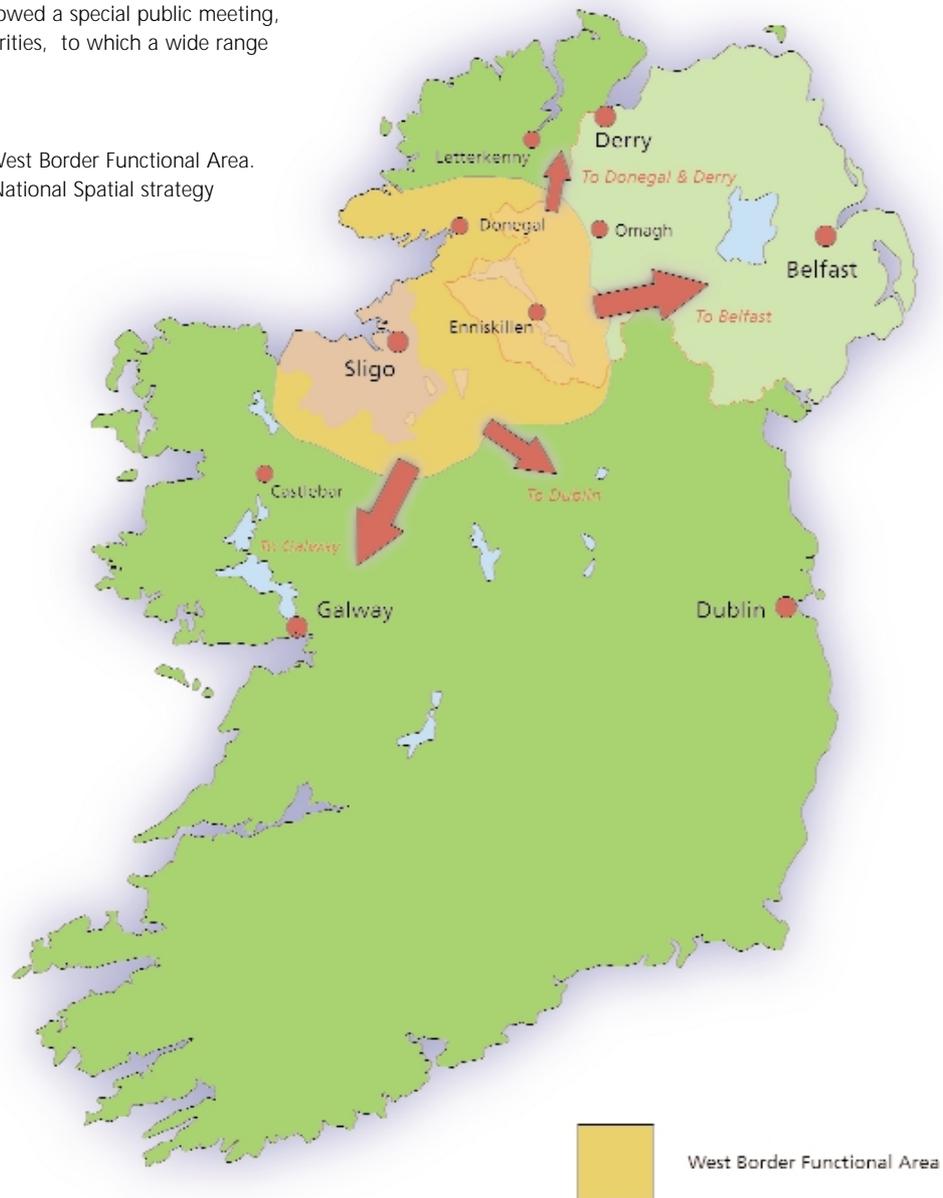
To address the future spatial structure of Ireland in the context of sustainable development, the Government has mandated the Department of the Environment and Local Government (DoELG) to prepare a National Spatial Strategy (NSS). Within the NSS framework, an essential concept is that of "gateways", i.e. urban centres that are able to maximise national performance by employing local potential to full advantage.

In response to the "National Spatial Strategy – Indications for the Way Ahead" public consultation paper issued by the DoELG in September 2001, a co-ordinated submission to the NSS Working Group was prepared jointly by Sligo Corporation, Sligo County Council and Sligo County Development Board. This submission articulated a clear vision for Sligo, contending that as "capital of the north-west", it self-selects as a new gateway for the region. The submission was supported by numerous local and cross-border organisations and followed a special public meeting, organised by the Sligo Local Authorities, to which a wide range of interests was invited

The map opposite represents the West Border Functional Area. It is based on an extract from the National Spatial strategy submission.



Castlegrove Estate, Ballymote



Major Schemes at Pre-Planning Stage

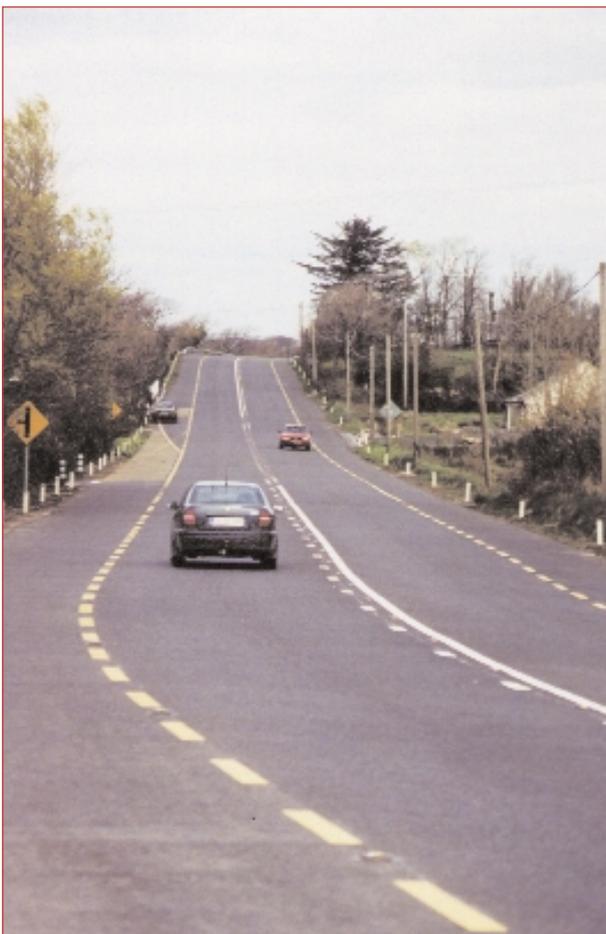
Consultants were appointed to progress the N17 Collooney/Charlestown project to EIS and CPO stage.

During 2001 the N4 Cloonamahon/Castlebaldwin project was advanced to route selection stage.

N4 Inner Relief Road - County Extension

Archaeological investigation continued and contract documents were prepared by consultants with a view to going to contract in 2002.

The pre-planning/design contracts are managed 'in-house' by Sligo County Council in conjunction with the National Roads Authority.



Newly aligned and surfaced section of the N15, north of Grange.

National Primary Improvement Works

This programme continued with over €2million spent in 2001 on improvement and upgrading works on National Primary Routes. Work included re-alignment and quality overlay of the N15 North of Grange, traffic calming in Cliffoney, and strengthening of other sections of the Primary Routes.

Improvements were also carried out on the National Secondary routes, with approx. €500,000 being spent on an overlay project west of Dromore West.

Non National Roads

Sligo County Council spent in the region of e9 million in 2001 on the maintenance and improvement of the non-national road network. Approximately €25 million has been invested in county Sligo's non-national road network since the commencement of the Restoration programme in 1995.

To date approximately 65% of the non-national road network has been restored.

Discretionary Improvement Grants

This scheme provides for the removal of bad bends, improvement of sight lines, footpath and public lighting improvement and bridge repairs.

Footpaths were upgraded on the entrance to Ballymote under this scheme, and new footpaths on the R284 near Carraroe Church. Work has also been completed at the junction of R286 and Shaw's Avenue in Hazelwood.

Special Improvement Grants (Eu-Co Financed Grants)

This scheme allows for the upgrading of the non-national road network; Works carried out in 2001 included...

- > Continued improvements at Tully, Strandhill
- > Upgrading/traffic calming on R291 Ballinacra

Pre-planning and design are at an advanced stage for the following schemes, and it is expected that they will progress to CPO stage in 2002..

- > R 292 Adjacent to Borough Boundary on Strandhill Road
- > Re-alignment of R 294 west of Gurteen at Mullaghroe
- > Re-alignment of R284 on Ballyfarnon road at Glenagoolagh.

Low Cost Accident Reductions Scheme

The 'Government's strategy on Road Safety 1998 – 2002' aims to reduce the rate of road fatalities by 20% over the 5 year period. The scheme was initially targeted on the national road network, but the Department of Environment and Local Government has allocated funding to Local Authorities for works on the non-national roads.

Under the scheme specific accident locations are identified and improved, particularly junctions of major and minor roads. In 2001 work was carried out at Scurmore Enniscrone at the junction of the R297 and Quay Road.



(A) Non- National Road Restoration Programme

Progress Report

Year	Improvement (S.R + R.R), Km	Maintenance (S.D) Km.	Expenditure in IR£
1995	21	36	475,082
1996	86	88	1,207,000
1997	137	91	2,390,901
1998	196	82	3,152,113
1999	213	101	3,479,636
2000	207	98	3,868,568
2001	197	83	4,248,523
Total	1057	579	18,821,823

Total Improved and Surfaced Dressed = $1636/2494 = 65.59\%$

Total Improved = $1057/2494 = 42.38\%$

Total Surface Dressed = $579/2494 = 23.21\%$

Total Length of non-national roads in Co. Sligo = 2,494 Km.

(B) Class 3 Supplementary Roads Grant Programme

Sligo Co. Council 1997-2001 Progress Report

Year	IR£	Length in Km	% of Total
1997	194,744	25	3.6
1998	0	0	0
1999	195,850	25	3.6
2000	175,668	25	3.6
2001	184,000	25	3.6
Total	750,262	100	14.4

Total length of Class 3 in County Sligo = 682 Km

Total improved to date = 100 km = 14.40% of total Class 3 or 4.0% of non- national total.

Summary

Programme	Length Improved Km	% Total	Expenditure IR£
A	1636	65.59	18,821,823
B	10	4.00	750,062
Total	1736	69.59	19,571,885

Road Transportation and Safety

National Routes

National Primary

Route	Description	Length in Km
N4	Boro Boundary to Roscommon Co. Boundary	33.3km
N15	Boro Boundary to Bunduff Br.	26.4km
N16	Boro Boundary to Leitrim Co. Boundary	8.4km
N17	Collooney to Bellahy	34.6km
Total		102.7km

National Secondary

Route	Description	Length in Km
N59	Ballysadare to Mayo Co. Boundary	47.4km

Non National Routes

Regional Routes

Route	Description	Length in Km
R279	Cliffoney to Mullaghmore	4.4km.
R284	Carrowroe to Rosc. Co. Boundary	26.6km.
R286	Boro. Boundary-Leitrim Co. Bndy.	8.1km.
R287	Carrowroe- Leitrim Co. Bndy.	11.9km.
R290	Rathrippon-Ballintogher.	11.0km.
R291	Boro. Bndy. -Rosses Pt.	6.5km.
R292	Boro. Bndy.- Strandhill -Ballydrehid	16.3km.
R293	Ballinaboll -Gurteen-Rosc. Co. Bndy.	25.8km.
R294	Cloonloo-Tubbercurry-Lough Talt	42.5km.
R295	Ballymote-Keash-Rosc. Co. Bndy.	14.6km.
R296	Ballymote-Bunninaddan-R294	10.2km.
R297	Dromore W.-Enniscrone-Co. Bndy.	29.8km.
R298	N59-Lacknatlieva-R297	4.9km.
R361	Roscommon Co. Bndy.-Killaraght-Rosc.Co	1.6km.
Total		214.2km

Local Roads

Class	Length in Km	% of Total	Total Km
1	590.0	25.9	2279.5km.
2	1008.0	44.2	
3	682.0	29.9	
Route	Length in Km	% of Total	
Nat P.	102.7	3.9	
Nat Sec.	47.4	1.8	
Regional	214.2	8.1	
Local	2279.5	86.2	
Total	2,643.8km.	100	



Library Strategy and Development

The Sligo County Library Development Plan 2001-2005 which outlines proposals to develop the library infrastructure and service provision, was adopted by Sligo County Council in November 2001. This Development Plan provides a platform to enable Sligo County Council to implement the Recommendations of the Department of Environment and Local Government's Library Policy Document entitled 'Branching Out: A New Public Library Service'.

An application to the Department of Environment and Local Government for a new library and Headquarters for Sligo was approved and a grant of £3.4m was allocated to the project. In 2001, Sligo County Council purchased a site on The Mall which will be the location for the new Sligo Community Library, Library Administration and Archive. This new site will form the nucleus of a cultural corridor with linkages to the nearby Model and Niland Centre. In order to ensure that the design will be a sympathetic and highly functional Library building, Sligo County Council will commission an International Architectural competition. The target completion date for the library building will be Spring of 2005.

Work commenced on the One-Stop-Shop in Tubbercurry, where a new Community library will be located. Tubbercurry's new library will open in June 2003. Work also commenced on a new branch library in Enniscrone, which will open in December 2002. These improvements to the library infrastructure will ultimately mean that new and expanded services will be offered to our customers.



At Sligo Museum heritage week. L-R: Angela McGurrin, Museum Attendant, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin, Cathaoirleach and Fran Hegarty, Assistant Librarian

Education

2001 got off to an industrious start as Sligo County Library Service commenced its Reading Initiative 'Bookemon' project. The aim of the project was to raise awareness among children, their parents and teachers of the importance of reading and to promote reading as a fun activity. Six Primary schools in the western part of County Sligo were involved in the project, Owenbeg, Easkey, Killeenduff, Kilrusheighter, Highpark and Ballinlig. A Teacher's Pack, which included material on encouraging children to read, ideas for creating classroom reading records and a recommended reading list was compiled and presented to each of the teachers in the participating schools. The project ran for 10 weeks, its objective was to nurture an interest among those children who, hitherto, did not choose reading as a pastime, whilst reinforcing the value of reading to children who regularly read. Many fun activities were organised and were centred on the books the children were reading. One of the schools was involved in designing a new livery for the library's schools van. Authors, Tom McCaughren and Siobhan Parkinson visited the schools during the project and enthralled the children by reading from their books and talking to them about books and reading in general. The project also helped to reinforce links between teachers, librarians and parents.

75 primary schools in Sligo town and county were provided with a stock of books. A large selection of fiction and non-fiction books were specially chosen to meet the needs of children in the 4-12 age group.

In 2001, the library service continued its programme of facilitating second level Transition year students on work experience placements. Students, from local schools, are given an insight into the library working environment and an overview of the role the Public Library service plays within the Local Authority Structure.

Sligo County Library is committed to the philosophy of Lifelong Learning and with this in mind initial discussions were held with the Open University in order to explore how the library service might facilitate users studying Open University courses.

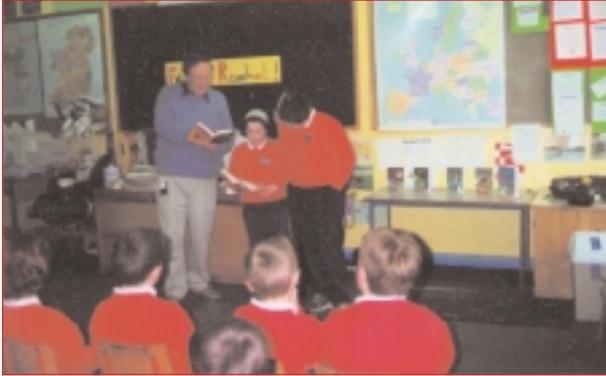
The table below represents the County Library Statistics for 2000 - 2001

Branch Libraries	Adult Membership		Juvenile Membership		Book Issues	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Sligo City	5,185	5,700	2,520	2,570	89,738	90,919
Ballymote	228	296	299	318	10,020	10,576
Tubbercurry	110	135	219	245	4,318	4,212
Enniscrone	49	112	161	185	3,525	3,704
Total	5,572	6,243	3,199	3,318	107,601	109,411

Sligo County Library Services

Information Technology

Free Library membership and free Internet access for members was introduced in 2001. Internet use among members proved to be hugely popular and in April an additional 8 computers were added to the Reference and Local History Section at the Westward Centre in Bridge Street, bringing to 16 the number of access points available to the public. A further 6 Internet access points available in Sligo City Branch and a total of 11,970 people accessed the Internet through the library service.



Author Tom McCoughren with the children of Highpark National School as part of the 'Bookemon' reading initiative.

The library service also commenced the process of computerising its catalogue. The computer system chosen was Unicorn. The system is scheduled to be operational in the Sligo City Branch by October 2002, in Enniscrone Library by December 2002 and in Tubbercurry by June 2003. The new computerised library system will reduce queues at the public desk and will also allow for access to the library database through the Internet.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony Mcloughlin, County Librarian, Donal Tinney with members of an Chomhairle Leabharlanna at County Hall.

The Chairman and Director of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (the Library Council) held a number of meetings with City and County Managers and County and City librarians during 2001. The meetings were organised on a regional basis, and provided an opportunity for discussion and the exchange of information between An Chomhairle Leabharlanna and the Library Authorities. On the 3rd of October 2001, Sligo County Council hosted the North West Regional Meeting, which was very well attended.

Culture and Heritage

4,113 members of the public visited Sligo's Museum in 2001. Recent additions to the Museum include a painting of the "SS. Sligo" by C. Cookerham. The SS. Sligo was part of The Sligo Steam Navigation Company which was owned by the Pollexfen family.

The painting of the ship is currently on exhibition in the County Museum alongside a memoir written by Capt. Devaney, who was one of its crew members. This memoir gives a tremendous insight into the importance of Sligo's maritime history and also provides us with a glimpse into the working conditions and life aboard the SS. Sligo.



The SS. Sligo.

County Museum Statistics

Year	2000	2001
	4,444 visitors	4,113 visitors

Primary Schools Service - *75 schools served*
 Internet - *11,970 users*
 Reference & Local Studies Library - *7,885 users*
 National Reading Initiative - *1,889 books issued*
 Information Services - *3,500 e-mail/telephone enquiries*



Transition year student, Michelle Mahon, Sligo Mercy Convent, helping out in the Library.

Major Group Schemes

Corrick/Balinafad

This scheme was originally intended to provide water to 42 houses, but has been extended to serve 85 houses and the new Field Studies Centre in Ballinafad. The scheme is served from 6 springs with 'back-up' from Lough Arrow, which ensures continuity of supply. The installation of this scheme was pivotal in facilitating new housing development in Ballinafad.

Lacken/Enniscrone

Before the new scheme was installed water was sourced from a well and the quality was totally unsatisfactory. The Group scheme serves 11 houses and 3 sites and cost €34,925

Caltragh/Culleens

This scheme serves 6 houses and was constructed in 2001 at a cost of €40,000.

Emlaghfad

In 1995 residents of Emlaghfad sought to link a new scheme to the Culfadda group scheme. While this proposal did not prove feasible, the extension of the Lough Talt Scheme to Ballymote provided the opportunity to get the Emlaghfad Scheme underway.

Work started on the scheme in late 2001, and involved laying 3.5 km of pipeline serving 15 houses. The total cost of the new scheme was €122,600.

Lugawarry/Lugnadeffa

This scheme involved installing 15 connections and laying 865 metres of pipeline at a cost €43,000.

Small Schemes 2001

The completion of Mullaghmore Water Supply Scheme Stage 1 entailed the laying of 5,200 metres of pipeline from Derrylehan School to Cliffoey Village. This has served to boost the water pressure in the Cliffoey Area.

Takeover of Group Schemes

Killavil

This scheme was constructed 25 years ago. Bursts were a regular problem on different sections of the scheme, and 6.6 kilometres of watermain was replaced. Bulk meters, individual meters, air valves, sluice valves and scour valves were also fitted. Work carried out in 2001 included the fitting of metres and valves along the length of the scheme.

Cloonloo

The scheme was installed in 1981 and serves 131 houses and 97 farms. Work carried out in 2001 included the fitting of metres and valves along the length of the scheme.

Roadstown

The Roadstown scheme was constructed in the mid 1980's to supply 55 houses and 14 farms with water. Taking over the scheme involved fitting bulk and individual metres and the replacement of air valves and sluice valves

Small Sewerage Schemes

Work has started on Monasteraden Sewerage Scheme, which involves the construction of a Treatment plant and laying of sewers. The new scheme will serve Monasteraden village and is designed for a 'population equivalent' of 400 people.



Treatment plant, Cairns hill.

Strategic Rural Water Programme

In September 2001, Sligo County Council adopted a 'Strategic Rural Water Plan'. The plan sets out to...

- > Ensure that all consumers on public mains and group water Schemes are provided with an adequate supply of water which complies with EU Drinking Water Standards.
- > Provide new group schemes in areas which do not have a water Supply at present
- > Upgrade existing group water schemes with deficiencies in their Networks
- > Prepare and implement a programme of water conservation

Lough Gill Water Supply

The operation and maintenance of Foxes Den Treatment Plant has been assigned to Celtic Anglian Water on a 10 year contract which came into effect in September 2001.

Serviced Land Initiative

This scheme was introduced to enable Local Authorities to complement their water and sewerage infrastructure. Any scheme developed under this initiative requires 60% funding from the Local Authority, 40% being met by the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

A number of schemes are being progressed under this initiative, including:

- > Cliffoey
- > Grange
- > Strandhill
- > Ballinacarrow
- > Tubbercurry

In the current year it is hoped to start the schemes in Strandhill and Grange, and to progress to 'contract award' stage in Tubbercurry.

Major Schemes in Planning

Water and Sewerage Services Investment Programme (WSSIP)

Ballincarrow/Cregg/Rosses Point Sewerage Treatment Scheme

A preliminary Report has been submitted to the Department of Environment and Local Government for approval. If the scheme is approved in its current format, treatment will be by means of the new Sligo Main Drainage Plant at Far Finisklin, which is due to be commissioned in 2004.

Carraroe Main Drainage

The Preliminary Report for this scheme is being finalised. If the report is approved by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, it will then go to full design stage.

Complete Information System (CIS)

This system will enable Sligo County Council to provide a complete information and mapping system of its water supply network. It will include information on properties connected to the scheme, and the location of valves, metres and hydrants.

The CIS system also offers a 'Remote Reading facility' which will replace the traditional manual method of reading metres.



Kilsellagh reservoir.

Water Conservation

Large amounts of water abstracted and treated for consumers is wasted. The aim of the 'Water Conservation' Programme is to identify and reduce leakages in watermains. The programme will focus initially in two areas

- > Lough Talt/Lough Easkey
- > North Sligo Regional Water Supply Scheme

Sligo County Council intends to seek funding to extend the scheme to other areas of the county.

Sligo and Environs Water Supply Scheme

In December 1997 work started on the Sligo and Environs Water Supply scheme. In June 2001 Stage 1 of the £23m scheme was officially opened by Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Noel Dempsey, TD.

The Sligo and Environs scheme was designed to provide for the domestic, agricultural and industrial water requirements for the Borough of Sligo and surrounding areas. The many benefits of the scheme include the elimination of restrictions on residential, commercial and industrial development, and the reduction of leakages in the existing water supply distribution system.

One element of the contract was the rehabilitation of the weir and construction of a footbridge across the Garavogue River. The weir will help sustain water levels, and the footbridge has proved a very welcome facility for residents in Abbeyquarter, as it provides ready access to the Mall, General Hospital and Sligo Institute of Technology.

A new modern treatment plant was constructed at a cost of £6.5 million. Located at Foxes Den overlooking the city, it provides treated water to comply with all EU regulations. The scheme also entailed the laying of approximately 30 km of trunk and distribution mains throughout the Borough area. A technique known as 'Directional drilling' was used, which significantly reduced the need to excavate roads and minimised traffic disruption throughout the contract. This work led to a major reduction in the problem of leakages in the existing water supply network.

The main features of Stage 1 of the Scheme are

- > Weir rehabilitation and footbridge
- > Intake pumphouse on shores of Lough Gill
- > Water Treatment Plant and storage reservoir at Foxes Den
- > Laying of 30km of trunk and distribution pipework
- > Refurbishment of existing ozonisation treatment plant at Cairns Hill

The 2001/ 2002 Register of Electors was compiled from information received from Sligo County Council's field officers and other local sources.

The total number of electors on the current register is 45, 689 from 45,323 in 2000/ 2001

Number of Electors by Area

Ballymote	8,939
Dromore	5,170
Sligo / Drumcliffe	11,384
Sligo / Strandhill	13,369
Tubbercurry	6,818

Higher Education Grants

Sligo County Council assisted 357 students under the 2000 Higher Education Grants Scheme. There were 110 new applicants and 247 continuing students. The scheme is administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

In 2001, the Department of Education and Science introduced a special maintenance grant payable to disadvantaged grant holders, targeted at those most in need. Sligo County Council allocated €33,346 to such grant holders in 2001.

A total of €743,732 was allocated in 2001 by Sligo County Council to students in maintenance and fees.

Special Projects

Cross Border Work

The threat of foot and mouth disease had an impact on the level of cross border activity in 2001. However, development work continued and communities in both Sligo and Omagh worked to prepare for future exchanges. In Sligo the Special Projects Office, in association with ADM/CPA Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, provided training to representatives from thirty community groups on the issues associated with exchanging cross border. This training was supported by the production of a guide that has now been circulated to all groups who have an interest in cross border work. Members who attended this training developed a strategy approach to future exchanges and have formed a Steering committee entitled Sligo Connections. This group has prepared an application for funding towards a development worker who will support a programme of community exchanges in the future.

Omagh Sligo Partnership

Members of the Omagh Sligo Partnership met in October to officially launch their presentation folder. The launch by John McKinney, CEO EU Programmes Body and former member of the partnership, was the impetus for the development of a strategy approach for the future development of the Partnership. This action orientated approach sets out the commitment from members to work towards real and tangible benefits for the people of Omagh and Sligo. Using a themed approach focused on Enterprise and Economic Development, Community development and Innovation in Cross Border Development, the members have developed a series of programmes that will be implemented in 2002 for the mutual benefit of the two communities.

Bordertrek 2001

Like all events in 2001 the impact of foot and mouth on Bordertrek was significant. The event was postponed until September and numbers were slightly down on previous years. Notwithstanding this the event was well received with participants enjoying their visit to Sligo and their involvement in the cycle. Sligo County Council was pleased to support the event and will continue this support in 2002.



Cllr. Tony McLoughlin, (Left) Cathaoirleach, at the launch of Bordertrek 2001.

Special Project Work

A key focus of the work of the office in 2001 was to maximise the funding available to projects being developed and implemented in the county. To this end the office was successful in supporting applications for the One Stop Shop in Tubbercurry, the Initiatives Fund, the County Museum, Bordertrek etc. In addition the SPO was available to support in the completion of community applications where communities were working with Sligo County Council.

The Special Projects Officer worked in the preparation of a number of strategic plans for the local authority including the Corporate Plan and the application for monies under the Urban and Village Renewal programme. This involved undertaking extensive consultation and the collation and presentation of information. This work will continue in 2002.

For further information please contact: Deirdre Finnerty, Special Projects Officer, Sligo County Council, Riverside Sligo. 071,57441/71464. spo@sligococo.ie

Communications Office

During 2001 the Communications Office provided information services to the Elected members, staff, general public and the media, as well as providing administrative support to the Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach's Award Scheme was launched in early 2001. This scheme was devised and promoted to reward those who have given voluntary service to their community. There was a large attendance in the County Chamber for the award ceremony. The category winners were:

Sport	Rory O'Beirne
Arts	Dha Eaoin Youth Theatre
Community	Noreen McGloin
Environment	Reverend Alan Mitchell
Schools	Tubbercurry National School

A Special award for youth and endeavour was presented to Kenneth Kerins. The overall Cathaoirleach's Award winner for 2001 was Reverend Alan Mitchell.

In September the Communications Office, working with Partnership Facilitator Ian Duggan, produced the first issue of a staff newsletter. 'Contact' will be published on a quarterly basis, and starting summer 2002 it is intended to circulate a monthly 'update' of the newsletter for staff.

In December Sligo County Council launched its website, (www.sligococo.ie). It was developed in conjunction with website consultant Nico Guichard, and the Communications office and IT sections will update and maintain the site on an ongoing basis. The website is a valuable facility which permits our customers to access information about the full range of services offered by the Council.

In 2002 the Local Government Computer Services Board propose to establish links from their 'e-forms' web-site to the various Local Authority sites, which will mean that application forms and guidelines will be standardised and be available on-line. The next phase of development in late 2002 will mean that the public will be also be able to conduct financial transactions 'on-line'.



A selection of the County Council literature produced by the Communications office.

Partnership

The concept of Team Working and consensus through Partnership continued in Sligo County Council in 2001. The Partnership Committee met ten times throughout the year to oversee the process. Meetings were held at various locations in order to consult with staff and report back on issues raised and identify new issues to be addressed.

A staff seminar was held entitled 'Making Stress Manageable', and a random survey carried out afterwards indicated that the seminar was highly successful.

A working group on flexitime and creche facilities was set up to review existing flexitime arrangements and research the provision of creche facilities. The members of the working group are –

Mairead McLoughlin
 Sarah McNamara
 Fiona Couch
 Marie Durcan
 Kathleen Galvin
 Louise Fizmaurice
 Mairead Clerkin

A mobile unit for outdoor workers was ordered in late 2001, consisting of cooking and washing facilities. Delivery of the unit is expected in early 2002, and will cost e13,300.

A twelve page staff newsletter 'Contact', funded by Partnership, was launched in September 2001, with a second edition produced Christmas 2001. The editorial team for the Newsletter is Mary Dolan, Ian Duggan. Roisin Gannon, Fiona Mostyn, Pauline Stenson and Kevin Colreavy. The Partnership committee oversee the content of the newsletter at 'draft' stage before publication.

A 'Customer Service' project was commenced in the Infrastructure Directorate involving all members of staff. The team leader for the project is Mary Hughes, Institute of Public Administration.

Motor Taxation Office

The Motor Taxation Section aims to provide a quick and efficient service to its customers. The implementation of the National Vehicle and Driver File in March 2002 will deliver a full online motor tax and driver licensing system between Department of the Environment headquarters and each Motor Taxation Office. This will further improve the efficiency of the Motor Tax Office.

Number of Transactions 2000 - 2001

	2000	2001
Road taxes	43398	45368
Roadworthiness certs	1727	1960
Driving licences	9887	9614
Miscellaneous	4427	4074
Total	59439	61016

The Motor Taxation office is based in Cleveragh Development Centre and is open to the public from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



' Meeting the needs of a changing world'

At accidents and natural disasters, storm relief and crowd control, Civil Defence are there, supporting emergency services in their work – rescue by land, air and water, fire control, and ambulance responses.

The threat of Foot and Mouth dominated the first half of 2001. Nationally Civil Defence played a vital part in ensuring that the country remained exempt from the disease. In various parts of Ireland, volunteers manned the ports from early morning until late at night, and played a critical role in assisting the sealing off of suspected farms. In Sligo, volunteers from the Civil Defence collaborated with the Horse Racing Board by manning all entrances and exits to and from the racecourse in order to safeguard the meetings. This role prevailed throughout the 2001 racing season. Sligo Civil Defence was also on standby to assist the Garda Síochána at the border.

The Minister for State at the Department of Defence, Mr Seamus Brennan, T.D., later made a presentation to all volunteers in recognition of their invaluable service during the crisis.

Once the 'all clear' had been given, community events that had been cancelled, recommenced and the role of Civil Defence reverted back to ambulance cover and stewarding.

June 2001 was a notable month in Sligo's calendar as it marked the visit by St Therese's relics to Ballintogher and Sligo Cathedral. Civil Defence assisted by providing ambulance cover, stewarding and car parking supervision at an event in Sligo that attracted thousands of people.

Volunteers were also available to assist in events throughout the latter part of 2001 such as ambulance covering at Mullaghmore mini triathlon, the annual Co-operation North Cycle and providing safety boat cover and safety cover on the river banks



The Civil Defence exercise on Lough Gill with the air corps.

for the annual RNLI raft race on the Garavogue River. The Civil Defence unit was also on hand to provide ambulance cover during the official opening of the Heritage Park in Riverstown by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

Civil Defence was on standby in November 2001, when the Nuclear National Emergency Plan was activated following the terrorist attack on America.

Training is an important aspect of Civil Defence to ensure that all the volunteers are equipped with the necessary and up to date skills that they require to be able to assist their community.

In 2001 training included the attendance of volunteers at a workshop on working with helicopters at the Civil Defence School in Dublin and 12 volunteers successfully completed their intermediate First Aid Examinations. A successful training exercise was also undertaken on Lough Gill in conjunction with Wild Rose Water Boat in which the Air Corp S.A.R.A. unit carried out a rescue from the water.

Work also commenced in 2001 on a new building designed to house the two Civil Defence boats. One of the boats, named the Zodiac, is a semi-rigid rib with a 50mph engine, and was allocated to Sligo's Civil Defence Unit by the Department during the year. It will enhance the unit's ability to assist with both coastal and inland waterway searches and recoveries, when required.

2001 also saw Sean Kavanagh retire after 18 years of dedicated and valuable service as Sligo's Civil Defence officer. Marion Davis continues his work as the new Civil Defence Officer.

The backbone of the Civil Defence is undoubtedly the volunteers and Sligo's Unit is keen to encourage more people to get involved.

In 2001, a recruitment stand was on display at the Abbott's Sports Day and at the start of the winter training session, 15 new volunteers signed up. Furthermore, a number of calls were received requesting further information on Civil Defence, following publicity in the local media.

In 2002, Sligo's Civil Defence Unit will continue to be ready, willing and able to assist the emergency services and the community in their hour of need. Those interested in learning more about the service or would like to get actively involved should contact Marion Davis at 071 57536.

Sligo Fire Authority

The Fire Authority provides a number of services ranging from the emergency response to incidents such as fires, road traffic accidents, chemical incidents and more recently biological incidents, to ensuring the fire safety of the built environment through certification, inspection and enforcement. The Authority also provides information and training on fire safety management and fire fighting.



Presentation of Model House by Sligo Fire Service to the Children of Cregg House.

In order to provide this service in an efficient manner throughout the county there are Fire Brigade Stations in Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone. These Brigades attended almost 800 incidents over the last year, an increase over the previous year of nearly 50 incidents. This reflects the continued expansion of our commercial and residential building stock and the increase in traffic using our road network.

There were several large commercial fires this year, again emphasising the need for an efficient and effective fire service and the need for preventative measures. There has been an increase in fires caused by arsonists. These pose a serious threat to life and property and the cost can also result in the loss of jobs within the community.

People must remain vigilant in the home as this is where our most serious fires were this year. The loss caused by these incidents is enormous, tragically three people died as a result of fires in the home.

The carnage on our roads continued with five fatalities resulting from road traffic accidents making this one of the worst years in recent times, and adding to the workload of our firecrews.



Training

There is a very strict training regime in the Fire Brigade as is necessitated by the sometimes difficult and dangerous environment in which Firefighters work. Firefighters undergo over one hundred hours training every year, this includes the latest advances in techniques used to tackle the fires known as "flashover" and "backdraft" and the latest methods of extraction of casualties from vehicles involved in incidents. This is particularly

important in view of the advances in active safety technology employed in the modern car, airbags and seatbelt tensioning do save lives the instant an accident occurs but can pose a serious threat to rescue personnel.

The Brigade now holds "block" R.T.A. training over a number of days, in which the necessary skills are learned and practised.

Sligo is now a "hot fire" training centre and offers this facility nationally for the training of Firefighters throughout the country. This facility is used to demonstrate and train Firefighters in the latest techniques and equipment necessary for their protection and the saving of life.



Promoting fire awareness: L-R Alderman Jude Devins, Mayor of Sligo, Paul Coyle, Chief Fire Officer, Ross Levis, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Paul Ryan, Acting Assistant CFO and Cllr. Tony Mcloughlin, Cathaoirleach.

The Breathing Apparatus training centre has been modernised with the installation of a "gas fire system". This is used to train staff in proper search and rescue techniques and in the use of Breathing Apparatus in fire situations.

Local industries have also facilitated the Brigade in carrying out Pre-Fire Training in which various types of incidents are staged and training undertaken so that should a similar incident occur the Brigade will have the necessary skills and resources needed to deal with it in an efficient and professional manner.

Community Fire Safety

One of the most successful and popular events every year is National Fire Safety Week. In Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone the Brigades erected our display and showed members of the public, by demonstration in a scale model house with fixtures and fittings, the dangers resulting from the lack of a modular Fire Alarm system. The model house was presented to Cregg House (in perfect condition) at the end of the fire safety week. Many other initiatives were undertaken throughout the year. Talks were given to the elderly and new home owners on fire safety. Groups of primary school students visited the stations and watched fire safety videos and demonstrations, in all approximately 650 students visited the station.

Groups from secondary schools, Sligo Institute of Technology, the local community and Civil Defence also participated in courses held in the Fire Station.

These courses reinforce the need for vigilance when it comes to fire safety and brings this message back to their homes, schools and workplaces.

The Fire Authority processed over 130 Fire Safety Certificate applications as required under Building Control Legislation and dealt with in excess of 200 Planning Applications under the Planning Acts. These applications covered a wide range of premises from Apartment Blocks, Hotels, Shops to large commercial developments.



Pupils from Tubbercurry National School (No 2.) Planting a tree, outside the new fire station in Tubbercurry.

Inspections were carried out under the various Licensing legislation covering nearly every type of premises from petroleum stores to dance licences. The Fire Authority made comments on all transfer of licences before the courts and carried out numerous inspections of dance halls, public houses and workplaces. The Authority successfully prosecuted where satisfactory standards were not achieved. Generally the level of co-operation received when advice is given is very good.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Tony Mcloughlin with members of Sligo Fire Service during fire safety week.

Fire Stations and Appliances

The long awaited new Fire Station in Tubbercurry opened, supported by the Minister Noel Dempsey T.D., local County Councillors and the local community. The provision of a new Fire Engine was an added boost and the new facility provides the community with the best available emergency service. This facility will provide a valuable service to the rapidly expanding local community and the busy N17 national primary route.

Ballymote received its new Fire Engine, replacing the ageing appliance that had served the community well over the years. This new appliance has already attended and proved valuable at a large fire in the centre of Ballymote. Plans are being finalised for the provision of a new station to serve the community. It is hoped to proceed with this project later this year.

Plans are being prepared for the upgrading of Sligo Fire Station in line with current requirements and this matter is being progressed.

Communications

The 24 hour Watchroom at Headquarters deals with all emergency calls for the Borough and County. The proposed Computer Aided Mobilisation Project is expected to be available later this year. The professionalism of the watchroom personnel who deal with all emergency calls received and provide assistance through backup services and information to field operations ensures that incidents are dealt with in an efficient manner.

Environmental Services

Litter is one of the most persistent environmental problems facing Sligo County Council. The Environment Section encourages community involvement in combating the detrimental effects of this problem on the environment.

Every year Sligo County Council holds an Anti Litter Awareness competition along with educational talks provided by our Litter Warden in schools in the county to raise awareness among young people.

In 2001 a full time Litter Warden, Aiden Feeney, was appointed in Sligo County Council and a van was provided which has given a higher profile to this important service. The Litter Warden service is provided outside working hours and at weekends and the warden is contactable by phone; the number is displayed on side of the van.



Local residents at a beach clean up in Enniscrone.

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System commenced in 2001; the purpose of this system is to enable Local Authorities to generate accurate and reliable statistics relating to litter pollution levels in their own functional area. Sligo County Council has completed the three phases of the system for Year 1 and the results have been submitted to the Monitoring body for their analysis and reporting.



Executive Technician, Rosie Morrissey with Pat Kennedy, taking water samples on Lough Arrow.

Funding of £10,000 was provided to Sligo County Council under the Anti Litter Initiatives Grant for 2001 to co-fund public education and awareness initiatives against litter. Individuals or Groups were invited to submit projects for funding which focus on litter awareness, education and prevention. Six groups were successful in receiving funding.

Sligo County Council launched the "Pooper Scooper" in 2001, a device to combat the problem of dog fouling and this is provided free of charge to the dog owners in Sligo.

A review took place in 2001 of the Litter Management Plan for Sligo County Council/Corporation and the Council adopted a revised document in November 2001 for a three-year period. The amended plan aims to establish and develop partnerships with the community, provide educational seminars and undertake measures to control and prevent the occurrence of litter in County Sligo for example:

- > The presence of the Garda Siochana on patrols with the Litter Warden
- > The application of the "polluter pays principle" in court prosecutions to include the costs of cleaning sites in cases with litter offenders
- > A name and shame campaign – identifying offenders and those who have not paid fines.
- > The continued and increased funding of schemes such as Tidy Towns Competition, Anti-litter Awareness Campaigns, a bumper anti-litter competition and "Pooper Scoopers"

The National Spring Clean Campaign took place in June 2001 and over 90 groups took part in clean up campaigns and was one of the most successful clean up events to date.

Tidy Towns

2001 proved to be a challenging year for our Tidy Towns Competition with the outbreak of the "Foot and Mouth" disease in Northern Ireland. This did not deter the local committees in the county from striving to improve their marks. Sligo County Council provided funding for the Tidy Towns competition. Submissions were received from all Tidy Towns Groups and funding was provided to applicants who attempted to address problem areas within their towns/villages and in particular areas identified by the Tidy Town's Judging Committee in previous years' competitions.

In 2001 Sligo had three new entrants to the competition, all receiving very impressive results for their first attempt. The results in the county have all increased highlighting the commitment and determination of our community groups in the county.

Environmental Campaign

In 2001 a full time Environmental Services Co-ordinator, Alice O' Rourke, was appointed in the Environment Section to focus on Education and Awareness initiatives in the county. Alice organises seminars on areas such as Composting, Recycling and Waste Management to Community groups and schools in the county. It is widely recognised that success of any waste management plan requires considerable emphasis on public awareness and acceptance of environmental sustainability, and the Environmental Services Co-ordinator helps to achieve this.

The Environment Section is also involved in An Taisce's Green Schools campaign, which is targeted at schools to help students recognise the importance of environmental issues. To date 3 schools in Sligo have been awarded in the Green Flag in recognition of their efforts in environmental activity. Talks and seminars are organised to help schools in achieving their targets under the programme.



Pupils at Mary Immaculate Girls National School, Collooney, taking part in a 'Fashion Parade' made out of recycled material.

Local Environmental Partnership Fund 2001

This fund seeks to promote action by local and community organisations, in partnership with local authorities, in the area of environmental protection. The overall aim of the campaign is to encourage people to identify and pursue environmentally sustainable behaviour, so that action at individual and community levels fully reflects public concern about the environment. Total funding of £10,000 was provided to 6 groups in the county.

Home Composting

The Environment Section is providing Home Composting units to householders in the county in an effort to divert organic waste away from landfill. The Section is strongly promoting composting as a cheap and environmentally friendly alternative to landfilling organic household and green waste. By composting you can reduce your waste output by one third. Bins are provided at a subsidised rate of €30 and nearly 1,500 were provided in 2001.

Bring Bank Facilities

Bring bank facilities are provided in 14 key locations in the county and by the end of 2001 an order was in place for Plastic banks, a much needed facility for the diversion of plastic bottles away from landfill. Surveys also took place in 2001 to investigate potential new sites for bring banks so that provision could be made in the estimates for 2002.

All bring bank sites are currently on an upgrade rota in an attempt to improve the visual appearance of each facility and ensure easier maintenance.

Coastal Protection 2001

During 2001 Sligo County Council progressed a number of coastal projects as part of its continuing programme.

- > At Strandhill, a contract for coastal protection works and a new slipway was signed and works were commenced. The project is valued at approximately €650,000 and is due for completion by the Summer of 2002. The projects objectives include maintaining a public non-tidal pathway resistant to erosion, protection and managing the vulnerable dune system and providing access from the public car park to beach level for the public and for emergencies.
- > At Pullaheeney a study was commissioned to assess various coastal issues in a holistic way.
- > At Mullaghmore, the Coast Road Protection Scheme was completed including a second phase to secure the public road closer to the village. The overall cost is approximately €565,000.

Harbours and Pier Works

Rosses Point Pier received a face-lift including new fendering, repairs to steps, new safety railings, access ladder, new steps and resurfacing, for the benefit of the local fisherman and other boat users.

Mullaghmore Breakwater Improvements

During this year progress was made in terms of engaging consultants to carry out detailed design of necessary repairs to the Mullaghmore Harbour and Breakwater which included substantial improvements, including a non-tidal berthing facility and a return leg to the breakwater. The scheme will greatly enhance the amenity and usability of the facility and provide added protection and safety for harbour users as well as protecting this most used and popular infrastructural asset.

Annual slipway clearance was carried out at Enniscrone to benefit the slipway and harbour users, with mutual benefit to the coastal protection and dune management works near the Bellawaddy River outfall, at the main beach at Enniscrone.

The Heritage Office was established within the Sligo Local Authorities in June 1999, and is located in Sligo County Council offices at County Hall. In 2001, the Heritage Office worked to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Sligo. Sligo County Council seeks to facilitate appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage and in doing so co-operate with other bodies in the promotion of its functions. The Heritage Office is committed to providing high quality advice on all matters relating to heritage issues. It also seeks to assist the development of the Local Authority's heritage strategy and policy and to advise on heritage impacts and consequences. During 2001, the Heritage Office has continued to play a role in developing and implementing heritage policy in County Sligo.

The Heritage Act (1995), defines heritage as including the following: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways. Heritage is a reflection of natural processes and human influences upon a landscape. This interaction is portrayed in many different ways, perhaps through a particular building style, or a traditional shop front. The heritage assets of County Sligo provide a unique cultural identity, which also has an important national and international dimension. Our cultural heritage is a measurable index of quality of life and is an important social, educational, recreational, tourism and aesthetic resource for the people of Sligo. Nationally, the Government through the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands is currently preparing a National Heritage Plan and National Biodiversity Plan; both see the production and implementation of local plans on a county basis.

County Sligo Heritage Forum

In 2001, the Heritage Office on behalf of the Sligo Local Authorities began the process of developing a County Heritage Plan. The process was informed by the guidance set out in 'A Methodology for Local Authority Heritage Officers for the preparation of County Heritage Plans' as proposed by The Heritage Council (2001). This recommended the establishment of a County Heritage Forum. The role of the Heritage Forum is to oversee the development and implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Plan.

In the context of the expertise and resources available, the Forum will seek to outline the actions needed to sustain and enhance the heritage of County Sligo and in doing respond appropriately with local solutions. It will be the first time that the diverse concepts regarding the value of and future of Sligo's heritage will be co-ordinated and articulated in a strategic manner. In doing so, it reinforces the value of preparing a single strategy and framework for heritage management locally.

The County Sligo Heritage Forum had its inaugural meeting on the 5th April 2001 in the Development Centre, Cleveragh, Sligo. Membership of the Forum is drawn from Local Government, Local Development, State agencies, Educational Institutes, Farming Sector, Community and Voluntary Sector and the County Sligo Heritage Groups.



A selection of the large crowd that gathered to view the excavation of a crannog at Lough Gara.

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County Sligo Heritage Plan 2002-2006

The Heritage Plan, developed by the County Sligo Heritage Forum and co-ordinated by the Sligo Local Authorities, will be the first Heritage Plan for Sligo and will begin a new period for heritage conservation, based on partnership and co-ordination. Until now, the care of heritage has been the remit of different agencies, interest groups and individuals, but this has occurred in the absence of a strategic overview of the heritage issues pertaining to Sligo specifically.

In drawing up the County Sligo Heritage Plan the Forum will enter a broad consultation process with various sectors. Through extensive public consultation, the heritage priorities and objectives for County Sligo will be identified and the actions needed to achieve these will be set out over the five-year period of the Plan. It will be the first time that the diverse concepts regarding the value of and future of Sligo's heritage will be co-ordinated and articulated in a strategic manner. In doing so, it will reinforce the value of preparing a single strategy and framework for heritage management locally. The Heritage Plan will be in place in early 2002.

Heritage Office - Initiatives Undertaken in 2001

Key Initiatives undertaken in 2001

Schools Heritage and IT Programme

Following the success of 'Exploring the Fieldfences of County Sligo' which involved eight primary schools in County Sligo exploring their local heritage using ICT skills, the Heritage Office in partnership with Sligo Education Centre initiated a second phase of the pilot which focuses on Sligo's coastal heritage. 'From Skerrydoo to Carrickfadda - an exploration of the Sligo Coastline' involves twelve primary schools along Sligo's coast. Through the project it is hoped that heritage awareness is increased and that students will have an opportunity to develop ICT skills to record and disseminate their findings. An innovative aspect of the second pilot is the provision of local heritage expertise to the schools. During the winter months each school received a visit from a local heritage expert, thus providing support for the teacher and students while developing links with the wider community through an evening lecture series based in the twelve schools. This second phase of the schools heritage and IT pilot will be completed in June 2002.

Village Design Statements

In September 2001, local communities in Ballisodare and Grange had an opportunity to be involved in the future design and planned expansion of their villages, through their participation in the production of "Village Design Statements". The pilot programme is a partnership approach involving both local communities, Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council.

A "Village Design Statement" is a non-statutory, simple but effective design guidance document, which aims to reflect the visions and desires of local people working in partnership with Sligo County Council to determine the future expansion of these two villages as envisaged within the County Sligo Development Plan. The "Village Design Statement" is a pro-active approach to enable local communities to participate in the management and shaping of change by providing design guidance which demonstrates how the distinctive local character of these villages can be protected and enhanced, and how new development can be sensitively accommodated whilst respecting this local character.

In addition to conducting extensive site surveys and analysis, community design workshops will be held in Grange and Ballisodare in January 2002. The workshop intends to give local residents an opportunity to voice their opinions about their village, and how they would like to see it evolve in the future. Using a variety of techniques, the workshops will undertake an appraisal of each village by those who know it best - the local community - under the guidance of the team, who can help local residents see their village in a new light, and provide professional advice whenever necessary.

The completed Village Design Statements will be presented to the communities in April 2002. Further design statements will be undertaken within County Sligo in 2002.

Seminars

The Heritage Office considers that increased awareness of heritage is central to its function. In addition to being a public information service and a provider of advice within the Local Authority, a number of awareness initiatives were undertaken in 2002 which included a Hedgerow Management workshop and a seminar on Community Graveyard Management. In October the Heritage Council held a Conservation Plan Workshop in the Model::Niland Art Gallery, Sligo.



< The quarterly Heritage Matters magazine, produced by the Heritage office.

Heritage Matters

This quarterly publication is provided by the Sligo Local Authorities to reflect the wide range of heritage initiatives within County Sligo and the activities of the County Sligo Heritage Office. Through Heritage Matters, people can stay in touch with all the latest developments in heritage issues, get simple explanations of technical and legal matters affecting heritage.

Understanding the implications of legal, planning and management processes surrounding heritage items can sometimes be confusing. Understanding Heritage is a regular feature in Heritage Matters and features simple explanations of complex heritage issues. Caring for heritage is a regular feature of Heritage Matters providing hands-on advice on the practical care of heritage items. While Heritage Happenings provides information on the heritage events taking place in County Sligo.

The County Heritage Programme is funded primarily by Sligo County Council, Sligo Corporation and The Heritage Council. In each programme area, partnerships have been developed and additional funding accessed from relevant sources.

County Heritage Office Staff

Siobhán Ryan - Heritage Officer
Sinead McGrath - Administration

For More Information Contact

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Email: heritage@sligococo.ie

Sligo County Council employs in excess of 450 staff and is one of the largest employers in the North West.

The main areas of activity in the Section are:

Staff Recruitment and Retention

Industrial Relations

Staff Training and Development

Equality and Family Friendly Policies

Staff Recruitment

Sligo County Council deals with recruitment both for the Council and for Sligo Borough Council. Recruitment is strictly on merit with independent interview boards appointed by the County Manager to recommend the most suitable candidates for employment/promotion in accordance with the various particulars and conditions of employment which apply to the grades concerned. In 2001, Sligo County Council held 93 different interviews with 719 candidates being interviewed. These included interviews arising out of the Government's Programme of Local Government Reform.

Industrial Relations

Sligo County Council works with Unions and staff representatives to achieve good working relationships to reconcile conflicting demands with the minimum of conflict. It involves implementation of agreements on pay and conditions of employment, processing of Union Claims, preparation of cases for the Labour Court and Labour Relations Commission and improved working conditions for staff.

Staff Training

The Council is committed to the training and development of all its employees.

Training and development can take the form of

- > Courses arranged for staff.
- > Seminars, Conferences attended by staff.
- > Support for staff to undertake Courses in their own time.

Over the past number of years many staff members have undertaken the Certificate course in Local Government Studies run in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration. To date 92 staff members have successfully completed the course and a further 11 are studying the current course. Two staff members have successfully completed the Higher Certificate course with a further five staff currently undertaking it.

One hundred and fifty staff members have completed or are completing the European Computer Drivers Licence course (E.C.D.L). It is expected that a further 50 staff will commence European Computer Drivers Licence training in 2002.

The Institute of Public Administration has been commissioned by the Local Government Management Services board to carry out a Training and Development Needs Analysis in Local Government. The Council along with three other local authorities has been selected as a pilot site to carry out the initial analysis. Out of this a template for staff training and development into the future will be developed.



Staff receiving their ECDL certificates in County Hall. Included in the front row are Cyril McNamara, Human Resources, Ann Thornton, Course Instructor, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin, Cathaoirleach and Joe Murphy, Human Resources.

Equality and Family Friendly Policies

An Equal Opportunity Policy is in place which gives the Council's commitment to treat and develop all its employees equally, irrespective of sex, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, colour, race, nationality or membership of the travelling community.

The Council continues to assist staff members in making available to them opportunities for Job-Sharing arrangements, Career Breaks, Special Leave, etc.

Policy Training Programme for Members

The first Phase of the training programme consisted of policy focused seminars for Strategic Policy Committee Chairs. The second phase, which has already commenced, involves a series of intensive one-day seminars for all Councillors devoted to four key local government policy issues, housing, planning, environment and roads. The first of these seminars dealing with housing policy was completed during the summer of 2001. The panel of speakers was drawn from a pool of experienced local authority officials and elected members along with officials from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

The Official Opening of County Hall



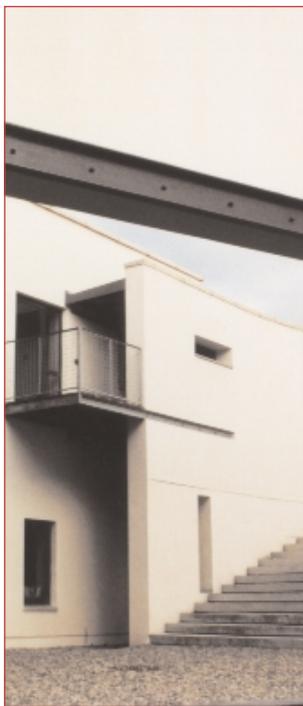
The 'turning of the sod' on the new extension to County Hall occurred (22nd April 1999) on the 100th Anniversary of the first meeting of Sligo County Council. The refurbished building was officially opened by Minister for the Environment and Local Government Noel Dempsey, T.D., on 1st June 2001.

The copper clad Council Chamber dominates the façade, and the new reception area facilitates displays and exhibitions. The internal areas of County Hall were re-arranged to provide a public 'interface' for departments close to the main reception area. Additional meeting rooms and a training room were also provided.

The most significant space in the building is the new Council Chamber. The chamber is designed and equipped to host meetings of local, national and international importance.



Minister for the Environment and Local Government Noel Dempsey T.D. and members of Sligo County Council at the official opening of Sligo County Hall County Council.



Above left: The County Hall, courtyard.

Above Right: County Hall at night.

Opposite left: A view of from the main reception area at the base of the stairway.

Architects for the project were Murray O'Loire, Dublin, and the main contractor was Kilcawley's Building and Civil Engineering Ltd, Sligo.



Four years ago, the members of Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council appointed the county's first Arts Officer and established the Arts Office. The major task of this new office was to build on the existing creativity in the county and complement it by identifying gaps in arts provision.

It was decided that a strategic, planned approach to arts development was necessary; thus Placing Art 1998-2001, the county's first arts development programme, was adopted.

First located first in County Hall, the increase in staff necessitated a move by the Arts Office to larger office space in Market Yard in Autumn 2000. Staff have been employed by Sligo County Council as follows:

- > **Mary McAuliffe**, Arts Officer – 1997
- > **Rhona Feely**, Assistant Arts Officer – April 2000
Sligo was one of the first local authorities to appoint an Assistant Arts Officer.
- > **Mary McDonagh**, Public Art Co-ordinator – July 1999.
Sligo was the first county to appoint a Public Art Co-ordinator.
- > **Ann O'Connor**, Project Co-ordinator – October 2000

The Arts programme is funded primarily by Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council and the Arts Council of Ireland. All projects are co-ordinated by the Arts Office and in each programme area partnerships have been developed with agencies and community groups, and additional funding accessed from sources relevant to the area of activity.

Placing Art 1998 - 2001

The concluding Placing Art 1998-2001 was adopted by the members as a means of enhancing existing arts provision and making a contribution to other areas of identified need.

The programme consisted of a strategic, planned approach to arts development over a three year period, designed and delivered by the Arts Office on behalf of the local authority members. It had three primary goals - **Access and Opportunity, Sustainability, and Quality**.

The first of these goals, **Access and Opportunity**, relates to the fundamental premise of the Placing Art programme – that artistic activity be inclusive of all citizens of the county. Therefore, the programme aimed to ensure that as many people as possible had access to an expanded range of artistic activity and had the opportunity, if they so wished, to participate in this activity. In providing Access and Opportunity, the members of the Sligo local authorities felt it necessary to ensure that all arts activity put in place would provide a solid foundation for long-term arts development. As a result, the focus of Placing Art was planned and policy-driven and all projects were commissioned according to the programme's second goal, Sustainability.

It was also recognised that this artistic activity must be of the highest calibre if it were to have sufficient appeal and stand the test of time. And so, the third goal of Placing Art was to ensure that projects undertaken would be adequately resourced, original, innovative and, ultimately of Quality.

These three goals were supported by the following objectives: Research and Development; Investment in Evaluation and Review; Targeting Resources, and Formulating Arts Policies. Goals and objectives were delivered through a series of pilot projects in four target areas.

Today, four years on, the programme has reached completion and the Arts Office has successfully achieved a first, significant step in fostering and promoting a thriving arts environment for all citizens of the county.

Partners

Partnerships were developed with a number of community groups and agencies during the implementation of various programme initiatives. The partnerships were with the following: Music Network; Hawk's Well Theatre; Blue Raincoat Theatre Company; National Association for Youth Drama; St Patrick's National School; Model Arts & Niland Gallery; North Western Health Board.

The success of Placing Art, which has now reached completion, is reflected in the following facts:

- > More people are participating in the arts and new audiences have been developed – 11,000 people directly participated in the Placing Art 1998-2001 programme.
- > Housing of the arts has greatly improved with the development of a number of public arts spaces of quality and distinction – The Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Ceoláras Coleman, and the Factory Performance Space.
- > The local authorities have long been active supporters of local arts groups under the 1973 Arts Act but this support was expanded and built upon with additional funding. Seventeen local arts organisations and groups were supported with funding, while thirty-one community groups received grants.

Next Steps

A context for arts development has been created as a result of Placing Art and the arts are now firmly established as an essential area of service provision by the Sligo Local Authorities. It is now time for a new structure which will ensure continued delivery and ongoing development in the county and this will be done in the context of the County Sligo Arts Plan 2002 – 2005. This Arts Plan is currently being prepared by the Arts Office as a more comprehensive and sophisticated response to the Arts in County Sligo. A core requirement is that the plan will set the ground for an arts service that can accommodate ongoing arts work as well as develop policy for the future.

"To me County Sligo Youth Theatre is the only place on a Saturday where I can go and be completely happy and relaxed. I look forward to it every week, it is where I can learn and take part in something that I enjoy, without any stresses or strains. Being able to share my ideas with others has built my confidence, as now I am more open with people I talk to, not being afraid to take part. Being able to have a say in what goes on behind the scenes in productions was something I had an interest in before joining the Youth Theatre, and now I am having the chance to pursue this interest." *Youth theatre member 2001/2002*

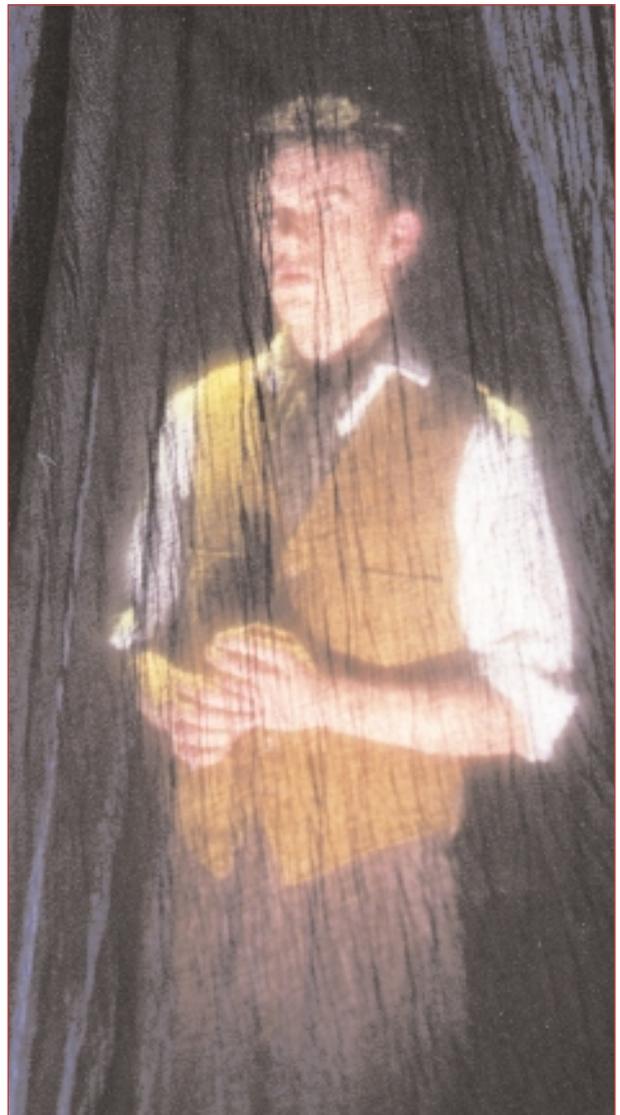
County Sligo Youth Theatre

Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council and the Hawk's Well Theatre, with assistance from the National Association for Youth Drama, established County Sligo Youth Theatre in 1998. The Blue Raincoat Theatre Company joined as a partner in 1999.

CSYT was established to meet a perceived gap in access to theatre for young people.

Since then, up to 100 County Sligo people aged 15-22 have participated in weekly drama workshops and presented annual, well-received performances at local theatres. Productions staged to date in the Hawk's Well and the Factory Performance Space have been: *Broken Plastic Chairs*, 1999; *The Visit*, 2000, *The Shadow of the Glen*, 2000; *Iph*, 2001

In August 2001, a new board of directors and a dedicated Youth Theatre Leader/Administrator was appointed. The new board has taken over responsibility from the Arts Office for overseeing the transition of the youth theatre to an independent entity and is responsible for all aspects of managing the organisation.



County Sligo Youth Theatre's production of *IPH*.

"Some people say that older people are boring, but not these ones, they are the complete opposite!" *Young participant, The Maugherow Project*

This year, from August 31st – September 16th, a display of some of the artwork was presented in a successful public exhibition, entitled Séideán Sí at the Model Arts and Niland Gallery.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a one-day seminar, Unwrapping Creativity: An Intergenerational Approach, was organised by the Maugherow Project. It highlighted the philosophy, methodology, successes and challenges of the project and promoted reflection and debate about the wider issues of arts in health and arts in education.

Originally operating as a partnership between Sligo County Council and St Patrick's National School, the Arts Office then invited the North Western Health Board to join as a partner in order to examine the merits of replicating the project in other rural areas of County Sligo. Together with the Maugherow Project Leader, the partners are exploring, evaluating and documenting the potential of using arts-based activity in a rural primary school as a resource for promoting social inclusion in rural communities, with a particular emphasis on older members of the community.



Hubert Kearns, County Manager, is presented with a poster by Micheal Foran, designed around his sketch (see cover) which was used to promote Séideán Sí, an exhibition of art work from the Maugherow project. Also pictured is Ann O' Connor, Project Leader

This arts initiative brought young and old people together in a rural area in North Sligo to explore their creativity using a variety of art forms. It was established at St Patrick's National School in Maugherow in 1998. 12 older people from the local area and 33 fifth and sixth class students have worked with eight artists on the project.

"Being involved with the children seems to energise us." *Older participant, The Maugherow Project*

The appointment of the Vogler String Quartet as Sligo's quartet in residence in May 1999 marked the commencement of a visionary three year music development programme centred on performance, music education and tuition – all aimed at making classical music accessible to a wider range of participants and audiences. At its inception it was hailed by *The Irish Times* in a leader article as one which "will surely stand as a milestone in Ireland's musical life."

Individuals and groups of all ages have worked directly with the Voglers. They range from children as young as four years old at the Sligo Academy of Music to teachers and students at primary, secondary and third level, leaders and groups from St Anne's Youth & Community Centre, local music promoters Con Brio, local musicians Sligo Early Music Ensemble and the Model Arts and Niland Gallery.

Vogler Quartet in Sligo is taking place due to a unique collaboration between Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council, Music Network and the Arts Council, with additional support from ESB, sponsors of the ESB Music Education Programme and the ESB Vogler Spring Festival, the IRMA Trust, sponsors of the Sligo Music Instrument Bank, and the In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education & Science.

Vogler Quartet in Sligo 2001 activities

- > 1st February: Beethoven & Webern
Part of Sligo Music Series 2000/2001 presented by Con Brio with Vogler Quartet & Friends The Vogler Quartet in Sligo residency programme works closely with and provides substantial funding to local music promoters Con Brio.
- > 5th April: Double Quartet: Vogler Quartet & Callino Quartet
Part of Sligo Music Series 2000/2001 presented by Con Brio with Vogler Quartet & Friends
- > 3rd – 6th May: ESB Vogler Spring Festival, St Columba's Church, Drumcliffe. Second annual chamber music festival which takes place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend with the Vogler Quartet and guest Irish and International artists.

"The ESB Vogler Spring Festival is an annual celebration of the extraordinary phenomenon that is the residency of the Vogler Quartet in Sligo."

Michael Dervan, Music Critic, The Irish Times, 9th May 2001



- > 4th – 10th July: Sligo Academy of Music Vogler Quartet Chamber Music Masterclasses, Institute of Technology, Sligo
- > 28th September: Music of Three Centuries
Part of Sligo Music Series 2001/2002 presented by Con Brio with Vogler Quartet & Friends
- > ESB Music Education Programme at 1st, 2nd and 3rd Level (ongoing) This is one of the largest elements of the Vogler residency, which aims to raise the level of awareness and appreciation of classical music and provide County Sligo with long-term sustainable structures which will benefit schools and teachers.

"We see the children in the school talk about the quartet and talk about the instruments, they take it as second nature. They have learned a lot, basically through fun and they're not aware of the fact that they are learning the information." *Teacher, Vogler Music Education Programme 2001*

- > Sligo Academy of Music - Instrumental tuition by Vogler Quartet (ongoing). The Vogler Quartet in Sligo residency works closely with and provides substantial funding to Sligo Academy of Music to provide tuition in string instruments to young children.

"It could be said that the canvas of ideas and thoughts of a unique partnership of artistic perceptions and local understanding and insights has become a reality through the fulfilment of the Knoxspark Project"

Cathaoirleach, Tony McLoughlin speaking on the occasion of the celebration of the Knoxspark Regeneration Project in September 2001

Public Art and the Per Cent for Art Schemes

The Placing Art public art programme was the first joint local authority initiative funded by the Department of Environment Per Cent for Art Scheme. It aimed to promote quality in the built environment through the visual arts by commissioning public art in a new way. Also new was the way in which the artists engaged the public in their projects. There were 276 core participants in the programme.

Practical structures and ways of commissioning were explored so that ongoing commissioning opportunities would be available to artists working locally, nationally and internationally in building a quality collection of art works for the county. In 1999, Ireland's first Public Art Co-ordinator was appointed to the Arts Office.

A comprehensive evaluation of the pilot was carried out that involved all of the participants. The result was a detailed evaluation report and series of recommendations that paved the way for the Sligo local authorities to take a strategic and policy driven approach to the Department of Environment and Local Government's Per Cent for Art Scheme for the future.

Arts Building and Resource Programme

Since the establishment of the Arts Office in 1997, the members of Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council have actively supported the development of a number of arts building projects including the Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Blue Raincoat Theatre Company and Ceoláras Coleman. This has ensured that the housing of the arts in the county, and the environment in which artists work and audiences experience this work, has greatly improved, as has the quality of life for all people in County Sligo who support, access and participate in the arts. Importantly, too, the cultural profile of County Sligo at local, national and international level has been significantly strengthened, with Sligo arts venues now regarded as some of the best in the country.

Grants and Awards

Grant awards have supported children's art workshops, drawing workshops, video recording, music events, creative writing workshops, community publications, dance performance, drama workshops, puppet making and band performances.

In 2001 the Sligo local authorities in conjunction with the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, County Monaghan introduced the individual artists bursary scheme for artists born or living in Sligo. To date four artists have been supported through the scheme.

Arts Organisations and Groups Supported with Funding through Contribution to the Arts 1998 - 2001

Hawk's Well Theatre: Sligo International Choral Festival: Blue Raincoat Theatre Company: South Sligo Summer School: Coleman Traditional Festival: James Morrison Traditional Music Festival: Ballintogher Traditional Music Festival: Feis Shligigh: Connacht Fleadh: County Sligo Fleadh



< Promotional literature for The Blue Raincoat Theatre Company, one of the locally based groups supported with funding through Contribution to the Arts.

Community Groups Supported through Community Arts Act Grant Scheme 1999 - 2001

O'Hara Carriages Museum Project: Dha Ean Theatre Company: The Caisleach Writers: West Sligo Women's Art Group: Apple Loft Gallery: Sligo Active Retirement Writers: The Warriors Festival: Women Together: Maugherow Community Entertainment Group: Live & Original Community Arts Club: Sligo Concert Band: Jolly Tots Community Playgroup: Phoenix Players: Ballymote Youth Steering Group: Sligo Feis Ceoil: Ballinacarrow School Band: C.L.A.S.P.: Calry Show: Aclare Development Committee: Grange Art Workshops: Ballyrush Feis Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Eoin: Skreen & Dromard Community Council: Kilmactigue/Tourlestrane Parish Millennium Group: Carran Hill Arts Club: Sligo Orpheus Choir: Killavil NS: Kiernan Avenue Resident's Association: Cos-Cos: Easkey Art Project: Killaraght Dramatic Society

Organisations supported through the Programme 1998 - 2001

Con Brio: Sligo Academy of Music: St Anne's Youth & Community Centre: Storm Dance Company: Sligo Early Music Ensemble.

In 2001, funding in the sum of £140,150 was awarded by Sligo County Council to arts organisations and events.



RECEPTIO

Interview - Aideen Feeney, Litter Warden

“The One Woman Army Of County Sligo” - was the reference Pat Kenny used in an interview with Aideen. Aideen Feeney, Sligo’s Litter Warden was born and reared in Yeats County and believes wholeheartedly that the enhancement of our environment and protection of our natural resources is a serious concern not only for Sligo County Council but for our community as a whole.



Q. What career move directed you to the Post of Litter Warden with Sligo County Council?

A. After I graduated from St Paul’s, Teacher Training College, Coventry I came back to Ireland and taught in various National Schools for twenty-two years. I then took a break from teaching for a few years. I saw temporary post advertised for Revenue Collector and I did that for short while. I was then was appointed Sheep Dip Inspector for two years. In July 1992 the position of Litter Warden became vacant and I was appointed on a parttime basis but in March 2001 it was made a full time position and I was supplied with a van.

Q. What responsibility do you have as a Litter Warden?

A. As an Enforcement Officer with Sligo County Council under the Litter and Pollution Act 1996, I have the authority to issue “on the spot” fines and also take Litter Offenders to court. If litter is left in a public place, or even anywhere visible from a public place, it is an offence and we will take action.

Q. What progress have you seen in area of litter control?

A. Firstly, in 1997 there twenty-five illegal dumping sites and we have reduced this with the help of the Council and the community to three to date.

The Council also combats the increasingly worrying problem of dog fouling, which can be dangerous and unsightly and can spoil coastal resorts, schools, playgrounds, footpaths and in particular the beaches. We launched a “Poop and Scoop” campaign in March 2001 to combat this problem.

We also launched the “National Litter Pollution Monitoring System”. This is an ongoing process where the aim is to find the source of the problem, identify it and then take the necessary steps to solve the problem. I also believe that the introduction of

the Litter Warden’s van is an added bonus as it’s important to be seen and the mobile number is very clear on the side.

Q. You have maintained close contact with the National Schools?

A. I have visited over forty national schools in the county and I was pleasantly surprised and very encouraged by the interest these young people show in the protection of the environment. The children in these schools are the adults of tomorrow, and I’m convinced they will not be the litter offenders of tomorrow. The Junior Litter Wardens in the schools take their role seriously and are very vigilant and they all take part in the various competitions we run.

Q. Your work is not exclusively about pursuing litter offenders?

A. I have also been appointed Council Trading Officer where traders must purchase a licence to operate a stall, at the moment the levy is €400 per year. I help to enforce this system and anyone without a licence must be removed – sometimes this can get quite difficult.

The recent campaign to implement long life bags has been very successful and the provision for plastic bottles on all sites is up and running. We are also starting a pilot scheme where newspapers can be disposed off on site. Sligo County Council will be paying for it initially.

Aideen finished off by saying that she is always grateful to the public for all the support in reporting claims and through community groups, organisations and Tidy Towns committees.

The Cathaoirleach's Year



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1. L-R: Teresa McCormack, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin, Seamus McCormack and Sharon Boles of Ballintogher tidy towns committee.

2. Cllr. Tony McLoughlin at Riverstown Folk Park.

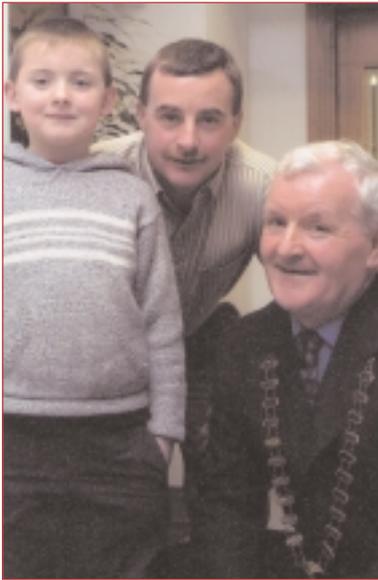
3. Launching Sligo Councils Corporate Plan, L-R: Hubert Kearns, County Manager, Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive Officer and Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin.

4. The Cathaoirleach with Gemma Gorevan at a fancy dress competition at Mary Immaculate school, Collooney.

5. Making a presentation to outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Roddy McGuinn with County Manager Hubert Kearns.

6. With Micheal Noonan T.D., Fine Gael leader, signing the distinguished visitors book.

The Cathaoirleach's Year



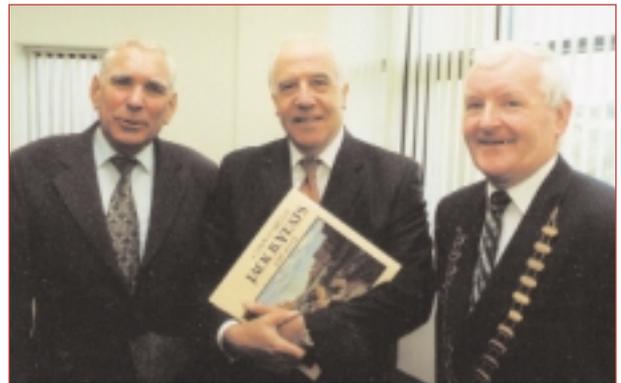
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7. With John Kent and his son Conor at a function for St. Mary's Senior Football team.

8. Presenting Cathaoirleach's award for Heritage to John Taylor, Riverstown Folk Park committee, with Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive officer

9. Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin with members of the Yamahara Gymnastics club who won medals in the Community County final.

10. Welcoming the British Ambassador, Sir Ivor Roberts, to County Hall accompanied by Senator Willie Farrell.

11. The Cathaoirleach (right) and Michael Keohane of the Sligo Yeats Society.

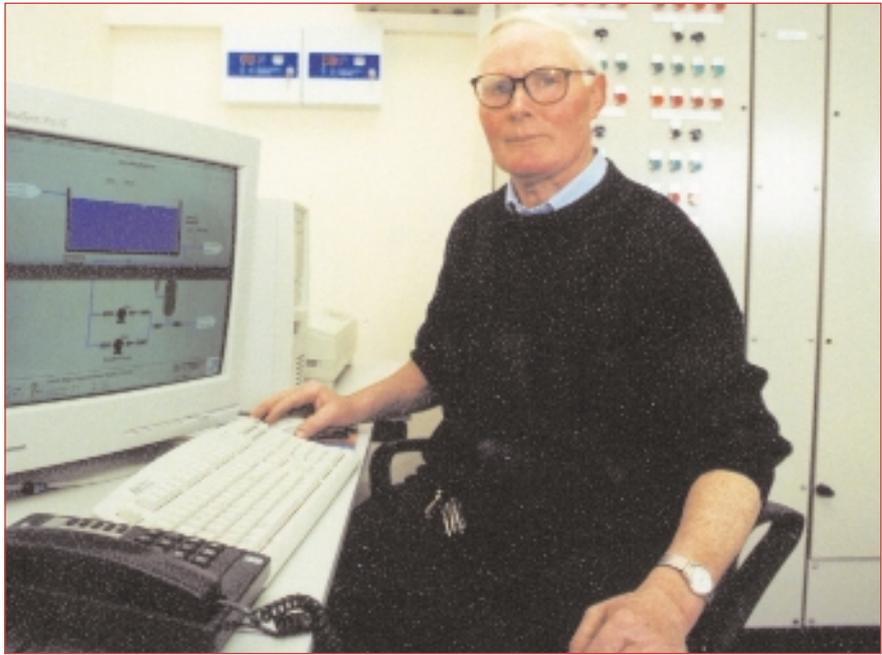
12. Members of the Strandhill Warriors Festival Committee with the Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Roddy McGuinn.

North Sligo Water Supply - In Good Hands

Tom Smith, Waterworks Caretaker. Tom Smith left school when he was 13. 'My father handed me a shovel and told me to make a living for myself.' He recalls his first job was picking potatoes for farmers for half a crown a day.

His father Jim worked with Sligo County Council for 40 years, mainly as a carter. When he fell ill, Tom took over the reins. "I started with the Council in 1956, and looking back now people would say it was tough, but we didn't see it like that. I used get up at 6.00 a.m., and travel the eight miles to work with my ass and cart. There was no tea-break in those days, at mid-day I'd stop by the roadside for lunch – maybe a mug of tea and soda cake. I'd be home around 6.30 in the evening; that was the routine six days a week'.

'The people of the area were very friendly. They would love to see you coming; there were no televisions or newspapers and like the postmen we had the news of the road. It is sad now that so many of these good people have passed away, and every day I pass ruins of old houses where we shared many a pot of tea.



There was 6 in our family, and though we hadn't much money were self-sufficient and had plenty to eat with spuds, milk and eggs. I remember I used to hand my wages over for the running of the house, and if I wanted to out for a night I nearly had to give a week's notice – nothing like today.'

Tom held down a few jobs for the Council, including labourer and driver. He remembers pulling material from Danny Herity's quarry where Ellens pub now stands. Tom was appointed waterworks caretaker for North Sligo in 1995.

'I have kept the habits of a lifetime. I still get up around 6.00 a.m and am in the plant by 7.30. I know the minute I step into the plant if there was anything wrong. At this stage I'd almost sense it below in the house.'

Advances in technology means that a computer at the plant gives Tom instant access to details of reservoirs and pumping stations throughout the North Sligo Area. His first duty is to check the intake from the mountain, then check the main reservoir at Barnaderrig. Filters would also have to be checked, maybe cleaned, and then he would test the water for chlorine. The day's routine would take Tom around North Sligo checking pipelines, checking for leaks and bad pressure, reading meters and calling in to the sewerage works in Grange and Mullaghmore.

Sometimes in wintry conditions Tom has to take out the tractor to make it up the hill to the plant. Even though he has become very adept with all the technology at his disposal, you get the impression he doesn't fully trust it. 'I call in to the plant every night around 9.00 for a final check.'

Tom is married to Mary, who works in St. John's Hospital, and they have 3 children, Catriona, Thomas and Brendan. If he had to start over again, Tom feels he would stay at school a bit longer and pick up a trade. But he certainly no regrets about his job. 'I have two years to go in the job. I know the nature of the job means you are either working or available for work 24 hours a day 7 days a week, but I love every minute of it. It's as good as sweetcake to me.'

Sligo County Council Staff

County Manager

Hubert Kearns

Director of Services

Tim Caffrey
Pat Forkan
Seamus Concannon
Dorothy Clarke

Head of Finance

Tom Kilfeather

Head of I.T

John Clancy

Senior Executive Officers

Joe Murphy
Margaret McConnell
Declan Breen
John O'Dwyer

Administrative Officers

Eithne Garvin
Joe Gethin
Breda Ronayne
Kathleen McTiernan
James Walsh
Gabriel Browne
Jimmy Noone

Senior Staff Officers

Dolores McDonagh
Caroline Feeney
Caroline McManus
Kevin Colreavy
Bernie Flynn
Maura Barnacle
Fergus McNabb A/VII

Staff Officers

Cathriona Kenny
Kathleen Kane
Leo Kenny
Suzanne Siberry
Jenny Currid
Angela Savage
Cyril McNamara
Martina Casey
Martina Conlon
Maura Grimes
Louise Fitzmaurice
Fidelma Boylan
Maura Marren
Tracy Scully
Seamus DeFaoite

Assistant Staff Officers

Fiona Gilligan
Maeolissa Burns
Karen Kennedy
Rosaleen Keane
Caroline Devins
Mary Farrell
Teresa Keane
Evelyn Henry
Sarah McNamara
Pauline Brennan
Catherine Morrison
Mary Boylan
Angela Henry
Sharon Malone
Monica Mulvaney
Pauline Lavelle
Mary Burns
Margaret Lambert
Collette Sweeney
Mairead Scanlon
Mark Harrigan
Deirdre Feeney
Mairead Durkan
Frank Keane
Betty Durkan
Ann Kilcoyne
Sylvia Casey
Margaret Cowley
Damien Kelly
Marian O'Donnell
Marie Durkan
Ann Johnson
Bridget Connolly
Damien McCaffrey
Jackie Dwyer
Joanne McGonigle

Clerical Officers

Elizabeth Henry
Niamh Owens
Peter McCarrick
Michael Christie
Orla Campbell
Sinead Caffrey
Aine Higgins
Marian Neary
Bernie Devine
Ciaran Commons
Blaithin Finneran
Mary McGowan
Patricia Hamilton
Orla Murrin
Lorraine McCarrick
Marcella Healy
Deirdre Gannon (Hodgins)
Mary McMonagle
Kathleen Galvin
Catherine McGuinn (T)
Fiona McQuaid
Geraldine Healy



Sligo County Council Management Team: Front row L-R: Tim Caffrey, *Director of Services*, Hubert Kearns, *County Manager*, Dorothy Clarke, *Director of Services*. Back row L-R: Seamus Concannon, *Director of Services*, Tom Kilfeather, *Head of Finance*, and Pat Forkan, *Director of Services*.

Terri Dunleavy
Brid Keaveney
Denise McKeon
Michelle Clancy
Mairead Clerkin
Aideen Sheerin
Mary Bruen
Fiona Couch
Sinead McGrath
Eithne Christie
Hazel Clancy
Geraldine Keegan
Ursula Moran
Catherine Gallagher
Karen McMahan
Dorothy Kilmartin
Naomi Gorevan
Marie Doherty
Nicola Fallon
Fiona Connolly
Sinead Quigley
Anna Conlon
Marie Brennan
Patricia Candon (t)
Marie Colleary
Noola Gibbons
Caroline Meenaghan
Catherine O'Donovan
Eileen Flynn
Paula Stenson
Brenda Mulligan
Louise Gallagher
Una Jackson
Sharon Staid
Lorraine Mulligan
M Bloxham (t)
Karen Kilfeather (t)
Brenda O'Boyle

County Librarian

Donal Tinney

Executive Librarian

Pauline Brennan

Assistant Librarians

Fran Hegarty
Pat Gannon

Senior Library Assistants

Frances Walsh
Caroline Morgan

Library Assistants

Patricia Smith
Bridie Nicholson
Grainne Brett
Ultan McNasser
Louise McMonagle
Emer Sullivan

Branch Librarians

Ann Flanagan
Dympna Egan
Margaret Gormanly
Brenda Cawley
Sally Ward

Museum Attendants

Alice Keaveney
Angela McGurrian

Sligo County Council Staff



Environment Team: Front row L-R: Ann Jonston, Bridget Connolly.
Back row L-R: Alice O'Rouke, Marie Doherty, Naomi Gorevan, Matthew Byrne.

Revenue Collectors

Michael Gillen
Noel Mullaney
Kevin Colleran
Roger McCarrick
Paula Gallagher

Social Worker

Mairead McLoughlin

Storeman

Sean McHugh

Coroner

Des Moran

Vets

Thomas Kilcoyne
Brian McDermott
Frank Gallagher

Arts Officer

Mary McAuliffe

Arts Administrator Project Co-ordinator

Rhona Feely

I.T Specialist

Nigel Carter

Technological Assistant I.T

Martin Towey

Heritage Officer

Siobhan Ryan

Project Leader Community Arts Education

Ann O'Connor

Estate Manager

Damien Willis

Partnership Facilitator

Ian Duggan

Special Projects Officer

Deirdre Finnerty

Community and Enterprise Development

Eamon Haran
Damien Doherty

G.I.S. Officer

Caroline Conmy

Research Co-ordinator

Loretta McNicholas

Civil Defence Officer

Marian Davis

Public Art Co-ordinator

Mary McDonagh

Environmental Services Co-ordinator

Alice O'Rourke

FMS Accountant

Marie Leydon

Niland Centre Curator

Una McCarthy

Technical Staff

Senior Engineers

Tommy Carroll
John McHugh
Kevin Larkin

Senior Executive Engineers

Seamus O'Toole
Padraig Flanagan
Katriona McDaniel
Gary Salter
Fíneen O'Driscoll
Emer Concannon
Paul Canning
John Owens
Paddy Hughes
Pat Doyle

Executive Engineers

Henry Rowan
Donal Harrison
Frank Burke
John O'Flaherty
John Morris
James Melvin
Anthony Skeffington
Noel Haran
Val Baynes
Damien Henry

Assistant Engineers

Rosemary Friel
Michael Ryan
Declan Cawley
Declan Wims
Marian Coakley
Stephen Garvey (Career Break)

Graduate Engineers

Bernard Scott
Enda O'Brien
Paul O'Rourke

Chief Technician

Padraig Flanagan

Senior Executive Technician

Sean McMorrow
Joe O'Connell
Ciaran Culkin
Noel Sweeney
Eileen Gibbons

Executive Technicians

Mary Foley
Pamela Bergin
Rosie Morrissey
Paul Cunningham
Thomas McHugh
Thomas Gallagher

Technician Grade I

Pearse Burke
Pat McManus
Ken Wright

Technician Grade II

Pat Noone
Enda Mulligan
Rose Jordan
Paul Kearns
Damien McSharry
Paul Cullen
Ronan McNamara
Caroline Colleary
Hilary McDonagh

Senior Planner

Brendan Carolan

Senior Executive Planner

Fionuala Meagher
Frank Moylan

Assistant Planner

Fiona Redmond
Ray O'Grady
Stephen Ward
Michaela Davidescu (t)

Clerk of Works

Brendan O'Dowd
Noel Meehan
John McKeeney
Bernard McDonagh

Council Facilitating Payment

Liam Kiely
Stephen Walsh

Sligo County Council Staff



At the opening of Tubbercurry Fire Station were Minister for the Environment and Local Government Noel Dempsey, Station Officer Tubbercurry, Brendan Henry and Director of Services Pat Forkan.

Chief Fire Officer (A)

Paul Coyle

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Brendan Charlton
Ross Levis

Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Paul Ryan

Staff Officer

Fidelma Boylan

Clerical Officer

Fiona Connolly

Watchroom Assistants

Jimmy McMorrow
Michael Scanlon
Joe Feeney
Robbie Mahon
(also retained fire-fighter)
Jerome Curran
(also retained fire-fighter)

Sligo Bourough Unit (Full Time)

Michael Shanley (Station Officer)
David Garvey (Station Officer)
James Haugh (Fire-fighter)
Victor Martin (Fire-fighter/Mechanic)

Sligo Bourough Unit (Retained)

Jim Melly,
James P (Seamus) Duffy
Tom McGowan
Jerome Curran
Robbie Mahon
Andrew J Foley
Gerard Flynn
Ronan Cosgrove
Paddy Callaghan
John Sheridan
Bernard Collum
Brendan Henry
Kevin McLoughlin
Ciaran Ryan
Martin McCaffrey
David McLoughlin
Kieran Burke

Tubbercurry Unit (Retained)

Brendan Henry (Station Officer)
Brendan Henry (Station Officer)
Michael Henry (Sub-Officer)
Denis Kelly
Francis Mullen
Germanus Whittington
Michael Curran
Thomas McGuinness
Joseph Stenson
Tommie Killoran

Enniscrone Unit (Retained)

Liam McKeown, (Sub-Officer)
Seamus Egan. (Station Officer)
Brendan Tuffy
Paul Harper
Paul Enda Mulrooney
Edward Rafter
Edward Tighe
Sean Hale
John Gilmartin

Ballymote Unit (Retained)

John Martin, (Station Officer)
Derek Davey, (Sub-Officer)
Adrian Lavin.
Jerome Walsh
Gerard Tighe,
Anthony J Pettipiece
Stephen Flannery
Brendan Lavin.
Mark Henry

Sligo County Council Staff



Reception staff, Marcella Healy and Aine Higgins.

Ballymote Area

Nellaney, Thomas - *Craftworker*
Ryan, William - *Craftworker*
Wynne, Seamus - *Craftworker*
O'Connor, Martin J. - *Ganger*
Pettipiece, Anthony - *Ganger*
(also Retained Firefighter/Driver)
Clerkin, John Jnr -
General Services Supervisor
Higgins, John J.

General Services Supervisor
McCormack, Pat

General Services Supervisor
O'Sullivan, James - *Handyman*
Bagnall, George - *Labourer*
Brehony, Malachy - *Labourer*
Coen, James P. - *Labourer*
Cosgrave, Sean - *Labourer*
Feely, Sean - *Labourer*
Hamilton, Hugh - *Labourer*
Hannon, John - *Labourer*
Leydon, Joseph - *Labourer*
Scanlon, Eamon - *Labourer*
Torsney, Joe - *Labourer*

Enniscrone Area

Conlon, James - *Craftsman*
Duffy, Michael - *Ganger*
Flynn, Brendan - *Ganger*
Johnston, Joseph - *Ganger*
McDonagh, John J. - *Ganger*
Morrison, Sean - *Ganger*
Haran, Michael
Services Supervisor
Kilgannon, William P.
General Services Supervisor
Weir, Patrick
General Services Supervisor
Beglane, Raymond - *Handyman*
Hogan, John - *Handyman*
McBain, Dermott - *Handyman*
McMunn, John - *Handyman*
Smith, Gerry - *Handyman*
Feeney, Joseph - *Handyman*
(Acting)

Cardin, Michael P. - *Labourer*
Devaney, James. - *Labourer*
Devaney, John. - *Labourer*
Hallinan, Anthony - *Labourer*
Kelly, Edward J. - *Labourer*
Naughton, Peter - *Labourer*
Quinn, Brendan - *Labourer*
Sheridan, Michael - *Labourer*
Weir, John - *Labourer*

Sligo Area

Gallagher, Edward J. - *Craftworker*
Hamilton, Michael - *Craftworker*
Hopkins, Michael - *Craftworker*
O'Hara, Denis - *Craftworker*
Maye, Michael - *Labourer*
Davey, Joe
Ex Refuse Collector (Labourer)
Loughlin, Martin - *Ganger*
McLoughlin, Vincent - *Ganger*
Teape, Brian - *Ganger*
Watters, Seamus - *Ganger*
Brady, Patrick
General Services Supervisor
Bruen, Christy
General Services Supervisor
Lenehan, James
General Services Supervisor
Boyle, Philip - *Handyman*
Donlon, Martin - *Handyman*
Foley, Patrick - *Handyman*
McGowan, Patrick - *Handyman*
Parkes, Anthony - *Handyman*
Bourke, Gerard - *Handyman*
Clancy, Michael - *Labourer*
Coen, Michael - *Labourer*
Colleary, Thomas - *Labourer*
Davey, Martin - *Labourer*
Finnegan, Thomas - *Labourer*
Flynn, Malachy - *Labourer*
Gilmartin, Paddy Jnr - *Labourer*
Healy, Bernard - *Labourer*
Henderson, Liam - *Labourer*
Hennigan, Patrick - *Labourer*
Herity, Daniel - *Labourer*
Keaney, Thomas - *Labourer*

Kennedy, Patrick - *Labourer*
Murphy, Mark - *Labourer*
Quinn, Hugh - *Labourer*
Scanlon, Eddie - *Labourer*
Verdon, Patrick - *Labourer*
Curran, Timothy
Light Equipment Operator

Tubbercurry Area

Canavan, James - *Ganger*
Cryan, Patrick - *Ganger*
Cahill, James
General Services Supervisor
Clancy, Thomas J.
General Services Supervisor
Connolly, Gerard
General Services Supervisor
Brennan, Thomas - *Handyman*
Cahill, John - *Handyman*
Gilligan, Luke - *Handyman*
Underwood, T. J. - *Handyman*
Carroll, Michael - *Labourer*
Coleman, Michael F. - *Handyman*
Duffy, John - *Handyman*
Finn, John - *Handyman*
Kennedy, Thomas - *Handyman*
Lynch, Brendan - *Labourer*
Meehan, Thomas - *Labourer*
Mullarkey, Pdraig - *Labourer*
Quinn, Christy - *Labourer*
Tansey, John - *Labourer*
Timlin, Thomas - *Labourer*
Walsh, Austin - *Labourer*
Walsh, Kevin - *Labourer*
Carr, Patrick - *Labourer*

Apprentice

Hennessy, Trevor

Craftworker

Brennan, Dominic
Carroll, Thomas
Cooke, Brendan
Dunleavy, Thomas
Gibbons, James
Haran, Eugene
James, Dermot
Jinks, Daniel
Kelly, Martin
Loughlin, James
Lyttle, Gordon
Scanlon, John P.
McGowan, Thomas

Driver/Plant Operator

Brehony, Peter
Davey, Pdraig
Feely, Joe
Feeney, John
Feeney, Kevin

Feeney, Marco
Fleming, Ambrose
Haran, Sean
Higgins, James P.
Hoey, Patrick
Kennedy, Thomas
Kilcoyne, Patrick J.
Lynch, Patrick
McGonigle, Brian
McKenna, Kenneth
Murren, Seamus
Nellany, Eugene
Niland, John P.
O'Brien, Francis
Sherlock, Eugene
Tighe, John Joe
Walsh, Hugh
Warnock, Daniel

Handyman / Chargehand Labourer

Collery, Sean - *Handyman*
Fallon, Pascal - *Chargehand (GWS Takeover & Sml. Sch. Prg)*
Dykes, Garry - *Labourer (GWS Takeover & Small Sch. Prog.)*
Flynn, Liam - *Labourer (GWS Takeover & Small Sch. Prog.)*
Healy, Fabian - *Labourer (GWS Takeover & Small Sch. Prog.)*
Rooney, Felix - *Labourer (GWS Takeover & Small Sch. Prog.)*
Mulligan, Sylvester - *Machinery Foreman*

Waterworks & Sewerage Caretaker

Connolly, Michael
Henry, Corney
Conmy, Gerry
Maguire, Benny
Moriarty, Patrick
Waterworks & Sewerage Caretaker
Doyle, Sean
Fox, Eamon
Smyth, Thomas
Doyle, John Joe
Murray, Joseph
Gildea, James

Retirements in 2001

Jimmy Harney

After a distinguished career with Sligo County Council, which spanned over five decades, Jimmy Harney retired in July 2001. Jimmy held the position of Senior Engineer with Sligo County Council for forty-one years – an extraordinary record. He served as Chief Adviser to five County Engineers and ended his career as the last County Engineer, the post being abolished on his retirement.

Jimmy a native of county Galway was educated at Saint Mary's College, Galway and University College Galway, at which he was awarded a B.E. Degree in 1957. While in secondary school Jimmy played hurling with distinction and maintains his great love for the game and indeed for all sports but more especially for G.A.A. Jimmy played a major role in promoting hurling and football for some years in Sligo and was a very Active County Board member. While his first loyalty is to his native county, he takes great pride in the achievement of the present county Sligo football team.

Jimmy started his working career with Donegal County Council and then on to Louth County Council where he worked on major road schemes until he took up his post with Sligo County Council 1962. He has had a major input into the development of the infrastructure i.e. Roads, Sanitary, Housing, Environment and Planning throughout the whole county. When the Planning Act was introduced in 1970 Jimmy became Sligo's first Planning Officer and prepared the first Development Plan for the county, which became the blue print for development throughout the county.

Jimmy's great strength of character is his ability to work with people; he had a great relationship with the elected representatives, with all the staff and particularly with the outdoor staff all of who hold him with great affection. He continues to maintain in close contact with all his working and retired colleagues.

His contribution to those in need in Sligo over the past forty years deserves a special mention. He has two brothers and a sister in religious orders that have served on the Missions, and Jimmy has upheld that Christian spirit during his time in Sligo. He has been to the forefront in developing the North Western Hospice Unit in Sligo, he is a member and past president of Rotary, and is very actively involved with his wife Evelyn in his local parish community.

Jimmy and Evelyn have four children all of whom are in the medical profession, so they can be assured of the best care and attention in their advancing years. The latest addition to their family is their first grandchild Sara. Jimmy is a very promising golfer, and plays poker during the winter months in a tough school – real sharks – where Cool Hand Luke would have difficulty in holding his own.

All of the staff and retired fellow workers of Sligo County Council and his wide circle of friends wish Jimmy and Evelyn good health and a long life in their retirement.

Gura fada go mbeidh sibh in ar measc, is gura fada buan, bhur saothar ar son Mhuintir Shligigh. Sean Stewart



Jimmy Harney with his wife Evelyn.

Retirements in 2001

Sligo County Council extends its appreciation to the staff who retired in 2001 for the valuable service they gave to this authority.

Patrick Gaffney - *Plant Operator*, Frank Gleeson - *County Engineer*
Martin Davey - *Clerical Officer*, J.P. Feeney - *Rate Collection*
Joseph Moran - *Labourer*, Jimmy Harney - *Senior Executive Engineer*
A.P. McConnell - *Finance Officer*, Joe Maguire - *Senior Caretaker*
Padraig Scanlon - *Ganger*, Hugh Keaveney - *Plant Operator*
Peter Patton - *Ganger*, Gerard Fox - *Craftsman*



Tony McConnell at his retirement function with (L-R) Kathleen McTiernan, Mary McMonagle and Anne Johnston.

Deceased in 2001

Sligo County Council also remembers former staff who passed away during 2001.

Thomas McMunn, Stephen Sheridan, Anthony Pettipiece
Thomas J Kielty, Alex O'Connor, Patrick Wymbs, Patrick Meehan,
Ann O'Connor, Brigid Herity, Noel Farrell, J. P. Feeney.

Conferences and Seminars - Attended by Councillors in 2001

Environmental SPC Conf.

Green Isle Hotel, Dublin
17th January

National Association of Councillors

Posthouse Premier Hotel, Belfast
23rd – 25th January

General Council of County Councils Conference

Co. Mayo 26th – 27th January

Cumann Merriman Winter School

The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
2nd – 4th February

Irish Commission for Justice And Peace Conference

In Dublin 8th February

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar

In Tralee, Co. Kerry, 9th – 10th February

12th Colmcille Winter School

In Gartan, Churchill, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal 23rd – 25th February

Kinsale & District Local Historical Society

30th March – 1st April

LAMA Annual Conference

In Rochestown Park Hotel,
Co. Cork 19th – 20th April

'9th Century Ireland' Conf.

In Mount St. Joseph Abbey,
Roscrea 20th – 22nd April

Connolly Foundation Trust Conf.

In New Theatre, Temple Bar
21st – 22nd April

Association of Health Boards Conf.

Bundoran, Co Donegal 27th – 28th April

Celtic Library Conference .

'Celtic connections – the cultural gateway'
in Great Southern Hotel, Killarney
1st – 4th May

Environmental Conference

'Infrastructure Development. Can the
Environment be protected' in Carrigaline
Court Hotel, Co. Cork 3rd – 4th May

IVEA Congress 2001

Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel. 9th – 11th May

Spatial Plan Roadshow

Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon
10th May

International Conference

'Ireland, the future, the west?'
Knock House Hotel, Knock,
Co. Mayo 15th May

Survey Ireland 2001

Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co
Dublin 22nd May

Water Services Annual Conference

'Towards greater Efficiency' in Bunratty
Hotel Co. Clare 24th – 25th May

Blackwater Valley Tourism

Making sense of them all' in Kanturk,
Co Cork 25th – 27th May

Waste Management Conf.

Are we really changing our ways'
in West County Hotel, Dublin 30th May

The Arts in Rural Communities.

Duff House, Aberdeenshire,
Scotland 31st May – 2nd June

Mid-West Regional Authority Annual Conference .

'Sustaining Rural Communities'
Woodlands House Hotel, Adare
Co. Limerick 15th – 16th June

Review of Rural Poverty Annual

in Ballinlough Co. Roscommon 21st June

I.P.A. Conference

On Housing. Donegal town 29th June

National Heart Alliance

Stillorgan Park Hotel, 3rd July

General Council of County Councils Annual Conference

Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road,
Carlow 5th – 7th July

Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference

Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon
20th – 22nd July

Parnell Summer School

Co. Wicklow 12th – 17th August

Merriman Summer School

Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare 18th – 25th August

International Humbert School

Killala, Co. Mayo 1st September

Water Services Conference

'The Key to Success'
Killarney, Co. Kerry 13th – 14th September

Conference on Youth Suicide

In the Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork
15th – 16th, September

Requirements for further progress in our Equestrian Industries

In the Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co. Cork
21st – 23rd September

La Touche Legacy Seminar

'Global Warming – should we panic'
Wicklow 28th – 30th September

Local Government Initiatives for Developing Countries

Ballina, Co. Tipperary 4th – 5th October

LAMA/NAC Joint Conference

Tatranska, Comnica, Slovakia
10th – 15th October

Planning & Development SPC

Conference in Monaghan
17th – 18th October

Rattoo Heritage Society

Environmental Conference
18th – 20th October

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network – Combat Poverty

Hodson Bay Hotel,
Athlone 23rd – 24th October

Roscrea Autumn Conference

Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
2nd – 4th November

Iraq '11 years of wars and sanctions'

Trinity College, Dublin
3rd November

LAMA Conference in

Hill Grove Hotel, Monaghan
9th – 10th November

'Whose Landscape is it anyway'

Ballymun, Co. Dublin 15th November

SIPTU Public Ownership v Privatisation Conference

Cork 16th – 17th November

Winter Tourism Conference

Planning for Tourism Development
in Ennistymon, Co. Clare 23rd - 24th
November

Ireland & the new Europe

University College Dublin 12th December

Focus on Childcare Conference

Dublin 12th December

Legal Options on Fluoridation

Dublin 12th December

Financial Statement

Total expenditure on capital and revenue services amounted to €87.0m (2000 €74.2m). Of this €38.1m (2000 €29.8m) was spent on revenue services and €48.9m (2000 €44.4) was spent on capital services. Both figures indicate a very high level of activity during the year and the €48.9m spent on capital services is an indication of the Council's ongoing commitment to position Sligo and the North West region to have a good quality of physical, social and recreational infrastructure and a satisfactory range of ancillary services which both modern businesses and individuals require

Prompt Payments Act

The Council's policy is to process payments in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Capital Debt

At 31st December 2001 the Council's capital debt was €39.7m. The net increase of €6.1m on the previous year relates mainly to housing €2.4m, office refurbishment and "One Stop Shop" development €3.6m. During the year some borrowers redeemed their loans to the value of €1.1m

New Financial Management Systems

Phase 1 of the new Financial Management System 'Agresso' went live in Sligo County Council on April 1st 2001 with the Purchase to Pay Cycle. All expenditure committed is captured at the purchase order entry stage. Controls and approval

procedures are vested in the system. Budget holders can readily inform themselves of charges against their jobs through the system with information available directly and instantly.

The participation of staff at all locations throughout the organisation resulted in the successful operation and implementation of the system. 2001 has also seen the introduction and integration of the new concept of accrual accounting in a move away from cash accounting. The full potential of the new system will be maximised in future years.

The new cash receipting module within Agresso was introduced on 1st October 2001. All income is recorded at receipting stage. This system will facilitate the production of the Annual Financial Statements, moving away from the manual integration of the Income and expenditure systems. There was no fundamental change to the existing format of the AFS for 2001, but there were some changes arising from the changeover to accrual accounting and the introduction of a limited form of asset accounting.

The Agresso database introduced in April 2001 was euro compliant, facilitating our euro changeover plans with some operational end of year conversions. Phase 2 of the New Financial Management System – the replacement of existing billing systems covering rents, rates, water charges, service charges and loans will commence in October 2002.

	Revenue Account		Capital Account		Totals	
	2000 €	2001 €	2000 €	2001 €	2000 €	2001 €
Expenditure	29,857	38,067	44,278	48,862	74,135	86,929
Receipts	31,617	35,699	44,163	47,689	75,780	83,388
Surplus(Deficit)	1,760	2,368	-115	1,173	1,645	- 3,541
Opening Balance	-1,379	381	221	106	1,158	487
Closing Balance	381	1,987	106	-1,067	487	-3,054

Revenue Account - Adopted Estimates	Programme Groups €	Expenditure %	Adopted Estimate €
1. Housing and Building	3,421	9	3,658
2. Road Transportation & Safety	15,602	41	14,161
3. Water & Sewerage	3,806	10	3,207
4. Development Incentives & Control	1,817	5	1,432
5. Environmental Protection	4,991	13	4,238
6. Recreation & Amenity	2,598	7	2,322
7. Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	2,426	6	2,433
8. Miscellaneous	3,406	9	2,059
Total	38,067	100	33,510

Overexpenditure €4,557K

Receipts, mostly State Grants, exceeded Adopted Estimates €2,189K

Deficit for Year €2,368K.

Real Deficit for 2001 was €816K as €1,552K grant for 2001 was included in 2000 results.

Financial Statement

Sources of Funds - Revenue Account

	2000 €	%	2001 €	%
Local Government Fund	10,017	32	8,151	23
Other State Grants	12,484	40	14,920	42
Goods/Services	5,413	16	8,539	24
Rates	2,037	7	2,266	6
Urban Charge	1,666	5	1,823	5
Total	31,617	100	35,699	100

Sources of Funds - Capital Account

	2000 €	%	2001 €	%
Local Government Fund				
Other State Grants	25,126	57	33,250	70
Goods/Services				
Rates				
Urban Charge				
Borrowing	14,822	33	10,640	22
Transfer from Revenue	877	1	429	1
Redemp. Housing Loans	974	3	983	2
Other Receipts	2,364	6	2,387	5
Total	44,163	100	47,689	100

Sources of Funds - Total

	2000 €	%	2001 €	%
Local Government Fund	10,017	13	8,151	10
Other State Grants	37,610	50	48,170	58
Goods/Services	5,413	7	8,539	10
Rates	2,037	3	2,266	3
Urban Charge	1,666	2	1,823	2
Borrowing	14,822	20	10,640	13
Transfer from Revenue	877	0	429	0
Redemp. Housing Loans	974	1	983	1
Other Receipts	2,364	4	2,387	3
Total	75,780	100	83,388	100

Sligo County Council Contact Details

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Environment

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Housing

Essential Repairs
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Housing

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Roads

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Roads

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