



# 2004

## Sligo County Council Annual Report

CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Contents



**Sligo County Council**  
 Comhairle Chontae Shligigh  
 County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, Ireland  
 T: +353 (0)71 9129800  
 F: +353 (0)71 9141119  
 E: [info@sligococo.ie](mailto:info@sligococo.ie)  
 W: [www.sligococo.ie](http://www.sligococo.ie)

Cathaoirleach's Introduction	2
County Manager's Foreword	3
Council Members ♦ Map of Electoral Area	4
Strategic Policy Committee Members	6
<b>Corporate Services Directorate</b>	7
Preface	7
Putting the Customer First	8
Housing and Building	9
Human Resources	12
Sligo County Library/Museum	15
Communications Office	18
County Sligo Heritage	19
Sligo Civil Defence	21
Sligo Fire Authority	22
Information Technology ♦ Partnership ♦ Higher Education Grants ♦ Register of Electors	23
<b>Infrastructural Services Directorate</b>	24
Preface	24
Road Transportation and Safety	25
Bridge Restoration and Repairs	28
County Sligo Water Conservation Projects	29
Rural Water Programme	29
<b>Directorate of Community, Enterprise and The Arts</b>	31
Preface	31
Introduction ♦ Urban and Village Renewal ♦ County Council Led Peace II Task Force	32
Sligo Community Forum	33
Sligo County Development Board ♦ Team Sligo ♦ Social Inclusion Measures Group	34
Play Development ♦ Cranmore Regeneration ♦ Sligo Pride of Place Awards	35
Telecommunications Infrastructure ♦ Tidy Towns 2004	37
Burial Grounds	38
Sligo RAPID Programme	39
Arts Service	41
<b>Planning and Environment Directorate</b>	43
Preface	43
Planning	44
Environmental Services	46
Focus on Sligo Borough	54
CITY BUILDING – The Changing Face of Sligo	55
Cathaoirleach's Year Photo Diary	58
Conferences and Seminars	60
Finance Department	61
Income & Expenditure Account Statement	61
Balance Sheet	62
Motor Tax	62
Appendix I: Local Election Results – 11 June 2004	63
Appendix II: Service Indicators	65

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## Introduction by Cathaoirleach Councillor Margaret Gormley

*“ 2004 was a special year for me, as I was honoured by my colleagues in Sligo County Council by being elected Cathaoirleach. ”*

This was certainly the highlight of my career in local politics, and my first duty as Cathaoirleach was to express sincere gratitude to members of my family and my constituents for their loyalty and support over the years.

In many ways 2004 marked the end of an era for this Council, as a number of familiar faces left local politics after many years dedicated service. Between them Councillors Joe Cawley, Leo Conlon and Michael ‘Boxer’ Conlon had given over 90 years service to the people of Sligo, and they can be proud of their contribution to the development of this county. Nine Councillors have been newly elected to the Council, and I look forward to working with them in the years ahead to work for the people of Sligo.

Throughout my term I had the privilege of welcoming many people to County Hall. When any person or group excels in their particular field of endeavour, I feel that by hosting a reception in their honour I can publicly convey, on behalf of the Council, my appreciation for their particular achievement. One the groups I hosted in County Hall were the County Ladies Football Team, and as a lifelong supporter I was delighted to honour their many successes.

Sligo County Council is one of the largest employers in the Northwest, and is served by a very loyal and committed staff. At the end of last year, I hosted a lunch for all the staff in the Area offices as a token of my appreciation for their dedicated work on behalf of the people of Sligo.

One of my ambitions as Cathaoirleach is to ensure that County Sligo capitalises on its status as ‘Gateway for Growth’ under the National Spatial Strategy. If this region is to develop to its full potential, it is essential that the proper infrastructure is in place. Sligo County Council has always taken an active role in encouraging and promoting sustainable development for the Northwest, and we will work with any agency interested in the future growth of County Sligo.

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

Councillor Margaret Gormley  
Cathaoirleach

## County Manager's Foreword

*“ Our Council has been proactive in delivering services to support the ongoing development of the County.”*

Sligo County Council had another busy and productive year in 2004. A range of projects were completed and some new and innovative actions were taken across a wide spectrum of activities.

Our Council has been proactive in delivering services to support the ongoing development of the County. The delivery of broadband services commenced in 2004 with work on the “Metropolitan Area Network” project providing ducting and fibre optic cabling within Sligo to meet business demands and allow for further expansion into the future. The work, to be completed in 2005, has involved significant investment from Sligo local authorities and is being expanded to ensure that the County has the broadband capacity to meet existing needs and attract new business.

As part of its commitment to provide quality customer service, Sligo County Council introduced a Customer Service Desk in 2004. The desk is staffed by a team who act as a “first point of contact” between the council and its customers. The Officers have been provided with the resources to be knowledgeable in a wide range of council services, procedures and facilities and are dedicated to responding quickly to all general queries. The impact of this investment has and will continue to deliver positive results.

Developing our communities continues to feature largely in the work of the Council. In 2004 our Community and Enterprise department played a key role in the development of a Regeneration Programme for Cranmore in Sligo town. Involving a multi-agency approach it is hoped that through this project the community of Cranmore will participate to promote the economic, social and community development of their area and that the regeneration programme will achieve success through involvement and partnership.



County Manager's Foreword

Work on the Relief Road progressed ahead of schedule in 2004. Running from Carraroe to Hughes Bridge this 4.5km dual carriageway is being developed at a cost of €74m. The location of the road, and its direct connections to car-parking areas, will ultimately facilitate the pedestrianisation of city centre streets. In addition to alleviating traffic congestion, the new road will greatly enhance the urban environment and make Sligo a more pleasant and amenable environment for people to reside, work in or visit. The opening of the Tonafortes Bridge at the end of 2004 marked the end of the first phase of construction. As the project enters its final phase in 2005 planned work includes the opening of the relocated Newtownholmes Road across Caltragh Interchange and an extensive programme of landscaping.

In many respects the 2004 local election marked the end of an era, with retirements, re-elections and new appointments. The business of voting day and the count was carried out in a professional and diligent manner by the Returning Officers and staff of Sligo local authorities. Sligo County Council have nine new members, I wish them and all elected members well as they deliver on their democratic mandate. I look forward to working in partnership with them in ensuring we serve the people of County Sligo with vision and efficiency.

*Hubert Kearns*

Hubert Kearns  
County Manager

# Council Members / Map of Electoral Area

## Sligo/Drumcliffe Area Elected Members



**Cllr. Veronica Cawley**  
**Labour** Elected 2004  
St. Martin, Rathbraughan, Sligo  
(071) 9170267 / 0876494723  
cawleyveronica@eircom.net



**Cllr. Patsy Barry**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 1999  
Grange,  
Co. Sligo  
(071) 9163168 / 087 2727588  
barrypatsy@eircom.net



**Cllr. Ita Fox**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1985  
Colgagh, Calry, Co. Sligo  
(071) 9144932 /  
0872077704  
foxita@eircom.net



**Cllr. Jude Devins**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 2004  
34 Clara Court, Strandhill Rd,  
Sligo  
087 2021566  
jfddevins@hotmail.com



**Cllr. Joe Leonard**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1985  
Cloonaghbawn,  
Ballinful, Co. Sligo  
(071) 9163443 / 9163548  
leonardjoe@eircom.net



**Cllr. Seamus Kilgannon**  
**Fianna Fáil**  
81 Rathedmond Estate, Sligo  
(071) 9162695 /  
086 8243121  
kilgannon.seamus@itsligo.ie

## Sligo/Strandhill Area Elected Members



**Cllr. Declan Bree**  
**Labour** Elected 1974  
1 High Street, Sligo  
(071) 9145490  
087 2470802  
dbree@eircom.net



**Cllr. Albert Higgins**  
**Fianna Fáil** 1974  
Carraroe, Sligo  
(071) 9160129  
0876772049  
higginsalbert@eircom.net



**Cllr. Jim McGarry**  
**Labour** Elected 1991  
Oakfield  
Sligo  
(071) 9161515 / 086 6007575  
mcgarryjim@eircom.net



**Cllr. Deirdre Healy McGowan**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 2004  
Breeogue, knocknahur,  
Co. Sligo  
(071) 9168604  
dhmc@eircom.net



**Cllr. Tony McLoughlin**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1974  
'Beechlaw'n', Barnasraghy, Sligo  
(071) 9160768  
087 2583748  
mcloughlintony@eircom.net



**Cllr. Sean MacManus**  
**Sinn Féin** Elected 1999  
5 Mountain View,  
Maugheraboy, Sligo  
(071) 9161460 / 086 8198456  
seanmacmanus@eircom.net



**Cllr. Imelda Henry**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 2004  
'Orient', Pearse Road,  
Sligo  
(071) 9151011 / 087 8177777  
imeldahenry@eircom.net

## Dromore West Area Elected Members



**Cllr. Mary Barrett**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1991  
Ardabrone, Dromard, Co. Sligo  
(071) 9166753 / 9142606  
086 8102738  
barrettmary@eircom.net



**Cllr. Paul Conmy**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1991  
Meenaun,  
Culleens, Co. Sligo  
(096) 36499 / 086 8406330  
conmypaul@eircom.net



**Cllr. Joseph Queenan**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 1999  
Lacknaslieva,  
Enniscrone, Co. Sligo  
(096) 36449 / 087 6214422  
queenanjoseph@eircom.net

# Council Members / Map of Electoral Area

## Ballymote Area Elected Members



**Cllr. Martin Baker**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 2004  
 2 Ardkeerin, Riverstown, Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9127472 / 9165650  
 bakermartin@eircom.net



**Cllr. Pat McGrath**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 2004  
 Ardnaglass, Ballymote,  
 Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9183225 / 087 6702792  
 pjmcgrath@unison.ie



**Cllr. Gerry Murray**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1991  
 Calterane,  
 Gurteen, Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9182016 / 087 6862147  
 cllrgerrymurray@eircom.net



**Cllr. Gerard Mullaney**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 2004  
 Highwood, Kilmactranny,  
 Boyle, Co. Sligo  
 086 8221995  
 mullaneygerard@eircom.net



**Cllr. John Sherlock**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 2004  
 Knox Park, Ballisodare,  
 Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9167506 / 086 1775435  
 cllrjohnsherlock@eircom.net

## Tubbercurry Area Elected Members



**Cllr. Aidan Colleary**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 1985  
 Cully, Curry,  
 Charlestown PO, Co. Sligo  
 (094) 9254222 / 087 2610852  
 acollearyandco@eircom.net



**Cllr. Margaret Gormley**  
**Independent** Elected 1985  
 Carrowloughlin,  
 Bunninadden, Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9183239 / 086 8394795  
 gormleymargaret@eircom.net

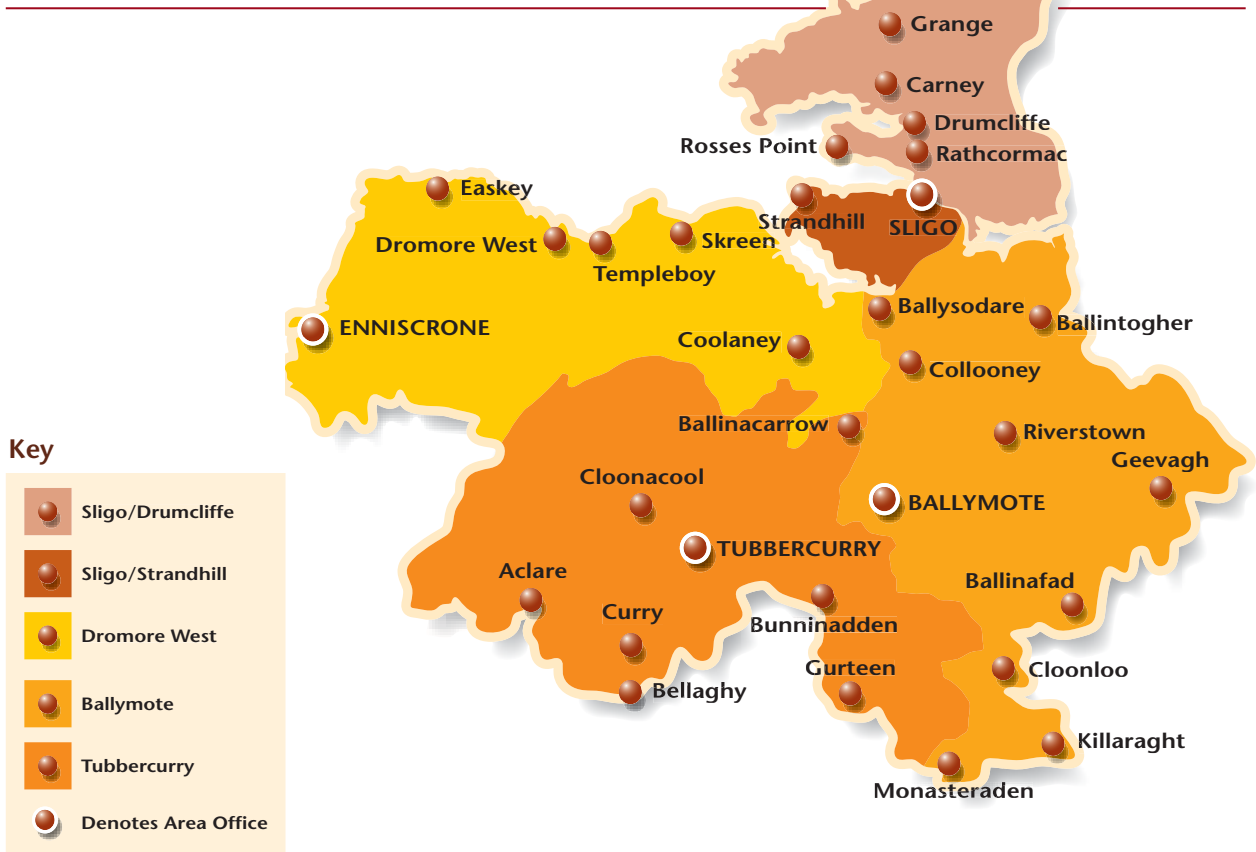


**Cllr. Jerry Lundy**  
**Fianna Fáil** Elected 2004  
 Rhue,  
 Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9185184 / 087 2900947  
 cllrjerrylundy@eircom.net



**Cllr. Michael Fleming**  
**Fine Gael** Elected 1999  
 Carrowreagh Cooper,  
 Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo  
 (071) 9185264 / 087 6702903  
 flemingmichael@eircom.net

## COUNTY SLIGO ELECTORAL MAP



Council Members / Map of Electoral Area

## Strategic Policy Committee Members

### SPC 1 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING POLICY

**Cllr Tony Mc Loughlin (Chairperson)**, *Beechlawn, Barnasraghy, Sligo*

Cllr Patsy Barry, *Rinroe, Grange, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Aidan Colleary, *Cully, Curry, Charlestown PO, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Jude Devins, *34 Clara Court, Strandhill Road, Sligo*

Cllr Deirdre Healy Mc Gowan, *Breeogue, Knocknahur, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Seamus Kilgannon, *81 Rathedmond, Sligo*

Cllr Sean Mac Manus, *5 Mountain View, Maugheraboy, Sligo*

Mr Michael Keenan, *Keenan Construction Ltd., Carraroe, Co. Sligo*

Mr Gerry Healy, *Kevinsfort Ltd., 10' Connell St., Sligo*

Ms Niamh O' Driscoll, *Union Wood Road, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo*

Ms Phil Tuohy, *Kincullen, Aclare, Co. Sligo*

### SPC2 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**Cllr Jimmy Mc Garry (Chairperson)**, *Twin Oaks, Oakfield, Sligo*

Cllr Mary Barrett, *Ardabrone, Dromard, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Paul Conmy, *Meenaun, Culleens, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Michael Fleming, *Carrowreagh Cooper, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Albert Higgins, *Carrowroe, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Rosaleen O' Grady, *1 The Orchard, Kevinsfort, Sligo*

Cllr Gerry Mullaney, *Highwood, Kilmacranny, Boyle, Co. Sligo*

Mr Geroid O' Connor, *Cambs, Ballymote, Co. Sligo*

Ms Sally Ward, *Cregg, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo*

Mr Martin Enright, *Raheen, Kilmacowen, Co. Sligo*

Mr Brendan Queenan, *Castletown, Easkey, Co. Sligo*

### SPC3 TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL POLICY

**Cllr John Sherlock (Chairperson)**, *Knox Park, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Ita Fox, *Colgagh, Calry, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Margaret Gormley, *Carrowloughlin, Bunninadden, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Jerry Lundy, *Rhue, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Gerry Murray, *Calterane, Gurteen, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Pat Mc Grath, *Ardnaglass, Ballymote, Co. Sligo*

Mr Pdraig Davey, *The Cottage, Ballure, Clogherevagh, Co. Sligo*

Mr Gerry Queenan, *Cabra, Rathlee, Co. Sligo*

Ms Rita Ann Burke, *Skreen, Co. Sligo*

### SPC4 HOUSING POLICY, SOCIAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Cllr Joe Queenan (Chairperson)**, *Lacknaslieva, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Martin Baker, *2 Ardkeerin, Riverstown, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Veronica Cawley, *St. Martin, Rathbraughan, Sligo*

Cllr Imelda Henry, *Orient, Pearse Road, Sligo*

Cllr Joe Leonard, *Cloonaghbawn, Ballinfull, Co. Sligo*

Cllr Chris Mac Manus, *5 Mountain View, Maugheraboy, Sligo*

Cllr Declan Bree, *1 High Street, Sligo*

Mr Frankie Brannigan, *C/o Courthouse, Teeling Street, Sligo*

Ms Sharon Boles, *Altvelid, Ballintogher, Co. Sligo*

Mr Conor Fitzgerald, *Atlanta Place, Cluin Dara, Gurteen, Co. Sligo*

Mr Gerry Creamer, *The Blennicks, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo*

# Corporate Services Directorate



## Preface

2004 was an important year for the various services falling within the Corporate Services remit. The Department of the Environment and Local Government approved our *Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan* which will see the delivery of 360 houses over the next five years. Last year the Council developed forty one houses, and in 2005 seventy four houses will be constructed in seven towns and villages throughout the county.

Following the *Local Elections* of 2004, nine new Councillors took their seats in County Hall. With the status of the electronic voting system being somewhat uncertain, it is possible that the 2004 elections may mark the end of an era. We have included a report on the local elections as an appendix to this report.

Our *Emergency Services* once again delivered an effective and efficient service to the people of County Sligo in 2004, attending 668 incidents over the course of the year. The Council places particular emphasis on 'Community Fire Safety', and 400 secondary and third level students attended lectures in Sligo Fire Station.

The introduction of a *Customer Services facility* in 2004 was an important initiative for this Council. We are constantly reviewing ways of streamlining and improving the level of service to the general public, and the delivery of this facility confirms our commitment to the highest standards of customer care.



In order to deliver the best possible service, it is essential that staff be equipped with the appropriate skills. The 'Excellence Through People' award is the national standard for human resource development, and sets a benchmark for training, development and involvement of staff in the workplace. Sligo County Council was one of the first Local Authorities to actively promote the 'Excellence Through People' ideal, and has now earned this coveted accolade in each of its directorates.

**Tim Caffrey**  
Director of Corporate Services



## Putting the Customer First

In April 2004 Sligo County Council introduced a Customer Services facility at its Riverside offices. The new facility provides a first point of contact for telephone callers and visitors to County Hall, and enables the Council to provide an informed and prompt customer response. The service was officially 'launched' by the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, Mr Noel Ahern, TD.

Director of Services Tim Caffrey sees its introduction as a 'pivotal development in Sligo County Council's ongoing objective to provide a quality customer service. This is a major undertaking by the Council. We provide well in excess of 400 identifiable services, and we are determined to ensure that these services are delivered promptly and efficiently. We envisage that this facility will be the focal point of our effort to improve and streamline our services to the general public.'

Mr Caffrey places the introduction of the desk in the context of a development of a 'Customer Service ethos' in the Council. 'We introduced extended office hours over a year ago, provide many application forms and guidelines on-line, and have opened a One Stop Facility in Tubbercurry to serve our customers in South Sligo.' Sligo County Council expects its services to be evaluated to the highest standards, and the delivery of the Customer Service facility will enable it to provide an optimum service to the people of County Sligo.

### CUSTOMER SURVEY

In preparing for the introduction of the Customer Service facility, Sligo County Council commissioned an independent survey, entailing interviews with 500 householders throughout the county. The results of the survey, conducted by TSN/MRBI, provided valuable information in guiding the design and operation of the Customer Service Desk.

One of the most interesting results of the survey was the high rate of usage of the main Council services, with 98% of those surveyed claiming to have availed of Planning, Roads or Motor Tax services. While 61% of these contacts involved visits to one of the Council's offices, the increasing availability of Council services on-line will see a reduction in this figure over the coming years.



△ Brid Keaveney, Aine Higgins, Michelle Clancy and Mary Boylan (seated)

### E-DIRECT

In tandem with the introduction of the Customer Service Desk, the Council has introduced a new communications tracking system called e-Direct. The new system is designed to ensure that correspondence is acknowledged and dealt with as quickly as possible.



## Housing & Building

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

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

### HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Housing Capital Allocation from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for 2004 was €8,625,000, which was made up as follows:

- Local Authority Housing Programme  
€8,500,000
- Residential Caravans & Group Housing for Travellers  
€125,000

In 2004, Sligo County Council received approval from the Department for a Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan covering the period 2004-2008. It is proposed to construct or acquire 360 houses during this Programme.

The Council has a policy of purchasing houses on the open market where the houses represent value for money and where a demand exists. In the current economic climate, it is not possible to source many houses on the open market which fall within the Department's approved unit cost budget. However, 15 houses were purchased on the open market in 2004. In addition, work commenced on 8 rural houses during the year.

▽ New housing estate in Grange

The following sets out in summary, progress on the larger housing schemes:

Completed in 2004		To be Completed in 2005	
Ballinacarrow	5	Ballisodare	18
Enniscrone	9	Collooney	10
Bunninadden	4	Bunninadden	6
Ballintogher	12	Grange	16
Ballymote	9	Ballymote	4
Ballyconnell	2	Riverstown	4
		Coolaney	16
<b>Total:</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>74</b>

### HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Approximately 66% of our maintenance budget of €440,000 was used for planned maintenance and the remaining 34% was used for emergency repairs. Planned maintenance involved replacing defective windows and doors and also replacing defective ranges.

The Council also employed a Social Economy Co-Op to carry out environmental works (grass cutting, litter collection, flower bed construction) in various local authority estates.

A grant of €200,000 was received during 2004 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government towards the installation of central heating in County Council dwellings. The Council supplemented this grant with approximately €45,000 from the maintenance budget. Work is due to commence on the installation of central heating and insulation of approximately 35 dwellings early in 2005.

## Housing & Building

### RENTS

Rents payable on Local Authority dwellings are assessed under a Differential Rents Scheme based on income of the household. The rent scheme was reviewed in 2004. During the year, rents were reviewed to bring them into line with increases in disposal income and to meet the ever-increasing demand for maintenance and estate management.

### 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 €165,000 and, in 2004, Sligo County Council allocated €152,785.64 in house purchase, construction and reconstruction loans.

#### Loan Approvals 2004

Purchases	3	<i>(all relate to the purchase Shared Ownership Equity)</i>
Construction	2	
Reconstruction	4	

#### Loan Payments 2004

	Number	Amount
Purchases	2	€55,285.64
Construction	1 <i>(Final Payment)</i>	€50,000.00
Reconstruction	11 <i>(3 of which were Final Payments)</i>	€47,500.00

### TENANT PURCHASE

Tenants of a local authority house for a period of at least one year may apply to purchase their rented house outright or by means of Shared Ownership under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. The purchase price will be the market value of the house in its existing state of repair and condition, less various discounts.

In 2004, 16 houses were sold under the Tenant Purchase Scheme and one of these was sold by way of Shared Ownership. 4 of these were approved for Council loans and the remaining 11 received loans from other financial institutions.



△ New houses in Riverstown

### SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME

This scheme offers home ownership in a number of steps to those who cannot afford full ownership in the traditional way. Initially, ownership of the house is shared between the shared owner and the Local Authority. The shared owner has the option at a later date to purchase the Council's share outright when their circumstances permit.

In 2004, Sligo County Council received an allocation of €1,900,000 to purchase/construct houses under the Shared Ownership Scheme. 19 provisional approvals were issued to applicants and 15 final approvals were granted under this scheme to the end of the year.

### 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 2004, 8 houses were upgraded at an average cost per house of €39,511.38 and 15 applications were approved under the Scheme.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There was no activity to report on Affordable Housing in the early part of 2004. However, the construction of a scheme of 10 4-bedroom houses at Grange began in November 2004. This is the first scheme of its kind in North Sligo and it is expected that interest will be very high when the scheme is completed. The planned project at Strandhill (8 houses) is at an advanced stage with construction due to commence in 2005.

## Housing & Building

### ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Estate Management Officer continued to engage with resident groups throughout the county during 2004. Some 34 meetings were held during the year with various groups discussing a wide variety of housing issues. More emphasis this year was placed on anti-social behaviour and tenant participation in estate management. Draft policies on these issues have been prepared for consideration by the Strategic Policy Committee with responsibility for housing.

Maintenance work was carried out during 2004 on six estates throughout the county, by the Environmental Co-operative Association under the supervision of the Estate Management Officer.

Various profiles of estates were completed, and Estate Action Plans introduced as part of the joint Council/Tenant partnership. Estate clean-ups were held in Camross Estate, Ballymote and Caltragh Estate, Sligo. Other Estates received skips for their own clean-ups in order to enhance their area.

The Estate Officer continued to consult with the health board social workers and members of the Gardaí in an effort to mediate in conflict issues.

Mandatory pre-tenancy training continued for new tenants.

### ESSENTIAL REPAIRS GRANTS

The principal benefit of the Essential Repairs Grants 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 €9,523, with 2/3 of the cost being recouped from the Department.

In 2004, 29 approvals were issued during the year and 9 grants were paid out under this scheme, totalling €44,535.50.

### DISABLED PERSONS GRANTS

The Disabled Persons Grants Scheme allows Sligo County Council to make a grant available for the provision of house adaptations to meet the needs of a 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 2004, the maximum amount payable under the scheme was €20,315, with 2/3 of the cost being recouped from the Department. 96 approvals were issued during the year and 75 grants were paid out under this scheme totalling €196,911.99.

### TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The process of preparing a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme for the four year period 2005 - 2008 commenced during 2004. The draft programme was placed on public display in November 2004 and it is expected that it will be adopted by both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council early in 2005.

Plans for the provision of a Transient Halting Site at Cloonamahon were progressed during 2004 with the Council passing resolutions agreeing to a variation of the Development Plan in respect of this development. It is anticipated that construction will commence on this site mid 2005.

▽ New housing scheme under construction, Collooney



## Human Resources

*Sligo County Council is one of the largest employers in the county with 491 staff on its payroll at the end of 2004.*

The Human Resources Department is responsible for recruitment for both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council. In 2004, 70 interview boards were set up by the County Manager to interview candidates for 108 permanent and temporary positions in both authorities. 807 candidates were interviewed; male – 337, female 470.

The Human Resources department is also responsible for dealing with Industrial Relations, implementing human resources policies, maintaining staff records, staff welfare, training, and the delivery of various support services.

### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

During 2004, Sligo County Council continued to work with the trade unions who represent staff in order to achieve good working relationships, and to reconcile demands with the minimum of conflict. The trade unions and the Council both recognise the importance of stable industrial relations, and are committed to maintaining a well-managed industrial relations environment to minimise disputes affecting the level of service to the public. As a result, no working days were lost to strikes in 2004.

In line with requirements set out in "Sustaining Progress – Social Partnership Agreement 2003-2005" Sligo Local Authorities prepared detailed Modernisation / Change

Agendas which covered all aspects of the Local Authorities work activities. These agendas were negotiated extensively with the unions in 2004, with over 50 meetings taking place. Agreement was reached with all parties with regard to the agendas, and implementation of same is now proceeding.

### STAFF WELFARE

Sligo County Council in 2004 continued to implement the Work-Sharing and Term-Time schemes which were introduced in 2003. Both schemes proved popular, with a total of 30 staff availing of them. The Parental Leave scheme was introduced in 1998 and 16 staff availed of it in 2004. The human resources department continued its work with the Equality Action Team in 2004 to deal with all equality issues in a fair and impartial manner.

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

A comprehensive support structure was put in place in 2004 to assist staff in resolving personal and work related problems, which may be impacting on job performance and effect their well-being and enjoyment of life. This has proved to be beneficial to the staff members who have sought assistance, as well as to the Council.



△ Launching the Employee Assistance Programme: **Standing l-r:** Padraig Flangan, Sean McHugh, Gordon Lyttle, Tommy Dunleavy, Tommy McGowan  
**Seated l-r:** Frankie Brannigan, Hubert Kearns (County Manager), Marie Leydon

# Human Resources

## WORK PLACEMENTS

During 2004, the Council continued its association with placement schemes for students in schools and colleges. 18 students were given an opportunity to work in various areas of both Local Authorities. This scheme is very beneficial to students as they are obliged, as part of their courses, to gain some experience in an office –working environment. In addition 13 students pursuing engineering / planning qualifications availed of work experience programmes during the summer months.

## EXCELLENCE THROUGH PEOPLE

It is a requirement under *Sustaining Progress – The Social Partnership Agreement 2003* – that in recognition of the critical role of training and development that Local Authorities pursue the FÁS “Excellence Through People Award” during 2003/2004. This is a national standard for Human Resource development and the main objectives of the standard are:



- To encourage the development of staff to full potential so as to maximise their contribution to the needs of the organisation.
- To show recognition for organisations that have achieved this aim.
- To set a benchmark for training, development and involvement of staff in the workplace.

The process involved an assessment by FAS of the training and development function, employee communication and involvement systems within the Directorate.

The Directorate of Housing, Social, Cultural and Corporate Services achieved this accreditation in 2003. The accreditation in respect of 4 other directorates within the Council was achieved during 2004 with the awards will be presented in early 2005.

## EXPENDITURE ON TRAINING

*Sustaining Progress – The Social Partnership Agreement 2003* set a target for local authorities of achieving a minimum spend of the equivalent of 3% of the total payroll on staff training and development. This figure represents not only the actual cost of the course, but also the trainee displacement cost, and travelling and subsistence allowances. Local authorities are required to publish information on the percentage spend of payroll on training & development.

The expenditure on training and development as a percentage of the total payroll costs for Sligo County Council in 2004 was 6.4%, well in excess of the 3% target.

## TRAINING INITIATIVES

During 2004, particular emphasis was placed on the training needs of the Area Staff. This was reflected in programmes such as:

### Non National Roads Training Programme

- Staff attended courses on signing, lighting and guarding at roadworks, winter maintenance and *Safepass* training

### Health & Safety

- Training courses included site dumper training, grader driver training, safe use of abrasive wheels, and training for safety representatives, and *Safepass*

### Waterworks Caretakers

- An eight day programme was held in Sligo over the period November 2003 to February 2004. One of the aims of the programme was to prepare the participants for the National Skills Certificate in Water and Wastewater Plant Operation. All of the participants successfully completed the programme which involved written assessment and practical on-site tests.

### ECDL

Sixty four staff completed the ECDL programme and presentations of certificates were made at two ceremonies during the year.

As part of the induction training for new Councillors, training on “introduction to computers” was provided over 7 evening sessions for 10 members of the Council

### Return to Learning

The Return to Learning project is a partnership initiative between the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG) and the Department of Education and Science (DES), supported by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). The project aims to give staff an opportunity to attend a workplace basic skills course. Participants benefit from the course by improvement of their literacy skills, an increase in self-confidence and a rekindling of an interest in learning. The Return to Learning programme was launched in March for outdoor staff, with 15 staff pursuing same.

### NUI Diploma in Irish

This programme was launched in September 2004. This is one of the initiatives undertaken by Sligo Local Authorities to ensure a better availability and higher standard of services through Irish. The course aims to provide participants with a high standard of communication and writing skills in Irish. There are 14 staff members participating in this two year programme, which is accredited by N.U.I. Galway.

# Human Resources

## FETAC Certification

One of the most significant initiatives was customer service training, which was delivered over 12 days and facilitated the introduction of the Customer Response Desk

Sligo County Council is now the pilot Local Authority for achieving certification for Customer Service Skills training. To achieve this certification, four staff members successfully completed this course.

The certification process is currently being evaluated by the Local Government Management Services Board to see if the process can be applied to other Local Authorities.

Other programmes delivered during the year included Equality Training, First-Aid and Safe Pass Training. The Council also piloted 2-day Personal Development Programmes for Staff Officers, which proved to be very intensive but worthwhile based on the feedback from participants



△ Three members of staff, Sligo Local Authorities were conferred with MBA (Masters of Business Administration) in 2004.  
 L-R: Paul Hampson, Declan Breen, Emer Concannon.  
 Also included is Pat Gillespie, Donegal County Council.

## Staff Education Scheme

54 staff members are currently funded to pursue courses directly relevant to their work. This scheme will continue in 2005. The courses covered include:-

- NUI Certificate in Local Government Studies*
- NUI Diploma in Local Government Studies*
- NUI Diploma in Irish*
- FÁS Certificate in Waste Management*
- FÁS Certificate in Building Control*
- Post Graduate Diploma in Health & Safety*
- IPA Certificate in Public Procurement*
- Degree in Construction & Economics*
- Bachelor of Science – Housing & Community Studies*
- B. Sc. Economics in Information & Library Studies*

## Management Development Programme

During 2004, a management training and development programme for Directors of Services, Senior Executive Officers and Senior Executive Engineers and analogous grades was delivered on a Regional basis by the IMI. This programme followed on from the Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) report "Role Profiling and Training Needs Analysis for Local Government Management Service Board" which stressed the importance of senior staff having the range of skills and competencies required to lead the Local Authority to meet the challenges it now faces, and to achieve the expectations of stakeholders at times of limited resources.

## SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF

Sligo County Council extends its appreciation to the following staff who retired in 2004:

- Mr Ambrose Fleming, (Retired Driver)**
- Mr John Finn,(Retired Labourer)**

Sligo County Council remembers staff who passed away in 2004:

- John Pat Devins**
- Brendan Beglane**
- Donal O'Rourke**

## Sligo County Library/Museum

*Sligo Library service continued to grow in popularity in 2004 with membership increasing to 16,000, which is almost 28% of the population of the county.*

The improvements to the branch network, including a successful marketing campaign, along with the broadening of services and activities within the library service have all contributed to the increased use of the Library.

While 28% of the county's population are members, 23% of the population joined to borrow items while the balance of 5% use the library for services other than book borrowing. This is primarily the use of the Internet, reference, Information and local studies services.

In 2004, the latest phase of the Library computerisation was unveiled with the launch of the Library web site [www.sligolibrary.ie](http://www.sligolibrary.ie) and the switching on of our online reservation and renewal system. This online system will allow members with Internet access and a PIN number to search the Library database and check their online account with the library. Users of this service are also able to renew a borrowed item for an additional period and if the item they require is already on loan or in a different branch, they may place a hold on the item. In addition, our inter-branch delivery service has been upgraded, to reduce the waiting time for material on request between our branches, to three working days.

With the improvements in recent years of our branch infrastructure, the Library Service is now in a position to expand the extent and type of activities carried out within these modernised facilities.

The Calendar of Events provided by the County Library Service continues to expand and the response from our customers has been phenomenal. One of the highlights from our Calendar of Events 2004, were the workshops held in both Sligo City Library and Tubbercurry Community Library to celebrate the centenary of the Abbey Theatre.



△ Author Denise Deegan with members of the two book clubs based in Tubbercurry Community Library

### Library Membership 2004

Ballymote:	851
Sligo City:	11,303
Tubbercurry:	3,673
Enniscrone:	960
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16,787</b>

### Library Stock Issues

Ballymote:	10,043
Sligo City:	116,756
Tubbercurry:	43,736
Enniscrone:	10,074
Local Studies:	3207
<b>Total:</b>	<b>183,816</b>

**Internet Sessions:** 26,500

**County Museum Visitors:** 3282

### TUBBERCURRY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tubbercurry Community Library registered an additional 1,217 new members during 2004. 75% of this number was adult and teenage members with the remaining 25% registering as juvenile members. Membership of the library up to the end of 2004 was 3417. The library issued 43,736 items during 2004.

### AUTHOR VISITS

In February, childrens' authors, Liam Farrell, Aislinn O'Loughlin and Ann Carroll were invited in conjunction with Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools Scheme to conduct a number of sessions suitable for primary school children. In September, as part of the Scríobh Festival, writers Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, Siobhán Parkinson and Maighread Medbh visited the library.

Adults were not neglected as two Irish authors were also invited to conduct a 'Meet and Greet' session in the library. Writers, Denyse Devlin and Denise Deegan were warmly received by library users and particularly by members of Tubbercurry Library's two book clubs.



## Sligo County Library/Museum



△ Nobel Prize Medal on display in the Yeats Room, Sligo Museum

### WORKSHOPS

Many different workshops were delivered during the year, including two Creative Writing workshops, one aimed at adults and one catering for children aged 10-12. Both were facilitated by an experienced writer and were of six weeks duration.

A six-week music workshop, aimed at pre-school children was held during February and March. It was facilitated by local musician and member of the band *Cadenza*, Anna Huston.

A number of art workshops were held throughout the year both for children and adults. The children's workshops focussed on painting, printing, construction, clay work and collage, while the adult workshops concentrated on oils and watercolours.

A Felt-Making Workshop was held to complement the 'Felt From The Heart Exhibition', which was held in the library during May.

Donegal artist, Imelda Carroll conducted the workshop and presented the library with a beautiful piece of artwork, which was made during the workshop.

To celebrate 100 years of the Abbey Theatre, the library was involved in the Nationwide Libraries Programme, which was organised by the Outreach/Education Department of the Abbey Theatre. A drama workshop was held for adults in the library at the end of July. The workshop illustrated how the Abbey looked at every element of staging a play, from set design to stage properties, from composition to storytelling to ensure that a production arrives full of life on the Abbey stage. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. David Horan, Abbey Theatre Staff Director (2002-2003).

### EXHIBITIONS

In February, the library hosted an exhibition entitled 'Antarctica' which contained stunning images of the environment and ecology of Antarctica and placed special emphasis on scientific research.

Working in co-operation with Sligo County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer Alice Reynolds, an exhibition was put together in April of photographs taken by local primary school children of the town of Tubbercurry. The photographs focused on areas which needed attention due to litter and neglect and also contained photographs of areas, which were an asset to the town. There was great interest in the exhibition and many members of the public called to see it.

May saw the arrival of the 'Felt From the Heart' exhibition which comprised 13 large felt panels made in 13 different places over 5 continents. The panels depicted the natural environment and cultural symbols, chosen by the children and young people involved, to represent their country. The whole piece provided a story of global nature through the eyes and hearts of young people. The panels were designed to fit a nomadic round tent structure, known as a 'yurt' that is traditionally covered with felt in its land of origin, predominantly Mongolia, Central Asia. The yurt is a circular structure, 13-feet in diameter and 12 feet high, large enough to fit 10-15 adults and children comfortably at one time.

To celebrate the centenary of Bloomsday, June 16th 1904, the day on which James Joyce first walked out with Nora Barnacle, the library hosted an exhibition entitled 'Mapping Joyce'. The exhibition outlined Joyce's travels throughout his life and followed the parallel expansion of his literary influence across the globe.

## Sligo County Library/Museum



△ Childrens Workshop in Sligo Branch Library to celebrate the "The Abbey One Hundred"

The ESB Environmental Awards Photography Exhibition, which consisted of 60 award-winning images, was also on display during the month of June.

An exhibition entitled '16 Days of Action' highlighting the issue of domestic violence was held during December.

### LECTURES

In March, a presentation to complement the 'Antarctica' exhibition was conducted by Mr. Frank Nugent, author of *Seek the Frozen Lands – Irish Polar Explorers 1740-1922*. The lecture focussed on the considerable contribution by Irishmen to the exploration and charting of the Arctic and Antarctic regions in the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries.

The centenary of the birth of Seán MacBride, winner of the Nobel and Lenin Peace Prizes, was marked by a presentation by Mr. Tony Jordan in the library in November.

### SHOWS

A number of shows on the theme of 'Focussing on our Environment' were held over the course of the year. The shows were aimed at children and the purpose was to emphasise the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message. One of these shows involved staging a puppet show where the puppets themselves were made from waste materials; another event featured a short play, which involved the children as actors in the production. Tim Roderick paid a visit to the library in March to make a presentation to children on 'Irish Wildlife and Their Habitat'.

Michael Moylan visited the library on two separate occasions to conduct both his 'Irish History Live' and 'Science is Magic' show. Irish History Live is a show which combines storytelling with a unique opportunity for children to gain access to real tools, armour, weapons and costume of a given period in history. The 'Science is Magic' show allows children to experiment with heat, light, sound, magnetism and electricity. This show was conducted as part of 'National Science Week' in November. The shows were complemented by displays of associated books on both topics.

Storyteller Niall de Búrca paid two visits to the library during the year to conduct storytelling sessions for children. One of these visits formed part of the library's week long summer camp in July and the other was held as part of Children's Book Festival 2004.



△ Young Readers celebrating World Book Day

### FESTIVALS

The library held a number of activities to celebrate national events such as Children's Book Festival and Seachtain na Gaeilge. Events, which took place during 'Seachtain na Gaeilge', included an inter-school debate, between two of the local second level schools, a 'ceol agus craic' seisiún for primary school children and a comhrá for adults.

The library also held events as part of the Scríobh Festival held in County Sligo in September. Three authors writing for children visited the library during the week long festival.

### OPEN DAYS

County Sligo Vocational Education Committee hosted an Adult Learners' Week in May. As part of this week, the library hosted an open day, where a qualified Guidance Counsellor with County Sligo VEC was in attendance to offer information, guidance and direction to anyone in the process of selecting a course.

In early June, Tubbercurry Community Library hosted an open meeting for anyone wishing to gain information on undertaking a course of study through the Open University.

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Two adult library book clubs meet on a monthly basis to discuss a pre-selected title.

An adults creative writing group, who now meet on a monthly basis, grew out of a ten-week creative writing workshop, held by the library.

A chess and draughts club for primary school children meet on a weekly basis from September to May.

## Communications Office

*The Communications Office was established to provide information services to the Elected Members, staff, media and general public, as well as providing administrative support to the Cathaoirleach.*

### NEWSLETTER

Four issues of the staff newsletter 'Contact' were produced in 2004, and this was supplemented by the circulation of 'e-Contact', a monthly update e-mailed to staff and Elected Members.



△ 2004 issues of *Contact* magazine

In December 2004 a public edition of 'Contact' was launched, and this will be circulated to households in County Sligo on a quarterly basis.

### [www.sligococo.ie](http://www.sligococo.ie)

The Communications Office works with the staff in the information technology section and customer services in monitoring and update the Council's website. The Council actively promotes the website as a valuable resource for the general public, and it is regularly updated with news, information, roads and traffic reports, diary of events and minutes of Council meetings.

Application forms and guidelines relating to the Council's various services can be accessed on the site. The site is being developed to facilitate customers who wish to make financial transactions on-line.



△ Launch of public edition of Sligo Local Authorities Newsletter *Contact* in December 2004.

### CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS SCHEME

The scheme was devised to acknowledge and reward people who have given special service to their community. The Council's fourth annual awards ceremony was hosted in County Hall in May 2004, and the winners were:



◁ Winner Cathaoirleach's Awards – Arts: Peggy Gaffney.



◁ Winner Cathaoirleach's Awards – Environment & Heritage: Hilda Shaw



△ Winner Cathaoirleach's Awards – Community / Overall: Kathleen O'Kelly



△ Winner Cathaoirleach's Awards – Sports: John McGettrick



△ Winner Cathaoirleach's Awards – National Schools: St. John's N.S., Ballisodare

<b>Arts</b>	Peggy Gaffney, <i>Gurteen</i>
<b>Environment and Heritage</b>	Hilda Shaw, <i>Riverstown</i>
<b>Community</b>	Kathleen O'Kelly, <i>Sligo</i>
<b>Sports</b>	John McGettrick, <i>Cornageeha</i>
<b>National Schools</b>	St John's National School, <i>Ballisodare</i> .

The winner of the 'overall' Cathaoirleach's Award for 2004 was **Kathleen O Kelly**.

# County Sligo Heritage Office

The aim of the County Sligo Heritage Forum:

*'To secure benefits for the heritage of County Sligo and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of it for all.'*

The Heritage Office is committed to providing high quality advice on all matters relating to heritage issues and is responsible for developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of Sligo's heritage. It also seeks to assist the development of the Local Authorities heritage strategy and policy, advising on heritage impacts and consequences. Central to the services provided by the Heritage Office, is the promotion of interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Sligo, and in so doing, increasing awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the County's heritage for all.

The development of a co-ordinated heritage strategy at county level is a key recommendation of government policy as outlined in the National Heritage Plan (2002) and the National Biodiversity Plan (2002).

This is being achieved through:

- Establishment of the County Sligo Heritage Forum.
- Co-ordination and implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Plan 2002-2006 which focuses on:

#### 1. Collection of heritage data

To advise on, and contribute to, the development of a comprehensive heritage database for Sligo, and to ensure the effective use of heritage data in policy formulation and decision-making.

#### 2. Local Authority heritage management

To propose high quality advice to Sligo local authorities on policies and priorities relating to Sligo's heritage and to support them in the integration of heritage conservation into their activities.

#### 3. Raising heritage awareness

To facilitate an awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Sligo's heritage amongst the community.

#### 4. Promoting best practice

To promote, and advise on, best practice standards for heritage conservation and management.

The County Sligo Heritage Plan has heralded a new and exciting period for heritage conservation in Sligo, based on partnership and co-ordination amongst all those with an

interest in and remit for heritage management in the county. The Heritage Plan which was launched in 2002 was one of the first of its kind in Ireland, it is a concerted effort to establish objectives and set priorities for our shared heritage. The emphasis is on shared responsibility for the protection and conservation of Sligo's heritage resource. Copies of the County Sligo Heritage Plan 2002-2006 are available from the County Sligo Heritage Office or can be downloaded from the council's website.

### COLLECTION OF HERITAGE DATA - Achievements in 2004

- Audit of archaeological objects held in museum collections in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland.
- Collation of scientific papers relating to the geology, flora and fauna of County Sligo.
- Initiated the development of a biodiversity action plan for County Sligo in partnership with IT Sligo.

### LA HERITAGE MANAGEMENT - Achievements in 2004

A key role for the Heritage Office is the provision of high quality advice to the Sligo Local Authorities on policies and priorities relating to heritage and to support them in the integration of heritage conservation into their activities. This is achieved through heritage appraisal of development plans and local area plans, and the development of heritage training and structured input of heritage advice.

The Heritage Office also continued to administer the grant scheme for the conservation of protected structures in 2004, on behalf of the Sligo Local Authorities.

### RAISING AWARENESS - Achievements in 2004

- Development of a Field Monument pilot in North Sligo
- Hosted heritage exhibitions
- Promotion of the Heritage in Schools scheme
- Commissioned Heritage Education Audit for County Sligo

▽ Swiss Valley Glencar  
(image ©Geological Survey of Ireland)



△ Field Monument in North Sligo

## County Sligo Heritage Office



△ Launch of Easkey Village Design Scheme



△ Launch of Collooney Village Design Scheme

### PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE

#### – Achievements in 2004

- Ongoing provision of advice to communities / individuals developing heritage initiatives and facilities

### LA PHYSICAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

#### – Achievements in 2004

Sligo Cemetery Gate Lodge conservation grant allocation of €40,000 secured from the Urban & Village Renewal Regional Operational Programme 2000-2006 to carry out conservation works during 2005.

**Almost €250,000, allocated to Sligo Local Authorities by the Department of Environment Health and Local Government for conservation of protected structures in County Sligo since 1999.**

There have been significant strides and progress in the area of built heritage over the past few years in the county. Sligo County Council in setting policies and objectives for the conservation and management of our built heritage resource is in the process of reviewing the Record of Protected Structures as part of the *County Development Plan Review 2005-2011*. At a national level we recognise that we are embarking on a new era of built heritage management, putting in place appropriate supports and advice for owners of protected structures and the stakeholders who are also involved such as architects, builders and the wider community among others. Increasingly we are finding the need to resource the more traditional building skills and knowledge base in the care and conservation of our shared built heritage.

Sligo County Council is aware of the increased responsibility and participation of owners of listed buildings in caring for the county's built heritage resource and since 1999 has supported property owners in the care and conservation of their properties through the annual grant scheme for the conservation of protected structures. The funding for the scheme is allocated annually by the Department, and is administered, in the absence of a Conservation Officer, by the County Heritage Office on behalf of the Sligo Local Authorities.

The objective of the scheme is to assist the owner or occupier of a structure, which is protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 because of its

architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, to undertake conservation works. Works qualify under the scheme where they consist of the conservation of one or more elements of a qualifying structure. Some of these works may require planning permission. Qualifying works would, among other things, include:- works necessary to secure the stability of a structure or part of structure, works necessary to make a structure weather-proof or damp-proof, works necessary to conserve or repair external walls or internal features or works consisting of temporary repairs, where it is necessary to protect a structure from immediate risk.

The standard amount of grant is 50 per cent of the approved cost of works, up to a maximum of €13,000. A local authority may, at its discretion, vary this amount downwards or, in exceptional circumstances, upwards, subject to a maximum allowable grant of 75 per cent of the approved cost of works, or £25,000, whichever is the lesser. Any grant greater than £10,000 requires the prior approval of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Since the establishment of the scheme a number of properties have benefited with the ownership varying from individual property owners and community groups to Church bodies. Beneficiaries of the scheme have included, the Yeats Memorial Building, Sligo, Millview House, Riverstown, St. Crumnathys Cathedral, Achonry, Thatched cottage, Carrownacreevy, Beltra, Coopershill House, Riverstown, No. 6 The Mall, Sligo and Toberfechin House, Beltra.

The wider Sligo communities are the custodians of our built heritage and are the owners of many of our protected structures. In many cases the small thatched house, or typical farmhouse with associated out-buildings, are as important to our built heritage as the large medieval churches and classical country houses. In delivering the Conservation Grant Scheme, Sligo County Council seeks to support property owners in caring for the local built heritage resource and to promote best practice and the development of conservation skills within the county to meet the growing need.

## Sligo Civil Defence

# Sligo Civil Defence continues to 'Meet the challenges of a changing world'

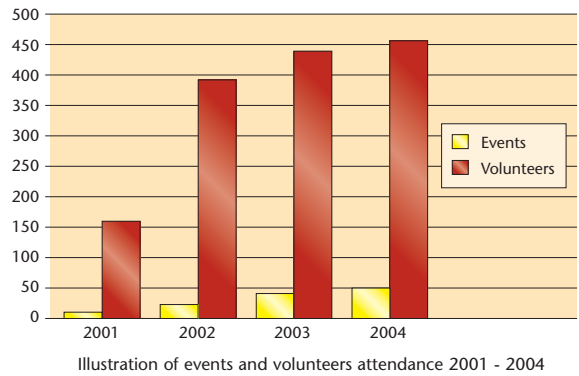
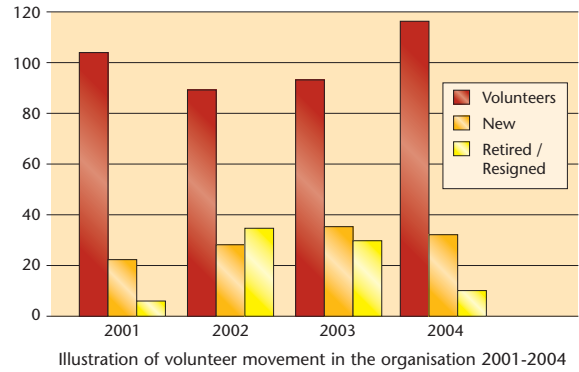
2004 was a particularly busy and eventful year for the organisation, the highlight being the hosting of the National Exercise in April. This was a major undertaking, with over 250 volunteers in attendance, but the event was administered with the efficiency and professionalism we have come to expect of Civil Defence. Minister for Defence Michael Smith, TD, attended the Exercise, and committed funding €50,000 towards the provision of a garage for the Civil Defence vehicles.



Sligo Civil Defence were involved in over fifty events throughout the year, and have provided first aid and ambulance cover at many important sporting and community events throughout the county.

In an age when there are so many demands on our time, it can be difficult to entice people to become involved in a new voluntary activity. However the commencement of training classes in October saw twenty five new volunteers registered. In addition to learning many valuable skills and techniques, the new volunteers can also make many new friends in the organisation.

The hosting of our annual exercise in October was followed by a special presentation tour long serving members. Ten and twenty year long service medals were presented by the



Cathaoirleach Councillor Margaret Gormley and the Assistant Director General of Civil Defence, Bill Smith. Special presentations were made to long serving Instructor, Jim Clerkin, and to another Stalwart of Civil Defence, Gerry Shryane, who retired after 33 years of service.

In December forty volunteers who assisted at the 2003 Special Olympics were presented with a specially commissioned medal, a fitting reward for volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy in service to their community.



## Sligo Fire Authority

The Fire Authority provides a number of services ranging from the emergency response to incidents such as fires, road traffic accidents, air 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.

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 over 668 incidents in the last year.

There were several large complex 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 car fires and 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 life threatening fires occur each year. The loss caused by these incidents is enormous, tragically four people died as a result of such fires.

The Fire Service attended numerous other "special services" incidents that resulted in four fatalities and emphasises the multi functionary role of the service provided.

### TRAINING

There is a comprehensive 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 when an accident occurs but can pose a serious threat to rescue personnel.

The Brigade now holds "block" road traffic accident training over a number of days, in which the necessary skills are learnt 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. The fire service now has 16 nationally qualified medical first responders among its staff.

The Breathing Apparatus training centre has been used as a national training centre following modernisation and 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. 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.

Sligo's firefighters are certified users of Automatic Electronic Deliberators (AED) and attend refresher training every 90 days.

The Fire Authority also took part in a major emergency exercise at Sligo Airport alongside the Army, Civil Defence, CHC Ireland, Sligo General Hospital, Order of Malta, Ambulance Service, Mountain Rescue, A.A.I.U., R.N.L.I, Coastguard, S.A.F.R and the Gardaí. More of this kind of large scale exercises are planned for 2005 and this will increase communications/awareness between organisations.

### COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Talks were given to the elderly and other groups on fire safety. Groups of primary school students visited the stations and watched fire safety videos and demonstrations.

Groups from secondary schools, Sligo Institute of Technology and the local community 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 129 Fire Safety Certificate applications as required under Building Control Legislation and dealt with in excess of 154 planning applications under the Planning Acts. These applications covered a wide range of premises from apartment blocks, hotels, and shops to large commercial developments.

Inspections were carried out under the various licensing laws and covered nearly every type of premises from petroleum stores to dance halls. The Fire Authority made comment on all transfer of licence applications before the courts and carried out numerous 'during performance' inspections of dance halls, public houses and workplaces to ensure that Fire Safety standards were being upheld. Generally the level of co-operation received when advice is given is very good.

## Information Technology ♦ Partnership Higher Education Grants ♦ Register of Electors

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Development of I.T. Services continued during 2004 with the emphasis on creating the conditions to enable electronic service provision for the future and maximising the use of Information Technology to monitor the flow of information in the organisation.

The Customer Services Desk was set up in April 2004 to provide a single point of contact to members of the public. This was supported by the e-Direct Contact Management System which is a computerised system to log all queries and track them until they are dealt with and the query is closed. Members of the public who submit a query are given a query number which they can use to follow up the query at a later stage.

The iDocs Document Imaging System which stores electronically all Planning documentation has been implemented in the Planning Section. This will allow for a reduction in the amount of paper to be processed, enabling more efficient processing of planning applications, enhanced provision of information on the Internet and will facilitate the making of planning applications online in the future.

Utilisation of the Planning GIS (Geographic Information System) to improve information provision using G-Plan (GIS enquiries) allows access to the Planning Register on a PC by staff, and at the public counter. This facility will be developed further to allow such information to be accessed on the Internet. This, combined with Document Imaging, will give access via the Internet to all appropriate documentation on any planning application.

Implementation of the Government Virtual Private Network in mid-2004 has given high speed access to the Internet and e-mail while reducing the cost of such services. It also enables secure communications between local authorities and Government Departments.

The drive for provision of online services has continued with the implementation of online payment of Traffic Fines. This enables members of the public to pay traffic fines from their own homes via the Internet at any time. It is intended to expand availability in the future to cover other services.

### PARTNERSHIP

Action Plan is adopted as part of Strategic Plan 2003-2005 'Deepening Partnership'. The Partnership Committee adopted an Action Plan to consolidate the concept of consensus and team-working to the end of 2005.

- The Partnership Committee continued to be actively involved in Partnership Projects throughout the year.
- Launch of Employee Assistance Programme
- Return to Learning Programme
- Sligo County Council participated with other agencies, North and South of the border to develop a framework on health and well-being in the workplace.
- Function for retired staff
- Staff magazine 'Contact' was launched to the public in December

### REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council prepares the Register of Electors annually. There are 47,906 electors registered on the 2004/2005 Register. The cost of preparing the Register is borne by the Council and is estimated to be €109,000 in 2004.

Number of Electors by Area:	
Ballymote	9,904
Dromore	5,642
Sligo/Drumcliffe	11,948
Sligo/Strandhill	13,211
Tubbercurry	7,201

### HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

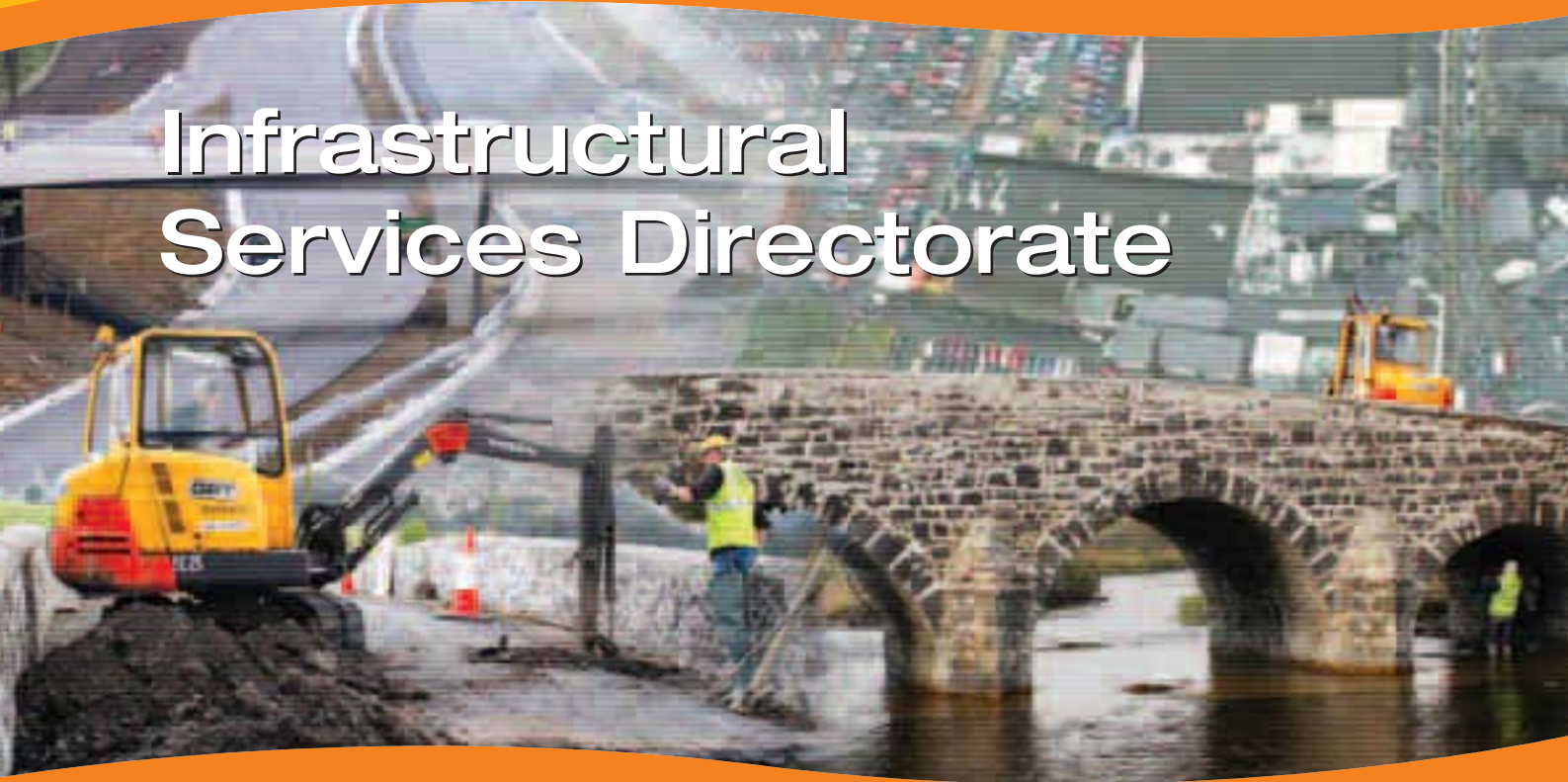
Sligo County Council assisted 434 students under the 2003 Higher Education Grants Scheme. There were 171 new applicants and 263 continuing students. The scheme is administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

In the academic year 2003/2004, Sligo County Council allocated €114,407 in Social Maintenance Grant assistance.

A total of €1,561,187 was allocated in 2003/2004 by Sligo County Council to students in maintenance and fees.



# Infrastructural Services Directorate



## Preface

The Infrastructural Services Directorate is responsible for Road Transportation and Safety, Water Services, Piers, Harbours and Coastal Protection.

In the area of Road Transportation and Safety, the most significant development in 2004 was the commencement of the construction of the N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road. This major infrastructural project is vital for the development of Sligo and is expected to be complete in the Autumn of 2005.

Progress on other major routes included advancing the design of the N17 Tubbercurry Bypass and completing the constraints study for the N15 Sligo to County Boundary.

With regard to Non-National Roads, the R292 Strandhill Road and the R297 Kinard, Enniscrone projects were completed in 2004. Progress continued on the R294 at Mullaghroe and at Drumaskibbole/Glenagoolagh.



In addition, a total of six accident remedial schemes were completed in the county during the year.

Significant pavement improvement and maintenance works were also carried out in 2004 with grants of €3.77m allocated to National roads from the National Roads Authority and €7.04m for Non-National roads from the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

In Water Services, significant progress was made on the Rural Water Programme. Tenders were received for DBO (Design Build Operate) contracts for treatment works for two bundles of group water scheme, a total of twelve schemes in all, in the county. This was a major step in the direction of ensuring that rural water schemes comply with EU standards.

The main work carried out in the Piers and Harbours area in 2004 was the pier extension at Coney Island.

**Seamus Concannon**  
Director of Services



△ Pier extension at Coney Island.

Infrastructural Services Directorate

## Road Transportation and Safety

### MAJOR NATIONAL ROAD PROJECTS

#### N4 Sligo Inner Relief Route and County Extension

On Monday, 29th March 2004, the main contract for the Sligo Inner Relief Road was signed in the presence of Mr. Seamus Brennan, T.D., Minister for Transport.



Work on the project progressed rapidly for the remainder of 2004 with approximately €18m being expended on the works and land acquisition. It is expected that the project will be complete in the Autumn of 2005.

#### N15 Realignment - Sligo to County Boundary

The N15 National Primary Route is part of a Strategic Corridor Link connecting Sligo with the towns of Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Ballybofey, Stranorlar, Letterkenny and Derry.

In view of the existing and projected traffic volumes it is proposed to construct a new dual carriageway and 2 + 1 road which will by-pass the villages of Rathcormack, Drumcliffe, Grange and Cliffoney.

The realigned N15 will represent a major investment in the county's infrastructure and the completed project will:

- Reduce travel time and improve access to the North West
- Reduce transport costs
- Reduce accident rates, particularly fatal and serious injury accidents
- Improve the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy both locally and nationally
- Create a safer environment for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and children

▽ Work well under way on the N4 Inner Relief Road. (Above: New bridge and slipways).



#### N17 Collooney to Charlestown Road (Tubbercurry By-Pass)

The design of the 10km section of the N17 route, from Rathscanlon to Achonry (Tubbercurry By-Pass) was advanced during 2004. Ongoing studies for the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) were progressed as follows:

- Socio-economic impact
- Impact on landscape, ecology, geology, traffic route lighting and agriculture

Traffic studies were also carried out in the Tubbercurry Area. It is expected that the new road will be opened in 2008/2009.

After the first public consultation in April 2004, a Constraints Study Report was prepared and approved by the National Roads Authority. Four viable route options were identified for the proposed realignment between Hughes Bridge in Sligo and Bunduff Bridge at the Sligo/Leitrim County Boundary.

In October 2004 public consultation meetings were held in Grange, Rathcormack and Cliffoney, and the views and submissions made concerning the route selection will guide the next stage of the process, the identification of a 'Preferred Route'. It is intended that plans for the selected route will be presented to Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council in Summer 2005.

It is expected that the new road will be opened in 2009/2010.

## Road Transportation and Safety

### NON-NATIONAL ROAD PROJECTS

#### R292 Strandhill Road

The section at Tully, which involved the construction of large embankments, was completed and opened to traffic towards the end of 2004, and €633,000 was expended. A total length of 5.3km has now been realigned from Strandhill to Knappagh More near the Sligo Borough Boundary.

#### R294 Mullaghroe

Realignment at a cost of €529,000 of a section towards Boyle continued in 2004. Works carried out included the excavation of 3 metres of bog and the importation of fill material for road sub-base.

#### R294 Drumaskibbole/Glenagoolagh

Realignment of 0.52km section was completed and opened to traffic in 2004. Realignment of a further section towards Ballygawley also commenced towards the end of the year. The amount expended in 2004 was €750,000.

#### R297 Kinnard, Enniscrone

A sum of €259,000 was expended in 2004 on the completion of the project to improve the approach road to Enniscrone at Kinnard. Footpaths were constructed and 600m of roadway widened.



△ Alignment and resurfacing works on the R287 Crossboy



△ Alignment and resurfacing works on R290 Ballygawley-Collooney Road

### SAFETY

#### Accident Remedial Schemes

A grant of €92,000 was allocated under this scheme in 2004 and works were undertaken at -

- R284 / L1102 / L1903 Junction at Geevagh
- R292 Ballydrehid - Knappagh More
- R287 / L3603 / L36025 Junction at Aughamore
- R293 / R297 Junction at Gurteen
- R293 / R295 / L5604 Ballymote
- R290 Rathrippon - Gortlowan

#### N4 Dual Carriageway Median Barrier

For safety reasons the National Roads Authority has adopted a policy to install median barriers on all motorways and dual carriageways in the country. A contract to install such a barrier on the N4 dual carriageway from Carrowroe to Collooney was awarded in 2004 and work commenced late in the year, to be completed in 2005. A sum of €345,000 was expended under the grant at the end of 2004.

▽ R292 - Tully, Strandhill realignment



## Road Transportation and Safety

### NATIONAL ROAD PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The following works were undertaken with grants notified by the National Roads Authority -

- N15 - 1.5km of quality overlay at Edenreagh and South of Grange (€613,000 expended)
- N17 - 4.42km of Bitmac/Asphalt at Ballinacarrow/Templehouse (€877,000 expended)
- N59 - 3km of pavement strengthening at Lugnadeffa (€402,000 expended)

### NON-NATIONAL ROADS MAINTENANCE AND PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENT

#### Restoration Improvement Grant

A grant of €4.154 million provided in 2004 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, allowed surface restoration and road reconstruction to be carried out on Non-National (Regional and Local) roads.

#### Surface Restoration

7.1km of Regional Roads and 127km of Local Roads were restored. Works consisted of pothole repairs, strengthening of poor sections, drainage improvement, restoration of roads to original widths and surface dressing.

#### Road Reconstruction

A 1.2km section of Regional Road R297 at Muckduff was strengthened with bitumen macadam under this element of the programme.

#### Restoration Maintenance Grant

A grant of €1.54million was allocated in 2004 for surface dressing of Non-National (Regional and Local) roads. This funding enabled the Council to surface dress 9.9km of Regional Roads and 55.3km of local roads.

#### Discretionary Improvement Grant

A grant of €618,000 was allocated to carry out minor improvements on Non-National Roads. Works undertaken included construction of footpaths, public lighting, extensions, improvement of sightlines at bends and junctions, flooding relief, bridge repairs, provision of flashing lights at schools and road safety. A traffic-calming scheme involving the provision of ramps and a pedestrian crossing was undertaken at the crossroads in Strandhill under this grant. The scheme has greatly improved safety for school children crossing at the junction.

### Class II and III Local Roads

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocated €219,000 towards the restoration of Class II and III Local Roads in 2004. Under the programme a total of 10km were restored.

In addition to the DOEHLG grant the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs allocated €387,784 for the restoration of Class II and III roads in CLÁR areas. A total of 20km were restored under this scheme.

### CLÁR/Coillte Grant

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Coillte Teoranta funded the Restoration Improvement Scheme on Local road L5207 at Rooghan, Sooeey on a 50/50 basis. The total grant amount was €70,000 and 2.6km were upgraded and strengthened.

### ICBAN

The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) was established in 1995 and is made up of 10 local authorities - five in the North of Ireland and five in the Republic. Since its formation ICBAN has received core funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the INTERREG initiative.

In 2004 the following ICBAN grants were received under the INTERREG and the Peace II programmes:

#### INTERREG

- L3508 Carrowmore, Sligo €150,000
- R286 Corwillick, Calry €84,000
- R284 Tully Beg, Ballygawley €46,000

#### Peace II

- R286 Ballynamona €50,000

### Regional Roads Signposting

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocated €140,000 in 2004 to complete signposting on Regional roads which commenced in 2003. Sligo was one of the first counties selected for this scheme.

### Local Improvement Schemes

The DOEHLG allocates an annual grant for the improvement of Non-Public roads, which benefit two or more landowners, engaged in separate agricultural activities. The beneficiaries of a scheme must contribute towards it - 10% for a scheme estimated to cost less than €25,393 and 15% in excess of this figure.

The grant allocated in 2004 was €483,219 enabling 33 schemes to be carried out.

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs also provided a grant of €198,857 for Local Improvement Schemes in CLÁR areas. This enabled a further 15 schemes to be undertaken.

## Bridge Restoration and Repairs

### STRADUFF BRIDGE STRENGTHENING WORKS.

The bridge at Straduff, near Geevagh was suffering from severe scouring of the abutments and pier to the extent that it was felt that severe rainfall could produce a sufficient river flood to completely undermine the central pier with possible failure of the bridge. Sligo County Council was able to stabilise and underpin the structure and reconstruct the adjacent masonry wingwall supporting county road 613. A new parapet wall was also constructed in a harmonious way blending with the existing structure. This work was capably carried out by the Council's skilled outdoor staff including Joe Torsney and Hugh Hamilton. The project was funded by a Special Improvement Grant from the Department in 2004.

### THE METAL BRIDGE, RIVER MOY

This unique structure within County Sligo spans the River Moy at Sessuegarry, west of Tubbercurry. The superstructure is the only wrought iron riveted lattice girder structure constructed as a road bridge in the county and is listed as a protected structure in the County Development Plan. It was constructed in 1881 and like any metal structure decays over time by rusting.

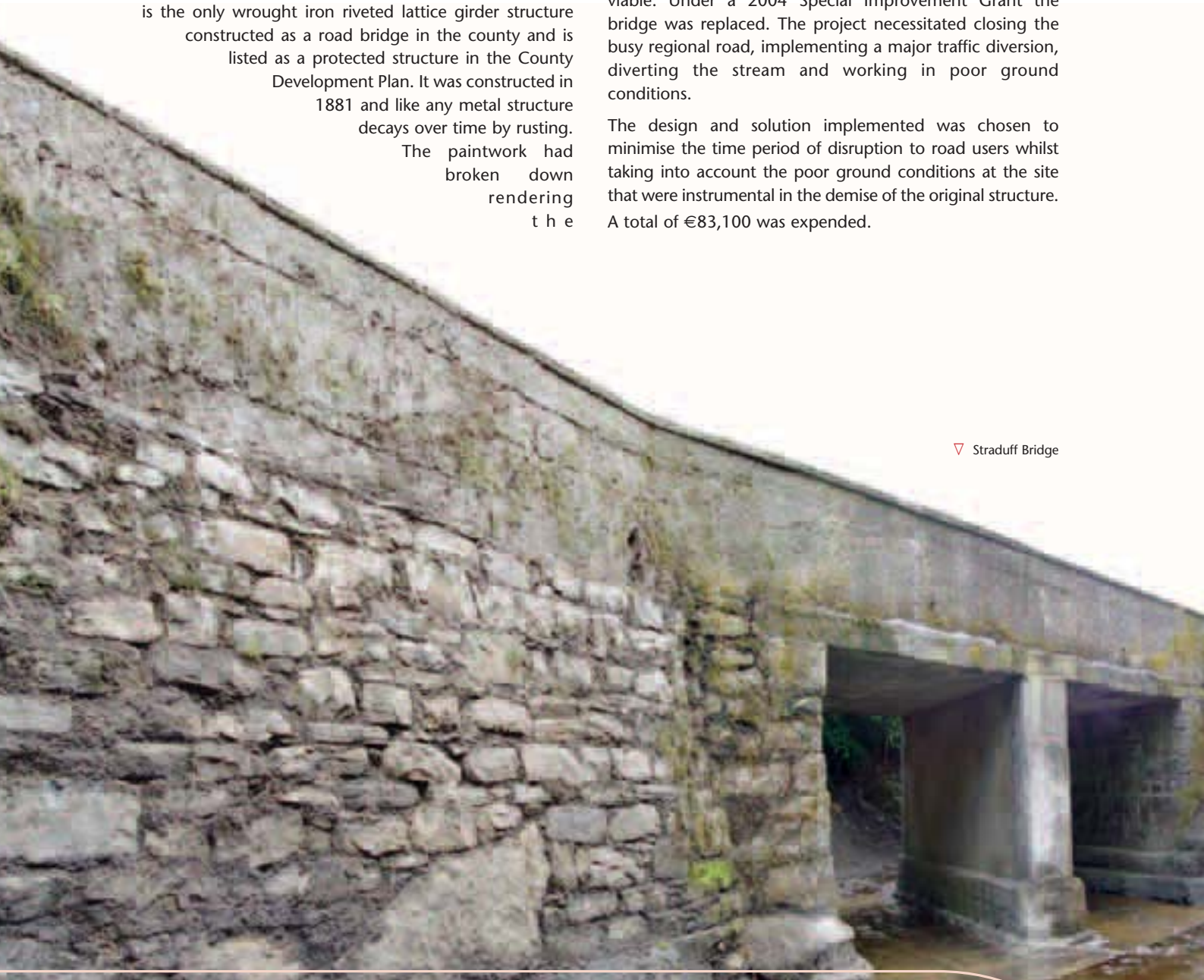
The paintwork had broken down rendering the

coating ineffective in preventing rusting of the structural members. Restoration work therefore essentially consisted of a thorough cleaning and removal of the old paintwork and the repainting of the entire superstructure with high quality special paint. This work was carried out by J. S. McCarthy Ltd, specialist industrial painters, following a tendering process. The minimum three coat specified thickness was 350 microns and the average measured thickness was 425 microns. Other work carried out included the sealing and resurfacing of the bridge deck, reconstructing a pilaster coping and cleaning the masonry pilasters, parapets and abutments. Expenditure on this project amounted to €49,000.

### TUNNAGH BRIDGE R293

The old masonry arch supporting the busy R293 from Ballymote to Gurteen was in such a bad condition that the preferred approach of retaining and repairing it was not viable. Under a 2004 Special Improvement Grant the bridge was replaced. The project necessitated closing the busy regional road, implementing a major traffic diversion, diverting the stream and working in poor ground conditions.

The design and solution implemented was chosen to minimise the time period of disruption to road users whilst taking into account the poor ground conditions at the site that were instrumental in the demise of the original structure. A total of €83,100 was expended.



▽ Straduff Bridge

## County Sligo Water Conservation Projects

*In 2004, Water Conservation activities were extended to all water schemes throughout County Sligo following the allocation of a further €1.79 million in funding from the Department of the Environment, Health and Local Government.*

Leakage control zones have now been set up on the various water networks following the installation of fifty bulk flow meters and almost seventy new sluice valves. Tenders have been received for the installation of a new countywide GSM Telemetry system. This telemetry system will enable remote monitoring of reservoir levels, pressures and flows on the water network throughout the entire county. It is anticipated that the system will be installed and commissioned during 2005.

Leak detection activities focused primarily on the South Sligo, Kilmacowen and Strandhill water supply networks in 2004. The average daily demands on the three schemes have been reduced by 370m<sup>3</sup>/d, 229m<sup>3</sup>/d and 105m<sup>3</sup>/d respectively.

### CIS DATA CAPTURE PROJECT

The Local Government Computer Services Board in association with Kerry County Council has developed the Complete Information System software for use in Local Authorities throughout the Country. €200,000 has been made available by the Department to Sligo County Council to digitise all water & wastewater networks. Data Capture is carried out by means of a GPS (Global Positioning System).

Sligo County Council commenced the data capture element of the project in June 2003. In excess of 950km of watermains have now been surveyed and digitised into CIS. It is expected that validation of the entire public water network will be completed by Summer 2005.

### SLIGO PILOT METERING PROJECT

In order to implement the Government's 'Water Pricing Framework', local authorities are required to achieve universal metering of the water supplied to non-domestic customers by 2006. Sligo County Council is facilitating a pilot project in association with the Department to procure a water metering and billing service through a Design, Build & Operate Contract

The tender process for this DBO Project was completed in 2004, with Veolia Water Consortium appointed to carry out the project. The project will involve the installation of approximately 6,500 flow meters at an estimated cost of €4 million. It is expected that the installation phase will be completed by December 2005, at which point the operation & maintenance phase will commence.

## Rural Water Programme

*This was again a very busy year for the Rural Water Programme in Sligo. An allocation of €4,650,000 was received under the various headings – an increase of €2,000,000 over the previous year.*

Group Water Scheme Capital Projects	€1,000,000
Design/Build/Operate Proposals	€2,250,000
Takeover of Group Water Schemes	€800,000
Small Water and Sewerage Schemes	€600,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€4,650,000</b>

New group water schemes were constructed in Fule/Drimbane, Belclare and Rathgoonane during the year and this was a very welcome development for the families in these areas. Group water schemes to serve the Doo/Knockminna, Glackbaun, Coolaney Road and Drumahair Road Areas are at various stages of planning and the Gleann/Kinnagrelly Group Scheme was approved to go to tender. The latter scheme is expected to be constructed in 2005.

Work continued during the year on the upgrading of the Ballygawley Group Scheme with the provision of a Booster Pumping Station, a 455m<sup>3</sup> reservoir and approximately 9,062 metres of pipeline. The scheme was connected to the Lough Gill Water Scheme in December, 2004 and consumers on the scheme now have a water supply which complies with the EU Drinking Water Regulations.

Work was substantially completed by the end of 2004 on Stage 2 of the Geevagh/Highwood Group Water Scheme. The work consisted of the provision of approximately 11,180 metres of OD gravity mains from Aughoo to Drumnasooey and was carried out by Carty Contractors Limited. A new storage reservoir was also provided at Aughoo.

Upgrading works were carried out on the Culfadda Group Scheme during the year by P & S Civil Works and on the Castlebaldwin Group Scheme by Campbell Contractors.

## Rural Water Programme 2004

A new reservoir was also provided on the Benbulbin Group Schemes during the year.

Tenders were also sought for upgrading works on the Drum East, Keelogyboy and Keash schemes during the year and these works are expected to be completed in 2005.

Work on the takeover and upgrading of the Ballintogher Group Water Scheme continued during 2004 and consisted of the provision of approximately 4,000 meters of new watermain and a new 30,000 gallon reservoir. The work is due to be completed early in 2005 and the scheme will then be connected to the Lough Gill Water Scheme and taken in charge by Sligo County Council.


The Dromore West Group Water Scheme which was originally supplied from a private source was upgraded and connected to the Lough Easkey public water supply in 2004. It has also been taken in charge by Sligo County Council.

Tenders were received during the year for the provision of trunk mains from Ballygawley to Ballisodare, Collooney and towards Ballintogher. This will boost the water supply to both Collooney and Ballisodare. The successful contractors are Ward and Burke and work is expected to be completed early in 2005 at an estimated cost of €718,000.

Contracts were signed on the 10th August, 2004 for the provision of new wastewater treatment works at both Cloonacool and Aclare at an estimated cost of €732,000 and €656,250 respectively. Both schemes are being constructed as design/build projects by Treatment Systems Limited and are due to be completed at the end of May, 2005. Work also commenced in August, 2004, on the provision of a new wastewater facility at Ballisodare at an estimated cost of €1,961,000 and the successful contractor in this case was Response Engineering. Work on the design/build project is expected to be completed in July, 2005.

Tenders were received by Sligo County Council in partnership with 11 No. Private Group Water Schemes for the North West and South East Group DBO projects during 2004. The North West Project consists of the provision of treatment plants on the Ballintrillick, Keelogyboy, Drum East, Benbulbin, Castletown and Beltra Group Water Schemes and the operation of the plants for a period of 20 years. The South East Project consists of the provision of treatment plants on the Geevagh/Highwood, Castlebaldwin, Corrick, Keash and Culfadda Group Water Schemes and the operation and maintenance of the plants for a period of 20 years. The contracts for the projects are expected to be signed early in 2005.





# Directorate of Community, Enterprise and the Arts

## Preface

2004 was a very busy year for both the Community and Enterprise Office and the Arts Office.

From a community development perspective we endeavoured to enhance further Sligo County Council's role in working with local community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the county in the economic and social regeneration and development of their areas. The administration of the Urban & Village Renewal Programme, the CLÁR Village Enhancement, the County Council Led Peace II Task Force, the Community & Voluntary grant scheme, the Arts Grant scheme and the Pride of Place Awards allowed us to work with communities in improving their areas physically, socially or culturally.

In 2004, we promoted and encouraged the numerous community organisations active in the County to take part in the Pride of Place Awards and Riverstown community were highly successful in achieving the National Award in 2004.

The County Council Led Task Force, through funding from Measure 4.2 of the Peace Programme, supported the development of signage product branding and the marketing of all community tourism attractions in the County.

Our work in assisting the Community Forum to grow and expand the area foras in line with the local electoral areas commenced in 2004 and the building of the capacity of the Forum will be an important task in our work programme in 2005.

An integrated working group on Tubbercurry was established in November 2004 whose role is to look at ways of planning for and facilitating the physical regeneration of the town within the remit of the County Council. In 2005, it is planned to expand that group further to adopt a more integrated approach to developing the town economically, socially and culturally.

2004 also saw the expansion of services available in Teach Laighe with the NWHB (now HSE), FÁS and Citizens Information Centre all having a presence in the Centre.

Teach Laighe was officially opened as the public services centre for South Sligo on 26th March 2004.

A new cross border initiative called Seaside Towns Initiative was developed and funding secured from the INTERREG III Programme. This initiative involves the two seaside towns of

Enniscrone and Mullaghmore. Community & Enterprise Directorate has the lead role in co-ordinating this cross border programme. Our cross border partners are Donegal County Council, Moyle District Council, Buncrana Town Council and Coleraine Borough Council.



The Community & Enterprise Office also commenced work on the development of a Play Policy and Play Plan for Sligo in 2004. This will be completed in 2005. In conjunction with this, play facilities are now being provided in Ballymote and Dromore West and the existing play area in Tubbercurry will also be upgraded. Sligo County Council will be insuring and supervising these facilities in line with the play policy.

2004 was a busy year for the Arts Office as the implementation of the current Arts Plan "The Brightening Air" entered its penultimate phase. The development of a web based arts information project [www.sligoarts.ie](http://www.sligoarts.ie) was commenced to support the promotion of Arts Festivals in Sligo. A wide variety of projects were carried out to promote inclusion in the arts in conjunction with other agencies like the NWHB, SLPCo., and local communities. The Public Art Officer oversaw the commencement of five art commissions in 2004.

The Cranmore Regeneration Project was developed and put in place in May 2004 by the Community & Enterprise Directorate. This project has come about as a result of the RAPID Programme, Cranmore being one of the Sligo designated cluster areas in Sligo Town.

The construction of 25km of broadband in the Metropolitan Area Network around Sligo Town also commenced in October 2004. This will enhance Sligo's potential as a location for investment in the years ahead. Funding was secured for this project from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

We look forward to continuing our work and supporting local communities in Sligo in the years ahead.

*Dorothy Clarke*  
*Director of Services,*  
*Community, Enterprise & the Arts.*



## Introduction ♦ Urban and Village Renewal County Council Led Peace II Task Force

*The Directorate of Community, Enterprise & The Arts aims to enhance the Council's role in community development by working with local community groups and voluntary organisations to achieve economic and social regeneration of their local areas.*

The administration by the Directorate of the Urban & Village Renewal Programme, the CLÁR Village Enhancement, the County Council Led PEACE II Task Force, the Community & Voluntary grant scheme, the Arts Grant scheme and the Pride of Place Awards allows the Council to facilitate communities in the physical, social and cultural improvement of their locale.

In 2004, the Directorate assisted in the further development of the Community Forum and the expansion of the Area Fora. Work continued in partnership with other agencies to develop Sligo in an integrated and cohesive manner through the RAPID Programme, the Sports Partnership, County Enterprise Board and Sligo Leader Partnership and other working groups and committees.

During the year work also commenced on the development of a Play Policy and Play Plan for Sligo and the major Metropolitan Area Network project began in Sligo City which will bring fast and efficient broadband services to the town and environs. The Community, Enterprise & Arts office continued its involvement in the implementation of the Arts Plan, Tourist Development, Tidy Towns and the provision and maintenance of burial grounds.

### URBAN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

This is part of a six year programme; the overall allocation of funds for the year 2004 was €216,000. This money was divided equally between three chosen villages and one project in the Borough Council. The three County projects were at Grange, Collooney and Tubbercurry.

Objectives:

- Liaise with the local community regarding the enhancement of the Village.
- Improve existing facilities or provide new facilities where necessary i.e. paving, under grounding of lighting cables, car parking, picnic areas etc.
- Achieve an increase in the Tidy Towns mark.

Meetings were arranged with the local communities i.e. groups such as Tidy Towns Committees, Community Development Associations, and the local public representatives in each area, to collaborate in the production of a project. The work formed part of an overall plan for each village.

### 2004 Programme

#### Collooney

The public open space at Barrack Roads was identified as a priority. The aim was to clean up the area and provide a pleasant access to the village it will also serve as a linear park for walkers from town. The area along the river was also addressed, by creating a picnic area and improving access to the river to aid the development of a tourist amenity.

#### Grange

The local development committee's outstanding needs in the village were prioritised. Footpaths in the area of the church were identified as a project together with undergrouping of services. In the amenity park the local committee had commissioned an artist Elizabeth Caffery to design a sculpture. Lighting was provided to further enhance the artistic nature of the park.

#### Tubbercurry

Major issues identified by the Tubbercurry Community Council included the lack of parking and the elimination of a derelict area on the main street of the town. The derelict area was renovated into a small street garden, mixing natural materials and planted areas to create an oasis of calm in the middle of a thriving community. The car parking problem was addressed in partnership with the Community Council and a new car park was created.

## COUNTY COUNCIL LED PEACE II TASK FORCE

### MEASURE 3.3, 3.4 & 4.2a



The fund is targeted primarily under three measures, 'Building better Communities', 'Improving our Rural Communities' and 'Marketing the Area as a Tourism Destination'. Under these measures funding is provided for a wide variety of projects that enhance and regenerate rural areas, encourage economic growth, protect the cultural diversity and heritage of the rural areas involved and satisfy the criteria for the County Development Board 10 year Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of the County. The amount of funding provided by Peace II for 2000/2004 is €2,668,000.

A total of 18 projects benefited from funding in 2004. The European Union Structural Funds provide 75% of the funding with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government providing 25%. The purpose of the fund is to stimulate reconciliation within the Border region and take advantage of the peace process to repair communities damaged by 30 years of violence.

The programme is of major benefit to community groups throughout the county. On many of the Peace II projects there is multi-agency involvement such as FÁS, Leader, County Enterprise Board, Community Forum etc. Effective interaction with these agencies negates duplication and maximises funding potential for projects.

## Sligo Community Forum

*Sligo Community Forum, established in March 2000, is a representative body of community groups and voluntary organisations active and operating in County Sligo. It provides a platform for affiliated community and voluntary groups to exchange information, share experiences, and work collectively to voice issues and concerns relating to the economic, social and cultural development of the county.*

Some of the many Community Forum activities in 2004 included:

- In April the Community Forum held a very successful information workshop on Charities Legislation and all groups were invited to attend this workshop which helped formulate our policy response to the Charities Legislation Document, with praise given for this response.
- A number of information evenings were held in April/May with the Cross Border Worker around the county offering advice on a number of different community issues.
- A Draft County Development Plan community Consultation meeting was held in July, a proactive approach to dealing with the Development Plan. This was very well received by both Planning department staff and the public.
- Successful submissions were made to the Development Contribution Scheme, the Strategic Policy Committees and the VEC nomination processes. The Forum have increased their places on the SPC's ensuring that the Community & Voluntary Voice is heard on the policy making committees. 10 Community and Voluntary representatives were nominated by the Corporate Policy Group to the four SPC's.
- 5 local election evenings were held resulting in 10 new members to the Executive increasing representation from around the county.
- The Forum had its first public AGM on 30 November.

Sector	Agency/Body	Name
Local Government	SPC Chair	Cllr Jimmy McGarry
	SPC Chair	Cllr Joe Queenan
	SPC Chair	Cllr John Sherlock
	SPC Chair	Cllr Tony McLoughlin
	County Manager	Mr. Hubert Kearns
	Cathaoirleach	Cllr Margaret Gormley
Local Development	Urban Representative	Cllr. Sean McManus
	County Enterprise Board	Mr. John Reilly
	County Enterprise Board	Mr. Padraig Branley
	Sligo LEADER	Mr. Gerry Mullaney
	LEADER	Mr. Sean Tempany
	Sligo Partnership	Ms. Miriam Kivlehan
	Sligo Partnership	Mr. Michael Quigley
	State	NWHB
	Ms. Sheila Smith	Agencies
	FAS	Ms. Myriam Scanlon Trill
	Teagasc	Mr. Martin Henry
	VEC	Mr Martin O'Brien
	Enterprise Ireland	Mr. Barry Egan
	IDA Ireland	Ms. Michelle Mahon
	Regional Tourism Organisations	Mr. Damien Brennan
	Dept. of CSFA	Mr. Christy McDonagh
Dept. of JE & LR	Chief Supt. Michael Staunton	
Institute of Technology	Ms. Rosemary O'Reilly	
Dept. of Education & Science	Mr Frank Fox	
Western Development Commission	Ms. Fiona Candon	
Social Partners Sector	Employment & Business Organisations	Mr. Felim Mc Neela
	Trade Unions	Mr. Hugh McConville
	Agricultural & Farming Organisation	Mr Gerard Queenan
	Community & Voluntary Organisation Forum	Ms. Roisin McGlone
	Com. & Vol. Organisation Forum	Mr. Tom Mc Gettrick
	County Childcare Committee	Ms. Sharon Boles

## Sligo County Development Board ♦ Team Sligo Social Inclusion Measures Group

### SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

In 2004 Sligo County Development Board was formally reconstituted following the local elections. The past Board under the chairmanship of Cllr. Joe Leonard had overseen the preparation, consultation and completion of the 10 year Integrated Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development in April 2002. The old Board had worked tirelessly in putting in place the structures and working groups to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.

The restructuring included the introduction of a number of new faces and the appointment of Cllr. Jimmy Mc Garry as overall Chairman of the CDB and welcomed twelve new members on to the Board. The new Board will be in place for the coming five years and is as follows:

The role of the CDB is widely acknowledged as a very useful forum or mechanism for facilitating dialogue and discussion between and among all public sector bodies operating at County Level. In 2004 the CDB worked in partnership with local development agencies on improving and sustaining the quality of services provided in the county. Through the Cohesion Fund administered by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Sligo CDB in partnership with the local development agencies were successful in submitting a plan for improving the levels of integration and partnership between the agencies. The projects funded under the Cohesion fund were as follows.

- Development of a community development workers network
- Research study on the availability of work space in the county
- Publication and research of a database of community and voluntary groups in the county.
- Development of a Customer service centre in the Development Centre
- Estate management project for the North Ward Sligo town.

The CDB in 2004 went through a transitional stage with the reconstitution of the Board following the local elections in June 2004. In 2005 the new Board will be looking at reviewing the Strategic Integrated Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy that was published in 2002. The review process will focus on the level of implementation achieved in the strategy to date by the member agencies. The review will also concentrate on the CDB'S core co-ordination role and will result in an evaluation of the Integrated strategy. This will include:

- The selection of a limited number of key priorities and actions on which the CDB will concentrate over the following three years;
- A focus on integrative actions aimed at a more joined-up approach to local services delivery involving relevant agencies; and
- A clearly defined implementation work programme for 2006-2008



**Back Row (l-r):** Sean Tempany, Chief Supt. Michael Staunton, Michael Burke, Tom McGettrick, Martin Henry, Frank Fox. **Middle Row (l-r):** Eamonn Haran, Cllr. John Sherlock, Cllr. Gerry Mullaney, Michael Quigley, Felim McNeela, Hugh McConville, Barry Egan. **Front Row (l-r):** Fiona Candon, Siofra Kilcullen, Hubert Kearns, Chairman Cllr. Jimmy McGarry, Myriam Scanlon Trill, Dorothy Clarke.

**(Not Present):** Cllr. Joe Queenan, Cllr. Tony McLoughlin, Cllr. Margaret Gormley, Cllr. Sean McManus, John Reilly, Pdraig Branley, Sheila Smith, Martin O'Brien, Michelle Mahon, Damien Brennan, Christy McDonagh, Rosemary O'Reilly, Gerard Queenan, Roisin McGlone, Sharon Boles).

### TEAM SLIGO

Sligo County Development Board established TEAM Sligo in October 2002 to examine how agencies can work in partnership towards improving the "face of Sligo Town" for potential investors and tourists and enhancing civic pride in the area. TEAM Sligo in 2004 continued to build on the work carried out in 2003. It's main priorities of work in 2004 were:

- The improvement of the approach roads into Sligo. This project was supported by the Sligo Peace II Task Force who provided funding towards the enhancement works.
- Erection of Sligo Gateway signs on all approach roads into the town.
- Secondary schools anti litter drive campaign in the town.
- Regular meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses on initiatives to improve the litter situation in Sligo Town.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION MEASURES GROUP

Over 2004 the Sligo Social Inclusion Measures Group met on six occasions to oversee the implementation of the CDB Strategy and to improve co-ordination amongst statutory and local development agencies which provide services and support that impact on social exclusion and poverty. SIM'S main aim is to identify gaps in service provision and eliminate duplications. The group have been proactive in identifying groups who are particularly at risk of social exclusion and improving the co-ordination of services to ensure a better end result for those groups most impacted by poverty and exclusion. The SIM group has also provided support to the RAPID Area Implementation Team, established to address disadvantage in five areas of Sligo Town.

In response to the Department's directives LG07/04 and LG15/04 regarding the 'Improving Local and Community Development Structures and Programmes', the SIM group has developed an Integrated Plan targeting marginalised single men in rural Sligo. This plan comprised a number of interagency objectives and involved consultation with social

## Play Development ♦ Cranmore Regeneration Sligo Pride of Place Awards

workers, public health nurses, community workers and local people. It was based on a series of interviews conducted with men in the area aged between 35-64. The research demonstrated high levels of isolation, low income, poor health, limited transport, sub standard accommodation and lack of social networks. Agencies agreed to work with local people to address quality of life issues for this group. Community development principles have been employed in order to build the capacity of this group and to address poor health, literacy difficulties, lack of self esteem and poor employment prospects. The project is being piloted in West Sligo and involves all of the key statutory service providers and local development agencies. Since initiating the project the SIM group has a monitoring and advisory role, whilst the management of the project is being overseen by Sligo Leader Partnership.

In 2005 the SIM group will continue develop recommendations for the improved co-ordination and development of services for other marginalised groups in the community.

### PLAY DEVELOPMENT

During 2004 Sligo County Council, in conjunction with Sligo Borough Council, has established a Play Advisory Forum, made up of the various sections within the local authority in addition to representation from the County

Childcare Committee, Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership, Health Promotion Unit, Health Services Executive and Sligo Community Forum. In line with the recommendations in the National Play Policy, the Play Forum are currently developing guidelines in relation to play provision in the county, details regarding joint management arrangements with community groups, insurance, litigation, safety, design and cultural perspectives on play and play promotion. Staff have also been involved in initiatives promoting the importance of play and physical activity amongst young people and have addressed a Regional Conference of the North Western Health Board in Letterkenny in October on Tackling Childhood Obesity.

In 2004 the development of two playgrounds were facilitated in Dromore West and Ballymote.

### CRANMORE REGENERATION

The Office of Community and Enterprise has been instrumental in developing the structures for the regeneration of Cranmore including the steering committee, the social, economic and community working group, the physical infrastructure working group and the Community Platform. Since the establishment of the Project Office in October, the Office of Community and Enterprise has continued to support the project in an advisory capacity.

### SLIGO PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2004

**The Pride of Place Awards Initiative is a competition organised by Co-operation Ireland to recognise improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area.**

Co-operation Ireland through their Local Authority Programme has brought Local Authorities together on a cross-border basis for over 10 years. Since 2002, this networking has been co-ordinated through an All-Island Steering Forum of which County Manager Hubert Kearns is a member. One of the steering forums sub committees is the Community and Leisure Sub-Committee which has developed the Pride of Place initiative. **The emphasis of this initiative is on involving the community in rural and urban regeneration and generating a sense of community pride around these achievements.** It is about specific pride initiatives which will have long lasting and positive impacts; including clearing of litter/graffiti, and improving shop fronts; to the development of community centres, promotion of heritage and tackling social exclusion issues. The competition also promotes cross-border co-operation as well as motivating and rewarding community groups, residents associations and individuals who take positive steps to enhance the area in which they live. The initiative was run on a pilot basis in 2003 and in 2004 it has been extended to cover all counties of Ireland.

The development and promotion of civic pride is enshrined in the 10 year strategy adopted by the Sligo County Development Board; which is a ready illustration of the

significance of this initiative. In recent years Local Authorities have moved from being direct funders of community projects to being facilitators, providing technical or logistical support to complement the excellent work being driven by the various communities. Because of this Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council established a group comprising Community & Enterprise staff and the Environment Awareness Officers of both Authorities to oversee the Pride of Place programme for 2004.

Eight applications were received for the Sligo Pride of Place Awards from community groups throughout the county.

The applicants were:

- Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd
- Killavil Development Group
- Ballintogher Enterprise Ltd
- Cloonloo Development 2000 Ltd
- Banada Development Agency Ltd
- Tubbercurry Traveller Womens Project
- Ballymote Family Resource Centre
- Ballinode Residents Association

One entry per population category can be nominated by the Local Authorities to enter the All Ireland competition. The population categories that Sligo is eligible to compete in are:

**Category 1 population up to 1,000**

**Category 2 population between 1,000 and 2,000**

**Category 3 population between 2,000 and 10,000**

## Sligo Pride of Place Awards

The presentation of the Sligo Pride of Place awards took place in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Riverside on Monday 17th May. All entrants received a certificate in recognition of their on-going community work; the certificates were presented by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Joe Cawley and the Mayor Alderman Sean MacManus.

The winners in each category were:

### Category 1 population up to 1,000

Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd

### Category 2 population between 1,000 and 2,000

Ballymote Family Resource Centre

### Category 3 population between 2,000 and 10,000

Ballinode Residents Association

Judging of the All Ireland competition took place during July and August. Judging day for Sligo was 19th August, 2004.

The judges from Co-operation Ireland visited the three areas and each entrant made a presentation to the judges at the start of their visit – giving information about their community group and the activities in which they are involved. The judges then met members of the communities and visited the area.

In Riverstown the judges were taken on a tour of the Folk Park where they met representatives of the various community groups in the locality. They then went on a tour of the village visiting the Garda Barracks, the Church of Ireland, Lis Urlar, the Community Hall, the Catholic Church, Chapel Garden, the Health Centre, Ross Road and the Community Park development.

The presentation in Ballymote took place in the Ballymote Family Resource Centre in Wolfe Tone Street. The judges toured the Town Park where they viewed the Castle and the playground complex. They returned to the Resource Centre via O'Connell Street and concluded their visit with a tour of the centre itself.

City Hall was the venue for the presentation by the Ballinode Residents Association. The judges then viewed the Ballinode area including Elm Park, Glenard, Yeats Village, Mulberry Park, Yeats Student Village, Abbots and Sligo IT.

The awards ceremony for the All Ireland Pride of Place competition took place in October. Ninety cities, towns and villages from across the country took part in the initiative including Riverstown, Ballymote and Ballinode from Sligo. Prizes were awarded to the winner and two runners up in four population categories. Special awards were also given in recognition of achievement in a particular area.

Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd was awarded first place in Category 1 (Population up to 1000) of the Pride of Place competition 2004.

The Riverstown group were singled out for praise for their contribution to the economic development of the area, their cross border activities and their tourism development.



△ Cathaoirleach Cllr Margaret Gormley with Pride of Place competition judges, representatives of Sligo Folk Park and members & officials of Sligo County Council at Sligo Folk Park Riverstown.



△ Cathaoirleach Cllr Margaret Gormley with Pride of Place competition judges, representatives of Ballymote Family Resource Centre and members & officials of Sligo County Council at Ballymote Family Resource Centre.



△ Deputy Mayor Cllr Jude Devins with Pride of Place competition judges, representatives of Ballinode Residents Association and officials of Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council at City Hall.



△ Representatives of Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd. at the prize-giving ceremony.

## Telecommunications Infrastructure ♦ Tidy Towns 2004

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

A contract for the delivery of broadband services to Sligo City and its environs was signed in November 2004. Work on this network known as the "The Metropolitan Area Network" is currently underway in Sligo. This project involves the placing of ducting and fibre optic cabling within the metropolitan area, 25 km of network is being provided around Sligo and environs. This will meet the business demands into the future and will provide a platform for the further expansion of existing businesses whilst being a key element in attracting new business to Sligo. The total cost of the network is €4.6m with the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources providing €3.9m and the Council providing the balance; work on the project will be completed early in 2005.



△ County and Group Broadband Scheme information evening at Sligo Park Hotel.

### TIDY TOWNS 2004

St. Patrick's Hall in Dublin Castle was the venue for the presentation of prizes in the Tidy Towns Competition 2004. The Tidy Towns Competition is run by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and has been sponsored by SuperValu since 1990.

Lismore, County Waterford, was awarded the title of Ireland's Tidiest Town in 2004. The County Waterford town was chosen from almost 700 other competitors in this year's Tidy Town Competition to win the overall title. Other national winners included Moynalty, County Meath – Ireland's Tidiest Village, and Westport, County Mayo – Ireland's Tidiest Large Town

Representatives of hundreds of Tidy Towns Committees from around Ireland including representatives from Sligo travelled to Dublin to see Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, Minister of State at the Department and Mr. Donal Horgan, Managing Director of SuperValu present the prizes.

The 2004 results for Sligo again saw an increase in marks for all competitors and reflected the efforts by all groups to encourage community participation and improve their local environment.

### County Awards

#### Best Town/Village in the county

**Coolaney** once again has received the award for securing the highest mark in the county.

**Ballintogher** was highly commended.

**Riverstown** was commended.

#### SuperValu Endeavour Award

This award has been presented to **Enniscrone** to recognise the town or village in each county, which has made the greatest improvement on its performance over last year.

The local groups who carry out the work in each village are extremely committed to the betterment of their area and in acknowledgement of this the Sligo County Council has provided a fund under the Community & Voluntary Grants scheme to assist them in their efforts.

*The overall results of towns and villages throughout Sligo were:*

Category	Population	Town / Village	2003	2004	% Increase
A	200 or less	Ballintogher	221	230	4.07
		Banada-Tourlestrane	172	178	3.49
		Carney	216	222	2.78
		Coolaney	235	240	2.13
		Mullaghmore	199	205	3.02
B	201-1000	Easkey	Category Change	195	–
		Collooney	170	173	1.76
		Enniscrone	184	195	5.98
		Grange	206	213	3.40
		Riverstown	223	229	2.69
		Rosses Point	207	213	2.90
C	1001-2500	Ballymote	192	196	2.08
		Ballisodare	Category Change	215	–
F	10,001 and over	Sligo	196	205	4.39

# Burial Grounds

## Keellogues Burial Ground

There are 64 burial grounds in the county under Council control, however there are a number of these where no internments have taken place in recent years. Other areas however are experiencing a shortage of space so there is ongoing work in locating land for burial grounds and providing extensions to existing burial grounds. During 2004 work commenced on an extension to Calry Burial Ground.

The Council employ a Registrar for each burial ground, these registrars are an invaluable source of information for people who are tracing ancestors or compiling local histories as the records they hold span generations and also contain maps of the graveyards from which individual plots can be identified.

In recent years the increased awareness among local communities of the importance of burial grounds has inspired many burial ground clean-up schemes.

The Council, in 2004 provided €13,500 under the Community & Voluntary Grants Scheme to assist local committees in their work. It is hoped, to involve community groups more in the area of burial grounds in future years.



△ Keellogues Burial Ground.



△ Ahamlish Burial Ground.



△ Keellogues Burial Ground.

## Sligo RAPID Programme

*RAPID (Revitalising Areas Through Planning Investment & Development) is a Government initiative that targets 45 disadvantaged urban areas in the country. Sligo town has 5 designated RAPID Areas – Cranmore, Forthill Estate/Cartron Estate, Garavogue Villas/Doorly Park, St Josephs Terrace, St Bridget's Place/Pilkington Terrace, Maugheraboy/Jinks Avenue/Tracey Avenue.*

### The RAPID Programme aims to:

- Increase the investment made by Government departments, state agencies and local agencies by prioritising the designated areas for funding
- Improve the delivery of public services through better integration and co-ordination in the delivery of services to RAPID areas.

The programme is implemented locally by an AIT (Area Implementation Team) consisting of representatives from key agencies and co-ordinated by the RAPID Programme Co-ordinator (Bridie Conway) based in the Community Enterprise & Arts Department. The Programme is monitored by SIM (Social Inclusion Measures Group) at a county level and the NMC (National Monitoring Committee) chaired by Minister Eamon O' Cuiv at the national level.

### Vision of Sligo RAPID Programme Area Implementation Team

*"To work together with a common purpose to eliminate disadvantage within the five RAPID areas of Sligo Town"*



### Sligo RAPID Programme – 2004

The RAPID Programme in Sligo over the past year through the work and commitment of the Area Implementation Team has ensured that investment made by Government departments, state agencies and local agencies in providing services to the designated areas has increased. Local agencies are beginning to identify and support RAPID specific projects in their service plans with evidence of increased co-ordination and integration of service delivery at a local level. Over the past year the role of the Area Implementation Team has been further strengthened as the group have taken on the task of local advisors to Government Departments in the making of funding decisions.

At a national level there is clear evidence of departments prioritising RAPID areas in the implementation of their schemes. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment report that 25% of the 25,000 programme places on CE, JI and Social Economy schemes are based in RAPID areas with RAPID areas prioritised for rollover schemes. The Department of Education and Science has prioritised RAPID areas in the establishment of Regional Offices, Education Welfare Officers, adult literacy, community, adult and further education funding via VEC's with RAPID a criteria on the amount funded. The Special Education Council has been recently established and are examining the possibility of using RAPID as one criterion for assigning special educational needs advisors. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government continue to prioritise RAPID areas at a national level with directives to local areas to prioritise RAPID areas as part of the estimates process. The Department are currently developing a new scheme aimed at enhancing local authority estates to improve road safety through additional street lights, ramps, and kerbing for roll out in 2005. The Sports Capital Programme continue to give priority to RAPID based projects in their scoring system for assessing proposals. The Department of Health & Children are meeting on a regular basis with AIT reps and work is happening on prioritising RAPID within service planning.



## Sligo RAPID Programme



△ Tree planting under the RAPID programme.

### Applications prioritised/endorsed by Area Implementation Team submitted for national funding 2004

#### €1.6 m additional project funding acquired for RAPID Areas

**RAPID Leverage Fund:** The leverage fund introduced by the Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs for RAPID areas acts as a top-up grant for specific projects. Under this fund Sligo received an additional €201,000 as a top-up for Sports Capital Projects. The following initiatives came about as a result of the leverage fund.

**Playground Initiative:** The Northside playground was refurbished by Sligo Borough Council – leverage fund €30,000 Dept Health & Children, €30,000 Sligo Borough Council.

**Enhancement Scheme:** Maugheraboy area. €20,000 Dept Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, €30,000 Sligo Borough Council

#### Dormant Accounts Funding:

*A total of 15 projects that impact on the RAPID areas were endorsed by the Area Implementation Team. Of these projects the following have received funding in 2004:*

##### Cartron Recreation Area

€203,000 to develop phase 1 of Cartron Recreation Area, part of a large-scale project – Cartron Foreshore Project, developed by the Parks Department Sligo Borough Council. The new recreational area will be developed as a major facility for the community on Sligo Borough lands. The proposed recreational facilities will include a promenade, pedestrian and cycleway provision, seating, lighting and paving open to all user groups and will cater for the RAPID designated areas of Cartron/Forthill.

##### Cranmore Regeneration Project

€117,800 to assist with the Cranmore Regeneration Project to employ a Community Development Officer to work with the community to establish a Community Platform and develop a Community Development Plan as part of the regeneration process.

##### Northside Youth Intervention Project

€129,010 to employ youth workers to develop programmes and activities for the youth in the North Ward area of Sligo town. The lead agency is the Sligo Northside Community Partnership Ltd based in the Northside Resource Centre, Forthill.

##### National Training and Development Institute

€82,246 to promote the social development of people with disabilities beyond the training centre. The project responds to a definite need identified by the trainees who found that they were not participating in the life of the community after the training centre closed.

##### CRIB

€101,280 to put in place an innovative mentoring programme titled Big Brother Big Sister involving the assignment of a positive role model to young people 10-18 yrs experiencing various difficulties in their lives from RAPID areas. Lead agency CRIB (Feroige) Sligo.

##### Sports Capital Funding

Two projects successfully submitted for prioritisation to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism under the Sports Capital Grant.

##### Mercy College

€500,000 towards the cost of initiating phase 1 to redevelop its indoor sports hall into a Community/School Sports Centre for Sligo's East Ward.

##### Garavogue Villas / Doorly Recreation Area

€221,000 - Project developed by Sligo Borough Council – consisting of a mix of active and passive recreational facilities to include multiuse grass pitch, multipurpose play areas cycling and walking facilities.

##### Equality for Women Funding

The Department of Justice Equality & Law Reform launched the Equality for Women programme in RAPID areas inviting submissions up to a maximum of €200,000. Sligo submitted three projects for consideration – Equal IT for Women (*Bridge Digital Divide*), The project will develop and implement an ambitious digital inclusion initiative for women located in RAPID areas. The objective of the project is to enable marginalised women to acquire the IT skills necessary to participate in the ever-increasing information society and to benefit from the range of social and economic opportunities new technology provides. WAVES – (*Women Against Violence*) - Project to work with women experiencing domestic violence who reside in RAPID areas to increase their access to education, training and employment. *Community Participation & Voter Education Programme* developed by Sligo LEADER Partnership Company for delivery to women in RAPID areas.

## Arts Service

*A busy 2004 saw the Sligo Arts Office on target towards achieving the full implementation of the County Sligo Arts Plan 2002-2005 "The Brightening Air".*

In the service area **Information & Resourcing** work commenced on the development of [www.sligoarts.ie](http://www.sligoarts.ie) – a web-based arts information project – and the office introduced a regular Arts E-Bulletin, a current and informative monthly email to artists, arts organisations, local authority staff, the media and members of the public who have requested to be part of this database, also made available on the Arts page of [sligococo.ie](http://sligococo.ie). Sligo Events Quarterly continued to promote a growing number of events in Sligo.

The successful Arts Advisory Mentoring Schemes in Creative Writing, Drama and Visual Art, which saw the Arts Office enter into partnership with the Yeats Society, the Hawk's Well Theatre and Sligo Art Gallery continued to work with the voluntary and amateur sector in workshop, programme and organisational development and established a new resource for writers/readers in the quarterly Writing Notes. The Arts Office was happy to respond positively to the Advisor/Mentors' reports and recommendations for direct intervention and supportive programming to continue for groups into 2005.

Grants and Awards by Sligo Local Authorities to organisations and individuals in 2004 totalled €235,000 including Contribution to the Arts for established arts events and organisations, the Community Arts Act Grants Scheme which encourages arts activity at community level and annual bursary awards to individual artists.

In **Programming & Development** a wide variety of projects continued in partnership with the NWHB, which included Intergenerational Arts Projects, such as Maugherow and Abbeyquarter, The Creative Opportunities Programme, which covers a broad range of activities including the St. Anne's Project and the county wide May Bealtaine Festival for Older People, the Gallagher House Project in Tubbercurry and the General Hospital Art Exhibition Project. Many of these community groups took part in the visual art and performance programmes for Sligo Day of Welcomes on May Day.

Opportunities for artists continued through the Artists in Context programme Phase 2, delivered in collaboration with the Sligo Leader Partnership Company Ltd and the Arts in New Technologies Project Phase 2, delivered in conjunction with Kids Own Publishing Partnership.

Ongoing opportunities for young people to participate in quality arts programmes through County Sligo Youth Theatre were extended to include 12-14 year olds. This organisation for the youth of the county aged between 12 and 21 has developed considerably in recent times and



△ Cillian Rogers performing at the Kresendo Carnival on 1st May as part of the EU Day of Welcomes

now has its own office and employs a leader in the Factory Performance Space. In 2004, CSYT were informed of their successful application to Peace II for capital funding to carry out refurbishment on their space. The Youth Theatre presented a number of their own productions as well as taking part in other community initiatives. In 2004 CSYT presented two main productions including 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in February 04 at the Youth Theatre Space – directed by past members of the Youth Theatre - and 'The Raven' by Edgar Allen Poe in July 04 in The Factory Performance Space – which included film training. Members also had the opportunity to perform at Markree Castle as part of their Arts Programme. In April some members participated in a youth encounter in Germany. Members also participated in the St Patrick's Day Festival, in **Sligo Day of Welcomes**, as part of the Blue Raincoat Theatre Company's Summer Festival, **Cairde**, and in a Regional Youth Theatre Encounter in Sligo.

Music development in County Sligo received a very special boost through the residency programme of the Vogler Quartet in Sligo, which ended in June 2004. A Celebratory Programme of Events from March to June marked the end of this successful programme including **Teen Theme & Variations** at the Hawk's Well in which the Vogler Quartet performed alongside secondary school students in an interactive concert combining dance, rap, drama, improvisation and composition; **Quartet** – a new play by John Kavanagh featuring the Vogler Quartet; **Magical Musical Minds Primary Schools Showcase** at the Hawk's Well

## Arts Service 2004



△ Members of the Hungarian dance group *Cédrus* who performed with Hungary's and Sligo's finest traditional musicians and dancers in truly inter-cultural celebration.

- an interactive presentation of dance, visual arts, new compositions and traditional music performances by 120 children from 17 primary schools with the Vogler Quartet, delivered with Artists in Residence Elaine Agnew, composer, Imelda Peppard, artist, Katie Wilson, dancer, Colm O'Donnell, traditional musician and directed by Padraig Meehan; and *Mini Quartets* – a concert by the Vogler Quartet and students of Sligo Academy of Music who had worked as ensembles under the tuition of the Quartet since 2000. Two publications also celebrated the 5-year residency – *The Power in the Feet* an interview by Dermot Healy with Mary McAuliffe and *Celebrating Vogler Quartet in Sligo 1999-2004*.

The Arts Office commenced work on the post-residency programme with the three originating partners The Sligo Local Authorities, The Arts Council and Music Network who in July 2004 established the *Vogler Partners Steering Group*. The originating partners have been joined by Mary Immaculate College Limerick and received a research grant from the Department of Education & Science to engage a professional researcher who, working with the steering group and in consultation with local partners, will present the findings in the form of a final report.

▷ Welcoming Hungary into the EU: Local children in a festive spirit at the Carnival and European Fair in Sligo on 1st May 2004



Based on the successful model of the Vogler Music Education Programme at Primary Level, the Arts Office collaborated with well-known traditional musician Colm O'Donnell to broaden the music genre in the application of this model. *Guth*, a Traditional Music Education Programme was delivered in 8 National Schools over the 2003-2004 school year, concluding with a performance as part of the Vogler Quartet Primary School Showcase Concert in the Hawk's Well in June.

Two major music events in 2004, Sligo Music Series, presented by Con Brio, and the Vogler Spring Festival, both established in 2000 as part of the Vogler Quartet in Sligo Residency Programme, will continue to be funded by the Sligo Local Authorities' Arts Programme beyond the 5-year residency.

In *Infrastructure and Linkages* the Public Art Officer oversaw the commencement of four new commissions in 2004 and the publication of Sligo's Public Art Plan 2004-2006. Working with the NWHB and a number of local artists the Arts Office facilitated the beginnings of the Sligo Arts & Health Partnership building on and extending existing project initiatives.

On Saturday 1st May 2004, Sligo welcomed Hungary as Sligo Local Authorities responded to an invitation to take part in the *Day of Welcomes*, a countrywide celebration of the enlargement of Europe. Sligo was honoured to be chosen as one of the ten towns and cities in Ireland to welcome ten new member states into the EU. A day-long programme of activities was presented by the Arts Office, in conjunction with the Cultural Programme of Ireland's Presidency of the EU under the Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism. Some of Sligo's and Hungary's top artists joined the people of Sligo in celebrating the vibrancy of both cultures through a European fair, a Hungarian food and wine marquee, a live music stage in Stephen's Street car park, concerts, theatre, readings and exhibitions. A highlight of the day was the spectacular Kresendo Carnival, co-ordinated by a group who, following on from the success of the day, have since become the West Coast Carnival Co-op.

# Planning & Environment Directorate



## Preface

The designation of Sligo as a Gateway under the National Spatial Strategy sets the context for the future development of both Sligo city and county. The pace of development in Sligo has increased considerably in the past 18 months with significant projects taking place in Sligo city and expansion of the adjacent towns of Grange, Ballisodare, Collooney, Strandhill and Rosses Point. The key towns of Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone are also experiencing significant growth. This expansion is being underpinned by major investments in our infrastructure by the Sligo local authorities and, in particular, the delivery of a broadband network, the advancement of the Sligo Main Drainage Treatment Plant and the provision of the new Inner Relief Road due to open in late 2005. Sligo is almost unique in ensuring that all of this expansion is being carried out in accordance with recently published Development Plans which involved considerable consultation with various communities including the Sligo and Environs Development Plan, 2004-2010, the County Development Plan, 2005-2011 (to be adopted in 2005), Local Area Plans for Enniscrone, Strandhill and Ballinode, together with a series of mini-plans commencing with Ballisodare, Collooney and Grange.

We are constantly appraising the delivery of our Planning services and in 2004 we carried out a thorough review of the entire Planning process. One feature of the review was a number of consultation meetings with designers and agents to improve the quality of planning applications being submitted as the review process had indicated that up to 45% of planning applications submitted were in fact invalid and could not be processed. A new reception facility was commenced in the Planning Office and this has helped to reduce the unacceptably high level of invalid applications.

During 2004, we maintained a strong focus on Environmental issues with the continued implementation of the Connaught Waste Management Plan. A full-time Waste Enforcement Officer has been appointed to ensure that waste management practices are brought into line with Government Policy.



This work is being carried out hand-in-hand with educational and awareness programmes to encourage people to reduce and re-use waste. The cost of waste disposal for the normal citizen has been reduced considerably and is currently one of the lowest in the country. The introduction of the kerbside dry recyclable collection has ensured that large quantities of recyclable waste have been diverted from landfill. The issue of littering is still a problem in the county which must be tackled by every citizen. The work of our Dog Warden has ensured that better control on animals is being achieved. Sligo is fortunate to have three Blue Flag beaches and lifeguards provide protection throughout the summer season.

The safety of our meat is constantly being monitored by veterinary staff to ensure adherence to food safety standards.

Monitoring of our lake and river waters has indicated that our water quality is still one of the highest standard in the country and our drinking water supplies comply with the E.U. requirements.

**Patrick J. Forkan**  
Director of Services

# Planning

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

During 2004, a total of 1,543 planning applications were received by Sligo County Council which represents a 40% increase on the number received in 2003.

The majority of these applications were determined by the Council within 8 weeks of the receipt of application and the refusal rate was 13%.

The Planning and Development Regulations 2001, which commenced in March of 2002, introduced a stricter regime for the validation of planning applications. As a result of these new requirements, the number of invalid planning applications lodged increased substantially during 2002 and 2003. For example, of the 1,108 planning applications received by Sligo County Council in 2003, approximately 40% were found to be invalid. The requirements associated with processing invalid applications placed unnecessary demands on the resources and time of the planning department. In order to address this issue, the planning department invited all local agents to two separate seminars in 2004. The seminars sought to clarify some of the areas where difficulties had arisen and allowed for feedback from agents on issues they felt required explanation. As a result of these initiatives the rate of invalidation has halved in 2004.

## SLIGO AND ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004-2010.

Due to the phenomenal growth and development of Sligo in recent years, Sligo County and Borough Councils prepared a joint plan for the greater Sligo area. The *Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2004-2010* was adopted in December 2003 and published in April 2004. This visionary blueprint for the Gateway city was widely welcomed and has had a notable impact on Sligo's principle settlement in its first year of implementation.



## SLIGO DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005-2011

Following extensive pre-draft consultation throughout 2003, the Draft County Development Plan was submitted to the elected members in March and put on public display from May-July 2004. The Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County and addresses a range of issues, including management of growth, sustaining rural communities, providing housing, supporting balanced economic development, strengthening rural coastal areas, conserving environmental quality and delivering improved infrastructure.

A high level of public interest was shown in the Draft Plan and the Development Planning Unit was invited to outline its key provisions at two locally-organised, public

consultation meetings in July. The Draft Plan contains 'mini-plans' (i.e. small land use plans for villages under development pressure) for Ballysadare, Collooney and Grange. The Mini-Plans attracted particular attention, giving rise to almost 40% of the written submissions lodged with the Council.

Being an integral part of the Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) has also been subject to review. An assessment of the built heritage of the County resulted in a much-extended list of structures proposed for protection. This list or 'Draft RPS' was contained in a separate illustrated document, which drew some 60 submissions during the July-October public display period.

By Christmas, the Members had fully considered the Manager's Report on all issues raised in submissions and had agreed on the proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan. These amendments are subject to further public consultation in early 2005.

Sligo's is one of the first county development plans drafted since the publication of the *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2022*. It has regard to the *Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region*, to which Sligo County Council contributed significantly, and its settlement/housing policies are consistent with the *Draft Planning Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing*. In terms of presentation, the design and layout of the Plan were done entirely by the Development Planning Unit - to professional publishing standards. Not surprisingly, the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government is taking a special interest in this Plan, which may prove to be a model for others when adopted in mid-2005.

## LOCAL AREA PLANS AND MINI-PLANS

Over the coming years, population growth in Sligo's pressurised Sub-Region will need careful management, while imbalances are addressed in the less populated south and west of the County. Central to the Council's response to these challenges is the preparation of land use plans for towns and villages, in consultation with local communities and elected representatives.

Following on the completion of *Strandhill Local Area Plan* in 2003, the *Enniscrone Local Area Plan* was adopted in March 2004 and *Hazelwood-Ballinode Local Area Plan* in November 2004. Ballymote and Tobercurry are next in line for such plans and preparatory work commenced during the year on local area plans for these important 'Key Support Towns'.

From now on, it is intended to prepare several 'mini-plans' each year for the County's smaller settlements and to incorporate them into the new County Development Plan using the statutory 'variation' procedure. By December 2004, significant groundwork had been carried out on three further mini-plans and these are expected for completion and adoption during 2005.

## Planning

### ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING CONTROL

The main areas of focus of the enforcement section are as follows:

- Enforcement of planning control generally
- Building control
- Dangerous structures
- Taking in charge of housing estates
- Collection of financial contributions
- Ensuring that sufficient security is provided to ensure the satisfactory completion of housing developments.

### ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

During the past 12 months there was an increased number of random inspections and a substantial improvement in the response time for dealing with complaints from members of the public. Most developers were generally compliant with the planning laws and regulations and in areas where difficulties did arise these were generally resolved by discussion and with the co-operation of the developers. This is in line with the Council's policy in this area. Inspections are now carried out on all developments prior to commencement and this has resulted in potential difficulties being highlighted and resolved early in the construction process. The success of the enforcement section is clearly demonstrated by the payment of approximately €80,000 in respect of application fees for planning permission to retain unauthorised developments during 2004.

During 2004, the Council received complaints in respect of 222 developments. Of these cases, 315 warning letters were issued and in 169 cases the matter was resolved to the Council's satisfaction. The enforcement section succeeded in achieving 100% response rate to all complaints within a period of six weeks.

### BUILDING CONTROL

The objective of the building control section is to encourage good building practice, to ensure that buildings are constructed correctly and that access for disabled and elderly is provided for in building plans. Inspection rates of 15% are presently being achieved in this area. During 2004 particular attention was paid to compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations dealing with access for people with disabilities and a high level of compliance has been achieved in this area.

### DANGEROUS STRUCTURES

One structure was identified by the Council as being dangerous during the past year. This structure was subsequently removed.

### TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

A new policy & procedure for taking in charge of housing estates was adopted by the Council at its meeting of 1st March 2004. Many new housing estates are presently under construction and the activities of the enforcement section are geared towards ensuring that these estates are satisfactorily completed and taken in charge by the Council following their completion.

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A system has been put in place to ensure that financial contributions are paid in accordance with the requirements of planning permissions granted. This system ensures that contributions are paid in all cases and where the contribution is not paid legal proceedings will be implemented.

### BONDS & SECURITY

The amount of security required by the Council in order to ensure that estates are completed to a satisfactory standard was substantially increased in 2003. This increase was applied on the basis of experience to date in relation to existing developments and in order to ensure that sufficient monies would be available in the event of the developer failing to complete an estate to the required standard.



## Environmental Services

*The staff of the Environment Services Section are now settled into their new premises at Unit 9, Cleveragh Business Park, Sligo, and deal with a wide range of issues over a number of 'programme groups'*

These include:

### Programme Group 5: Environmental Protection

- Waste Management
- Pollution Control
- Blue Flag Beaches
- Water Safety
- Casual Trading
- Environmental Awareness
- Environmental Enforcement
- Litter

### Programme Group 7: Agriculture & Education

- Food Safety

### Programme Group 8: Miscellaneous

- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses

## POLLUTION CONTROL

### Water Pollution

Protecting our surface and ground waters from pollution is the primary objective in the water pollution control area. This is governed by the LG (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 & 1990, and regulations under these Acts. The LG (Water Pollution) Phosphorous Regulations, 1998 were introduced to tackle the increasing problem of eutrophication in Ireland's rivers and lakes. These regulations place an

obligation on Sligo County Council to maintain the water quality in our county's 'satisfactory waters' and to improve the water quality in 'unsatisfactory waters' by 2007. A catchment management approach has been adopted by Sligo County Council to achieve this. The County is divided into three main catchments – the Owenmore, which includes Lough Arrow, the Lough Gill, and the Moy Catchments.

In 2004, Sligo County Council continued to use the above mentioned legislation to control activities including forestry, agriculture, single house treatment systems, industrial discharges and waste water treatment discharges.

A policy was drawn up in 2004 for the design and installation of On-Site Effluent Treatment Systems, based on the Environmental Protection Agency's Wastewater Treatment Manuals. Planning guidelines were drawn up to aid designers and developers in this regard.

A guidance document for farmers was published and distributed in 2004 to highlight and encourage good environmental practices within the farming sector in accordance with local and national policies.

Recommendations were made on all planning proposals and forestry proposals in all the sensitive catchments, particularly the three mentioned above in County Sligo. Developments included single housing, multiple housing, industrial developments, quarries, wind farms, fuel depots and agricultural developments. In total, Environmental Services made planning recommendations on 233 developments in 2004.

## Environmental Services

In 2004, the level of enforcement of discharge licences was increased. Numbers of inspections and samples taken and analysed increased by 126% over 2003 figures.

### SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In 2004 Environmental Scientists carried out a sampling programme on Sligo's three main lakes, Lough Gill, Lough Arrow, and Lough Easkey. In total, 129 lake samples were taken and analysed. The results deemed all three lakes as having satisfactory water quality.

In the Summer of 2004 a student project was set up to investigate the water quality in Lough Talt and the potential risks to the water quality from activities in the Lough Talt catchment. The lake water and all feeder streams into the lake were monitored over the summer months, (18 lake and 38 feeder streams samples in total), and the results showed the water quality in Lough Talt to be satisfactory.

Sligo County Council's river monitoring programme is extensive with 32 rivers monitored in 2004 at 80 sampling locations. This monitoring programme is carried out by the EPA on an agency basis for the County Council. This monitoring is carried out as part of the implementation of the Phosphorous Measures Report, produced in accordance with the LG (Water Pollution) Act, 1977, (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations, 1998.

Other surface water monitoring carried out directly by the EPA or on behalf of Sligo County Council in 2004 included Bathing Water Quality monitoring under the EC (Quality of Bathing Water) Regulations, 1988, surface waters that are used as a source of drinking water, in accordance with the EC (Quality of Surface Waters intended for the abstraction of drinking water) Regulations, 1989, salmonid waters under the EC (Quality of Salmonid) Regulations, 1988, and leachate from the closed landfill at Ballymote.

The following is a summary of the number of surface water samples taken and analysed in County Sligo in 2004:

Samples Taken and Analysed	No.
Lough Gill	47
Lough Arrow	70
Lough Easkey	12
Lough Talt	18
Lough Talt Feeder Streams	38
Other Lakes	26
Rivers	197
Salmonid Waters	67
Water Abstraction Waters	13
Bathing Waters	72
Landfill	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>

### LOUGH GILL SEDIMENT STUDY

A sediment study on Lough Gill was carried out in 2004. The objectives of the study was to obtain information on the nature of recently deposited sediments in Lough Gill, with particular reference to phosphorus, and to gain some insight into recent trends in the lake's ecological development by analysis of short sediment cores. The outcome of this survey has provided a useful perspective on the phosphorous content in recently deposited sediments in selected areas of the lake, mostly in the vicinity of inflowing streams.

### ENFORCEMENT

Water pollution complaints are dealt with on a priority basis based on the potential risk of pollution from the activity or incident. Water pollution incidences are dealt with under the LG (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 & 1990, and in 2004, 51 water pollution incidences were dealt with by Environmental Services, with enforcement procedures taken in 12 cases.

### WESTERN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Arising from the E.U. Water Framework Directive, the country has now been divided into regions based on river basin districts. A small area at the north of the county, and an area in the south east fall into the North-West district, and the Shannon district respectively. However most of the county is contained within the Western River Basin District, along with most of counties Mayo and Galway, and parts of Leitrim, Roscommon and Clare. The management project is being undertaken by consultants acting on behalf of the Local Authorities, and Environmental Services staff will be involved in carrying out additional survey and monitoring work over the next four years, during the completion of the management plan. A programme of measures to ensure that all our waters achieve *good ecological status* will also be required to be implemented. During 2004, Sligo County Council was involved in data gathering relating to all elements inputting into water quality. The consultants prepared a water quality characterisation report based on this data, and data gathered from other stakeholders in the region.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LABORATORY

Under the LG Water Pollution Acts 1977 & 1990, the EC (Quality of Water intended for Human Consumption) Regulations, 2000 and the EPA Act, 1992, (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations, 1994, Sligo County Council are responsible for the monitoring of all the County Councils public water supplies, urban waste water treatment plant discharges and industrial discharges.

The EC (Quality of Water intended for Human Consumption) Regulations, 2000, came into force on January 1st 2004, and involve significant changes in terms of the increased sample numbers to be taken, the increased numbers of parameters to be analysed and the way in which samples are taken. Samples must now be taken from the point of use (the kitchen tap) and therefore the



## Environmental Services

co-operation of members of the public is required in order for us to meet our obligations. Compliance with these regulations demanded increased input in terms of resources in 2004.

The following is a summary of the sampling and analysis that took place in 2004 in Sligo County Council's Environmental Science Laboratory, under the above mentioned regulations:

Samples Taken and Analysed	No.
Public Water Supply	345*
Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants	144
Receiving Waters from UWWTPs	55
Licensed Industrial Discharges	76
Miscellaneous**	50
Intercalibration	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>

*\*This figure represents an 85% increase in the number of samples taken and analysed in 2003*

*\*\*Miscellaneous includes pollution incidents*

The following is the percentage of overall compliance of Sligo's Drinking Water, in 2004, with the standards under the EC (Quality of Water intended for Human Consumption) Regulations, 2000:

Public Water supplies	96-97 Overall Compliance
Public & Private Group Water Schemes:	91% Overall Compliance

### BLUE FLAG BEACHES

Sligo County retained its Blue Flag status on both Rosses Point beach and Mullaghmore beach in 2004, and Blue Flag status was reinstated at Enniscrone beach in 2004. Bathing water quality results for all three beaches, in the 2004 season, met the Blue Flag criteria standards, which will influence the 2005 Blue Flag awards. Sligo County Councils Environmental Awareness Officer organised clean up events on the Blue Flag beaches, with assistance from local residents and tidy towns committees.

### AIR POLLUTION

Most of the Air Pollution complaints received by Sligo County Council relate to the 'backyard burning' of waste. These complaints are dealt with under the Air Pollution Act, 1987, and in 2004, 62 air pollution incidences were dealt with by Environmental Services, with enforcement procedures taken in 35 cases.

In 2004, Environmental Services continued to raise awareness through the local media of the Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Marketing, Sale & Distribution of Fuels) Regulations, 2003, which designated Sligo town and the townlands of Finisklin, Knappaghmore and Ballydoogan, as 'Smoke Free Zones'.

### EDUCATION

A number of PR and educational initiatives took place in 2004 relating to pollution control, including talks and lectures to IFA groups and features in the local media.



△ Rosses Point, one of County Sligo's Blue Flag beaches

## Environmental Services

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

2004 saw the continuation of the implementation of the Connaught Waste Management Plan, adopted in September 2001, to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and to increase the recycling rates in Sligo. Enforcement was also a high priority in the Waste Management area in 2004.



△ Bring Bank facility at Strandhill

### BRING BANKS

Sligo continued to achieve a high growth rate in glass recycling in 2004 during which 878 tonnes of glass were derived from Sligo's bring banks. A total of 38 bring bank sites are now available throughout Sligo catering for recycling of glass, aluminium cans and in the case of those banks located in areas where separate collection of dry recyclables was not available, facilities were available for the recycling of plastic bottles. During 2004 the programme of upgrading bring bank sites continued, with substantial works taking place at the site in Collooney.

### SEPARATE COLLECTION OF DRY RECYCLABLES

During 2004, this service which provides for the door to door collection of dry recyclable materials, continued to be expanded throughout the county. The scheme provides for the collection of plastic bottles, aluminium cans, food cans, tetra-pak, cardboard, newspaper and magazines. At the end of 2004, the scheme was available to approximately 75% of households on collection routes. In 2004, over 30,000 dry recyclable bags were collected in Sligo County and Borough.



### HOME COMPOSTING

In order to continue to reduce waste to landfill the Council continued to encourage the practice of home composting in 2004. Kitchen waste suitable for home composting constitutes approximately 30% of domestic waste, so an increase in the number of householders who compost should significantly reduce waste to landfill. Sligo County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer organised a number of events to promote home composting in 2004, including advertisements on radio and local papers. Sligo County Council dropped the cost of units from €30.00 to €25.00, in 2004, to increase sales. Furthermore, composters are now sold as a 'kit', which includes a 315 litre composter, a 10 litre caddy for waste organic waste

segregation in the kitchen and a starter guide. A number of demonstrations on 'how to compost' were given by the Environmental Awareness Officer throughout 2004. A day long seminar was also hosted by Sligo County Council on composting techniques including vermi-composting. The main speakers



represented the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Many of our Green Schools also hosted Compost sale days – where composting kits are sold at a further reduced rate of €15.00 to friends and families of the Green School students. Demonstrations were provided by the students on the day. These efforts have resulted in the sale of over 300 composting units throughout Sligo in 2004.

### RECYCLING CENTRES

The Connaught Waste Management Plan requires the provision of two recycling centres to serve County Sligo, one to be located in Sligo Town and one in Tubbercurry. The existing privately owned facility at Deep Water Quay, Sligo meets the requirements of the Plan. Plans to upgrade this facility to make it more user friendly were submitted to Sligo County Council in 2004. Work commenced on the construction of the new Recycling Centre in Tubbercurry in 2004, with substantial works being completed at the end of 2004. These recycling centres target the domestic sector primarily and cater in particular for those items that cannot be provided for in the kerbside collection.

### PAY BY USE

The pay per volume ('pay per bag') system for the collection of domestic waste continued in 2004, thus continuing the incentive to reduce the waste going into the domestic bin, and to landfill, and encouraging householders to use the recycling alternatives available.

## Environmental Services

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

In 2004, Sligo County Council signed up to the All Island collection scheme for waste fridges and freezers. Two collections were hosted in 2004 resulting in a total of 249 fridges and freezers collected for recycling. Also in 2004 Sligo County Council facilitated the collection of household hazardous waste. The collection was a success with householders using this opportunity to dispose of domestic hazardous wastes such as paint cans, batteries etc., in an environmentally careful manner. Sligo County Council also controls the movement of hazardous waste that originates in Sligo. A total of 367 C1 forms, which control the movement of hazardous waste within Ireland, were issued in 2004, and 2 TFS forms, which control the export of hazardous waste, were issued in 2004.

### WASTE ENFORCEMENT

There is an increasing emphasis at national and local level on the enforcement of waste management legislation. To help achieve this, the Council, in 2004, appointed a full-time Waste Enforcement Officer. The work so far has concentrated on ensuring that all Waste Operators hold the necessary permits for all waste operations including the operation of sites for the recovery of inert construction/demolition/excavation materials. There are currently 19 permitted sites in Sligo. All waste collection operators are required to hold a Waste Collection Permit under the 2001 Collection Permit Regulations and there are currently 222 permitted waste collectors in the Connaught region, with 119 permitted to operate in Sligo. In 2004 approximately 273 inspections took place at waste management facilities and activities to enforce regulations including waste permits, waste collection permits, the plastic bag levy, the farm plastics levy, illegal burning of waste and general waste management complaints, resulting in 25 enforcement proceedings being taken against offenders.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS, 2003

The Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2003 require all producers of packaging to separate the packaging waste produced on the premises, and make it available for separate collection by a recovery operator. In 2004, Sligo County Council's Enforcement Officer worked with the Commercial Sector to encourage the diversion of all packaging waste from landfill. In 2004, recovery operators were available to separately collect commercial cardboard, glass, plastic, pallets and paper in Sligo.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS

Sligo County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer continued her work in 2004 in raising awareness on best waste management practices across all sectors. A number of brochures were published in an effort to target specific waste activities i.e. the safe disposal of hazardous waste, packaging waste management from the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, and a leaflet on how to correctly recycle at bring banks. Regular press releases were issued on a range of waste management topics including the importance of only transferring waste to collectors that hold legitimate permits.

### LITTER

The problem of litter in County Sligo continues to be a major challenge for the Council and the community. In 2004, a total of 219 on-the-spot fines were issued for littering offences ranging from cigarette and sweet wrappings to domestic refuse illegally dumped on public property. Twenty files were sent to our solicitor for prosecution and by the end of 2004 the Council had secured 4 successful convictions with fines ranging from €20 to €500. In addition, Section 9 Notices under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, were issued to private landowners requiring them to clear their lands of litter, which is visible from a public place.

An area of huge concern to the Council is the on-going abuse of Bring Bank sites. A private investigator was hired to tackle this problem and a number of cases have been prepared for Court prosecution. The Council is taking a zero tolerance approach to littering at bring bank sites with all cases going directly to court.

In 2004, anti-litter efforts were augmented by increasing awareness, enforcement and street cleaning. The Environmental Awareness Officer tackled this issue during public meetings, along with visits to commercial premises and schools. Other student activities organised in 2004, included visits to illegal dumpsites in local peat land areas to view first hand the destructive effects of littering and dumping. Surveys, project work and presentations were also undertaken in co-operation with the Environmental Awareness Officer.

### OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

*Operation Clean Sweep*, which was introduced in 2003 into Ballymote and Tubbercurry, was expanded into Enniscrone during 2004. Under section 6 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, occupiers of premises fronting onto the footway within the town limits are obliged to keep the area in front of their premises free of litter. Not to do so is an offence and can attract an on-the-spot fine of €125. *Operation Clean Sweep* involves the Environmental Awareness Officer visiting local businesses and advising them of these obligations. The visit is followed up by the Litter Warden on a weekly basis. In general, business people co-operate fully with the Litter Warden. This approach has helped the Council to increase awareness amongst the business community of their obligations when it comes to litter. The Council will continue to introduce Operation Clean Sweep into other towns and villages throughout 2005.

### ILLEGAL SIGNAGE

In 2004, activity increased and particular emphasis was put on the issue of illegal roadside signage, which not only detracts from the amenity of an area, but also poses a risk to road users. The Litter Warden tackles the problem of illegal signage on approach roads to towns and villages, and 151 on-the-spot fines were issued in 2004. Under Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, the placing of advertising materials on any structures, poles, posts etc. visible from a public place is illegal, apart from a few exceptions, e.g. election posters, circus posters etc.

## Environmental Services

### LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2004, a review of the Litter Management Plan was begun in conjunction with Sligo Borough Council. This Plan is being prepared pursuant to Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 and it aims to identify and quantify the litter problem, establish Council and Community responsibility and develop ways of tackling and eliminating the problem. It is hoped that the draft Litter Management Plan will be put before the new Environment SPC in early 2005 before bringing it to the full Council for adoption.

### LITTER MONITORING SURVEY

TES Consulting Engineers were appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as the Litter Monitoring Body (LMB) in May 1999 to develop a national litter pollution monitoring system and oversee local authority implementation of it. A Litter Monitoring Survey was carried out in 2004 during the months of May to September as part of the duties of the Litter Warden. This survey is an environmental management tool that enables local authorities to tackle litter more effectively, by providing a framework for consistent and accurate self-assessment by local authorities – “if you can measure the litter problem, you can manage it”. Two types of surveys are required

- Litter Pollution surveys to determine the extent and severity of litter pollution
- Litter Quantification surveys to identify the composition (i.e., the type and origin) of litter pollution prevailing in a particular area.

Potential sources of litter in areas over the county are identified and mapped. The average time to conduct either type of survey is 20-30 minutes. Each survey is conducted along a 50 metre stretch of road in urban/rural areas. Appropriate forms for the surveys are completed and forwarded to the LMB for analysis/assessment. The results for Sligo County Council for 2004 are as follows.

Unpolluted (litter free)	27%
Slightly polluted	37%
Moderately Polluted	22%
Significantly Polluted	7%
Grossly Polluted	7%

### OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS INITIATIVES

The Environmental Awareness Officer continued to highlight responsible waste management and litter issues through various programmes of work and methods of advertising including competitions, newspaper and radio advertisements, posters, displays, signage and the publication of leaflets, presentations, public meetings, school visits, clean up events and visits to business premises.

### NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

As usual the month of April was dedicated to promoting the National Anti-litter Campaign – National Spring Clean and in 2004 a total of 120 groups took part. Tidy Towns Committees received support through the provision of prepaid refuse and recycling bags, litter pickers, gloves and awareness raising of events taking place throughout the month.

### GREEN CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Sligo County Council's Green Christmas Campaign 2004 encouraged the recycling of additional Christmas Packaging through the kerbside collection. A series of radio and newspaper advertisements were run in conjunction with REPAK to establish a formalised Green Christmas Campaign. Three sites were provided for the collection and shredding of real Christmas Trees. A countywide National Schools Christmas Competition was also run in conjunction with the Race Against Waste Advertising Campaign.

### SCHOOLS



△ Students from Holy Family N.S. who participated in a photographic competition focusing on litter.

In total 83 school visits took place in 2004. These visits focused on dealing with good waste management practices, the problem of littering along with water and energy conservation themes. The visits are designed to enable schools to tie into local waste management services, to inform students of the difficulties associated with land-filling and the need to adopt a more sustainable approach to waste. The second primary objective of the visits is to equip students with information that will help affect the waste habits of their families. The litter section of the visits includes a presentation on the litter laws, project work (litter pledges, litter audits, school litter patrols, creative activities such as poem writing, poster making) interclass competitions, ‘the litter free challenge’ etc.

Clean up packs are constantly distributed on request but schools are given special attention with regard to resources – litter patrol bibs, litter pickers, gloves, tabards and bags, posters.

A photographic project on the litter problems experienced in Tubbercurry was hosted in the Community Library, Tubbercurry. This project was carried out in co-operation with the senior students of Holy Family National School.

## Environmental Services

During 2004, €16,500 was allocated to community groups and schools for projects that focus on anti-litter awareness. Projects range from creating an anti-litter banner to designing advertisements for local media.

### GREEN SCHOOLS

During 2004 a further 7 schools signed up to the Green Schools Programme. This brings the total number of schools involved in this national project to 37. This year four new schools were awarded the Green Flag upon completion of phase one of the programme. The total number of flags in County Sligo currently stands at 12.



△ Students of Killavil N.S. and their parents who participated in a walk-to-school event as part of their Green Schools Programme.



△ Castlerock N.S. proudly show off their Green Flag

### NATIONAL TREE WEEK

During National Tree Week 650 tree saplings were distributed to voluntary groups and schools. A number of events took place to mark National Tree Week, i.e. school talks, 'tree planting tips' leaflet and tree planting events.

### LOCAL AGENDA 21 ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

Through the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2004 a total of €32,000 was distributed. This grant scheme helped to fund a variety of community based projects on the theme of waste awareness and reduction.



△ Planting during National Tree Week to mark the Special Olympics.

### IN-HOUSE WASTE MANAGEMENT

During 2004, a waste management system was put in place in Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry, similar efforts are being made in our Cleveragh Road offices.

### WATER SAFETY

During June, July and August 2004, the Council provided a beach-guard Service on five of Sligo's beaches. The beach-guards worked on a full-time basis at Enniscrone, Mullaghmore and Rosses Point beaches and at weekends on Dunmoran and Streedagh beaches. A beach-warden service was provided at Strandhill for the summer months.

### FOOD SAFETY

Sligo County Council entered into a 3-year service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) at the beginning of 2003. This contract, which is common to all local authorities, forms the basis of much of the work of the Local Authority Veterinary Service. There are currently 3 abattoirs under the supervision of Sligo County Council. The council is required to carry out pre- and post- slaughter checks on all animals, along with continuous monitoring of hygiene and welfare standards and BSE controls. All three abattoirs were regularly checked by the Council's Veterinary Officer in 2004. Sligo County Council continued its participation in 2004 in a pilot programme run by the FSAI and the Local Authority Veterinary Service, which was aimed at standardising the inspection process nationwide. This resulted in the introduction of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and new forms, and is now operating nationwide.

In May 2004, NCF Meats in Achonry, one of the two small meat manufacturing plants under the supervision of Sligo County Council, was the first plant in the North West to be approved for the new National Health Mark. This involved a considerable investment in time and money by the company in updating its procedures and documentation. A standardisation programme similar to that introduced in the abattoirs was introduced in 2004 for these Plants.

The inspection of all liquid milk producers continued throughout the year. The number of producers is expected to fall as the effects of the CAP Mid-Term review begin to filter through in the next 2-3 years.

## Environmental Services

### ANIMAL WELFARE

The Control of Dogs Act, The Control of Horses Act and Sheep Scab orders (Diseases of Animals Act) are the main pieces of welfare legislation that the council has responsibility for.

### CONTROL OF DOGS

Following the passing of the Control of Dogs Act in 1986 Sligo and Leitrim County Councils entered into an agreement with the ISPCA to provide a Dog Warden service and pound for both counties. The costs were split on a two to one basis between both Councils.

Leitrim County Council withdrew from this arrangement at the beginning of 2004. While this meant that the Dog Warden would be available full time in Sligo the decision has resulted in a substantial increase in the cost of the service to Sligo County Council. With this in mind it was decided to review the operation of the service in the second half of 2004. Expressions of interest were sought to ascertain the options available to the Council. At this point the ISPCA indicated that they would not be making a submission. The organisation is currently reviewing its involvement in the implementation of the Control of Dogs Act Nationwide and has decided to concentrate its efforts on animal welfare. On completion of the above process, it is proposed to offer a five-year contract, with annual reviews, to run the Dog Control service to the successful tenderer.

### DOG LICENCES

All dog owners are reminded of the requirement to have a dog licence. Licences can be purchased from any Post Office and must be renewed annually. There were 3,100 licences issued in 2004. This represented an increase of approximately 600 on 2003. A reminder system to encourage renewal was also put in place in 2004.

### CONTROL OF HORSES

While stray horses are not a major issue in the county there are concerns in certain areas particularly in the Borough and its environs. In this regard new byelaws were adopted in 2004 which will make enforcement of the Control of Horses Act easier. These byelaws create control zones in Sligo Borough and in certain other areas of the county. Horses in a control zone require a licence and electronic identification. Where stray horses are impounded the onus is on the owner to demonstrate that proper facilities exist for stabling/grazing the animal. Where this cannot be demonstrated the animals will not be returned. The byelaws contain exemptions for certain classes of horse owner. One of the aims of the byelaws is to target irresponsible horse owners.

### SHEEP SCAB ORDERS

Any suspected sheep scab cases reported were investigated. The number of reported cases is low. However it is thought that the prevalence of the disease is higher than reported.



### AT YOUR SERVICE 24/7

*In the eighteen years Patsy McDaniel has served as County Sligo's Dog Warden, probably the most bizarre situation he encountered was finding himself in a cage with two bears.*

'I was responding to a report of stray dogs in the North Sligo area, and I entered into an animal cage at the back of a farm yard. It wasn't until I was inside that I discovered that the cage housed two bears, but I made my escape before they noticed me.' Thankfully Patsy's working day isn't normally so dramatic, but is often fraught with danger. 'I have had to deal with a number of very tricky problems, and I have had to capture and remove Alsatians and pit bull terriers and bring them to the dog pound.'

When Patsy was appointed Dog Warden in 1987, every town and village in the county had a problem with stray dogs. 'These dogs would often travel in packs, and as I was responsible for both Leitrim and Sligo, the early years were very hectic.' At that time a typical day for Patsy would see him visit a number of towns around the county. 'We had advertised for people to bring unwanted dogs to designated collection points – I would start the day in the Market Yard in Sligo, and then travel to Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone. At the end of the day I would have up to twenty dogs in the van, which made it a bit lively at times.'

Patsy's persistence and dedication to his work started paying dividends. Within a couple of years, the problem of dogs travelling in packs in urban areas was a rare occurrence, as Patsy reacted promptly to every complaint he received. 'It got to the stage when I entered a housing estate that the dogs would disappear – their owners thought I was there to remove them, and would take them in. I also found when I spent a couple of days in an area that word 'got round' and the number of dog licences would increase dramatically.'

The job of a dog warden is very much 24 hours a day, and he is always on-call. 'I would often get a call from the Gardaí or a member of the public about dogs annoying sheep, and I would have to respond straight away. By and large, I have found people very supportive, and they know it is in all our interests to keep the dog population under control.'

## Environmental Services ♦ Focus on Sligo Borough

### AIDEEN AND VALERIE TARGET LITTER OFFENDERS

*As part of the 'Ditchwatch' feature broadcast as part of the Pat Kenny show, RTE reporter Valerie Cox teamed up with Sligo County Council's Litter Warden Aideen Feeney in pursuit of some of the county's most blatant litter offenders.*

On the 6th January 2005 'ditch watch' was broadcast live from Sligo. Pat Kenny in promoting the enhancement and protection of our environment introduced 'ditch watch' to his 'Today with Pat Kenny' radio show on RTE 1.

Valerie's environmental mission around Ireland took her to litter black-spots in Wicklow, Kildare, Waterford and then Sligo. She spent two days with Aideen and donned rubber gloves to wade through dumped rubbish in search of evidence to track down the culprits. The pair's two day diary read as follows:

#### Day One 11.10 am

They first went to the Bottle Bank Facility at Collooney where Valerie and Aideen found 15 bags illegally dumped, while the Bottle Banks were almost empty. The contents included glass, cans, plastic and some household refuse. They did find an address and are pursuing this case through the courts.

#### Day one 2.00 pm

Their second port of call was in Ballincarrow where six bags of domestic refuse were discovered. There was sufficient evidence as the owners name and address was found in two of the bags. On calling to the address all knowledge was denied. However, following further discussions Aideen and Valerie met with the individual at the site the next day and he cleared up all the rubbish and paid an on-the-spot fine of €125.

#### Day two 12.00 pm

At the popular tourist site known as the "Hungry Rock" on the outskirts of Coolaney, Valerie and Aideen came across three bags. While the bags were almost completely burned out, they did uncover among the ashes a receipt from an electrical shop. They promptly called to this person's home and issued an on-the-spot fine. This was one of the few cases where the person held up his hands and admitted that what he did was wrong. As always when handing out on-the-spot fines, Aideen advised the offender that a lot of the dumped material could be recycled.

Valerie paid tribute to Aideen and remarked on her relentless determination to carry out her job. "She is like a one-woman army, and after five minutes in her company you know she means business."

**Sligo's litter offenders have been warned.**

## Focus on Sligo Borough

### Ballytivnan Turnkey Housing Scheme:

This scheme at Ballytivnan was the first Turnkey project undertaken by Sligo Borough Council consisting of 16 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses, one of which was adapted for a client with special needs. The contract cost of the scheme was €1,264,182.

The scheme was completed in December 2003.

### City View at Connaughton Road

This scheme consists of 26 2 bed houses, 2 of which are designed for persons with special needs, and 12 of which are apartment/townhouses. The scheme was designed by Rhatigan & Co., Architects under the direction of the Architects' department of Sligo Borough Council. The project is close to the city centre and associated amenities. The project was completed in 2004 at a construction cost of €2,855,692 and demonstrates the high quality of social housing being provided by Sligo Borough Council.

### Part V Housing at Holborn Hill.

This scheme is the first Part V uptake by Sligo Borough Council.

The project at Holborn Hill consists of a mixed use development of commercial and residential units. The scheme represents a good example of how the demands of Part V can be integrated into a project when tackled at the

early design stage with dialogue between the Local Authority and the developer. The scheme fronts onto two streets, Markievicz Road and Holborn Street. Each street has it's own particular character, one offering a commercial outlook the other, an older inner city residential location. The development recognizes this dual frontage and has been designed to address each street's character with a different approach to the architectural design. The design also takes advantage of the difference in topography between the two streets, using the opportunity to include a semi- basement providing on site car parking to the rear of the commercial units at street level fronting onto Markievicz Road.. The residential elements fronting each street are separated by a landscaped courtyard which is accessed by the residents of each side of the development.

In order that the local authority could have maintenance control over the Holborn Street element, a further 4 units were purchased by the Local Authority under it's Housing Capital / Purchases, allocation.

The development has been a successful partnership resulting in an open and positive approach between the Developer, their architects, and the staff of the Borough Council which the Local Authority see as a model for future Part V developments in the future.

## Focus on Sligo Borough

### Paving Enhancement Works at New Street, Sligo

This project was completed in 2004 as part of the 2000-2006 Village and Urban Renewal Programme. The scheme provided new paving, drainage, public lighting, street furniture, together with soft landscaping. The project was 90% funded by Sligo Borough Council with grant assistance provided by the Village and Urban Renewal Operational Programme which is administered by the Director of Community and Enterprise within Sligo County Council. The project contract cost was €174,000.

### Social Housing at Cornageeha, Sligo

This scheme consists of 68 No. social houses consisting of 2, 3 and 4 bed homes together with 22 No. 3-bed affordable houses. The scheme is situated in an area of new growth and expansion within the Borough and is adjacent to a privately developed site consisting of 200 houses.

The scheme was developed in conjunction with the National Building Agency at a cost of €6,887,743. The affordable houses were sold for €130,000.



△ Housing at Cornageeha, Sligo

## CITY BUILDING – The Changing Face of Sligo

*Sligo Borough Council's City Architect Sean Martin traces the evolution of our City from 19th Century port to 21st Century Gateway City.*



*'The one constant in life is change'.* Sligo as a city has always been changing. A particular dramatic period of change was in the 19th century when our port, which could then be considered the equivalent of an international airport was bringing trade, farming materials and plant, stock, coal and timber. The activity of the Port has cultural significance also; William Pollexfin, a formidable shipping magnate of the

time brought his young grandson, Jack Yeats on early morning inspections of the quays. Yeats would later acknowledge that these experiences with his grandfather fuelled his creative imagination from a very early age and influenced many of the themes of his paintings and illustrations. Sligo's wealth at the time was invested in fine town centre buildings such as the Town Hall, Banks,



## CITY BUILDING – The Changing Face of Sligo

Courthouse, Model School and Town Houses. The Port acted as a *Regional Gateway* connecting Sligo to North America, South America, Europe and Britain, especially Scotland. The foundries of Clydeside provided many of the farm implements of the time while migrant workers made the journey on a seasonal basis seeking employment.

One outstanding manifestation of the current changes in Sligo, the New Inner Relief road, has a precursor in post-famine Sligo of 1848 with the construction of the two *Inner Relief* roads of that time, known as the Albert Line and the Victoria Line. The Albert line is now known as Pearse Road and the Victoria Line as Markievicz Road. The construction of these roads was to facilitate growing traffic issues of the period – a sure sign that the more things change the more they stay the same. Papers at the time carry articles in relation to traffic congestion at Old Pound Street caused by sheep and cattle! But principally these roads were constructed to aid better access and connectivity to the region. The advent of the Bianconi transport network and the difficulty of overcoming the physical barrier of Gallows Hill and Mail Coach Road to the south and Holborn Hill to the North had to be addressed in order to improve transport links to and from Sligo. Markievicz Road and the associated Quay Wall, constructed as a famine relief project and being some 1000feet long and some 30 feet high for example, was representative of a time of significant engineering achievements undertaken in difficult circumstances and site conditions and remains a monument to the men and women of Sligo who built it. The Pearse Road, descending 200feet in just one mile aimed at getting to the heart of Sligo, focusing on the Courthouse and connecting to the existing street pattern at Teeling Street.

The new Sligo Inner Relief Road represents a contemporary feat of engineering which shows the continuation of that process of change in Sligo. The economic activity of the Port has now diminished from it's former glory. The focus is

now on the services sector together with the development of Sligo's industrial medical, diagnostic, toolmaking and institutional sectors. A number of issues have contributed to Sligo's current growth. A series of tax incentives encouraged a new generation manifested in re-generation and development of Rockwood Parade, Kennedy Parade, Kempton Parade and Riverside. The certainty generated from the Sligo & Environs Development Plan 2004-2010, the designation of Sligo gateway city under the National Spatial Strategy, the restoration and refurbishment of key public buildings such as City Hall, Model Arts & Niland Gallery and Sligo Courthouse have significantly contributed to the preservation of key landmarks in a time of change. These important public buildings continue to contribute to the architectural character and quality of Sligo City Centre.

Any deficiencies in the area of contemporary commercial and retail development are now being met in the Quayside Shopping Centre, Wine Street Car Park Redevelopment and at Carraroe. Much of this change does not happen in isolation but is due to the fostering of new partnerships, many of which have been co-ordinated and developed by Sligo Local Authorities.

Another deficiency which is now being met, and is encapsulated in the changing face of Sligo, is tourism and the hospitality industry. Four significant new hotels, two of which are now completed, one under construction at Silver Swan site and one in the planning stage at Bundoran Road will greatly contribute to the tourist growth of Sligo through proactive marketing of Sligo and the region.

Such significant change presents challenges in equal measure. Retaining the quality of the City Centre and integrating balanced development remains a challenge for developers and Planning Authorities to ensure that the quality of life issues of a vibrant City Centre are met. In some cases familiar local landmarks have disappeared such as the Silver Swan Hotel however in the changing face of Sligo this familiar hotel will be replaced by what we anticipate will be a very significant contemporary piece of architecture which will house a new hotel and landmark at Hyde Bridge.

The future changes anticipated by the Local Authority will be in the area of transportation with the continued planning and development of an Eastern bridge, a

▽ Rockwood Parade



## CITY BUILDING – The Changing Face of Sligo

western by pass and bridge, the pedestrianisation of the City centre, the planning and development of the Port area through *Local Area Action Plans* and the continued marketing and development of industrial and technological opportunities in the region.

The continued development of quality housing in the public and private sectors and the development of new partnerships in the creation of integrated communities will continue to be pursued. One such development is envisaged at Ballinode as part of the *Hazelwood Ballinode Local Area Plan 2004-2010*.

The quality of life issues for the people of Sligo are also being addressed through the planning and development programmes relating to pedestrianisation, public arts, the arts generally, recreation and public parks; in particular the development of Doorly Park and the long term development of Cleveragh as a regional park.

The development of towns and cities has always relied on strategic locations and the availability of opportunity. These opportunities must be grasped in the key areas of education, industry, quality housing and environments, where through recreation and improved quality of life, the human imagination can take flight through the fostering of our arts, heritage and culturally rich environment.

The corridor of the new Inner Relief Road will provide new opportunities for new residential and commercial buildings reflecting high quality contemporary architecture on new sites generated by the Inner Relief Road and in particular in the areas of Union Street and Adelaide Street. These buildings will be important in presenting a 'new face' of Sligo to the users of the Inner Relief Road. The 'gateway structures' (which have received planning permission), planned at Carraroe represent the start of such development together with the refurbishment and redevelopment of the former Harper Campbell warehouses at Union Street in the City Centre.

The changing face of Sligo represented by the scale and variety of development currently underway reflects the assertion of Sligo as the regional capital and gateway to the North West. *City Building* comes together through the inter linked development of key areas of human activity, many of which sometime appear to occur in isolation. However, there comes a time when the pieces come together to form a perfect fit that completes the jig-saw. The jig-saw that is city building in Sligo is far from complete but the pieces are certainly coming together!



△ City Hall on Quay Street – one of Sligo's key landmarks



△ Sligo Port

# Cathaoirleach's Year Photo Diary

Cathaoirleach's Year Photo Diary



△ Launch of Bordertrek, IT Sligo.



△ Reception for Joe Kennedy to honour his work for charitable causes



△ Cathaoirleach visits Ballymote Heritage Group



△ Accompanied by Mayor Cllr Declan Bree in presenting a Special Endeavour Prize – Youth Involvement, to Scoil Ursula.



△ Honouring the members and friends of the Phoenix Players, Tubbercurry.



△ Reception for Peter Horan in recognition of his outstanding service to traditional Irish music.



△ Family and friends of Peter Horan.



△ Peter Horan with his proud grand-daughter

# Cathaoirleach's Year Photo Diary



△ Launch of Cathaoirleach's Awards 2005 - Cathaoirleach Awards Committee



△ Unveiling of Roll of Honour of Cathaoirleach, County Hall



△ Cathaoirleach honours Sligo Ladies U-14 Team.



△ Reception for Tourlestrane GAA Club



△ Childrens Book Festival "Design a Bookmark" Competition. Prize Winners from Ballymote / Tubbercurry area with Councillors, Library Staff and Parents.



△ Visit of schoolchildren from Gurteen to County Hall



△ Launch of Sligo Local Authorities Newsletter 'Contact'.



△ Visit of Minister of State for Housing, Noel Ahern T.D. to County Hall

## Conferences and Seminars Attended by Councillors

**County Tourism Conference, Wicklow**  
22nd Jan 2004

**Merrimam Winter School, Clare**  
30th January – 1st February 2004

**Mid West Regional Authority Conference, Nenagh**  
30th January 2004

**La Rencontre de Dublin, Dublin**  
30th – 31st January 2004

**Renewable Energy Conference, Wexford**  
4th – 6th February 2004

**AMAI Spring Seminar, Letterkenny**  
13th – 14th February 2004

**Joint Council Meeting, Omagh**  
23rd February 2004

**Climate Change and Irish Agriculture Conference, Dublin**  
26th February 2004

**St Colmcille Winter School, Letterkenny**  
27th – 29th February 2004

**Our Tourism, New Opportunities, New Treats Conference, Antrim**  
27th – 29th February 2004

**Ratto Heritage Society Environmental Conference, Ballybunion**  
3rd – 6th March 2004

**13th Annual Environmental Conference, Kerry**  
3rd – 6th March 2004

**Duhollow Conference, Cork**  
18th – 21st March 2004

**Confederation of European Councillors Conference, Monaghan**  
18th – 19th March 2004

**Association of Health Boards in Ireland, Annual Conference, Offaly**  
26th – 27th March 2004

**Irish Human Rights Commission, Dublin**  
27th March 2004

**The Clonmel Conference “A Healthy Debate”, Clonmel**  
2nd – 3rd April 2004

**Conference on the Referendum, Ballybofey**  
12th April 2004

**LAMA Annual Conference, Clare**  
15th - 16th April 2004

**Climate Change in Irish Agriculture Conference, Clare**  
15th – 16th April 2004

**Roscrea Spring Conference, Tipperary**  
16th – 18th April 2004

**Parentline Public Conference, Dublin**  
17th April 2004

**Sherkin Island Environmental Conference, Cork**  
22nd – 23rd April 2004

**Mayo County Council, Europeade, Westport**  
22nd – 23rd April 2004

**Understanding the Science of Adult ADHD, Galway**  
23rd April 2004

**Amnesty International Seminar, Dublin**  
27th April 2004

**Irish Vocational Educational Association Congress, Wexford**  
27th – 28th April

**Confederation of EU Councillors, Down**  
01st May 2004

**Local Government 1999 – 2004, Waterford**  
7th – 8th May 2004

**Kadenza Consultants Conference, Waterford**  
07th – 8th May 2004

**MWRA Conference Digital Innovation in Eu Regions**  
13th – 14th May 2004

**Survey Ireland Conference, Dublin**  
27th May 2004

**Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference, Ballaghaderreen**  
16th – 18th July 2004

**International Humbert School, Killala**  
20th – 25th July 2004

**Patrick MacGill Summer School, Glenties**  
18th – 23rd July 2004

**William Carleton Summer School, Clogher**  
2nd – 6th August 2004

**Parnell Summer School, Waterford**  
15th – 20th August 2004

**AMAI Annual Conference, Listowel**  
16th – 18th September 2004

**Tom Johnson Summer School, Louth**  
17th – 19th September 2004

**Ben Keily Literary Weekend, Omagh**  
17th – 19th September 2004

**Managing the Water Environment conference Tipperary**  
24th – 25th September 2004

**Irish Association of Suicidology Annual Conference, Wicklow**  
29th September 2004

**La Touche Legacy Seminar 2004, Wicklow**  
1st – 3rd October 2004

**Combat Poverty Agency Conference, Dublin**  
5th – 6th October 2004

**Feile Frank McCann, Traditional Music Festival, Co Roscommon**  
7th – 10th October 2004

**IPA Training Course for New Members, Sligo**  
8th October 2004

**Tenant Participation in Housing Management, Kildare**  
8th October 2004

**Great Blasket Commemoration, Kerry**  
8th – 10th October 2004

**Blackwater Valley Conference, Cork**  
14th – 16th October 2004

**Confederation of EU Councillors Annual Conference, Gibraltar**  
14th – 17th October 2004

**Tubbercurry Town Twinning Trip to Paris**  
14th – 20th October 2004

**Roger Casement Annual Symposium, Dublin**  
16th October 2004

**Ballymote Community and Enterprise Conference, Co. Sligo**  
15th – 16th October 2004

**Managing Local Economic Development Conference, Portlaoise**  
20th – 21st October 2004

**Roscrea Autumn Conference, Co. Tipperary**  
29th – 31st October 2004

**Local Government Financing Conference, Carlow**  
4th – 5th November 2004

**Local Government Reform Conference, Carlow**  
5th November 2004

**EPA Conference, Irelands Environment, Portlaoise**  
11th November 1004

**LAMA Annual Winter Seminar, Dundalk**  
12th – 13th November 2004

**Irish Rural Dwellers Association Seminar, Tipperary**  
14th November 2004

**Building Peace “The Role of Loyalists and Republicans”, Dublin**  
16th November 2004

**National Tourism Conference, Clare**  
25th – 27th November 2004

**Confederation of EU Councillors “North, South Political Relations, Enniskillen**  
2nd – 3rd December 2004

## Finance Department

The key objective in the Finance Department is to ensure the highest standards of financial management pertain within Sligo County Council and that the financial systems and procedures promote efficient and effective resource management, within the overall policies and objectives of the Council.

The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of the Council's operations both of a revenue and capital nature.

This involves:-

- Monitoring and controlling income and expenditure in all areas
- Arranging borrowing and leasing requirements and
- Investment of funds

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid to, or by, the Council are complied with.

The Council's revenue or day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:-

- Commercial rates
- Government grants
- Various other forms of income such as housing rents, planning application fees, commercial water charges etc.

The amount of capital money available is dependent on Government allocations in the areas of Housing, Roads and Environmental Services.

The Annual Financial Statements set out hereunder are prepared in accordance with the statutory regulations governing the accounts of Local Authorities. Both the Income and expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet are prepared on an income and expenditure basis.



△ Tom Kilfeather  
Head of Finance

### PROMPT PAYMENTS ACT

The Prompt Payments of Account Act 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 aims to ensure that all Public Bodies and Contractors on public sector contracts pay amounts due to suppliers promptly. In the event of a payment not being made within a 30 day period from the date of receipt of their invoice, there is an obligation to pay an interest penalty.

Constant monitoring of the level and nature of outstanding invoices was conducted throughout the year and action was taken where appropriate to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2004

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

Expenditure by Programme Group	Gross Expenditure	Net Income	Net Expenditure	Expenditure
	2004 (€)	2004 (€)	2004 (€)	2003 (€)
Housing	2,387,954	2,175,761	212,193	597,328
Road Transportation and Safety	16,808,519	13,054,126	3,754,393	3,611,535
Water Supply and Sewerage	5,397,361	1,504,876	3,892,485	2,692,460
Development Incentives and Controls	2,904,753	1,224,753	1,680,000	1,639,746
Environmental Protection	4,262,186	871,799	3,390,387	3,087,191
Recreation and Amenity	2,508,258	289,011	2,219,247	1,783,421
Agriculture Education Health and Welfare	4,197,649	3,537,421	660,228	536,942
Miscellaneous Services	5,287,487	3,213,515	2,073,972	801,576
Support Services	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>43,754,167</b>	<b>25,871,262</b>		
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from				
Rates and Local Government Fund	17,882,905			14,750,199
Local Government Fund	13,910,355			11,131,302
County Rates	3,140,510			2,829,046
County Demand	2,352,000			2,099,988
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before</b>	<b>1,519,960</b>			<b>1,310,137</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>	<b>(1,409,362)</b>			<b>(1,186,895)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>	<b>110,598</b>			<b>123,242</b>
<b>General Reserve at 1st January</b>	<b>(1,936,677)</b>			<b>(2,059,919)</b>
<b>General Reserve at 31st December</b>	<b>(1,826,079)</b>			<b>(1,936,677)</b>

# Finance Department

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2004

	2004 €	2003 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	183,539,876	176,331,098
Infrastructural	1,285,276,361	1,288,278,712
Community	8,890,420	8,890,420
Non-Operational	-	-
	<b>1,477,706,657</b>	<b>1,473,500,230</b>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>129,474,890</b>	<b>101,280,266</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>19,623,892</b>	<b>18,346,710</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	184,150	168,359
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	6,549,925	3,474,926
Bank Investments	1,141,299	549,988
Cash at Bank	2,785,854	181,865
Cash on Hand	467	467
Urban Account	1,256,446	1,322,575
	<b>11,918,141</b>	<b>5,698,180</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	-	-
Creditors & Accruals	6,409,671	6,323,038
Finance Leases	-	-
	<b>6,409,671</b>	<b>6,323,038</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>5,508,470</b>	<b>(624,858)</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	49,156,588	50,498,771
Finance Leases	-	-
Refundable Deposits	996,896	600,422
Other	-	-
	<b>50,153,484</b>	<b>51,099,193</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>1,582,160,425</b>	<b>1,541,403,155</b>
<b>Financed By</b>		
Capitalisation Account	1,477,706,657	1,473,500,232
Income WIP	132,110,758	97,348,715
Specific Revenue Reserve	1,707,152	1,707,150
General Revenue Reserve	(1,826,079)	(1,936,677)
Other Balances	(27,538,063)	(29,216,265)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>1,582,160,425</b>	<b>1,541,403,155</b>

## MOTOR TAXATION OFFICE

This Motor Taxation Office at Cleveragh Road, Sligo and Tubbercurry provides a quality service to the customer. Recent Surveys have shown that 18% of our customers avail of the Motor Tax Postal service, with 82% of customers calling directly to our Offices.

The Motor Tax On-Line Service operated by the VRU commenced issuing Motor Tax discs for Private Motor Vehicles in March 2004 and caters for 9% of the customers in County Sligo.

The following Statistics show our business for 2004 and 2003.

### Number of Transactions 2003-2004

	2004	2003
Road Taxes	47,741	49,433
Roadworthiness Certs	2,765	2,482
Driving Licences	8,313	9,974
Miscellaneous	5,945	5,751
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,764</b>	<b>67,650</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>€9,467,354</b>	<b>€9,959,142</b>

## Location Election Results – 11 June 2004

<b>LOCAL ELECTION – 11 JUNE 2004 TOBERCURRY LEA, SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	TOTAL ELECTORATE	7,416	<b>NAMES OF CANDIDATES ELECTED</b> MARGARET GORMLEY (NON-P) AIDAN COLLEARY (F.F.) MICHAEL FLEMING (F.G.) JERRY LUNDY (F.F.)
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	76	
	VALID POLL	5,495	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	4	
	QUOTA	1,100	

NAMES OF CANDIDATES (7 No.) (*Denotes outgoing member)	First Count	Second Count	Third Count	Fourth Count	Fifth Count
	Number of Votes	Transfer of Gormley, M's Surplus and Result	Transfer of O'Dowd, K's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Cawley, P's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Fleming, M's Surplus and Result
* Cawley, Patrick Joseph (F.G.)	412	+104 516	-60 576	-576 -	-
* COLLEARY, AIDAN (F.F.)	917	+67 984	+132 1,116	1,116	1,116
* FLEMING, MICHAEL (F.G.)	742	+169 911	+90 1,001	+276 1,277	-177 1,100
* GORMLEY, MARGARET (NON-P)	1,790	-690 1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Kivlehan, Brendan (F.G.)	606	+124 730	+50 780	+96 876	+118 994
LUNDY, JERRY (F.F.)	659	+84 743	+103 846	+125 971	+59 1,030
O'Dowd, Kieran (F.F.)	372	+142 514	-514 -	-	-
Non-transferable papers not effective	-	-	+79 79	+79 158	- 158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>5,498</b>

<b>LOCAL ELECTION – 11 JUNE 2004 DROMORE LEA, SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	TOTAL ELECTORATE	5,793	<b>NAMES OF CANDIDATES ELECTED</b> JOSEPH QUEENAN (F.F.) MARY BARRETT (F.G.) PAUL CONMY (F.G.)
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	48	
	VALID POLL	4,056	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	3	
	QUOTA	1,015	

NAMES OF CANDIDATES (5 No.) (*Denotes outgoing member)	First Count	Second Count	Third Count
	Number of Votes	Transfer of Queenan, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of O'Connor, G's Surplus and Result
* BARRETT, MARY (F.G.)	1,075	1,075	1,075
* CONMY, PAUL (F.G.)	820	+107 927	+109 1,036
Hallinan, Pdraig (S.F.)	529	+55 584	+174 758
O'Connor, Gerry (F.F.)	378	+77 455	-455 -
* QUEENAN, JOSEPH (F.F.)	1,254	-239 1,015	1,015
Non-transferable papers not effective	-	-	+172 172
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>4,056</b>

<b>LOCAL ELECTION – 11 JUNE 2004 SLIGO STRANDHILL LEA, SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	TOTAL ELECTORATE	13,445	<b>NAMES OF CANDIDATES ELECTED</b> TONY MC LOUGHLIN (F.G.) DECLAN BREE (LAB.) SEAN MAC MANUS (S.F.) IMELDA HENRY (F.G.) JIM MC GARRY (LAB.) DEIRDRE HEALY MC GOWAN (F.F.) ALBERT HIGGINS (F.F.)
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	189	
	VALID POLL	8,514	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	7	
	QUOTA	1,065	

NAMES OF CANDIDATES (11 No.) (*Denotes outgoing member)	First Count	Second Count	Third Count	Fourth Count	Fifth Count	Sixth Count	Seventh Count	Eighth Count
	Number of Votes	Transfer of Mc Loughlin, T's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Bree, D's Surplus and Result	Transfer of O'Sullivan, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Mac Manus, S's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Hunt, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Henry, I's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Cadden, F's Surplus and Result
* BREE, DECLAN (LAB.)	1,147	1,147	-82 1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065
Cadden, Francis (F.F.)	376	+64 440	+7 447	+9 456	+12 468	+30 498	+15 513	-513 -
HEALY MC GOWAN, DEIRDRE (F.F.)	769	+146 913	+7 922	+8 930	+9 939	+42 981	+28 1,010	+207 1,217
HENRY, IMELDA (F.G.)	888	+278 986	+11 977	+31 1,008	+8 1,016	+160 1,176	-111 1,065	1,065
* HIGGINS, ALBERT (F.F.)	708	+127 835	+5 840	+6 846	+7 853	+30 883	+7 890	+77 967
Hunt, Jarlath (F.G.)	208	+152 360	+4 364	+11 375	+4 379	-379 -	-	-
* MC GARRY, JIM (LAB.)	813	+127 940	+33 973	+31 1,004	+24 1,028	+39 1,067	1,067	1,067
* Mc Guinn, Roddy (F.F.)	493	+74 567	+11 578	+9 587	+11 598	+9 607	+16 622	+59 681
* MC LOUGHLIN, TONY (F.G.)	2,054	-939 1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065
* MAC MANUS, SEAN (S.F.)	1,149	1,140	1,140	1,140	-75 1,065	1,065	1,065	1,065
O Sullivan, Jim	118	+21 139	+4 143	-143 -	-	-	-	-
Non-transferable papers not effective	-	-	-	+38 38	- 38	+69 107	+45 152	+170 322
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>8,514</b>



## Location Election Results – 11 June 2004

<b>LOCAL ELECTION – 11 JUNE 2004</b> <b>SLIGO DRUMCLIFFE LEA,</b> <b>SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	TOTAL ELECTORATE	12,221	<b>NAMES OF CANDIDATES ELECTED</b> JOE LEONARD (F.G.) JUDE DEVINS (F.F.) PATSY BARRY (F.F.) VERONICA CAWLEY (LAB.) ITA FOX (F.G.) SEAMUS KILGANNON (F.F.)
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	121	
	VALID POLL	7,677	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	6	
	QUOTA	1,097	

NAMES OF CANDIDATES (11 No.) (*Denotes outgoing member)	First Count	Second Count	Third Count	Fourth Count	Fifth Count	Sixth Count	Seventh Count	Eighth Count	Ninth Count
	Number of Votes	Transfer of Leonard, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Scanlon, B's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Devins, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Barry, P's Surplus and Result	Transfer of McHugh, B's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Branley, P's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Skeffington, D's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Cawley, V's Surplus and Result
* BARRY, PATSY (F.F.)	1,040	+117 1,157	1,157	1,157	1,157	1,157	1,157	1,157	1,157
* Branley, Padraig (F.F.)	398	+12 410	+8 418	+12 430	+15 445	+91 536	-536 -	-	-
CAWLEY, VERONICA (LAB.)	813	+26 839	+80 919	+11 930	+8 938	+56 994	+72 1,066	+169 1,235	-139 1,097
DEVINS, JUDE (F.F.)	1,158	1,158	1,158	-61 1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097
* FOX, ITA (F.G.)	639	+60 699	+21 720	+7 727	+13 740	+115 855	+91 946	+65 1,011	+34 1,045
* KILGANNON, SEAMUS (F.F.)	515	+6 521	+4 525	+12 537	+3 540	+58 598	+164 762	+66 828	+21 849
* LEONARD, JOE (F.G.)	1,411	-314 1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097	1,097
Mc Hugh, Brian (F.F.)	392	+7 399	+11 410	+8 418	+3 421	-421 -	-	-	-
Peyton, John (F.G.)	572	+58 630	+9 639	+7 646	+8 654	+36 690	+55 745	+49 794	+15 809
* Scanlon, Brian (Lab.)				-	-	-	-	-	-
Skeffington, Desmond (S.F.)	547	+24 571	+28 599	+4 603	+10 613	-24 637	-41 678	-678	
Non-transferable papers not effective	-	-	+35 35	-35 35	-35 35	+41 76	+123 199	+318 517	+69 586
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>7,677</b>

Appendix I

<b>LOCAL ELECTION – 11 JUNE 2004</b> <b>BALLYMOTE LEA,</b> <b>SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	TOTAL ELECTORATE	10,169	<b>NAMES OF CANDIDATES ELECTED</b> MARTIN BAKER (F.F.) GERARD MULLANEY (F.G.) JOHN SHERLOCK (F.F.) GERRY MURRAY (F.G.) PAT MCCGRATH (F.G.)
	INVALID BALLOT PAPERS	76	
	VALID POLL	7,204	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	5	
	QUOTA	1,201	

NAMES OF CANDIDATES (11 No.) (*Denotes outgoing member)	First Count	Second Count	Third Count	Fourth Count	Fifth Count	Sixth Count	Seventh Count	Eighth Count
	Number of Votes	Transfer of Baker, M's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Scanlon, M's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Gilmartin, J's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Mulcahy, T's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Walsh, T's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Mullaney, G's Surplus and Result	Transfer of Parke, A's Surplus and Result
BAKER, MARTIN (F.F.)	1,435	-234 1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201	1,201
Gilmartin, Joe (S.F.)	330	+13 343	+6 349	-349 -	-	-	-	-
MCCGRATH, PAT (F.G.)	602	+9 611	+5 616	+24 640	+135 775	+56 831	+16 847	+185 1,032
Mulcahy, Tim (Lab.)	469	+5 474	+27 501	+55 556	-556 -	-	-	-
MULLANEY, GERARD (F.G.)	906	+71 977	+10 987	+27 1,014	+60 1,074	+190 1,264	-63 1,201	1,201
* MURRAY, GERRY (F.G.)	820	+8 828	+3 831	+12 843	+48 891	+55 946	+17 963	+122 1,085
* Parke, Alfie (Non-P)	481	+26 507	+12 519	+56 575	+91 666	+110 776	+19 795	-795 -
Scanlon, Michael (Non-P)	140	+2 142	-142 -	-	-	-	-	-
* Shannon, Joe (F.F.)	684	+42 726	+3 729	+20 749	+49 798	+22 820	+3 823	+85 908
SHERLOCK, JOHN (F.F.)	777	+25 802	+61 863	+85 948	+50 998	+118 1,116	+8 1,124	+145 1,269
Walsh, Thomas Whitey (F.G.)	560	+33 593	+9 602	+26 628	+26 654	-654 -	-	-
Non-transferable papers not effective	-	-	+6 6	+44 50	+97 147	+103 250	-250	+258 508
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>7,204</b>

# Service Indicators

## HOUSING

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
H1	Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	1,679	1,699	1,729	1,701	1,701
	Overall % of dwellings that are let	97%	98%	96%	96%	96.18%
	Overall % of dwellings that are empty	3%	2%	4%	4%	3.82%
	% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	31%	18%	22%	29%	29.23%
	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	83%	88%	72%	80%	80.43%
	% of empty dwellings available for letting	17%	13%	28%	20%	19.57%
H2	Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting	5.5 weeks	3 weeks	3 weeks	3 weeks	3.5 weeks
H3	Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	63%	66%	71%	96%	95.56%
H4	Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:					
	– the shared ownership housing scheme	15 days	12.5 days	10 days	10 days	12.5 days*
	– housing loans schemes	15 days	12.5 days	18.75 days	15 days	15 days*
	– local authority housing	15 days	12.5 days	15 days	15 days	13.75 days*
H5	Traveller Accommodation Total number of traveller families accommodation as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%	0.00%	66.67%

\* Average number of days rounded to nearest quarter day.

## ROADS

	Indicator	Total
R1	Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square meter)	273,607
R2	Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum	2.72%

Restoration maintenance grant is our main source of funding unlike others. Have done mostly double surface dressing. Total area depends mainly on grant. Most roads done were not surface dressed in the last 10-15yrs therefore considerable preparation works required.

## MOTOR TAXATION

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
M1	Percentage of motor tax transactions which					
	- are dealt with over the counter	81%	83%	82%	83%	82%
	- are dealt with by post	19%	17%	18%	17%	18%
	- are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
M2	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application					
	(a) On the same day	2338	2009	1965	1806	8118
	(b) On the third day or less	544	728	712	534	2518
	(c) On the fifth day or less	96	116	114	153	479
	(d) Over 5 days	224	58	57	51	390
M2	Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application					
	(a) On the same day	73%	69%	69%	71%	71%
	(b) On the third day or less	17%	25%	25%	21%	22%
	(c) On the fifth day or less	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%
	(d) Over 5 days	7%	2%	2%	2%	3%
M3	Public opening hours:					
	- average number of opening hours per week	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5

\* Online applications processed by VRU Shannon

# Service Indicators

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>WATER</b>					
E1 Percentage of river channel which is:					
a) Unpolluted	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%
b) Slightly polluted	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
c) Moderately polluted	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
d) Seriously polluted	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Percentage of drinking water analyses results in compliance with statutory requirements with regards to					
- public schemes	96%	96%	100%	95%	97%
- private schemes (where appropriate)	90%	89%	89%		89%
<b>FIRE SERVICE</b>					
E3 Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in					
- part time stations	4.73	5.12	4.70	4.68	4.80
E4 Percentage of attendances at scenes where					
- first attendance is at scene with 10 minutes	74%	64%	59%	63%	65%
- first attendance is at scene within 20 minutes	23%	23%	32%	27%	26%
- first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	3%	13%	8%	10%	9%
E5 Fire prevention					
- total number of fire safety certificate applications received	24	49	34	24	131
- total number of fire safety certificate applications processed	24	47	31	14	116
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>					
E6 Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection	na	na	na	na	na
E7 Percentage of household waste recycled	* 5%	5%	3%	3%	16.6%
E8 Percentage of household waste going to landfill	95%	95%	97%	97%	83.4%
E9 Recycling facilities *** see opposite					
E10 Litter					
Number of full-time litter wardens	2	2	2	2	2
Total number of part-time litter wardens	0	0	0	0	0
Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.68
Number of on-the spot fines	34	122	73	76	305
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	0	0	0	20	20
Number of prosecutions secured**	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of areas within the local authority that are:					
- unpolluted (i.e. litter free)	41%	41%	41%	41%	15%
- slightly polluted with litter	18%	18%	18%	18%	41%
- moderately polluted with litter	29%	29%	29%	29%	33%
- significantly polluted with litter	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%
- grossly polluted with litter	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
E11 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement					
- total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	120	425	329	307	1181
number of complaints investigated	94	295	347	294	1030
number of complaints dismissed	35	96	70	42	243
number of enforcement procedures taken	66	205	211	191	673
E12 Percentage of Schools participating in environmental campaigns					
- primary schools	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
- secondary schools	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%

\* Sligo does not yet have a collection for organic waste, which takes up approx 33% of an average bin. Such a collection would add significantly to the % of waste recycled. Also this figure does not account for domestic waste diverted by the use of compost bins

\*\* Awaiting court dates

# Service Indicators

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (continued) – \*\*\* E9 – RECYCLING FACILITIES

Category		Number of Bring Sites		Number of Civic Amenity Sites		Total number of facilities		Number of locations per 5,000 of population		Tonnage of waste recycling per 5,000 of population	
		Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total
Glass	Qtr 1	49	49	1	1	50	50	4.3	4.3	14.43	67.99
	Qtr 2	49		1		50		4.3		15.77	
	Qtr 3	49		1		50		4.3		21.04	
	Qtr 4	49		1		50		4.3		16.75	
Cans	Qtr 1	49	49	1	1	50	50	4.3	4.3	0.61	2.92
	Qtr 2	49		1		50		4.3		0.78	
	Qtr 3	49		1		50		4.3		0.85	
	Qtr 4	49		1		50		4.3		0.68	
Textiles	Qtr 1	4	4	1	1	5	5	0.43	0.43		2.3
	Qtr 2	4		1		5		0.43			
	Qtr 3	4		1		5		0.43			
	Qtr 4	4		1		5		0.43			
Batteries *	Qtr 1	4	4	1	1	5	5	0.43	0.43		0.9
	Qtr 2	4		1		5		0.43			
	Qtr 3	4		1		5		0.43			
	Qtr 4	4		1		5		0.43			
Oils *	Qtr 1		0		0		0		0		0
	Qtr 2										
	Qtr 3										
	Qtr 4	0		0		0		0			
Others: Plastics: Cardboard: Newspapers	Qtr 1	27	27	1	1	28	28	2.41	2.41		42.6
	Qtr 2	27		1		28		2.41			
	Qtr 3	27		1		28		2.41			
	Qtr 4	11		1		28		2.41			
<b>Total</b>			<b>133</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>138</b>		<b>11.87</b>		<b>116.71</b>

\* Based on AER submitted to Mayo CoCo by collectors in 2003

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Category		No. of applications determined		% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks		Average length of time taken to determine where further information is sought		% of Grants		% of Refusals		% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala		% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala		% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	
		Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total	Qtr 1-4	Total
Individual Houses	Qtr 1	165	769	79%	79	66	66	81%	81%	19%	19%	100%	87%	0%	0%	0%	13%
	Qtr 2	173		84%		76		81%		19%		100%		0%		0%	
	Qtr 3	204		73%		78		76%		24%		50%		0%		50%	
	Qtr 4	237		81%		45		86%		14%		100%		0%		0%	
Housing Development	Qtr 1	25	102	71%	71	82	82	80%	80%	20%	20%	50%	37%	0%	0%	50%	75%
	Qtr 2	29		62%		82		69%		31%		100%		0%		0%	
	Qtr 3	22		65%		71		85%		15%		0%		0%		0%	
	Qtr 4	26		87%		93		87%		13%		0%		0%		100%	
Other: not requiring EIA	Qtr 1	111	457	76%	76	76	76	95%	95%	5%	5%	50%	46%	0%	0%	50%	54%
	Qtr 2	137		80%		75		94%		6%		33%		0%		67%	
	Qtr 3	136		77%		77		96%		4%		0%		0%		100%	
	Qtr 4	73		79%		76		95%		5%		100%		0%		0%	
Others requiring EIA	Qtr 1	0	1	0%	25	0	20	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%
	Qtr 2	0		0%		0		0%		0%		0%		0%		0%	
	Qtr 3	0		0%		0		0%		0%		0%		0%		0%	
	Qtr 4	1		100%		80		100%		0%		0%		0%		0%	

Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
P2 Planning Enforcement					
total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	60	65	70	56	251
total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed					0
- number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	46	97	136	95	374
- number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	1	10	11	12	34
- number of prosecutions	1	4	8	4	17
P3 Public Opening hours					
- average number of opening hours per week	35	35	35	35	35
P4 Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	10	10	10	10	10
P5 Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	2%	23%	23%	24%	18%

# Service Indicators

## REVENUE

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>Rev 1</b>	<b>House Rent</b>					
	(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	55%	70%	78%	84%	84%
	(b) Percentage of arrears:					
	(i) 4-6 weeks old	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	(ii) 6-12 weeks old	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
	(iii) More than 12 weeks old	93%	93%	94%	94%	94%
<b>Rev 2</b>	<b>Housing loans</b>					
	(a) Amounts collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	60%	74%	83%	90%	90%
	(b) Percentage of arrears:					
	(i) 1 month old	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%
	(ii) 2-3 months old	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
	(ii) more than 3 months old	94%	93%	93%	93%	93%
<b>Rev 3</b>	<b>Commercial Rates</b>					
	Amounts collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	6%	30%	64%	93%	93%

Key Projects including the transfer of the Water Services function from Sligo Borough to Sligo County Council under the Local Government Act 2001 and continued preparations for the Non Domestic Water Metering Project impacted adversely on the resources available to manage this area. The collection rate achieved is disappointing and should improve considerably in 2005.

## CORPORATE ISSUES

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>C1</b>	<b>Percentage of working days lost to sickness through</b>					
	- certified leave	3.36%	3.16%	2.91%	3.76%	3.34%
	- uncertified leave	0.52%	0.46%	0.36%	0.47%	0.48%
	Expenditure on Training & Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	3.1	3.1	4		6.4*

\* Guidelines on calculating this figure were issued by the LGMSB at the end of September 2004. These guidelines broadened the definitions of costs that could be included and provided a methodology for calculating direct and indirect costs. In October a new coding system was introduced on Agresso to capture these costs. When the above factors were taken into account, a review of the percentage spend for 2004 showed a significant increase.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>L1</b>	<b>Public Opening Hours</b>					
	- average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	39	39	39	39	39
	- average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	15
<b>L2</b>	<b>Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population</b>	24%	25%	27%	28%	28%
<b>L3</b>	<b>Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for</b>					
	(a) Books	0.65	0.64	0.7	0.64	2.63
	(b) Other items Schools Service / local studies	0.19	0.02	0.02	0.2	0.43
<b>L4</b>	<b>Percentage of Libraries that offer Internet access to the public</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>L5</b>	<b>Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population</b>	87.58	93.77	111.74	155.23	448.32

## ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>A&amp;C 1</b>	<b>Arts Grants</b>					
	- Number of arts grants allocated	4	11	11	8	34
	- Total value of arts grants allocated per 1,000 population					797.33

## RECREATIONAL SERVICES

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>Rec 1</b>	<b>Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population:</b>					
	- directly provided by the local authority	0.034				0.034
	- facilitated by the local authority	0.017			0.017	0.034
<b>Rec 2</b>	<b>Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population</b>	998	894	1150	850	3892

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & CO-OPERATION

	Indicator	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
<b>CP 1</b>	<b>Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Óg scheme</b>					40%