



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Mhaigh Eo  
Public Participation Network Mayo

# COUNTY MAYO COMMUNITY WELLBEING VISION STATEMENT



# WHAT IS MAYO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

**Mayo PPN is a network of community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations based in Mayo.**

Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) is an independent umbrella organisation and works in partnership with Mayo County Council. It is the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. Whenever the local authority needs people to participate in consultations or sit on the committees that form policies, such as Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) it will call on the PPN to select these people from amongst its members. Mayo PPN has a group called the Secretariat Committee that oversee the work of the PPN and implement the workplan. The members of this group are independent of the Local Authority and are elected by the members of the PPN. Mayo PPN has over 1200 groups and includes community-based groups, organisations, associations, clubs, societies and charities.

## Benefits of why should my organisation be involved in Mayo PPN?



## How to Register as a Member Group

All the information you need to register your group as a member is on our website: [www.mayoppn.ie](http://www.mayoppn.ie)

#BuildingABetterFuture

# LAUNCH OF MAYO PPN WELLBEING VISION STATEMENT

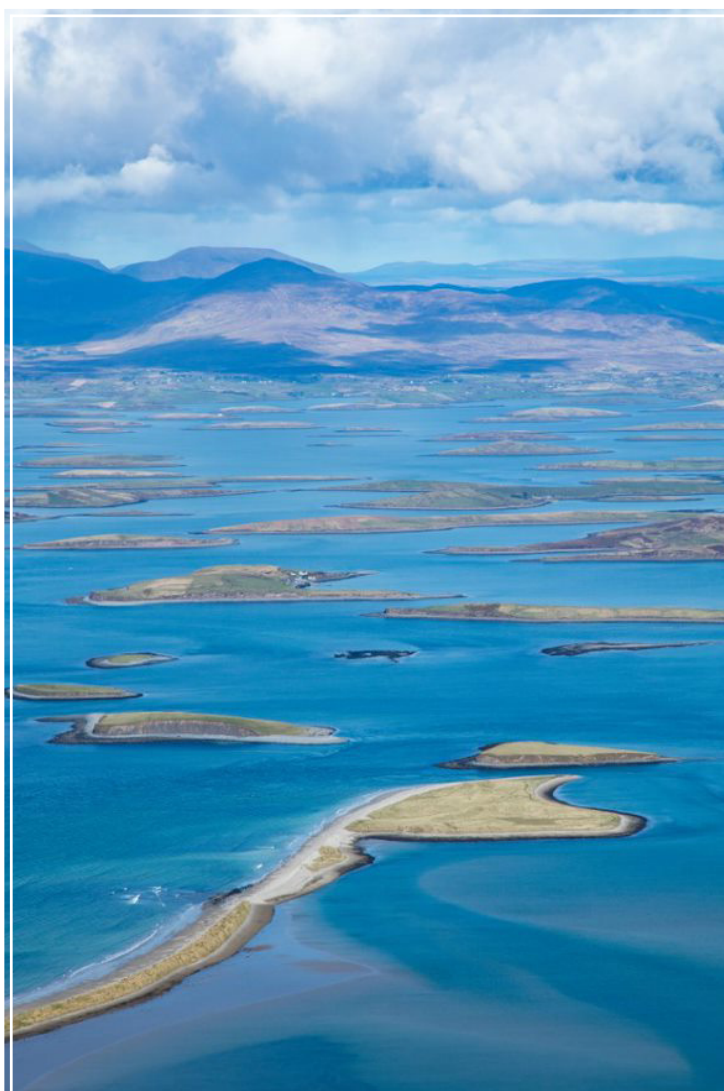


**L-R** Kieran Joyce, Secretariat. Maura Murphy, Community Section.  
Mary Costello, PPN Resource Worker.  
Deirdre Finnerty, Head of Community. Daragh Owens, Secretariat.



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### **Mayo PPN**

#### **Chairpersons Welcome**

#### **MARGARET KENNY UPTON**

I was privileged to be part of the process that developed an overall Wellbeing Statement for County Mayo as well as specific wellbeing statements for each of the municipal districts. Community Wellbeing is ensuring that basic needs are met, that people have a sense of purpose, and that they feel able to achieve important goals, to participate in society and to live the lives they value and have reason to value. We must strive to move the Vision forward and make it a reality.

### **Message from Mayo PPN**

#### **Resource Worker**

#### **MARY COSTELLO**

As PPN Resource Worker I am delighted with the publication of the Community Wellbeing Vision Statement for County Mayo. It was an honour and privilege to work with individuals and community groups right across the county. I am delighted that the PPN can facilitate the voice of our diverse range of member groups on issues that are important to them and their communities. This is your county so how its shaped needs your input and the PPN is the platform that can collectively create a shared community vision which is what this community wellbeing vision statement is about.

### **Chief Executive, Mayo County Council**

#### **KEVIN KELLY**

Mayo is an inclusive County that respects and values its people and communities. The mutual objective of Mayo County Council (MCC) and the Public Participation Network (PPN) is to support and empower these committed and dedicated communities.

The PPN structures offer Mayo County Council the opportunity to collaborate and link directly with those who do so much for their localities. As the Council works towards making Mayo the place of choice to live, work, visit and invest, we recognise that these structures of voluntary and community organisations play a pivotal role in delivering this vision.

Mayo PPN is engaged and pro-actively consulted in the development of all Mayo's community, social, economic, and infrastructural policies. This contribution further promotes information sharing and cross collaboration between both PPN and Mayo County Council. The Council will continue to work with the PPN in strengthening its position as an integral and respected partner in local decision-making.

MCC have supported the PPN with the development of this Wellbeing Vision Statement for County Mayo and will work closely with them in realising beneficial outcomes.

The Council recognises that the values and principles set out in the statement will further support and promote wellbeing for those living in each of our towns and villages now and for future generations.

## WHAT IS OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING?

If we woke up in the morning and County Mayo was the best that it could be – what would that be like?

This document sets out what the member groups of Mayo PPN in the 4 Municipal Districts in the County have agreed and describes what they want to see achieved. This will ensure a well community, so that each part of the County can be the best it can be for this and future generations.

The 1,200 groups in the County represent community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental activities throughout the community that they work hard to foster and support. They have invested considerable time and effort to generate a shared view of what they wish to see achieved. This document is intended to inform Mayo County Council and other state and semi-state agencies, whose function it is to deliver services to the people of Mayo and what the people of the County have as their goals.

This Vision is a blueprint of what Mayo PPN, its representatives, and its members will work in partnership with local government and other stakeholders to secure for the County.

## WHY ARE WE FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY WELLBEING?

Thinking about the wellbeing of our community is an approach that allows us to work out what the different parts of our County would look like if they were perfect. We need to take into account everyone's needs, across all aspects of our lives, to ensure that wellbeing is achieved for all.

Although we often think about wellbeing in terms of good physical and mental health, it also describes the wider conditions we need as individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, healthier environment and increased prosperity.

Considering all the aspects of community wellbeing together helps us to identify actions that can be undertaken by communities alongside local and national government. PPNs in Ireland developed their own model, based on international experience, to help them explore all aspects of wellbeing (see diagram below).



Fig. 1 Describing Community Wellbeing in Ireland

*NOTE: This Vision is what Mayo PPN member groups want to see achieved in Mayo. It is not how things are right now, but it is what we are working towards achieving.*

## HOW WAS THIS VISION CREATED?

The Vision was developed through an open, participative, and transparent process which involved all member groups operating in the 4 Municipal Districts in the County in late 2022.

In this process member groups were asked to consider all aspects of life and things that affect this in their community, using a community wellbeing approach. This involved considering each of the six domains that describe aspects of our lives, set out in the community wellbeing model above ('social and community development', 'economy and resources', 'culture values and meaning', 'physical and mental health', 'environment and sustainability', and 'public participation, democracy and good governance').

PPN member groups were invited to participate in workshops held in each of the Municipal Districts, and following this all the inputs gathered at the workshop were written up and circulated to the groups who then had an opportunity to make inputs online under each heading for a further two week period.

*The detailed inputs from these consultations can be seen in separate documents.*



Fig. 2 How the Wellbeing Statement was Developed

The diagram above illustrates how the Vision was developed. At workshop consultations, member groups were asked to consider all the positive aspects of living in their Municipal District and then, using the six community wellbeing headings they were asked to identify what they consider important for their community's wellbeing.

The Vision represents consensus amongst participating PPN member groups.

## OUR VISION

Our overall, summary vision for County Mayo is set out on (p.7). Following this, the Vision for Community Wellbeing of each Municipal District is presented in alphabetical order; again, an overall vision statement for that part of the County is put forward along with the what the community wants to see achieved under each of the 6 headings that look at different aspects of our wellbeing vision.

Mayo County Council has signed up to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see p.32 for details) and where each of the vision headings relates to specific SDGs, these are indicated.



Fig. 3 County Mayo

It is important to recognise that the Vision is a high-level statement of our aspirations. It is our goal and ambition. Our representatives will be guided by this in their work and our member groups will be encouraged to support these actions.

The PPN may choose to carry out further, more detailed policy development, through Linkage or Interest Groups or the PPN as a whole.

## HOW WILL THE VISION BE USED?

An indication of the range of ways in which the Vision can be useful is presented below.

For the PPN and Member Groups, the Vision and the process involved in developing it;

- establishes and strengthens relationships between member groups and within the PPN
- improves internal capacity for collaborative decision-making, in skills such as facilitation, harvesting and drafting, in development and execution of consultation and other processes
- encourages greater and more informed participation

### Internally (within the PPN), the Vision can

- inform decision-making
- form the foundation and focus of PPN work, informing Strategic and Annual Plans
- guide and support PPN representatives
- form the foundation from which Linkage or Interest Groups can develop policies and positions in their areas of expertise
- facilitate PPNs' ability to carry out required monitoring and evaluation of their activities and performance
- provide an opportunity for member groups to engage with their PPN in a positive way

### Externally, the Vision can

- be disseminated to the County Council and other agencies to communicate the Vision drawn up by the community
- form the basis of submissions and responses to consultations
- be an ongoing vehicle to communicate agreed community aspirations to regulators and administrative agencies



# OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN COUNTY MAYO

County Mayo is a great place to be! Everyone is a valued member of our community. We are proud of, and celebrate, our unique Irish heritage and our thriving Irish language and culture. This is a multi-cultural and inclusive community where we celebrate diversity, support one another, and all actively volunteer to keep our County the best that it can be. We are open and welcoming, protecting and sharing the rich and precious built heritage and beautiful natural environment on which we rely.

Our local government is transparent and works in genuine partnership with communities involving all voices, including the young, to plan for the future and deliver attractive and accessible spaces for us to live, as well as the

public services and facilities that are needed. We have a diversified and innovative economy, that provides good livelihoods, and there is access to excellent training and education opportunities. Along with excellent infrastructure, including communications, transport and housing, this allows us to live and work sustainably, and to benefit from managing our resources with care. We are all able to enjoy a wide variety of outstanding community facilities and services, and a range of recreational activities, as well as access to wonderful wild and open spaces. There are excellent local health services and supports which help us to live well. We are a resilient and social community that makes it possible for each of us to live our best lives.

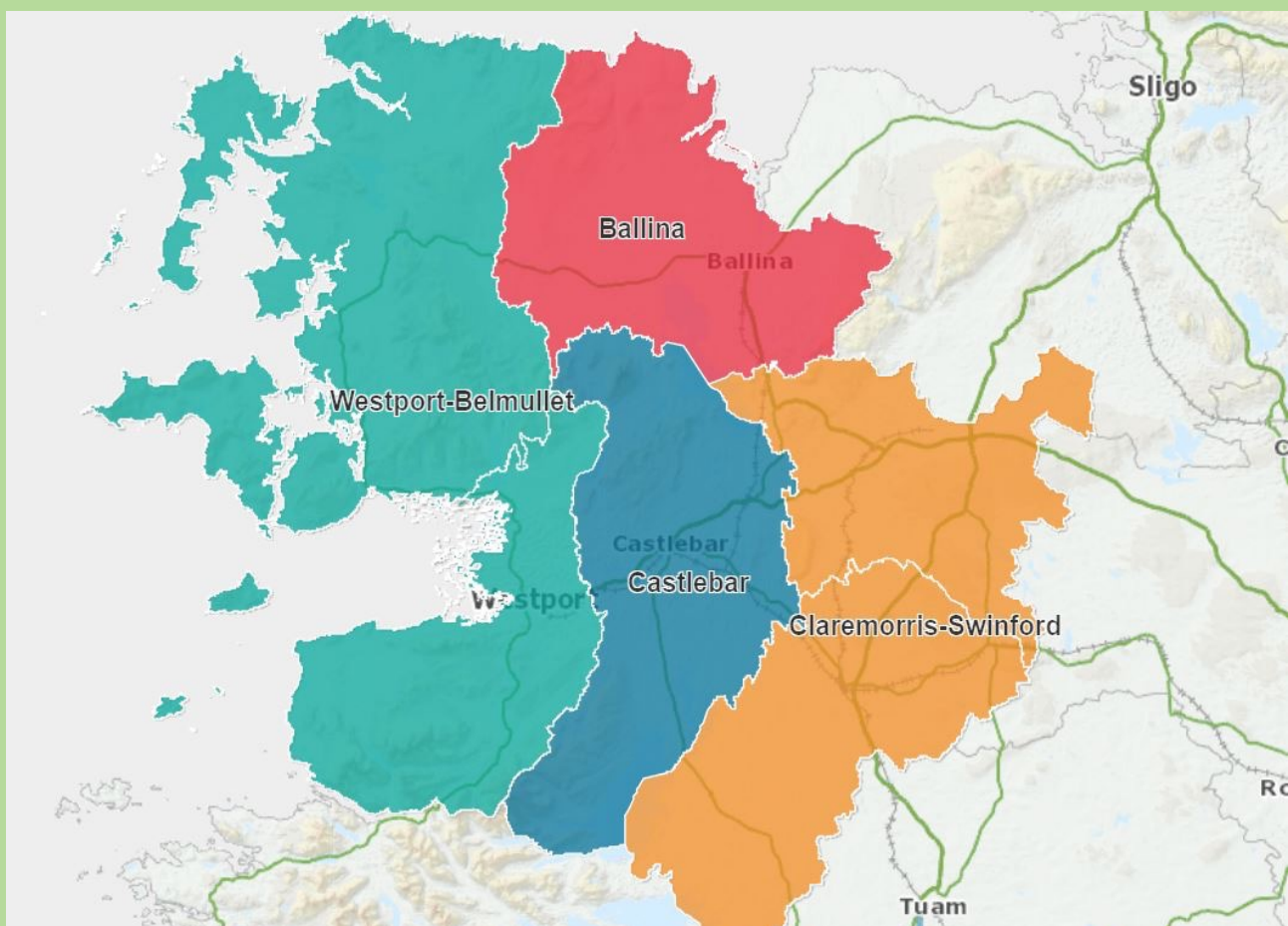


Fig. 5 The Four Municipal Districts of County Mayo

# OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ballina Municipal District occupies the North-East of the County, reaching from County Sligo westwards to Bellacorick and from the coast around Killala Bay and Ballycastle southwards to Lough Conn. It is home to over 25,000 people and includes the towns of Ballina, Crossmolina, Killala, Ballycastle, Bonniconlon and Knockmore.

We all play a part in creating the strong and dynamic community that exists in this part of County Mayo, where we care for one another

and our environment. We have a real say in long-term planning that delivers sustainable facilities, services and infrastructure. These underpin our varied and flexible economy. We are leaders in living sustainably and everyone in the community benefits from this. Together we work to protect and enable everyone to enjoy our beautiful natural surroundings. We value and celebrate all the diversity in our community and our Irish culture is alive and flourishing. Good local health care provision supports us to live well.



Nephtin & Lough Conn



Titanic Laherdane

## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – BALLINA MD

Our community is a safe place where everyone is respected. All groups here have a say in our community development, and we work together to take care of our environment into the future.

Everyone here has a good quality, affordable home that is suited to their needs. We have excellent, flexible, facilities that support enterprises, services and community initiatives, as well as sports, art, culture and recreational activities. These facilities are appropriate for all ages and to meet the very varied needs in our community. All of us can access good local transport that is regular and reliable, throughout the area.

We care for and support members of our community throughout their lives, as their needs dictate, with accessible local healthcare and community facilities and services for children, youth, families, carers and older people, which are available when they are needed.

There is a good variety of local jobs suited to different skills and backgrounds enabling people to access work. Our volunteers contribute hugely to the vibrance of our community. Their work is supported and they are equipped to take on important actions in relation to local assets, heritage, and so on.

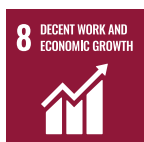
- All children and young people have access to safe, supportive spaces and affordable, high quality, dedicated facilities such as playgrounds, sensory parks creches and childcare in rural and urban areas. Young parents are actively supported.
- Older people in our community are supported to live independently and have access to affordable care of their choice when needed. They are actively involved in the community and their participation is valued.



## WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES - BALLINA MD

We have good, flexible, employment opportunities throughout this part of Mayo. Employment support schemes provide a bridge to employment and support community initiatives, giving people purpose, focus and opportunities. Small, part-time, family and social enterprises all play an important part in our economy and their value is recognised with a variety of supports. Seed funding is available for new businesses and community initiatives, and to support our sustainable heritage related tourism. This area leads the way in sustainable energy development, generation and retrofitting, with supports provided to ensure that the community benefits from this technology.

There are excellent schools and education opportunities at all levels here. Training centres cater to a range of different sectors and apprenticeship areas, providing valuable employment skills. Those who cannot work are also able to share their skills. Our economy is underpinned by excellent broadband and a free, low emission, public transport service.



## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE - BALLINA MD

There is a strong culture of volunteering across all the community and we recognise the benefits we gain from volunteering to support our community. Volunteers are encouraged and supported, their contribution is recognised and they have manageable roles. The administrative requirements for community groups are streamlined, with good funding and supports provided.

All of us have a real say in shaping the future of our communities through excellent engagement by Mayo County Council. Our local elected representatives meet regularly with communities, follow-up and feedback on issues that arise, working on behalf of constituents irrespective of political party positions. Mayo County Council operates transparently and communicates effectively with communities. It engages actively with young people in the area. The voices of all in the community but particularly those that are marginalised are actively sought and included via the Public Participation Network.



## CULTURE, VALUES & MEANING - BALLINA MD

This is a multi-cultural community that is open, tolerant and respectful. We celebrate the rich tapestry of culture and diversity found here, learning about one another, embracing change and confident of our own identities.

All aspects of Irish culture are alive, across all generations, in this area. We share traditional skills, record all aspects of our heritage, and celebrate and promote our music, dance and the Irish language. We all understand the unique heritage of this place; its people, their activities and the history that has gone before us. We actively preserve this and enjoy exploring and sharing it with visitors.

- We respect difference, whether of culture, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexuality, or other, and treat everyone equally. This diversity is reflected in our representatives at local and national level.
- Irish language is used as part of daily life here. Interest in Irish music, dance and storytelling is as strong amongst younger generations as it is with older generations, and traditional skills and sports are passed between generations and celebrated across the community as part of our heritage. We have comprehensive accessible records on all aspects of this area including its history, geology, and folklore.





## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL) - BALLINA MD

We are all supported to be active and live well. There is an effective co-ordinated approach to planning and provision of infrastructure, services and facilities here. We have an excellent and integrated public transport system throughout the area that is fully accessible, with good provision for walking and cycling. This compliments the diverse mix of housing available in all our local communities which meets our different needs and there are supports that allow people to live independently. We recognise the importance of carers and support and reward them. There is good employment available and everyone contributes in worthwhile and valuable ways. We are all able to access a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities

Everyone is aware of the importance of good mental health and we have opportunities to learn how to support this. There are good mental health services available locally.

All of us have access to a doctor and health care workers in the community that we trust. There is good provision of healthcare services that can respond flexibly to the needs of patients and their families.



## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY - BALLINA MD

In Ballina, we all respect and actively care for our environment. Everyone understands the importance of protecting and restoring nature, biodiversity and our natural resources. We work with our farmers and fishermen to achieve this, ensuring they are rewarded fairly for their environmental achievements.

We are supported to live sustainably, with expert assistance and resources. This means that we use suitable, renewable energy solutions from which communities benefit as well as the environment and we lead the way in development of renewable energy generation. The public transport system here is comprehensive, integrated and free. We manage waste effectively and support genuine green initiatives for business.

We proactively plan for our long-term future, balancing development with the need to protect the resources we rely on, our communities, and the heritage we treasure. We record and preserve our archaeological and built heritage. Everyone has opportunities to get out and enjoy our wonderful countryside and rivers and our communities are active in working to maintain and enhance our environment.



# BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION EVENING





# OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Castlebar Municipal District stretches from Lough Mask at the southern county boundary through the centre of the County to Lough Conn. There is a population of over 30,000 living in this area, with the main towns and villages including Balla, Ballyheane, Ballyvary, Breaffy, Castlebar, Islandeady, Turlough and Glenisland.

This part of Mayo is a multi-cultural and fully inclusive community where everyone is valued. Careful planning creates attractive and accessible spaces for us to live and celebrate all aspects of our Irish culture. There is a thriving

and diverse economy that supports a variety of good jobs. We enjoy excellent services and facilities, with good infrastructure, housing and recreation opportunities for all. Mayo County Council operates transparently and works with communities to help deliver their needs, enabling us to live sustainably and enjoy this beautiful place. Young people have a clear voice that is included as we plan for the future. Our strong community and good local health care services support us all to be well and we all contribute to making this a great place to live.



Museum of Country Life

## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - CASTLEBAR MD

We are well-informed about facilities, services and activities locally through a comprehensive virtual noticeboard, and new residents benefit from effective community integration supports.

We are proud that this area is a model for inclusive social spaces found in all our towns and villages. These are well planned and fully accessible to people of all abilities, for pedestrians and for cyclists. We ensure that everyone can access all our public facilities and participate in recreational activities, whatever their age or ability. Our community buildings are designed to support interaction between all age groups and interests. We have a great public transport system that serves both rural and urban areas.

There are well-designed care facilities and services available for everyone in the local community to support our physical and mental health. We are as accepting and supportive of those dealing with poor mental health as we are of those dealing with any health challenge.

Community-based supports are available for people in all circumstances, and we have a vibrant community life with thriving community organisations.

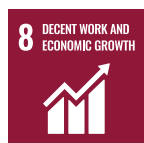


## WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES - CASTLEBAR MD

Our strong economy provides good, long-term, employment opportunities that support us to live well. We actively work to maintain this diverse mix of enterprises at different scales and support new businesses and different models of working. There are excellent training facilities and streamlined requirements for businesses. We promote and develop our tourism sector in a sustainable way that ensures we preserve the outstanding natural environment which is vital to it.

There is excellent communications infrastructure here (broadband and phone coverage), with a comprehensive network of public transport throughout the area and good connections to the rest of the country and abroad. There is a variety of accommodation available in the area so that everyone can find a suitable and affordable home. Throughout this area our small local communities are thriving centres of economic and social activities, strongly supported by local people and volunteers who are recognised for their commitment.

We understand the importance of caring for our mental health and prioritise this as a community.





## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE - CASTLEBAR MD

Mayo County Council operates transparently and communicates effectively with the community. It is inclusive, promotes equality and supports mental health. Our public representatives reflect the diversity present in our community and ensure that we are regularly consulted and have the opportunity to influence decisions that affect us. We are confident that the voices of all groups in the community are sought and heard in decision-making, and that they are all supported to participate, with particular emphasis on involving young people in planning for the future.

There is a high level of awareness of Mayo PPN and a good understanding of its role in representing the community and voluntary sector in local government. Its membership reflects the community and its practices ensure all voices are heard. Administration, funding and governance requirements for community organisations are streamlined so that workloads and costs are kept manageable and do not deter volunteers from engaging. There is active volunteering across the community and this is recognised and supported.



## CULTURE, VALUES & MEANING - CASTLEBAR MD

We are a welcoming, multicultural community, where we all share a feeling of belonging and value one another. We are adaptable and enjoy experiencing different cultures and languages that enrich our lives. A resilient community at home, we also maintain strong links with the diaspora.

All the diverse aspects of our Irish culture are alive and threaded through our day to day lives. All age groups actively celebrate this rich heritage and enjoy our vibrant arts and creative activities, which are supported with flexible venues and spaces. Sport is an important part of our community life and we are well served with good facilities.

Our local government provides good and clear information for us all about how it delivers services for the community. Young people here are active and have a recognised say within the community and in its future.



## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL) - CASTLEBAR MD

We all actively care for one another across the generations and ensure that this is a supportive place where no-one is left out. In this way our community supports us all to be well in mind and body. There are services available for physical and mental health that meet the needs of all ages and the many different circumstances that we experience in our lives. Everyone has easy access to flexible and appropriate health care services when they are needed.

Everyone can engage in a wide range of recreational and sports activities and there are excellent indoor and outdoor facilities. These facilities, along with joined-up thinking in all areas of our lives; in education and training, at work, and in daily life, support all of us to be healthy and well. Our needs are met for a variety of suitable housing and our public areas are accessible for everyone, irrespective of ability.

- Effective mental health supports are available around the clock in the community, and delivered in a variety of formats, so that people are able to access these in the way that works best for them. These work as part of a partnership model for service delivery between public, private and non-profit providers.
- There is a strong culture of volunteering involving all generations in the community that ensures we have rich social interaction and good fun together which underpins our wellbeing.
- We take positive action to protect our health in all our activities; at work, in education, giving care, and so on.



## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY - CASTLEBAR MD

We are proud of our beautiful natural environment and the places we live. Our community is actively engaged in supporting biodiversity and passes on skills that allow us to preserve our natural heritage. We seek ways to live and work sustainably, working in partnership with state agencies to consistently protect and promote our natural resources through use of best practice. Everyone here benefits from a fair opportunity to change to renewable energy, we monitor and minimise waste production, and adopt green transport systems. Farmers in this area lead the way in sustainable farming and we produce much of our own food. We spend wisely and recognise the potential for preservation and renewal of our heritage buildings and brown field sites as part of our careful long-term planning. All of us have easy access to and enjoy our countryside and attractive towns and villages.



# CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION EVENING





# OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN CLAREMORRIS/SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Claremorris/Swinford Municipal District makes up the Eastern part of County Mayo. Home to over 44,500 people, it includes a broad area reaching from Lough Corrib, Shrile and Ballinrobe in the South all the way to Foxford, Charlestown, Swinford and Doocastle along the County Sligo border.

Each of us is a valued part of our diverse but connected community, where we are supported to live our best lives. We live and work sustainably supported by a resilient green

economy, excellent transport systems and life-long, first-rate education and training opportunities. We have access to great healthcare and our community facilities and services help us to support our wellbeing through engagement in sport and recreation, arts and multi-cultural activities. Our Irish heritage is a living part of our thriving community life. We protect and enjoy our natural environment and our built heritage. We are consulted by and work with Mayo County Council to ensure that the community continues to flourish into the future.



Cong Abbey



## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CLAREMORRIS/ SWINFORD MD

This is an area where we are all safe and supported to belong and play an active part as citizens. Everyone can afford a home that meets their needs within their own community. Excellent and fully accessible public transport and active travel networks, including all rural areas, mean we can all get about within the area and access services. Our public spaces and amenities are open and designed to allow people of all abilities to take part.

Community integration is supported through well-funded cultural education and resources, and we have great community venues with a variety of social activities where we meet and mix together. There are diverse, affordable, sports and recreation activities available throughout the area which actively encourage participation by everyone, with strong community arts activities and wellbeing awareness programmes.

We are consulted and included in careful planning and delivery of facilities and services to meet the specific needs of the different groups within our community. The Local Authority gives feedback on all consultations and follows through with communities. We network well within and between our communities to support one another to make the very best of our local area. Our community and voluntary organisations are well-resourced, with comprehensive information made easily available to everyone on what services and activities are available and taking place locally. Through this we are aware of the help available when required.

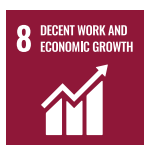
- Older people in our community have accommodation choices, including assisted living, and a range of support services that enable them to continue to live independently where they wish and to remain within the community.
- This is a diverse and multi-cultural community that works to integrate all residents, providing supports to address language and cultural challenges, and enable voluntary and community organisations to attract members from all groups.
- Our amenities are all developed to allow both access and participation by people with different abilities, for example through the choice of playground equipment or layout and furniture at picnic areas, and community buildings such as halls and churches, are supported to become more accessible.
- Throughout our lives we are encouraged to be active in our community and this is supported through education and initiatives that involve all groups within the community.
- There are facilities and activities provided here to meet the separate needs of small children and young people.



## WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES - CLAREMORRIS/ SWINFORD MD

Everyone working in this area receives at least a living wage. Our economy is built on a range of sustainable enterprises that provide enduring jobs, allowing people with diverse skills and qualifications to work locally, and we have facilities that support remote working. Thriving social enterprises involve many within our community in paid and voluntary roles and contribute significant services and value across the area, which is recognised with statutory assistance. There is a good range of supports for new commercial and social enterprises. Bureaucracy is kept to a minimum and we have fair carbon budgeting for businesses. Everyone has access to excellent education, training and apprenticeship opportunities and we have supportive community employment schemes, which both provide clear pathways to employment.

This robust economy is underpinned by first rate communications and transport infrastructure, with integrated public and private transport networks including along the Atlantic transport corridor. As part of this, we have great, accessible, local transport that enables full participation by everyone in the community including older people, non-drivers, people living with disabilities and young people. We make full and creative use of all our resources, built infrastructure and assets, such as Knock airport, to enhance and develop our economy. Community employment schemes are well-connected with businesses, creating attractive opportunities for workers to progress to jobs. Workers receive career guidance, mentoring and supports to enter work or activities within the community as appropriate.



## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE CLAREMORRIS/SWINFORD MD

There is strong community spirit and active participation from across all generations in community activities and our local democracy.

Our elected members reflect the diversity within our community, having different ages, abilities and cultures, and they serve for limited terms to increase participation. Mayo County Council and the community have strong relationships and work to bridge the gaps between public agencies and voluntary groups, with dedicated local officers in all towns. There is effective partnership in management of facilities and good support provided for community services. Young people are encouraged to engage through a youth citizenship programme and our Community Councils are recognised and resourced.

We are well-informed on all services and activities locally through a comprehensive community notice board available digitally and on interactive boards in public spaces. Information on funding opportunities for community groups is provided by Mayo PPN, applications are streamlined and funding conditions are reasonable, with adequate financial support available. Requirements for the operation of community groups are kept to a minimum, with State support for affordable insurance, and replication is reduced or eliminated (such as for Garda clearance).



## CULTURE, VALUES & MEANING - CLAREMORRIS/SWINFORD MD

We are a strong community where, from a young age, we are civic-minded and proud to extend our Ceád Míle Fáilte. We listen to and respect one another and the world we live in, and we actively share and celebrate all our different cultures throughout our public spaces and activities.

There is a flourishing artistic life here embracing our Irish language, music and dance with widespread participation from children and young people. Our history and local heritage are well-documented and preserved, with great interpretation so it is engaging for everyone. Our crafts, traditional skills and folklore are passed between generations and are a popular feature of our community activities. We have a wide variety of different, high-quality, venues and facilities that enable activities across the cultural spectrum from performance and art to cooking and sport, and these are fully accessible and suitable for all ages and abilities. There are accessible public transport options that allow everyone to participate in community life, where we actively support good mental health and value the contribution of volunteers.

- Children are taught about all cultures and local heritage in school and engage with these, and with opportunities to access all the arts, outside school.
- The heritage of the many cultures is explored and celebrated in the community.
- Local Irish heritage is appreciated and actively enjoyed by all.



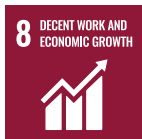
## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY - CLAREMORRIS/SWINFORD MD

In the Claremorris/Swinford MD we recognise the importance of our natural environment and resources and actively protect them. Throughout our lives we learn about how to live more sustainably, and we enthusiastically pass relevant skills and knowledge between generations. We have a sustainable economy that supports us to be more resilient and self-sufficient and our farmers are rewarded for protecting our biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

We produce and use a range of affordable renewable energies locally. Everyone is supported to take advantage of new technologies to reduce their energy use and improve energy efficiency. We lead the way in the use of green transport. Our communities are well-connected through good, local public transport networks and infrastructure for safe active travel (walking and cycling).

There are local and social enterprises that enable us to repair, re-use and upcycle to reduce waste production. There are good community waste management facilities and careful, consistent controls of waste.

We all have great opportunities for outdoor recreation on land and on our waterways, so that we can enjoy our beautiful surroundings without damaging them. There are many well-designed and well-maintained community open spaces in our towns and villages including parks, playgrounds, community gardens, cycleways and footpaths. We value, protect, and celebrate our built heritage, finding new purposes for old buildings and other structures.



## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL) - CLAREMORRIS/ SWINFORD MD

From a young age we are all aware of the importance of maintaining our wellbeing and we are educated about how to protect it. We have appropriate, tailored services available to help us sustain our mental health and build our resilience. These are co-ordinated with comprehensive primary care services that are affordable and available to everyone in our local communities. In turn, these are linked with an excellent, efficient, wider healthcare system. All of us are able to access health care services when they are needed. We recognise the valuable work of carers in our community, and they are supported and rewarded for their contribution.

We are an active and engaged community with great public and affordable opportunities for a wide range of sport and recreation activities, both indoors and outdoors, accessible to people across all abilities and all ages. These amenities allow us to get out into the community, to move about safely and take part in activities we enjoy. Our community venues host popular activities that bring together all generations for mutual benefit. Provision is made for sustainable and active travel (walking & cycling), and we have great local public transport services that are available and accessible to everyone. These all help underpin our healthy and connected community.

Everyone is able to achieve a healthy work-life balance. We have access to appropriate housing within our local community and a wide range of services, many provided by community and voluntary groups, that help us to live our best lives. This is a safe place to live, with good community policing, where everyone is taken care of.

- We have good services to support mental health from childhood through to old age. These are well-resourced, with skilled staff locally and can be easily accessed.
- The important contribution of community organisations is recognised and resourced, and there is co-ordinated operation between state and community services.





# CLAREMORRIS/SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION EVENING



# OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING IN WESTPORT/BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Westport/ Belmullet Municipal District includes the most western part of County Mayo along the Atlantic coast. Over 31,000 people live across very varied areas. Reaching from Lough Mask, Killary Fjord and Louisburgh in the south, to include Westport, Newport and out to Achill Island, then further north it takes in the remote areas to the west of Bangor and Béal an Mhuirthead and up to the Ceide Fields and Carrowteige in the North

The community in this part of Mayo is thriving and there is a great quality of life. Our precious natural environment, which is critical for our wellbeing and underpins much of our economic activity is respected and protected. We live sustainably, with a diverse economy that provides good and enduring livelihoods and futures for people, while safeguarding our natural resources. There are excellent training and education opportunities. All of us, including businesses, benefit from great

communications and transport infrastructure, a variety of housing options, and excellent community services and facilities. These enable communities to be active, creative and successful in their local situations, with support for community organisations and our strong culture of volunteering. There is genuine partnership between Mayo County Council and the local community to plan for and deliver our future needs. We have wonderful opportunities for recreation here and we value, celebrate and share our unique Irish heritage, our culture and flourishing Irish language, linking this to our past and where we live. This is a safe place, where we consider and provide for the needs of all groups within the community from the youngest to the oldest. There are good local health services and a network of supports. We are a resilient and social community, who continuously build a great place to be through Meitheal, caring for one another and having the craic!



Clew Bay



## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD

Everyone has an affordable home that is suitable for their needs. We have a variety of housing types that enable people to live independently and to access supports they need so that they can stay in their own community and remain involved there. New homes are developed to be sustainable and “future-proofed” and we ensure that built and natural environments are accessible for all.

We retain and develop good sustainable jobs, with serviced hubs to support remote work and study, and the development of enterprise. There is good communication and public transport infrastructure, which serves all ages, including those with disabilities, and our public areas are fully accessible. We have access to affordable, renewable energy options and high-quality natural resources.

We value and invest in our young people (teenagers and young adults); providing dedicated local facilities and amenities, for sport and recreation activities. A variety of support programmes respond to challenges faced by our youngsters. There is a choice in types of schooling available and good intergenerational projects that involve and benefit all in the community.

Our communities are safe and well-served with community facilities and services that can respond to needs and accommodate diverse activities. We welcome people who are new or returning to the area, supporting their successful integration into the community.

There is good local healthcare, well integrated into the medical system, with staff to support transition of patients between hospital and home.

### IN THE NORTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- We have vibrant and fully accessible, village communities, including social housing, where no-one is isolated.
- The community is consulted and has a say in future planning for the area.
- Byelaws are developed for Belmullet

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- There are dedicated facilities for youth that reflect a range of sporting and non-sporting interests.
- We have a range of venues (indoor and outdoor) where we can gather for performance, community events and celebrations or other activities.
- A range of community sports and recreation facilities (including outdoor natural amenities) support activities for all our people from the youngest to the oldest, and those of all abilities.
- We can all move about our towns and villages safely and we look at ways to enhance our enjoyment of this area while protecting our environment.



## WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES - WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD

We have excellent communications and transport infrastructure with high-speed broadband connectivity and full mobile phone coverage. Our high quality and safe road, rail and cycling networks are integrated and enable people and goods to move about efficiently. Green transport options are supported and widely used, and our rural areas are well served with public transport services.

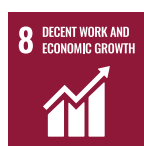
We are well supplied with community hubs that allow people to live locally and work remotely. Tourism is sustainable and carefully developed so as not to damage natural resources. Our water resources (lakes, sea and rivers) draw visitors and locals alike and there are great opportunities to enjoy water-based recreation. We have cultural and heritage attractions that compliment these and reveal the unique heritage of this part of Mayo.

This area is attractive to diverse large and small businesses, including strong indigenous enterprises, with a focus on sustainable production and operation, which provide good, secure jobs throughout the area. New enterprises are encouraged and supported, and our excellent infrastructure, affordable housing options, and services, such as co-ordinated childcare places, make this an attractive place for businesses to locate and develop. We plan for the long-term and work to keep this positive business environment and ensure enterprises remain and thrive, supporting our community to flourish.

There are a wide range of attractive training and apprenticeship opportunities available to everyone, with good links to employers to provide subsequent employment. There is funding and successful supports and initiatives that enable people to upskill or reskill and there is no necessity for anyone to leave the area for work. We actively promote sustainable farming and fishing.

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- We have a mix of attractive, affordable housing and supports so that everyone can afford a home. We recognise the valuable roles played by carers and homemakers and provide social supports to enable us to live healthy lives.



Deserted Village



## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE - WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD

Mayo County Council consults widely and works with us to develop plans for our local areas (such as the Community Futures initiative) and they follow through strongly to help achieve these community ambitions and report back on progress. Local communities have good relationships Mayo County Council which provides dedicated staff, accessible locally, to respond to queries or issues arising and to track these and follow-up. Communities are kept informed and consulted prior to works being undertaken locally. The Council provides clear information on available funding and there is transparency and consistency around how this is administered and awarded across the County. It works closely with Mayo PPN that represents all the community and voluntary groups in the area.

Our elected members reflect the diversity in the community they serve and are accountable for the Council's work on our behalf. They provide opportunities for students to learn about how the Local Authority works.

Our community and voluntary organisations are well-resourced, honest, accountable and operate with equity and respect. They have a minimum of red tape, governance regulations are simplified and streamlined, and there are systems that avoid duplication (e.g. for Garda vetting and funding), and reasonable costs (e.g. for insurance). We have an easily accessible, online information source listing all community and voluntary groups, activities and services, updated with news for the community organisations themselves and the wider community. There is an active culture of volunteering and a listing of volunteers offering supports and groups volunteering needs. Throughout our lives we are encouraged to contribute to the community through our work and volunteering contributions and all generations work together in this.

### IN THE NORTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- Local government ensures that our voices are heard and works to ensure that we are not disadvantaged and have similar amenities to other areas.
- We have volunteer centre outreach in Erris.

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- Our community groups co-operate and collaborate over funding, and keep the community fully informed about their plans and activities.
- Community groups have great access to suitable community buildings at reasonable cost, including for indoor sports.
- Mayo County Council carefully monitors the area to ensure that it can respond to situations that arise.



## CULTURE, VALUES & MEANING - WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD

Our local, Irish heritage is precious and a central part of our identity. We are all involved in recording it comprehensively and celebrating it, with venues and activities that enable us to bring to life our history, myths, folklore, music and dance. We preserve our built heritage and places of cultural significance and these, as with all public areas, are fully accessible. There is good support for community activities, and we are passionate about sharing and highlighting all the rich diversity and unique wealth of cultural heritage. The use of Irish is encouraged, and it is spoken as part of daily life. There is a vibrant community arts scene that captures all that is special about this part of Mayo.

This is a safe and very sociable place, where everyone is welcome and actively included. We meet often, across the generations to enjoy our local food, sport, music and storytelling.

### IN THE NORTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- We treasure our natural environment and protect our natural resources, and we are all able to enjoy the land and sea.
- All are included and involved in the community. We can successfully hold difficult conversations that may be needed to ensure that everyone is heard and has their needs considered, so that our community works well for all of us.
- Our unique marine and island heritage is celebrated and our talented musicians and artists are a key part of the many community arts events held locally.

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- Through our strong community spirit and meitheal we look out for our neighbours including all generations, marginal groups and those with specific challenges, and ensure that all events and activities are inclusive.
- There is a great quality of life with a strong culture of volunteering amongst all ages, that supports and grows community organisations, which network well together.
- We are proud of our local area, community activities and beautiful environment which we actively enjoy.



## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY - WESTPORT/ BELMULLET MD

Local government, businesses and individuals all act consistently in ways that safeguard and care for our precious natural environment. We maintain and enhance our wondrous landscape, habitats and biodiversity, ensuring that everyone can access and enjoy. We ensure that our high-quality environment, machair, and natural resources are protected from pollution and kept pristine, meeting the highest environmental standards.

We produce energy from renewable sources and use this locally at low cost. The latest technology is used to make us self-sufficient in energy production and use, and carbon neutral. We monitor and manage waste effectively to minimise impacts on the environment and keep the area looking well. Throughout our lives we learn about how we can act to protect our environment and live sustainably, and we apply this knowledge with understanding that we need to live in harmony with the natural world.

Our environment sustains our life here and is a key part of our tourism economy, we guard it and care for all aspects of it. We understand the importance of sustainable production of high-quality food. We are proud of our local farmers and growers, and we support green agricultural production and farming futures.

There are excellent outdoor recreation opportunities and natural playgrounds here, which are accessible to people of all abilities. We have great facilities and infrastructure which allows us to be outdoors and active in nature, both on land, along the coast and in the waters, and to appreciate our environment and heritage in all weathers. Sustainable transport options are available throughout the area.

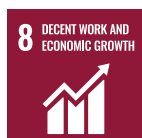
We restore and maintain our built heritage, finding new purposes for these, and ensuring that we preserve and pass on the history and culture they represent, allowing new generations and the visitors we welcome to understand and explore the past that they represent.

### IN THE NORTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- We share our Irish language with the future generations. It is spoken widely and with pride, and its use and our Irish culture encourages people to come and stay here.
- The unique environment and heritage of our islands and coastal communities is recognised, valued and protected.

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- Our community works together to support climate action, carbon neutrality and sustainable living. We have infrastructure and facilities that support greener public and private transport.
- We develop safe active transport, walking and cycling for recreation and for day-to-day travel.
- There are excellent local facilities for community recycling and waste management and state of the art sewage treatment with spare capacity that prevents pollution of our lakes and sea.



## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL) - WESTPORT/ BELMULLET MD

Together we ensure that no-one is isolated or excluded. We are involved in the careful planning and design of development that ensures an attractive environment where everyone can get around. All our public amenities; buildings, outdoor spaces and recreational areas, are accessible to everyone. We have excellent local facilities and venues that accommodate community groups and provide for a wide range of sports and recreation, all of which support us to live active and healthy lives and to maintain good mental health.

There are good, affordable, primary health and dental care services, including appropriate mental health services, available in their local community. All aspects of a person's wellbeing are considered in their care and social prescribing is common. We are supported to access first rate hospital. We know and support the carers in families within our community. Local home help and carers are available and well-resourced to provide assistance and help keep people connected. We are all aware of how to access services and support.

We have accessible and affordable public transport available throughout the area and we are all aware of these services. Everyone has access to good broadband and communications infrastructure and is supported to make use of this. People living with disabilities are supported to participate fully. Older people are valued and supported to live independently, with housing and services provided that enable them to engage fully in community life, and to stay well both physically and mentally. We have a wide range of community facilities, activities and services, including training, that support different groups in the community including young people, families, lone parents, new residents.

We are safe in our homes, schools and workplaces and everyone is welcome and respected in all the activities of daily life.

### IN THE NORTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- Public facilities such as toilets, an indoor swimming pool and day care services are provided to meet local and visitor needs.
- Specialist outreach services are available locally.
- We have measures to ensure that people in dispersed rural populations are not isolated.

### IN THE SOUTH OF THE WESTPORT/BELMULLET MD:

- There are dedicated facilities for youth that reflect a range of sporting and non-sporting interests.
- Sports and outdoor recreation facilities are accommodated, well-maintained and safe.
- Community hubs facilitate groups, activities and social enterprise that benefit our mental health and wellbeing.





# WESTPORT/BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION EVENING



## UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

In 2015, all the Member States of the United Nations adopted The Agenda for Sustainable Development. This sets out a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet into the future. Central to the agreement are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (below) that are an urgent call for action by ALL countries as part of a global partnership. Under each Goal there are a number of targets to be met, with actions, events and publications working towards achieving these. The PPN has agreed that it is important as part of our global world to be conscious of working towards achieving these goals in all we do. For this reason, it is critical that we look at how our Vision aligns with and supports these global ambitions.

 <p><b>1 NO POVERTY</b></p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	 <p><b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b></p>	Reduce inequality within and among countries.
 <p><b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b></p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	 <p><b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b></p>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 <p><b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.	 <p><b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b></p>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 <p><b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b></p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	 <p><b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b></p>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 <p><b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b></p>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	 <p><b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b></p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
 <p><b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b></p>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	 <p><b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b></p>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
 <p><b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b></p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	 <p><b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b></p>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
 <p><b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	 <p><b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b></p>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.
 <p><b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.		



# PUTTING COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT









## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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A special word of thanks is extended to all those who took the time to participate in the consultations.

The participation of community groups and individuals was critical to ensure the co-ordination and development of the Wellbeing Vision Statement for County Mayo.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge and recognise the staff and management of Mayo County Council for their proactive and enthusiastic approach to this process.

*Mayo PPN Secretariat Committee.*

## MAYO PPN – YOUR VOICE – YOUR COMMUNITY



**Lónra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Mhaigh Eo**  
**Public Participation Network Mayo**



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



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