

# MAYO MARKS 2020 WITH RECORD NUMBER OF AWARDS

Mayo County Council made its mark in style at this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards by winning the 'Local Authority of the Year' award, in addition to a hat-trick of category wins, while it was also shortlisted in two other categories.

**M**ayo County Council was named 'Local Authority of the Year' at the Excellence in Local Government Awards, which took place online on 26 November 2020.

Now in its 17th year, the event was again organised by Chambers Ireland in association with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to showcase and celebrate the best of local government in Ireland.

'Making Positive Choices' in the Health & Wellbeing category, 'Weather Impact Register App (WIRE)' won the Local Authority Innovation category, while the 'Virtual Mayo Day 2020' won the 'Festival of the Year' category.

A record number of five entries were shortlisted for Mayo County Council this year, including two other entries that were shortlisted – 'A Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo in Sustainable Environment' and 'Through the Ages – An Age Friendly Initiative'.

Chambers Ireland Chief Executive Ian Talbot congratulated Mayo County Council and commended "their commitment to excellence and in their work to ensure the sustainable development of the localities they represent and raising their county's profile nationally".

## DEDICATED TEAMWORK

The Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr Richard Finn, who accepted the honour on behalf of the council, commented that success like this does not happen overnight.

"It has taken years of hard work by a dedicated staff of Mayo County Council and by a dedicated management team over years in Mayo County Council – Des Mahon, Peter Hynes (recently retired



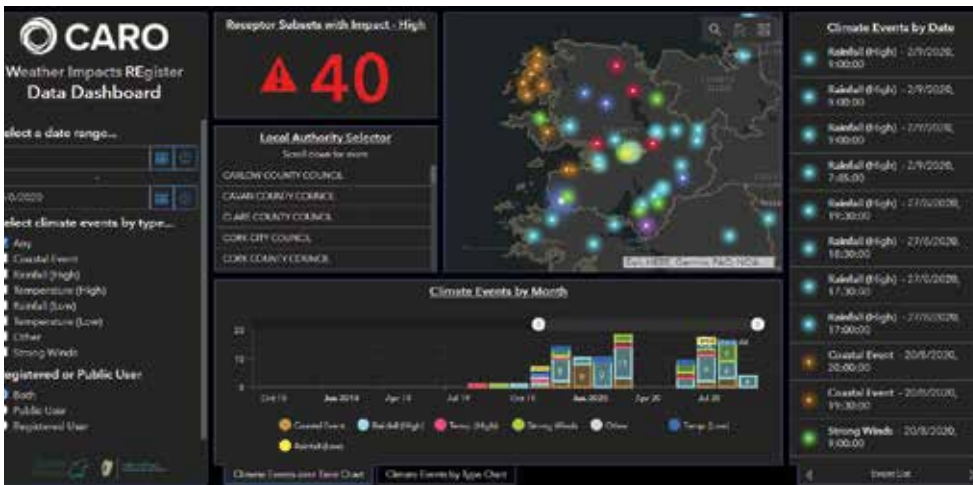
Chief Executive), and Interim Chief Executive Peter Duggan, all of whom were and are Chief Executives of distinction. This success can also be attributed to a team of councillors from all sides who strive to keep County Mayo ahead of all the rest."

On behalf of the management and staff at Mayo County Council, Interim Chief Executive Peter Duggan,

congratulated all those involved in this "record award win" for the local authority, those who were shortlisted in their categories, and to all staff whose work has resulted in the overall accolade of Local Authority of the Year.

"2020 was an extraordinary year, which has been challenging for all our staff who have put in hard work, showed great commitment and resilience





**Virtual Mayo Day 2020:** In this extraordinary year of 2020, the people of Mayo got together again (virtually) for ‘Mayo Day’ on 2 May. The virtual ‘Mayo Day Live Show’ was a mix of chat, interviews, music, plus messages of hope and solidarity for a special day from well-known people from Mayo and those who love the county. The show concluded with the launch of a poignant and beautiful short film #OceansApart – a haunting film depicting how emigration and Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on Mayo families and friendships.

throughout these unprecedented times.

“We strive to make Mayo a county, which values health and wellbeing and connecting and engaging with our Diaspora. We also work hard in Mayo County Council to understand and respect our powerful coastline and its weather systems. To have won awards for pioneering projects in these areas is a great Achievement and one that we welcome wholeheartedly.”



CATEGORY SHORTLISTS

**A Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo:** Mayo is a rural county where agriculture plays a vital role in underpinning the rural economy. Mayo County Council has engaged with stakeholders to develop a sustainable agriculture strategy that will drive economic development, support employment and create sustainable jobs in the county. The purpose of this strategy is to set out a series of actions that will help Mayo capitalise on opportunities and overcome barriers to developing this critical component of the local economy.

**Through the Ages:** This unique collaboration was set up during Covid-19 lockdown; participants (aged 6 to 16) interviewed their grandparents about their memories of childhood and recorded these stories in essay format for publication in a souvenir magazine, as well as for preservation in the local history section of Mayo County Library. Interviews took place remotely due to Covid restrictions and all participants were encouraged to handwrite their essays, thereby creating a very authentic record for preservation in Mayo County Library.

CATEGORY WINS

**Making Positive Choices** is a collaborative project which addresses road safety issues on the Mayo islands. Its focus is on emphasising to young people the importance of making positive choices and providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to prevent collisions and road traffic incidents in future.

**Weather Impact Register App:** This simple tool for local authorities (and other state agencies) records and collates the actual impacts and some of the associated costs of climate change in their areas. The GIS-based dataset together with the dashboard and filters developed alongside the App will provide a spatial distribution of risks and vulnerability and help identify the increasing severity and frequency of events that will inform climate adaptation planning.

