

Roads, Transportation and Safety

Roscommon County Council's corporate objective as set out in the Corporate Plan 2009–2014 is to "Ensure the development of an adequate transport network". The implementation of this objective continued in 2010 with further investment in the road network.

Roads Funding

A breakdown of the road grant received for 2010 is set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Road Grant Allocations 2010

National Roads	€10,002,102
Non-National Roads	€14,253,841
Total Grants	€24,255,943

In addition, a figure of €2,347,498 was provided from the Council's revenue budget for local road maintenance and €2,021,246 from capital resources for the provision of road improvement projects not funded by grants.

Road Classification

The public roads network for the county is classified in Table 2 below:

Table 2: County Roscommon Public Roads Network

Type	Description	Length
Motorway	M6	22 Km (14 miles)
National Primary Routes	N4, N5 & N6	83 Km (52 miles)
National Secondary Routes	N60, N61, N63 & N83	145 Km (90 miles)
Regional Routes(Non-National)	R-various numbers	374 Km (234 miles)
Local Routes (Non-National)	L-various numbers	3388km (2118 miles)

N5 Ballaghaderreen By-Pass

The proposed Ballaghaderreen By-Pass will extend for a distance of 13.6 kilometers from the Mayo county boundary, west of Ballaghaderreen to Rathkeery Townland, east of Ballaghaderreen. The Roscommon National Road Design Office is responsible for the management of the scheme. A number of land acquisitions were finalised during 2010.

Other National Road Projects

Planning and design of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Scheme continued throughout 2010. The project will improve approximately 19 kilometers of National Primary Road including the provision of a bypass of Cortober/Carrick-on-Shannon and a new bridge over the River Shannon. Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority under the terms of the Section 85 Agreement.

Non-National Roads Network – Regional and Local Roads

There are 21 regional roads in Roscommon connecting larger centres of population not connected by national routes. Local Roads account for the balance of the network (see Table 2 above).

Specific Improvement Grant Scheme

Under this scheme, an allocation of €1,400,330 was received for four specific projects:

- R363 – Dysart/Ballyforan
- R366 – Roscommon/Creggs
- R362 – Monksland
- R368 – Killukin/ Carrick-on-Shannon

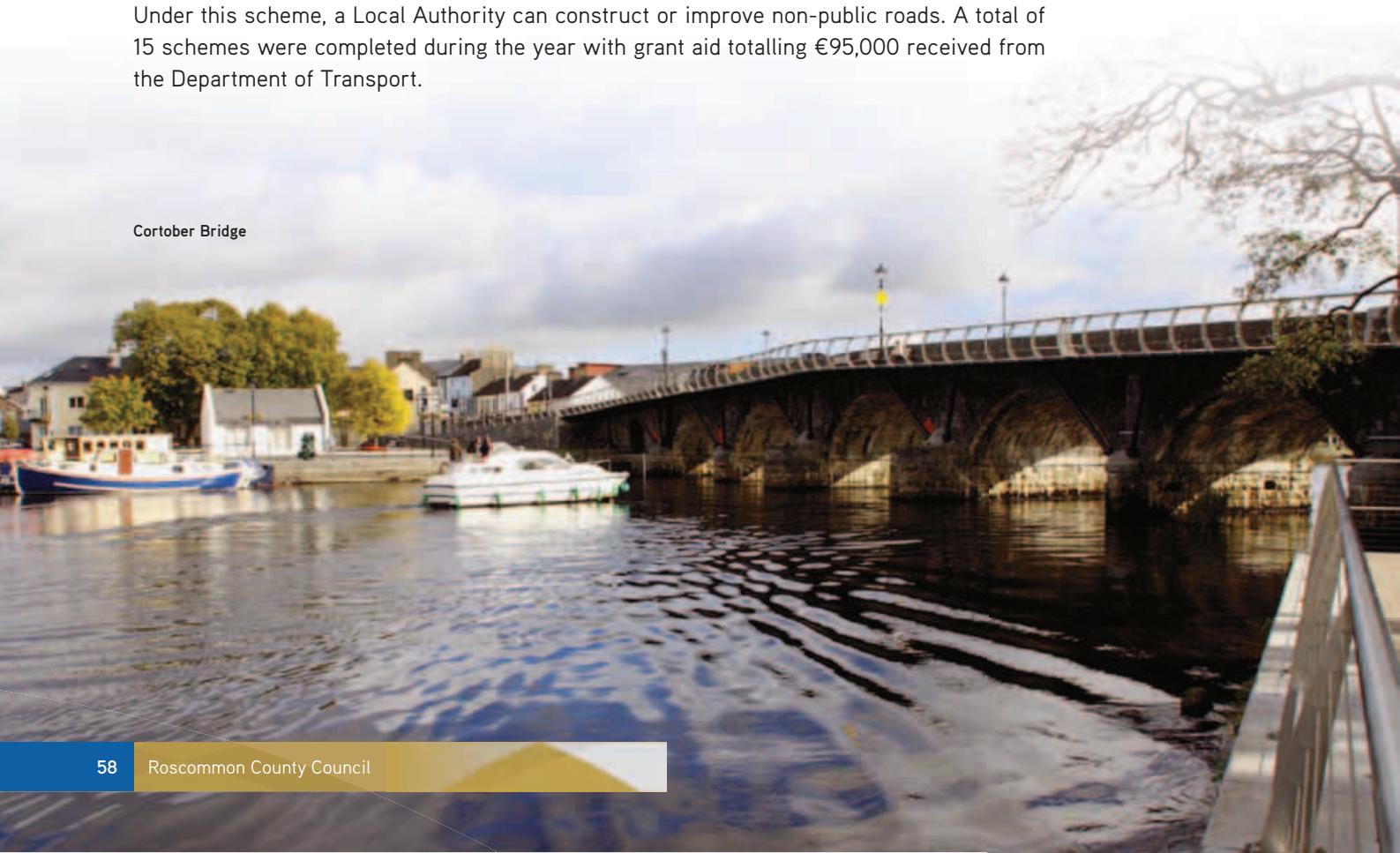
Regional and Local Roads Restoration Programme

This programme applies exclusively to the restoration of regional and local road pavements.

Local Improvement Schemes

Under this scheme, a Local Authority can construct or improve non-public roads. A total of 15 schemes were completed during the year with grant aid totalling €95,000 received from the Department of Transport.

Cortober Bridge



Capital Schemes

These schemes are funded from Roscommon County Council's Development Contribution Scheme.

New Tuam Road, Monksland, Athlone

Improvement works began on a 1.8 km section of the New Tuam Road and a 0.2 km section of the Old Tuam Road in Monksland. The works included the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of the Old Tuam Road and the New Tuam Road, provision of public lighting, surface water drainage, undergrounding of services, a combined footway/cycleway, a pedestrian footway on the Old Tuam Road, road resurfacing, pedestrian crossings, bus bay and traffic calming measures. Works were nearing completion at the year end.



Regional Road
362, Tuam Road,
Monksland, Athlone

Circular Road, Roscommon

Improvement works began on a 0.7 km section of Circular Road and associated public areas. The works included the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of Circular Road and Mart Road, the provision of public lighting, the undergrounding of services, pedestrian footway, parking facilities, road resurfacing, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.

Erragh Bridge, Termonbarry

The original two-span bridge over the River Feorish on Local Road 6076 at Erragh, west of Termonbarry was demolished and replaced with a single span concrete structure. Works included the construction of new pile-supported abutments, embankment stabilisation and approach road strengthening works. Works were completed in 2010.



Erragh Bridge,
Termonbarry

Drainage Schemes

The following drainage works were completed in 2010:

River Jiggy, Roscommon: Channel re-grading and widening was carried out on approximately 1.26 kilometers of the river. A further 4.57 kilometers of river channel and drains were cleaned and two new culverts were constructed to increase the flow capacity.

River Suck, Athleague: A by-pass drain/culvert was reconstructed on lands adjacent to the River Suck thus maximising the flow of the channel drain on the downstream side of the bridge. The capacity of the Silver Stream was improved to cater for the surface water drainage of the village.

Red Bridge, Drum, Athlone: Drainage pipes were installed to alleviate flooding at the Red Bridge under the railway.

Ballintober Village: The existing drainage channel through the village was re-directed to address drainage problems.

Valeview, Castlerea: A new drainage outfall was constructed to alleviate flooding of dwellings and the public road.

Further studies to address flooding problems were undertaken as follows:

- Strokestown River
- Killukin River
- Ballyglass River
- Elphin Drainage
- River Jiggy in Roscommon Town
- River Suck, Athleague
- Four Roads
- Milltown, Castleplunkett
- Knockalaghta, Ballintubber
- Lisalway, Castlerea
- Grange, Fourmilehouse
- Moyglass, Strokestown

Road Safety Programme

Roscommon County Council promoted and subsidised a number of road safety initiatives in 2010. The *Cycle Training Initiative* was subsidised at a number of primary schools. Funding was also made available towards the *Drive Safe for Life Programme* which targets transition year students in secondary schools. The courses educate students on road safety issues and promotes good practices among young cyclists/ drivers of the future. The Council funded prizes for the winning entries in the *Road Safety Poster Competition* organised by the Garda Síochána with 26 primary schools participating.

The *Road Safety Together* Committee met during the year and a number of road safety issues were considered by the members. The *County Roscommon Road Safety Plan 2010–2013* was published in October, 2010.

Junior School Wardens were trained at the following primary schools:

- Convent of Mercy, Boyle
- St. Patrick's, Strokestown
- St. Paul's, Castlerea
- Abbeycarton, Elphin
- Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Loughglynn

Roscommon County Council hosted the annual Regional Competition for Junior School Wardens in the Convent of Mercy National School, Boyle in June, 2010. Schools from Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath participated and the overall winners were the host team from Boyle. The standard was particularly high in 2010.



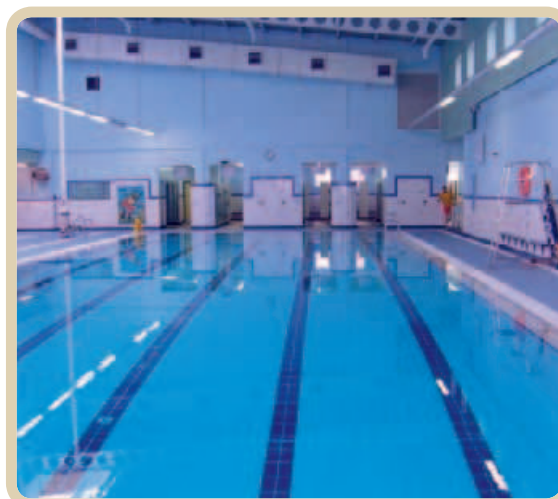
Junior Warden Competition Winners 2010
from Convent of Mercy National School, Boyle

Burial Grounds

The Council provided €100,000 in grants to 73 voluntary groups under the Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme in 2010 to upgrade and maintain cemeteries.

Swimming Pools/Leisure Facilities

Roscommon Leisure Centre, which includes a heated 25 metre indoor swimming pool, children's pool, gymnasium and leisure facilities is open to the public and to various clubs. Roscommon County Council continued to operate an outdoor pool in Castlerea during the summer season.



Roscommon Leisure Centre

Water Safety Programme

The Water Safety Programme continued over the summer season in 2010. Lifeguards were employed at Castlerea Swimming Pool, Lough Key Amenity and Hodson Bay Amenity. Swimming instruction courses for children were provided at Roscommon Leisure Centre and Castlerea Swimming Pool during the year.



Roscommon Castle

Fire Services

Roscommon County Council maintains six fire brigades in Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Castlerea, Elphin, Roscommon and Strokestown. Athlone Town Council and Galway, Mayo, Leitrim and Longford County Councils cover other parts of the county. Roscommon Fire Service also covers border areas of neighbouring counties.

Major Emergency Planning

A Major Emergency is defined as "any event which, usually with little or no warning, causes or threatens death or injury, serious disruption of essential services or damage to property, the environment or infrastructure beyond the normal capabilities of the principal emergency services in the area in which the event occurs, and requires the activation of specific additional procedures and the mobilisation of additional resources to ensure an effective, co-ordinated response".

Roscommon County Council's Major Emergency Plan was developed in conjunction with the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána. The plan was revised and updated in 2010. The aims of the Plan are:

1. To protect and preserve the safety, health and welfare of all persons affected by a major emergency.
2. To limit and prevent damage and destruction to the environment, and
3. To minimise disruption and to assist and support communities to return to normality as soon as possible.

Roscommon County Council staff undergoes regular training in preparation for such an Emergency.