

Claremorris company earns rave reviews for work on McHale Park

A CLAREMORRIS sports grounds company has received rave reviews for its work on McHale Park, Castlebar, the venue for the recent Connaught Senior Football Championship final between Roscommon and Sligo.

Killeen Sports Grounds took on the contract to revamp the surface at the popular venue and, after months of careful preparation, the pitch

was unveiled on Connaught final day.

It received rave reviews in the media, and on television where TV3 commentator Paul

Earley described it as being ‘in immaculate condition’.

Peter Killeen of Killeen Sports Ground said: “We were delighted with how the pitch turned out.

“We are a Co. Mayo business, and, in many ways, McHale Park is our Croke Park, so we pulled out all the stops to ensure it was of the highest possible standard.”

The venue was the scene of Roscommon’s unexpected victory over Sligo, and many fans who ran onto the field remarked on the quality of the surface.

Killeen Sports Grounds have carried out a large number of sports grounds projects in the region, including Ballinrobe Racecourse; Flanagan Park, Ballinrobe; Claremorris Golf

Club; Tuam Stadium; Milebush Stadium, Castlebar; and Dubarry Park, Athlone.

“We are available to meet with any sports organisation that wants to improve its playing surface,” added Peter Killeen.

Further information is available on www.KilleenSportsGrounds.com.



Peter Killeen on McHale Park on the day of the Connaught final.

Funding for water and sewerage

FUNDING to the tune of €422,000 has been allocated to Mayo County Council by the Government to help it with sewerage and water costs, according to local Fianna Fáil TD and Minister for Labour Affairs, Dara Calleary.

Minister Calleary welcomed the allocation, saying it will be used by the local authority to help it with expenditure on sewerage treatment plans and sampling and licensing

costs associated with water services.

“The allocation of this additional funding to Mayo County Council is very welcome. It will help the council

in its work and contribute towards the Government’s aim of achieving the highest standards in water and wastewater treatment for the people of Mayo,” he said.

Mayo hoteliers welcome tourism action group

MAYO hoteliers have welcomed the setting up by Minister Mary Hanafin of an industry-wide group to oversee and drive actions on measures to support tourism in Ireland.

Fergal Ryan, chairman of the Mayo branch of the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF), says tourism must remain to the fore of government policy and decision making if Ireland’s largest indigenous industry is to play its full role in the recovery of the economy.

In particular, Mr. Ryan welcomed the commitment shown by Minister Hanafin in chairing the renewal implementation group and the Government’s acknowledgement of the importance of maintaining investment in overseas marketing.

He also congratulated local hotelier John Raftery on his appointment to the group. Mr. Raftery is chairman of the IHF marketing committee and proprietor of the Downhill Inn Hotel, Ballina.

Commented Mr. Ryan: “I am immensely encouraged by the variety of people and spectrum of talent represented on this new board.

“Here, in the west, we are particularly vulnerable to poor decisions made at national level. This has never been more evident than the recent decision to shelve the Western Rail Corridor, which by any measure represented tremendous value for money in the west of Ireland.”

Mr. Ryan noted that, based on current numbers to date on the existing section, passenger volumes have reached three times those previously anticipated.

He continued: “Knock Airport has enormous untapped potential that, if harnessed properly, would greatly assist in growing the region’s tourism sector.

“We are calling on the group to explore how additional support can be provided for Knock Airport with a view to reenergising visitor numbers to the west from Britain and the EU markets.”

Commenting on disappointing overseas visitor numbers for May, Mr. Ryan said figures from the Central Statistics Office were truly shocking and offer little comfort to Mayo’s tourism sector.

“The figures serve to highlight further the severe trading environment hotels and guesthouses continue to face. With hotel occupancy levels at historic lows, maintaining investment in international marketing must remain a priority into 2011.

“This is of particular importance for the British market, which has collapsed over the last two years and is of vital importance for tourism in Mayo.”



Are you interested in training to become a volunteer?

Living Links provides practical help, information and support to persons and families bereaved by suicide.

The Mayo Mental Health Association is working with Living Links to provide a four-day training programme to facilitate this process for Mayo.

The training course for people interested in becoming a Living Links volunteer will be held in the **Mayo MHA Information Centre at Number 2 New Antrim Street, Castlebar**, and involves four days of workshops over three consecutive weeks.

The training is free and lunch and refreshments are provided each day.

Training will commence on **Saturday, September 11**, and continue on **Sunday, September 12, Saturday, September 18, and the final session on Saturday, September 25. Training will commence at 9.30 a.m., and finish at 5 p.m. each day**

To book a place on the course, which has a limit of 20, contact **Carmel at Mayo MHA headquarters** on **(094) 9038148** or email **mayomha@eircom.net**.

If you want further information on Living Links check the website at **livinglinks.ie**

This initiative is supported and funded by the Mayo Mental Health Association.



The Mayo Mental Health Association

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