

**30-March-2006**

## **Group Broadband Schemes Launch**

### **Brief**

The objective of the County and Group Broadband Schemes (CGBS) is to promote the rollout of broadband access through the establishment of sustainable broadband services in towns, villages, rural hinterlands and underserved areas of larger towns on the basis of local/regional authority coordination and community driven initiatives.

### **County Roscommon**

Mayor of Roscommon, Councillor Tom Crosby officially launched the schemes at two venues during the March this year. On Wednesday night at 8pm [April 5], the five schemes in the North of the county were launched at the Kilbride Community Centre in Fourmile House. On Thursday night [April 6] the launch took place in the Knockcroghery Community Centre at 8pm for the schemes in the South of the County.

In total eight projects received funding across the county. All of these schemes are now operational and offer high-speed Internet and email services to a wide number of rural and urban areas of the county. These include Arigna, Athleague, Ballaghaderreen, Ballinagare, Ballinameen, Ballintubber, Ballyleague, Castlerea, Cotehall, Drumboylan, Elphin, Fourmile House, Frenchpark, Keadue, Knockcroghery, Loughglynn, Strokestown, Termonbarry, Tulsk, and also serving Drumshanbo and Leitrim Village.

Roscommon County Development Board published the *Roscommon Broadband Strategy* in 2005. This document recognised the fundamental role that high-speed telecommunications play in daily living but also in commerce, industry and government. John O'Rourke, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise added 'The delivery of these new Broadband services across the county go towards meeting the objectives of this strategy and increases the competitiveness of the county'. The projects received great support from the Regional Co-ordinator, Caitriona McQuillan at the West Regional Authority in Galway.

The County and Group Broadband Schemes were promoted by the two Community Forum groups in the County, the North and the South. Over the past year they have worked closely with the communities and the relevant authorities to ensure that Roscommon is well serviced with Broadband technologies enabling residents fast access to Internet and email services.

Last Mile Broadband, an Athlone based company won seven of the contracts for the provision of the services. Representatives from the company will be on hand at the launch on Wednesday and Thursday night to demonstrate the services; answer any questions and sign up new subscribers.

The County and Group Broadband Scheme is an initiative of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and is co-funded by the Ecommerce and Communications Measures of the Border, Midlands and Western Regional Operational Programme of the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

## Map of Group Broadband Schemes

Map Valid as at May 2006

Please visit

[www.lastmile.ie](http://www.lastmile.ie)

for further information on accessing wireless broadband

