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BALLINA Cara Martin and Cian Gilmartin at the hugely successful Ballina Heritage Day last Wednesday. **PAGE 18**

Brackloon NS students present inspiring vision to climate and biodiversity sub-committee

Students Fintan Burrows and James McKeown from 6th class in Brackloon National School made an inspiring presentation to Mayo County Council's Climate and Biodiversity Sub-committee recently at Brackloon/Drummin Community Centre.

Using the platform 'Minecraft', the students creatively presented their 'Vision for a Sustainable Future' for their community. Their vision was used to enter the Ireland's 'Future is MINE' competition run by Microsoft and RTÉ Jnr, which allows pupils to think creatively, collaborate, problem solve and re-imagine their communities in the future.

The virtual community featured existing landmarks, including a virtual Croagh Patrick, with various forms of existing and emerging renewable energy, improved and increased active travel routes, nature-based solutions and many more methods that could be used to reduce carbon emissions and fight climate change. The vision was an example of what our world could be if we take action.



▲ **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE** Students Fintan Burrows and James McKeown from 6th class in Brackloon NS pictured with members of Mayo County Council's Climate and Biodiversity Sub-Committee.

'STARK WARNING'

THE students followed this presentation with a stark warning to the sub-committee about their experiences on the dangerous roads surrounding their schools, which are preventing

many willing students from cycling to school. The students presented the sub-committee with images of these dangerous roads, highlighting the need for cars to slow down and cycle infrastructure to be installed.

The students spoke of their passion for cycling and demanded that something must be done.

The students were commended firstly for their inspiring vision and secondly for speaking so passionately about

their demands for safer cycling to school. Cllr Blackie Gavin, Chair of the sub-committee, proposed that the student's presentation is brought to the attention of the West Mayo Municipal District, saying the

student's presentation had 'laid the foundation' for this plan on behalf of their school and community.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

DURING their visit to Brackloon/Drummin Community Centre, the sub-committee members got to take a look at the new world-leading energy efficiency and sustainability technology that has been installed in the centre. It was installed as part of the IDEAS project, which is an EU Commission funded research project led by Trinity College Dublin in association with Mayo County Council. For more information on IDEAS project visit www.horizon2020ideas.eu/.

The MegaAWE - Maturing utility-scale Airborne Wind Energy towards commercialization Interreg NWE (nweurope.eu) project was also presented to the members by Pat McHale of Mayo County Council's Enterprise and Investment Unit as well as receiving information on work ongoing by Sustainable Energy Communities (SEAI) in Mayo and funding streams that are available from SEAI by Mayo SEC mentor Dr Orla Nic Suibhne.

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