



## Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Mayo Club takes road safety lead**

The Road Safety Authority has teamed up with the No Name Club and Mayo County Council to distribute 800 high-visibility vests to students in two secondary schools as part of an initiative to highlight the issue of road safety.

Representatives from the Road Safety Authority, adult leaders from Erris No Name Club and Noel Gibbons, Mayo County Council Road Safety Officer, will be visiting St Brendan's Vocational School and Our Lady's Secondary School in Belmullet on Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup> to distribute the clothing provided by the RSA to all students attending both colleges.

The Road Safety Authority supplied Erris No Name Club with over 1,000 high-vis vests and it has already provided Belmullet Citizen's Information Centre with vests - to be distributed among elderly people within the community - and vests have been given to Cairde le Cheile in Geesala, which supports elderly people, and to the Irish Wheelchair Association, Logmore, Belmullet.

Noel Brett, Chief Executive Officer of the Road Safety Authority says: "The Road Safety Authority is delighted to team up with the No Name Club. In 2009, 40 per cent of the deaths on Irish roads were people aged under 25. It is crucial we engage with young people on an issue that sees so many young lives being wasted needlessly."

Erris No Name Club club, which offers teenagers fun activity in alcohol and drug-free settings, has been actively involved with the issue of road safety and in 2009 orchestrated a very successful campaign called 1 4 life, which was created by the teenage members to increase awareness of the dangers of road traffic accidents among their peers and encourage responsible driving.

“Our previous campaign encouraged people and teenagers in particular to think about the issue of road safety and change their attitudes towards driving,” Edith Geraghty, Erris No Name Club Chairperson explains. “This year we’re being more direct in addressing the issue and are supplying people with a very simple form of clothing that can save their life. This is an issue that is costing lives and causing devastation and high-visibility clothing needs to become the norm for pedestrians and cyclists using our roads. By distributing the high-vis vests within the community, we hope people will get constant use from them.”

Noel Gibbons, Road Safety Officer with Mayo County Council says: “The number of pedestrians and motorists on our roads/streets are increasing every day; it is critical that we take proactive measures to prevent and reduce tragedies on our roadways. Road safety is a shared responsibility and through education and strict enforcement we hope to encourage everyone on our roadways to conduct themselves safely and responsibly as they navigate through traffic and pedestrians and wearing hi-visibility clothing can reduce the number of collisions. I applaud Erris No Name club for their efforts in making this campaign happen and their other initiatives to create safer roads and reduce the number of pedestrians /motorists who are involved in collisions. I urge all residents in Co. Mayo and visitors to do their part and abide by our rules of the road. I also wish to sincerely thank the Road Safety Authority for providing the hi-vis Vests for the students.”

***Press release issued by Michael McGlynn, Communications Officer with No Name Club. For further information you can contact him at 045 435444 or 087 9082970.***

#### **Note for the Editor**

No Name Club is a National Voluntary Youth Organisation founded in 1978 and has 40+ clubs throughout the country. No Name Clubs are run by and for young people aged 15 years + who come together in a safe and lively environment where there’s fun, friendship and enjoyment without the pressure of alcohol or other drugs. No Name Clubs were founded to provide an alternative to pub culture for young people in Ireland. They demonstrate a lifestyle in which the use of alcohol or drugs is seen as unnecessary to the enjoyment of a happy, cheerful and fulfilling social life for young people. Over the last 30 years, thousands of young people have valued their involvement in a programme of activities that allow them to enjoy themselves socially with their peers in a safe and friendly environment, free from the dangers and influences of alcohol and drugs. At present there are over 15,000 young people involved with No Name Clubs throughout the country.