

2018 GOLDEN BRIDGES SPEAKERS



Garry Martin

Garry Martin has taken up the role as Director of Economic Development and Global Engagement with Donegal County Council in May 2018. This brief includes development of strategic economic infrastructure, corporate client support and investment, interventions to support innovation, development of the tourism product and marketing offer in Donegal and the maximising of the Donegal Diaspora as part of a newly structured Directorate within the Council.

Garry has previously held the role of Director of Finance, Director of Emergency Services and Director of Information Systems within Donegal County Council and is, additionally, the designated Director of the Donegal Municipal District.

He held the finance position in Donegal from January 2010 until May 2018 and has worked both locally and more recently, nationally, (as president of the Heads of Finance Association) in leading and developing financial responses to strategic issues challenging both the Council locally and the sector nationally across a range of areas.

These include the financial modelling for Donegal County Council post 2010 and, during 2016 and continuing through to May 2018, leading in the development of a range of sectoral responses dealing with a range of acute financial matters facing local government and more recently in exploring challenges deriving from the continuing Irish Water transition and the implications for the local government sector arising from same.

Garry is a qualified Chartered Public Finance Accountant, holds a Master of Science Degree (with distinction) in International Business and also holds an

Advanced Certificate in Business Counselling from Durham University Business School.

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James Rooney

James Davitt Rooney is Principal of Rooney Associates LLC and serves as Senior Fellow at the Boston Foundation and Ambassador for the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland. He co-founded the Harvard Business School Alumni Angels of London when living in the UK from 2012-17 and has advised foundations, universities, corporations, and governments on strategy, business development, and public affairs.

Rooney served as the Boston Foundation's first Director of Public Affairs from 2005-10 when it won the Council on Foundations' top national award for public policy impact. He also served as Brown University's first state and local Director of Community and Government Relations in the 1990s and in its Development and Alumni offices.

Rooney was Vice President of the Mass. High Tech Council in 2010-11, leading its clean energy, talent, and tech transfer portfolios and helped to launch and lead the seminal national urban think tank CEOs for Cities from 2001-05.

Rooney often appears in the media, providing commentary on U.S. presidential elections and making the first known call for Pope Francis to write an encyclical on climate change. He has served on several NGO boards and earned an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and a BA in Ethics and Political Philosophy from Brown.



Joanne Kilmartin

Joanne Kilmartin has been employed by Donegal County Council since 1999. She was appointed as the Donegal Diaspora Executive in 2016. Her role is to act as a resource for the economic, social and cultural development of Donegal and this is achieved through the delivery of a number of key strategic initiatives focussed on recognising and connecting with the Diaspora. The objective of the project is to engage and build relationships with the Donegal Diaspora around the world.

Prior to this appointment she was the Programme Development Officer with the European Union Programme for Peace & Reconciliation which resulted in over €15M worth of funding to a range of community projects in County Donegal.

She holds a First Class Honours BA degree in Humanities (Community Development) from the Letterkenny Institute of Technology.



John Andy Bonar

John Andy Bonar is Head of Development at Letterkenny IT and holds Institute wide senior management responsibility for Research, Enterprise and Innovation, Internationalisation, Lifelong Learning and Engagement.

John Andy is a director of

three not for profit Community, Sporting and Citizens Information organisations.

He holds a significant number of Regional, Cross-Border and National representational roles on behalf of LYIT and is currently Chair of the Audit Committee of Donegal County Council.

John Andy is a graduate of NUI Galway with B.Comm (Hons) and M.Econ.Sc (Hons) degrees as well as a range of other continuing Professional Development Qualifications.

He worked previously for 10 years in the private sector in Management Consulting in Ireland, and the Construction Industry in the UK before joining LYIT 20 years ago.

He joined LYIT as Lecturer in Business and was previously Head of School of Business before assuming his current role of Head of Development in 2007.



Councillor John Boyle

Mayor Derry City and Strabane District Council

Councillor John Boyle was first elected to Derry City Council in May 2011 and re-elected to represent the Foyleside District Electoral Area of the new Derry City & Strabane District Council in 2014.

He has been a Councillor for seven years. In that time Councillor Boyle has held a number of Chairmanships or Positions of Responsibility on the Council, including as Chairperson of the Council's new Planning Committee in its second year of operation in 2016. Councillor Boyle was previously Deputy Mayor of the City and District in 2017-2018.

Councillor Boyle has previously worked in media production, education and training of young people and adults. Originally from the Oakfield area of the city, Councillor Boyle graduated from the University of Ulster, Coleraine with a BA Honours Degree in History and was

previously educated at Rosemount Primary School and St Joseph's Boys School.



John Kelpie

John Kelpie is the Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council. Established in April 2015 as a result of a programme of local government reform in Northern Ireland, the Council area comprises the vibrant and youthful City of Derry/Londonderry, the busy market town of Strabane and a diverse and attractive rural area of designated outstanding natural beauty.

John led on the creation of the new organisation designing an innovative, flexible and responsive staffing structure with a clear vision and purpose to develop a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and Region with equality of opportunity for all.

The Council is leading and delivering on this vision with its many civic, statutory, community and business partners through its Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 driving economic, environmental and social well-being and regeneration and by addressing and targeting poverty, social exclusion and disadvantage.

As Chief Executive, John leads a talented and dedicated senior management team and staff with an outcomes-driven focus on successfully implementing the key objectives of the plan which will see over £3.2 bn of investment and opportunity in the City and region over the next decade, significant physical regeneration and environmental projects delivered, increased community engagement and participation and improved citizen health and well-being.