



## News in brief

### One-off housing figure is high

New figures released by the National Roads Authority (NRA) has seen Donegal County Council top the polls for granting one-off housing on national roads.

Since January 2006, the NRA has lodged 81 appeals against council decisions relating to mainly one-off homes to An Bord Pleanála, with the number of appeals in Mayo and Donegal making up thirty seven per cent of the national total.

The statistics show that the NRA has appealed 30 planning permissions for mainly one-off homes granted in both Mayo and Donegal county councils and 32 appeals elsewhere.

The figures show that An Bord Pleanála finds in the NRA's favour in the vast majority of cases - in the 47 cases decided, the board upheld the authority's view in all but four of the cases.

A spokesman cited road data that shows that more than 50 per cent (33,665) of all injury accidents reported on the roads from 1996-2004 occurred at junctions or involved turning movements on to/off roads.

### Donegal Co. part of 'Recession Proof' Network

The Pallet Network (TPN), Ireland's leading distributor of palletised goods, has announced revenues of €9.2 million for 2008, up from €7.8 million for the previous year. The company has seen its turnover increase year on year since the company was founded in 2004, when it had a turnover of €1.7 million. The company has projected a turnover of €10.5 million for 2009, with a projected growth rate of 15%. TPN transports, provides and sorts more than 400,000 pallets per year for clients that include Mother Care, Fleetwood Paints, Honda and Sony.

Rockall Logistics Ltd, based in Killybegs, Co. Donegal, and headed by Bill Jones, is part of the growing network of TPN members. They were one of the first companies to join TPN, when it was established four years ago. Founded in 2000, Rockall Logistics Ltd.

employs 24 staff, has 15 trucks and is responsible for network deliveries throughout the county of Donegal.

Seamus McGowan, Managing Director, TPN, says "Despite the current economic situation, TPN's business model is relatively recession proof. We plan to grow both volume and revenues by 15% for 2009-2011. Strong continued demand for next-day service for pallets and parcel consignments throughout Ireland and an import/export service to and from the UK has ensured TPN volumes are now more than double our nearest rival. We anticipate further volume growth as additional members join The Pallet Network."

TPN is a finalist in The Green Awards, Transport Initiative category, demonstrating TPN's commitment to reducing their environmental impact at a global and local level. McGowan added, "There are now 22 member companies in the network. Our strong revenue figures, our latest award and the growing demand for membership all exemplify how TPN's business model is resonating within the haulage industry. We are very confident about our future, which includes plans to expand into Eastern Europe." A total of 135 jobs have been created since the company was launched, 25 at HQ and 110 at transport companies throughout the country. They anticipate having a total of 100 new jobs in the network by 2010.