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The biggest problem I have encountered over the past year is the lack of communication between Roscommon Public bodies and the general public. I believe the administration has to improve enormously to come anywhere near the acceptable, let alone top-rate, level required. I will give you two examples:

1. I received a residency in The Harrington Studios, King house, Boyle in September 2019. On the King House website (www.kinghouse.ie) there was a section relating to the studios with biographies from the current artists. As I was new I asked about adding my bio to the website, but discovered it was down. I brought this to the attention of the Tourism Office in King House. I was informed that someone would look into it. I couple of months later when I checked again I discovered that the website was now completely lost. That is to say, the domain name had been allowed to expire and was now owned by a third-party. In other words, there is now no website for King House one of the largest tourist attractions to Boyle! Renewing a domain name is a very simple task of basically paying the fee (no more than €30/year) every year, but even though they had been informed it was allowed to expire. Quite unbelievable!
2. Another major issue relating to communication has to do with the Roscommon Leader Partnership with regards to the An Bealach project in Ballaghaderreen - a €2m funded project incorporating an Creative Entrepreneurship and Education Space (including creative studios, a maker space and retail) and a Social Innovation and Inclusion Hub. Even though I have been requesting basic information (an overview) from August 2019 with over 100 correspondences between myself and the Roscommon Leader Patnership, The An Bealach CLG, and the Northwest Roscommon CDP (responsible for communication of the project with the community) I have been mostly ignored, but also lied to and in one instance threatened with a solicitors letter to stop publishing the fact that no one is answering my questions. I have been informed, for example; that I would be sent an overview of the project within 10 days, but nothing ever arrived; that there would be a press release happening shortly where the public could pose questions, which again never happened; been told that a representative would pass on information, but refused to as they said it held sensitive information and that I didn't understand how these things work. The only time I heard any information regarding the project was during a Ballaghaderreen Town Planning meeting in February 2020 when I raised the issue and Micheal Frain, An Bealach Director & Company Secretary, informed the meeting that matched funding from GMIT had been secured and were looking for a building to host the project. When I asked what was with the two dedicated buildings - An industrial unit in the Business Park and a vacant premises at The Shambles - we were informed they were never part of the project. When I asked about the creative studios and social innovation and inclusion centre, Michael Frain asked me where I was getting my information, as though these were never part of the project, which is certainly not the case (see the approved application). They have adhered to NONE of the goals, protocols or guidelines set out in their own proposal.

So, it is all very good and well putting a strategic plan in place and asking communities to be part of the process, but I do not see why I, or anyone else, should give any time to a project that will be decided upon by people who fail to do basic admin (domain renewal) or communicate with the public and 'go rogue' with community projects. I am still to this day, almost a year after my first request for an overview of the An Bealach project, waiting to hear anything.