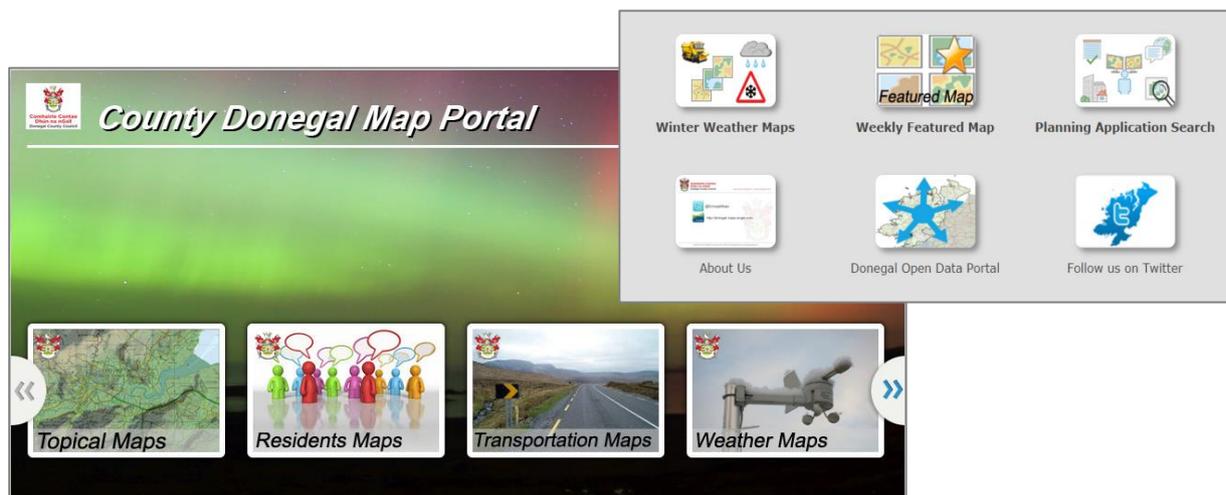# DONEGAL MAP PORTAL

Contact Details

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Executive Summary

Donegal County Council has been an advocate of the use of GIS within the Local Authority sector for over 15 years. With the advent of more mobile devices and improved internet connectivity the public is now more familiar with maps. Donegal County Council used their access to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping, data and technology to develop the Donegal Map Portal as the "go to" web space for Donegal Spatial information. Developing a social media presence on twitter was key to promoting the portal. The portal will continue to develop and adapt with the evolving ArcGIS Online Platform.

Business Challenge

The challenge was to create a Map Portal for functional, simple, topical and fascinating maps. The primary aim was to support the Council services and promote the County through GIS and web mapping. The Portal also aims to: make many different maps available to the public; create maps that tell a story relating to the county, e.g. Jane Austen's connections to Donegal; and use a wide range of mapping technologies. It has been combined with the Twitter account @DonegalMaps to publicise new maps. Challenges included identifying the data and adding value through multi-media such as imagery and video. The team aims to promote transparency, value for money, efficiency and better public services within the Public Sector. The portal model delivers mapping to multi platforms in a responsive manner. The target audience is Donegal residents, tourists, investors, diaspora and generally people with an interest in Donegal.

DONEGAL MAP PORTAL

Solution

Donegal County Council tackled these challenges by maximising the responsive design and multi-platform capabilities of their ArcGIS online account available through their Esri subscription. A number of pre-defined templates with a range of functionality are used and each is designed with a consistent Donegal theme. Additionally, FME is used to automate tasks and maintain "live" data. The @DonegalMap twitter account is used to share maps and increase the profile of all mapping on Donegal.maps.arcgis.com. The Donegal County Council GIS team prepares maps in advance, taking into consideration set dates such as Heritage Week, Golf tournaments and County Campaigns as well as forecasted weather events. The Portal also enables the integration of maps into press releases and public notice etc. Workshops were held on how to use Maps and Web links in communications and additional research was carried out to explore stories of the county that could be mapped.

Benefits

There are currently over 100 maps on the Donegal Map portal. Maps can be shared temporarily and taken off the site when appropriate. There are over 520 followers to the @DonegalMaps account and this is increasing daily. Donegal Council are now locally known as the main resource for online mapping and they are frequently referenced on Social Media by other Agencies. An element of the portal has been recognized internationally in the Esri Inc. Story Map competition 2015. The Hills of Donegal 3D Map was awarded third place in the Best Travel/Recreation/Destination category. The same map was a winner in

the 2015, Esri Ireland #mapsmakesense Storymaps competition. The Donegal County Council Map Portal is a project which maximizes limited resources for the benefit of Donegal's citizens. The Donegal Map Portal has successfully addressed the mapping needs of the community, contributed to the tourism sector and demonstrated an innovative holistic approach to promoting GIS at Donegal County Council.