



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Galway County Council**  
**Monthly Management Report**  
**April 2021**

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### **Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) – Portumna Courthouse**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Minister Humphreys announced the award of €2,552,309 in funding under RRDF for the redevelopment of Portumna Courthouse. This project will redevelop the historic courthouse building and courtyard in Portumna to deliver a state of the art venue for the arts and culture, a remote working space for entrepreneurs and a new meeting and social space for the community.

The project encompasses the physical and social regeneration of a key local heritage asset that will be a valuable resource for the local community. The project will enhance day and evening time tourism and community activity, attracting visitors to the town and providing essential remote working space to support local workers and new enterprises.

The award under Category 1 of RRDF is a follow on from the previous award under Category 2 and is just one of a host of projects which the Council will deliver to ensure the development and regeneration of Portumna. In addition to the projects led by the Council the team in the Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit are working collaboratively with the other directorates and a range of external partners to deliver on the potential of Portumna as a tourist destination.

### **The Lough Derg Marketing Group**

The Lough Derg Marketing Group, with the local authorities of Galway, Tipperary, and Clare; in association with Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland launched the Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This project was initiated in late 2018 following the success of the earlier Lough Derg Roadmap, with the aim to establish a set of tourism priorities for the region. A series of public engagement workshops took place in Portumna and Killaloe/ Ballina in late 2018. Much of the content was drafted throughout 2019 with ongoing engagement of stakeholders sitting on the Lough Derg Marketing Group. The plan underwent environmental assessments and a series of reports were issued for public consultation across the three local authorities in Q3 2020.

The plan comprises product development, experience development and marketing objectives and uses the VICE model to consider the needs of the visitor, the industry, the community and the economy. The plan identifies slow tourism opportunities for Lough Derg and has considered the destination with a hub and spoke approach. Portumna, Co. Galway, is a key hub and a series actions have already been progressed through the work of the Portumna Vision 2030 steering committee. The plan will also bring about appropriate opportunities to build tourism for communities in the hinterland. The Lough Derg Marketing Group will use

the plan as a framework for ongoing collaboration and monitor progress of actions through future meetings.

The VEDP was funded as a LEADER cooperative project as well as Fáilte Ireland and the local authorities. Please see <https://discoverloughderg.ie/category/news/> for further information.

### **Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

**Galway County Council has received the following funding under of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

#### **Measure 3 - €500K for Connemara Trails & Eurovelo Route**

Connemara Trails & Eurovelo Route	Upgrade of existing 10km walking trail. Replacement of 2 bridges along the route of the Western Way. Upgrade of an existing mountain bike trail at Derroura Oughterard and the signing of the Eurovelo cycling route from the Mayo border at Leenane to the Clare border at Kinvara	Cappahoosh Trail, Western Way Bridges Oughterard & Leenane, Derroura Bike Trail Oughterard, Eurovelo Route Leenane to Kinvara	€500,000
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#### **Measure 2: The Walks Project Loughrea, Co. Galway €200,000**

Galway	The Walks Project	Continued regeneration of The Walks, specifically 3 sections from the river bend to the bank will be repaired/restored.	Loughrea, Co. Galway	€200,000
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#### **Measure 1:**

Galway	Aughrane Forest Trail Project - Phase 1	Development and enhancement of trail.	Aughrane Forest, Ballygar, Co. Galway	€17,685
Galway	Glenamaddy Frass Looped Walks Phase 1	The minor upgrading of the existing bog road and upgrade of existing carpark.	Frass Clooncon Bog, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway	€18,000

Galway	Lismany Kylemore Boardwalk	Replace/Upgrade of boardwalk and viewing platform	Lismany Kylemore Bog, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€20,000
Galway	Lismany Kylemore Trail	Trail Upgrade	Lismany Kylemore Bog, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	€20,000
Galway	Clonbur Walking and Bicycle Trails (Maintenance)	Trail Maintenance	Clonbur Woods, Clonbur, Co. Galway	€18,000

## Rural Schemes

### CLÁR

A total of 42 applications were received by April 15<sup>th</sup> for the CLÁR 2021 Rural Scheme, with 17 under Measure 1 (Safety) and 20 Applications for consideration under Measure 2, Outdoor Recreation and 5 under Measure 3 (A) Sensory Gardens.

Final validation and further information requests on applications is ongoing. Shortlisting will take place in advance of the deadline of May 7<sup>th</sup> when a maximum of 10 applications can be submitted under Measures 1 and 2 combined and three projects a maximum of three projects under Measure 3(a). The final decision on applications is made by the Department of Community and Rural Development with allocations due to be announced by the end of June 2021.

Designated CLÁR areas can be seen on the

<http://www.galway.ie/en/media/Map%20of%20CLAR%20Areas%20in%20Galway.pdf>

Applications can still be made for the **CLÁR Innovation Measure** until **Friday 21st May 2021**. Applications are made directly to the Department but Members or Groups may wish to discuss proposals in advance with staff in ERCD. Contact [clar@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:clar@galwaycoco.ie) (Éimear Dolan or Martin Kenny)

## CLÁR Innovation Measure

- Innovative or pilot projects are sought which address specific challenges of Clár areas such as rural isolation, village decline, service accessibility, population change, social disadvantage and marginalization
- Applications must demonstrate cross-community and cross-organisational ways of working to deliver outcomes, consider new or innovative ways to deliver services, and/or implement approaches or ideas which can be replicated elsewhere
- €5,000 - €50,000 with varying match funding levels, e.g. up to 95% for community groups – approvals may be announced in tranches throughout the year
- Eligible Applicants: LA's, Local Development Companies, Community Groups, Representative bodies for businesses and other Organisations located in Clár areas (must be formally established, i.e. CLG).
- Response to queries: pilot project can be across a number of DED's once they are all in Clár and expenditure can be allowed on capital as well as current expenditure

## **Town and Village Renewal Scheme**

The Department of Community and Rural Development have yet to make any formal announcement on the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, however it is proposed to open Expression of Interests prior to the end of April and EOI Forms will be circulated prior to the end of April firstly to Members, then the public, PPN and on our web and social media channels.

Projects funding under the 2020 and 2019 Town and Village Renewal Schemes Main Schemes are ongoing with 5 Accelerated Measures completed and 10 nearly completion.

Further information queries can be sent to Economic, Community and Rural Development Unit: (Éimear Dolan) [tandv@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tandv@galwaycoco.ie)

## INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

### **Active Travel Programme 2021**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March the council was notified of an allocation of €6,193,000 from the National Transport Authority as part of the Active Travel Investment Programme 2021. This is a significant allocation and will enable many projects to be undertaken and others to be planned throughout the county.

In relation to staffing for the programme, the NTA has been engaging with the CCMA on behalf of the local government sector and TII. The initial indication was that the council would be allocated 2 no. additional staff and an additional 3 no. for the Regional Design Office. While welcome, it is felt that a greater level of resourcing would be needed in County Galway to deliver a programme of such scale.

I confirm that I have written to the National Transport Authority about this concern and the Authority has confirmed its intention to adequately resource the Active Travel Programme to ensure its effective delivery. This is a welcome development and the council will be engaging with the NTA in that regards. In the meantime, it is intended to proceed with the recruitment of the initial 2 no. additional staff.

## HOUSING DIRECTORATE

### **Housing CAPITAL – Tubber road, Gort**

- Exemption Certificate granted for works to progress on Phase 1&2 during the Covid restrictions from January to April 2021.
- Phase 1 and 2 (27 units) consisting of both 2 bed units and 3 bed units are on track to be completed in June 2021.
- Active Travel Funding – Allocation of funding for the provision of pedestrian connectivity to the site and the national school to Gort Town Centre.



Phase 1 – 17 Units



Site progression – View from south of site  
(Foundations for Phase 3 under construction)

## Housing Rents

- There are currently 2452 council tenants being charged an average rent of €61.89 per week.
- This amounts to a total weekly rent of €151,755.
- The collection rate for rents is 92%.
- There are currently 221 RAS (Long-Term Leasing) council tenants being charged an average weekly rent of €56.93.
- The current rate of rent for an OAP is €27 or €52 for two OAPS. The rent for a single individual based on the basic Social Welfare payment of €203 is €39.60.

- 58 households are currently on the maximum rate of rent of €132 per week and several local authorities have reviewed or removed the cap on rents.
- The Rents Dept have not implemented increases in rent where PUP payments led to an increase in household income.
- 74% of council housing tenants owe little or no arrears, while another 12% owe less than 3 months arrears.

**M I S E , L E M E A S ,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelly', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021**

**Kevin Kelly,**

**Chief Executive (Interim), Galway County Council**