



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Aras an Chontae
Cnoc na Radharc
Gaillimhe**

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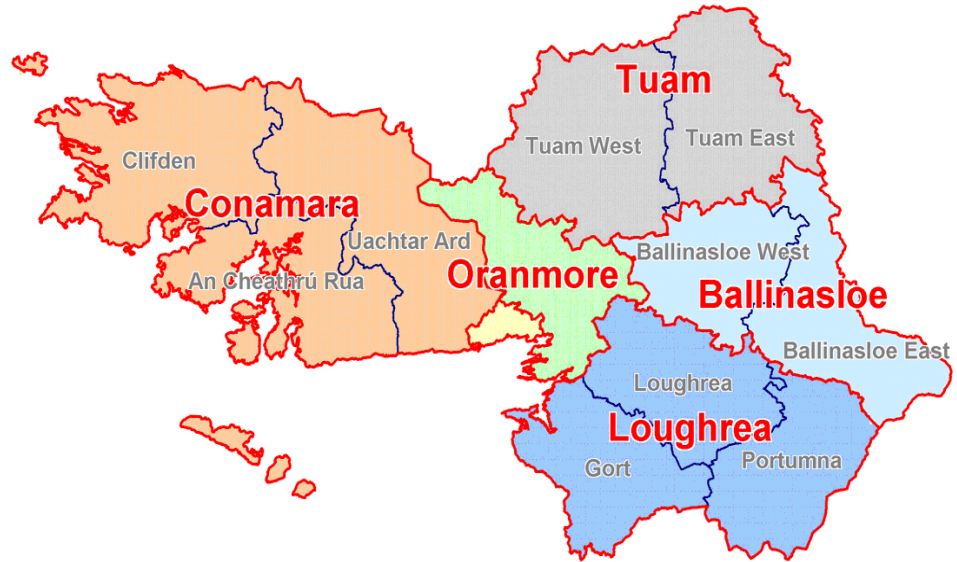
Important Note: Copies of the Annual Report are available in alternate formats:
A Summary Leaflet is also available on request.

MISSION STATEMENT

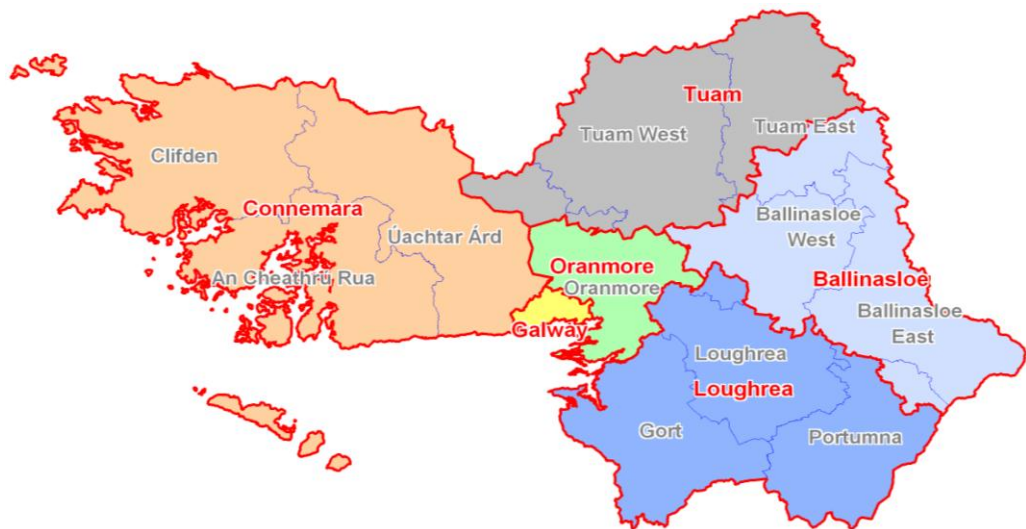
TO DELIVER INCLUSIVE LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES FOR COUNTY GALWAY THROUGH EFFECTIVE CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION



Electoral Area Map Pre October 2008



Electoral Area Map Post October 2008



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF COUNTY GALWAY



It gives me great pleasure, as Mayor of County Galway, to introduce on behalf of Galway Local Authorities, the Annual Report for 2008. It was a very challenging year for us in many respects but also a year of significant developments and achievements. Throughout the year Galway County Council continued to provide leadership in the promotion of social, economic and cultural development of the county.

The report details the provision of various infrastructural projects such as roads, housing, water & sewerage and amenity facilities during 2008. These projects are essential for the future development of the county and to keep pace with the growing demand for high quality services. Work on the day to day services continued also in the face of ever increasing demand and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and co-operative staff available to us.

As a local authority we strive to be easily accessible and available to the people of the county and we are committed to work with our communities, business, state and voluntary organisations at all times in order to provide a quality service.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the County Manager, her Management Team and staff for the tremendous work they carry out on a daily basis for the development of this county. I would also like to thank Councillor Sean Canney who presided as Mayor for the first six months of the year and also thank my colleagues in the Council for their support and co-operation during my period as Mayor.

Is onóir mhór dom an tréimhse atá caite agam mar Mhéara ar an gContae breá seo. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chuir in iúl as ucht an comhoibriú iontach a fuair mé ó fheidhmeannaigh na Comhairle, na Comhairleoirí eile agus pobal na Gaillimhe fré chéile. Cé go bhfuil dúshlán mhór romhainn táim cinnte go bhfuil ar chumas an Chontae seo tarraingt le chéile agus oibriú i dtreo todhchaí thairbheach dúinn ar fad.
“Ní neart go cur le chéile”

*Cllr Peter Feeney
Mayor of the County of Galway*

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER



Each year Galway County Council presents an annual report outlining its accomplishments during the year, in line with the targets set out in the Councils Corporate Plan 2005-2009. During 2008, Galway County Council continued to deliver the essential infrastructure which the county needs. We invested in excess of €250m on capital projects delivering much needed improvements. Over €162m was spent on day to day operations delivering a wide range of essential services. These investments help to ensure that we deliver an improvement to the quality of life in the county and improving its potential to attract investment.

The year 2009 saw the allocation of €2.5m to communities under the Recreation and Amenity Framework for the development of all-weather facilities, walking routes and passive recreation areas throughout the county. A number of water services schemes were progressed during the year, together with an extensive investment in National Roads, particularly with the construction of the N6 from Athlone.

The progress made in 2008 could not have been achieved without the collective input of Mayor Peter Feeney, former Mayor Sean Canney, the other elected members, members of Strategic Policy committees, Area Committees and staff, together with the support of the community. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation to all those who made a valuable contribution to the work of the council.

Martina Moloney
County Manager

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008

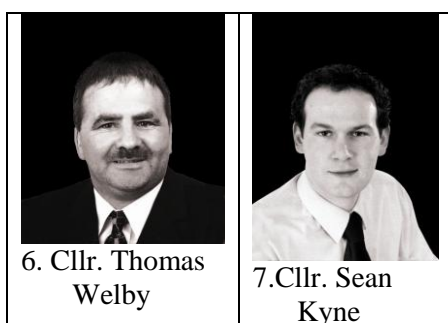
BALLINASLOE ELECTORAL AREA:



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Michael Mullins, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe	090 9642728	087 2607405
2. Cllr. Tomas Mannion, Shruffane, Caltra, Ballinasloe	090 9678212	087 6787490
3. Cllr. James Joyce, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe,	090 9685628	087 9591904
4. Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim Ballinasloe	090 9642986	0860886160
5. Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Tobergrellan, Ballinasloe	090 9643010	087 6133676

CONAMARA ELECTORAL AREA:

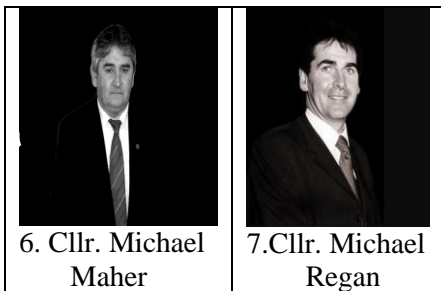


Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard	091552726	087 0519884
2. Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg, Aille Thiar, Indreabhán, Conamara	091593084	086 3864179
3. Comh. Seosamh O'Cuaig, Aill na Brún, Cill Chiaráin	095 33428	087 2194247

4. Comh. Connie Ni Fhatharta, Cladhnach,
An Cheathrú Rua 091572140 087 2311522
5. Cllr. Josie Conneely, Apt 4, J. Conneelys, Market Street,
Clifden 095 22142 087 9528808
6. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, 091552959 087 2855676
7. Cllr. Sean Kyne, Clydagh, Moycullen, 091555174 087 6137372

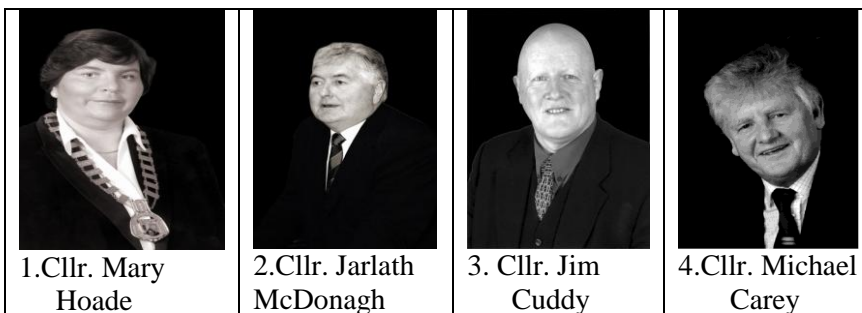
LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA:



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Michael Fahy, Caherduff, Ardahan	091635177	087 2456000
2. Cllr. Pat Hynes, "Dun Gaire", Gort Road, Loughrea	091842399	087 2404404
3. Cllr. Bridie Willers, Grannagh, Ardahan	091635425	086 0847270
4. Cllr. Willie Burke, St. Brendans Road, Portumna	090 9741332	087 2686166
5. Cllr. Peter Feeney, Ballydavid, Athenry	091844735	087 6812403
6. Cllr. Michael Maher, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway	091842968	086 0409208
7. Cllr. Michael Regan, Bride Street, Loughrea	091847200	087 2547524

ORANMORE ELECTORAL AREA:

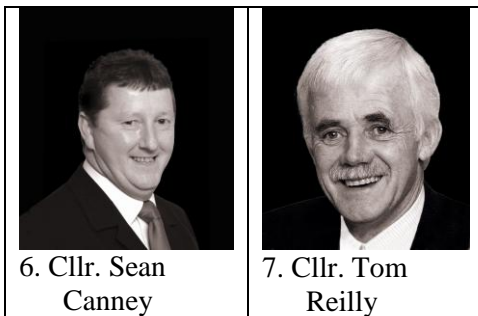
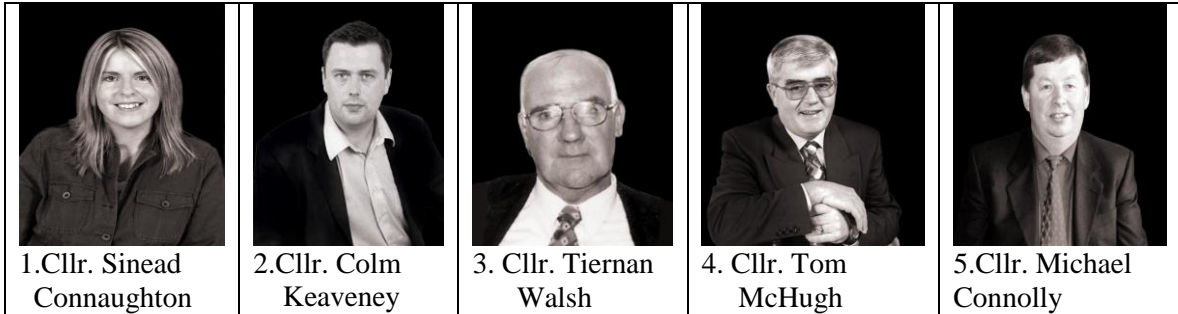


Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Mary Hoade, Baranna, Annaghdown, Corrandulla, Co. Galway	093 35763	087 2255979

2.Cllr. Jarlath McDonagh, “Teach Slighigh” Turloughmroe	091841411	087 2346012
3.Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Lydican, Carnmore, Oranmore	091798136	087 6360242
4.Cllr. Michael Carey, Lettera, Headford, Co. Galway	093 35407	086 1741611

TUAM ELECTORAL AREA:



Councillors

	Telephone	Mobile
1.Cllr. Sinead Connaughton, 23 Ashbrook Close, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe.	090 9679249	086 8577624
2.Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam	093 60586	087 6776812
3.Cllr. Tiernan Walsh, Ardeevin, Williamstown	094 9659046	086-8514674
4.Cllr. Tom McHugh, Kilcolghans, Tuam	093 28486	086 2574192
5.Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough	090 9679465	087 6829049
6.Cllr. Sean Canney, Claretuam, Tuam	093 55367	086 2513639
7.Cllr. Tom Reilly, 20, Trinity Court, Tuam	093 28978	086 3627889

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City and Ballinasloe Town Council area. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

In accordance with the Irish system of local government, which encompasses both democratic representation and public administration, Galway County Council as a local authority performs both a representational and operational role.

The **representational role** of Galway County Council is performed directly by the elected members of the Council. There are thirty members (Councillors), who are elected from five local electoral areas:-

Ballinasloe	5 members
Conamara	7 members
Loughrea	7 members
Oranmore	4 members
Tuam	7 members

These members are elected for a period of five years and local elections were held in 2004. The Council elects a Mayor from its Members at its Annual Meeting.

The functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the County Manager operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget
- making or varying the County Development Plan
- adoption of Scheme of Letting Priorities of local authority housing
- making, amending and revoking bye-laws
- approval for borrowing money
- declaration of roads to be public roads

The Council makes its decisions by resolution at its meetings.

The County Manager and her staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day to day administration of the County Council. The County Manager performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Manager's decisions are made by written "Managers Order".

These functions include:

- the letting of houses
- the granting or refusal of planning permissions
- the appointment, of staff etc.,

The County Manager, in making decisions, must act in a way that is consistent with the policy, which has been established by the elected members while, at the same time, advising the members in relation to the performance of their reserved functions.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

According to the Local Government Act 2001, a primary function of the local authority is to provide a forum for the democratic representation of the local community and provide the community with civic leadership. In addition, the local authority has responsibility for the provision of a range of services, regulatory and enforcement functions.

The thirty elected representatives lay down the framework for the policy under which a Management Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and five Strategic Policy Committees formulate and agree policy. The SPCs comprise of elected councillors and voluntary/sectoral representatives who review and formulate policy across the range of Council functions. A Management Team consisting of Directors of Services and County Manager operate in an executive capacity.

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Mayor, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the County Manager. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and act as a 'cabinet' to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be agreed for submission to the full Council. The CPG advises and assists the Council and provides input on matters of general concern. It also has a role to monitor the overall performance of the local authority.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The SPC structure makes available to elected representatives a framework and opportunity to fulfil their role as overall policy makers and furthermore, enables opportunities for partnerships with local interests and community representatives. SPCs provide a forum for better and enhanced capacity for involvement in policy formulation, review and evaluation, with inbuilt assistance of relevant sectoral interests and supported by a Director of Services. Five SPCs have been established in the Council:

- Housing & Emergency Services
- Roads and Transportation
- Planning and Sustainable Development
- Environment, & Water Services
- Corporate and Cultural Affairs

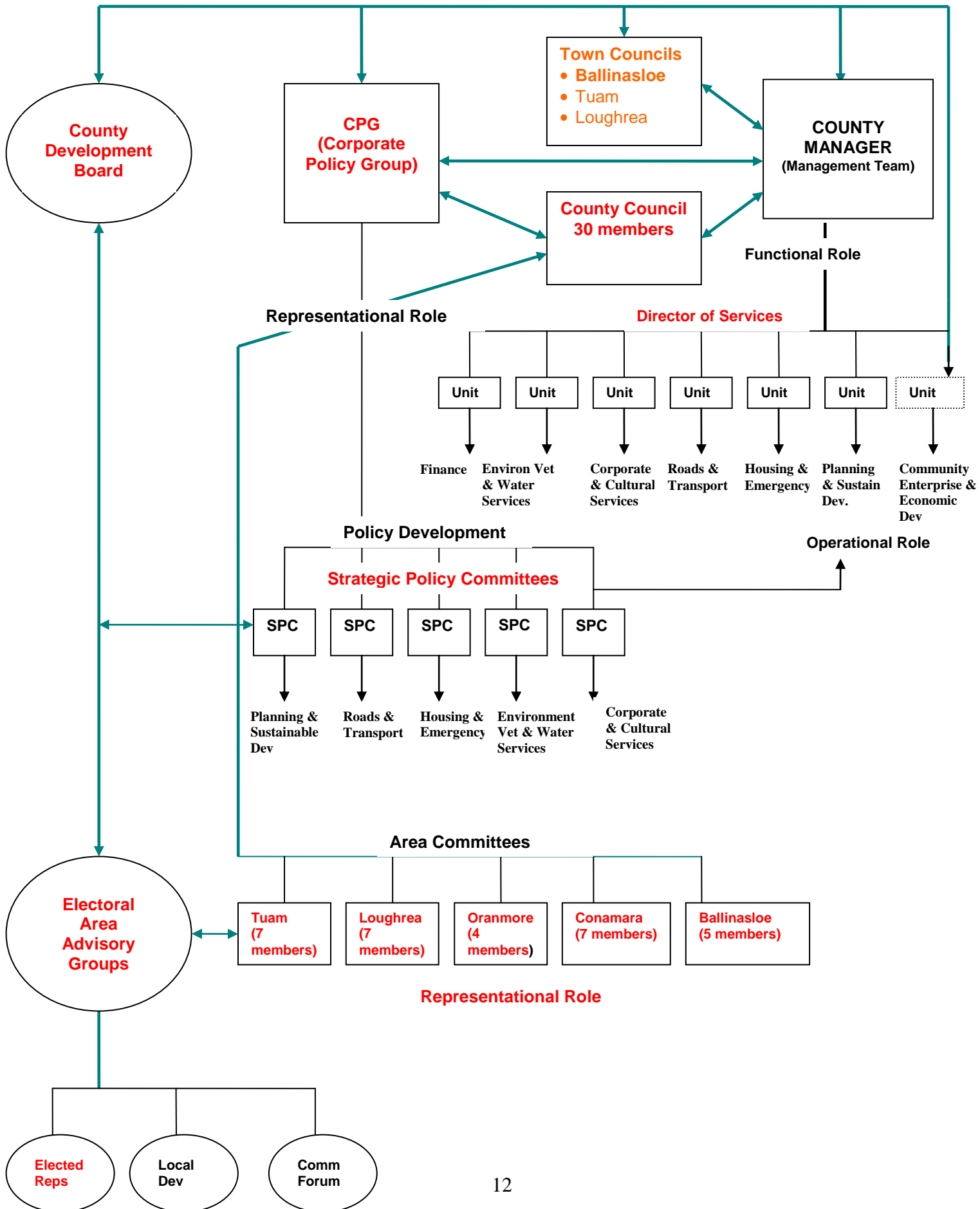
Area Committees

Each Electoral Area of the County is served by the Area Committee comprising the elected representatives from that area. The Area Committee structure enables an area/local-based dimension to the delivery of services and local operational issues of concern. The Area Committee deals with matters relating to the operational delivery of local authority services.

Town Councils

Town Council representative and policy-making structures operate in Ballinasloe, Tuam and Loughrea. Each Town Council has 9 members. Town Councils perform important representational functions and articulate the views of their areas in relation to policy and operational matters. Ballinasloe Town Council is the third largest town authority in the Country in geographical terms and in addition to providing essential services such as public lighting, street cleaning, social housing, development control and physical planning, the Town Council is involved in a wide range of other activities such as the provision and maintenance of recreational and amenity facilities, casual trading, the October Fair and tidy towns.

GALWAY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2008



CORPORATE THEMES

The Corporate Plan 2005-2009 serves as the strategic framework for the future actions of the Council for that period and is structured across a series of Themes that reflect a cross-cutting system of service delivery. The six Corporate Themes, corresponding Aims and Core Objectives as identified in the Plan are presented in the table below.

No:	Theme:	Aim:	Core Objectives:
1.	Achieving Balanced and Sustainable Development	Further develop the county in a balanced manner through the provision of essential infrastructure and progressive planning that meets the needs of industry and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieving Balanced Development - Promoting Economic Generation - Building Essential Infrastructures
2.	Preserving and Enhancing the Environment	Manage the natural heritage of the county to meet the needs of local communities in the present, while ensuring that future generations can sustain a living in harmony with their environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Sustainability & Promoting Sustainable Development - Valuing and Conserving our Heritage
3.	Developing Sustainable Communities	Strengthen local communities through the provision of community assets and resources through engagement and proactive support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building Sustainable Communities - Providing Community Services, Outreach and Education - Supporting Community Development - Protecting the Community
4.	Maximising Social Inclusion and Local Governance	Improve the quality of life for all citizens of the County through a more responsive and inclusive service that recognises and supports communities to play an active part in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing Active Citizenship, Civic Leadership and Representation - Maximising Social Inclusion & Social Capital
5.	Supporting Cultural Development	Develop a County where the Irish language and culture are cherished and where cultural diversity is celebrated and participation in the arts is encouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural and Tourism Development - Promoting the Irish Language
6.	Maximising Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness	Maximise the effectiveness of the local authority to plan and deliver its services based on efficiency and accountability and on meeting the needs of its staff and customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optimise Human Resource Potential - Quality Service Delivery & Customer Care - Organisational Effectiveness - Maximising Efficiency & Resources - Working in Partnership

The progress and achievements of the organisation for 2008 are presented in relation to the Corporate Themes under each Unit heading in the following sections.



CORPORATE AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT

Mr. Kevin Kelly Director of Services

The Corporate and Cultural Affairs Unit is committed to the development of a positive corporate image through the provision of efficient professional and competent services to the Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit encompasses a wide variety of Council services ranging from Corporate Affairs to Information Systems, Library Services, Legal Services, Human Resource Management and support to the Council in the form of Corporate Secretariat. Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2008 are presented below appropriate to the relevant Themes contained in the Corporate Plan 2005 -2009.

Theme: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

The library service makes great effort to secure the best books from publishers all over the world. These books are distributed to 30 Branch Libraries. In 2008 more than 520,000 books were taken home by users of the library service and more than half-a-million visits were made to the libraries. These are visits by individuals who came in search of a book, who came in search of education and ideas and everyone is met by library staff members who understand the role which the library service plays in life, and who believe in the value of the public library service.

- In May the new Dunmore Library was officially opened. Membership and usage of the library has doubled.
- The Moylough Library was completely renovated as part of the renovations to the Community Centre carried out by Moylough Community Council.
- The new Woodford Library was officially opened as part of a cooperative project with the new Woodford Credit Union Facility.
- Work continued on automating and refurbishing of Gort Library.
- The Athenry Library introduced a computer based book issue and cataloguing system.

RECREATION AND AMENITY FACILITIES

During the year significant resources were allocated to develop a range of facilities and amenities in partnership with other funding bodies and local communities.

€2.5m was allocated to 25 projects resulting from submissions under The Recreation

and Amenity Framework to cover capital costs associations with the development of all-weather playing pitches, walking routes and passive recreation areas.

A Recreation and Amenity sub group of the County Development Board was established with a view to developing a countywide Recreation and Amenity Strategy in 2009.

The Council continued consultation with the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, regarding a proposed swimming pool in Loughrea.

The Council provided funding to Athenry Arts and Heritage Ltd for the operation of the Athenry Heritage Centre in 2008. Aughrim Heritage Centre was opened during the summer season.

Phase I of the Loughrea Lake Walkway was substantially completed and consultation with landowners for Phase 2 commenced.

As part of the Play Policy, Galway County Council provided assistance to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance during 2008.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The number of students assisted by the Council under the Higher Education Grants Scheme for the academic year 2007/08 was 2,340. Expenditure for 2008 was €12.3m for the 2007/08 academic year

COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the local authority with a number of roles across a range of local authority functions including;

- Enforcement e.g. statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping and casual trading;
- Monitoring e.g. housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds,
- Assistance e.g. to tourists, elderly, schools, neighbourhoods, communities; gardai and state agencies,
- Observing and Reporting on all the above.

The following table shows Community Warden outcomes under the various activities for 2008

CATEGORY	SECTION	ACTION TAKEN
Abandoned/burnt out vehicles	Environment Section	204 vehicles removed
Stationary traffic offences	Roads Section	3798 Fines Issued
Litter offences	Environment Section	411 fines issued 16 case referred to court

Waste disposal/ Illegal dumping	Environment Section	109 statutory notices issued under the Waste Management Act. 378 Clean Ups by the Council
Casual Trading	General Purposes	732 Inspections carried out

In 2008 the funding of the Community Warden Scheme by the DoEHLG ceased and the full cost was met by the Council.

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Register, which comes into force on the 15th February each year, is managed through the Corporate & Cultural Affairs Unit

The Register of Electors was published on the 1st February, 2008. The number of people on this register is 129,673. A supplement to this Register was published in time for the Liosban Treaty Referendum which took place on 12th June, 2008. The number of electors on the Supplement was 467 bringing the total electorate for 2008/2009 to 130,140



Outgoing Mayor of the County Cllr. Sean Canney (2007 - 08) congratulates Incoming Mayor of the County Cllr Peter Feeney (2008 - 09)

CORPORATE PLANNING AND SUPPORT

- Ethics Register – the Register for Members and relevant staff was updated during the year.
- Corporate Policy Group – The Group held six meetings in 2008:
- Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee – The Committee held four meetings in 2008

CIVIC RECEPTIONS:

The Following Civic Receptions were held in County Hall during 2008:

- Presentation on 28th April 2008 to Galway County Scouts Group
- Presentation on 23rd June 2008: to Portumna Hurling Club
Maigh Cuilinn Football club,
Maigh Cuilinn Basketball club,
Maigh Cuilinn Handball club
- Presentation on 24th November 2008 to Celebrate 30 years of Special Olympics in Ireland

ACCESS AND DISABLED

Under the National Disability Strategy, Galway County Council received €520,000 from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. Fire Evacuation chairs were installed in three locations together with the completion of access improvements including power automated doors, installation of induction loops, lowered counters and improvements to accessible toilets in fourteen locations including Libraries and Area Offices.

Ongoing implementation of the Disability Action Plan 2007 – 2015 resulted in the introduction of guidelines on development of application forms and leaflets for staff together with an Accessible Information Policy and Alternative Format Request Policy for customers. Galway County Council also continued to provide access awareness training for staff together with the further rollout of assistive technology and audio books throughout the branch library network. Website accessibility was enhanced and additional accessible features introduced.



Mr Dermot Mahon Corporate Services (2nd from left) accepts the NDA Excellence through Accessibility Award on behalf of Galway County Council.

Considerable progress was also made to address accessibility around our towns and villages and a full programme of work completed. Galway County Council was presented with the Excellence through Accessibility Award from the National Disability Authority reflecting accessibility improvements in Áras an Chontae.

Theme: SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

In improving service through Irish, the council have continued with the statutory obligations of the Official Languages Act 2003 and the implementation of Scéim Teanga 2005 -2008. The following activities were achieved:

Irish courses, language awareness and language support material was made available to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe to enhance the provision of services through Irish

The East Galway Language Surveys Project was initiated to identify the Irish language needs of towns in East Galway.

An Mála Draíochta – A collaborative project with Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail Tuaithe & Gaeltachta and Údarás na Gaeltachta in which ‘Irish Language Story Sacks’ were produced by transition year students for use in National Schools to encourage and assist Irish language reading at school and at home.

Language Awareness Initiative in East Galway – This collaborative project with County Galway VEC and Gaeilge Locha Riach provided increased awareness of the Irish language support and services that are available in East Galway.

Ongoing cooperation with *An Coimisinéir Teanga*.

Coiste Logainmneacha Chontae na Gaillimhe met on a monthly basis to deal with naming of developments and other placename issues.

Participation in the *Baile Beo Initiative* in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Language Plan for An Spidéal- A process was initiated for the preparation of the Plan.

Scéim Teanga Údaráis Áitiúla Chontae na Gaillimhe 2005/2008 - A full review was completed and preparation of new Scéim commenced for 2009- 2012.

LIBRARY SERVICES EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

As part of their brief of being a place of education, information and welcome, Branch Libraries ran specific events during the year. These events included exhibitions, book clubs, readings and lectures.

- The Galway Library Service participated in Library Ireland Week, a national project to celebrate Librarians and Libraries. Branch Libraries marked the week by highlighting the work of the library service and holding various events.

- The East Galway Art Trail was held during the month of April. This is an innovative idea concerned with art awareness and library awareness. Its objective is to bring art and artist into the community by using the space available in a number of Branch Libraries.
- The Bealtaine Festival takes place each May and is a celebration of creativity in older people. Most Branch Libraries provided events for this festival.
- Heritage Week was celebrated at the end of August, with events being held in a number of libraries.
- A Summer Reading Club for young people was conducted in each Branch Library. This was held during July and August with each child being encouraged to read a specified number of books during the holiday period.
- Each Library participated in the national Children's Book week which ran during October.

Theme: MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The I.T. Section provides ICT equipment maintenance and support services throughout the Organisation. Considerable resources have been invested in the following projects in 2008.

- The council web site has been improved most notably with Irish language content and a new mapping application delivering Planning and other data. The web site has achieved an approval rating from the National Disability Authority under their Excellence Through Accessibility awards scheme.
- Corporate document management systems have been consolidated and expanded to new business areas throughout the organisation.
- Security improvements including laptop encryption to protect against loss or theft were implemented.
- Internal efficiency has been increased by rationalisation of data backup storage facilities and procedures.
- Network capacity has been growing in coverage, resilience and capacity. Remote access services have been established and secure remote/mobile working has been enabled. Additional services are available in libraries and public offices.

A new ICT strategy was developed to guide activity in this area over the next five years.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent Section, attached to the Corporate and Cultural Affairs Unit, offering a consultancy service to management and the organisation as a whole. The Section carried out audits and reviews through its annual Audit Plan,

which is drawn up in conjunction with the Management Team and approved by the Audit Committee. The audits listed in the plan include an examination of the internal control systems in operation, to ascertain their effectiveness in safeguarding the interests of the organisation and the protection of its assets. Its function is also to ensure that Galway County Council is delivering Value for Money and is fully compliant with rules and regulations.

A five member Audit Committee was established in 2008 and an inaugural meeting was held in April with a further three meetings being held throughout the year. The committee is made up of two elected representatives and three external members and part of their role is to strengthen the development of the Internal Audit function. Audit reports containing findings and recommendations inclusive of follow up action, are prepared and discussed at the audit committee meetings

- The Audit Committee held four meetings in 2008. The Audit Committee Charter and the Internal Audit Charter were adopted, and both internal audit and external auditor's reports were discussed.
- Seven audits were completed from the Audit Plan.
- A survey was carried out on the controls and reconciliations in place for the collection of the various income streams across all departments throughout the Council.
- Work is ongoing on the preparation of a three year Strategic Audit Plan

HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY

The Human Resources Department plays a supporting role in the achievement of strategic and business objectives by the Council. It promotes a positive working environment, equality of opportunity for all employees and a culture of mutual respect in Galway County Council. The Human Resources Department engages proactively with staff in promoting their personal and career development so that they can reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Council's strategic and business objectives also. Line Managers across the organisation are supported on a daily basis in their human resource management roles. The Human Resources Department administer and manage the delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures.

Among the key activities of the Human Resources Department is its focus on workforce planning, recruiting staff, training and development of staff, staff welfare, and industrial relations as well as creating an equitable, consultative, supportive and safe working environment:

Staff Training and Development

The requirement for a flexible and highly skilled workforce is recognized by the Training Unit in tailoring training and staff development programmes with the co-operation and participation of staff through the Learning and Development Plan. This Plan is developed annually and informed by the Performance Management and Development System. In 2008, 6.06% of total payroll costs was spent on training and development and 3045 training days were provided to staff.

Particular emphasis was placed this year on Health & Safety requirements, Accessibility and Diversity, Management Skills, Technical Skills and on-the-job Training. New courses commenced in 2008 and include a 3 day CSCS Signing Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks Course, 2 day Supervisory Dignity at Work course, General Operative & Related Grades Induction Training, Working at Heights Training and Interview Board Training. The Training Unit also ran a newly developed pilot Supervisory Skills Training Programme on behalf of the Local Government Sector. Galway County Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that staff has the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a customer focused, cost effective service.

Staff Recruitment

The Human Resources Department processed applications for various positions during 2008. Vacancies were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Council's website: www.galwaycoco.ie and on the Local Government website www.localgovernmentjobs.ie. In addition, certain promotional opportunities occurred in-house and interviews were arranged to have these positions filled. In total, 63 recruitment competitions were held during the year and 1185 candidates were interviewed for the various positions.

Number of Employees at 31st December, 2008	
Managerial	8
Clerical/Administrative	348
Engineering/Technical/Professional	122
Operational and Outdoor	601
Employees not under the aegis of Department of Environment and Local Government	208
Contract/Temporary/Seasonal	195

Retirement – 2008

During 2008 twenty four employees retired from the service of Galway County Council: Tony Murphy and Margaret Cleary, Corporate Services Unit; Liam Kavanagh, Planning Unit; Danny Barrett and Anne Dunne, Roads & Transportation Unit; Philomena Whyte, Nóirín Uí Ghoill and Tommy Hopkins, Library Service; Michael Walsh and Eamonn O'Boyle, Housing Unit; Chris Tuohy, Fire Service; Martin O'Shea, Athenry Area; Patrick Kelly and John Shaughnessy, Ballinasloe Area ; Padraic Gannon and Peadar Halloran, An Cheathru Area; Thomas Nee, Clifden Area; Michael Noone, Gort Area; Frank Lynch and George Bayliss, Loughrea Area; Bernard Comer, Oranmore Area; Thomas O'Connor and Michael Kelly, Oughterard Area and Chris Gorevan, Tuam Area. The Management and Staff of Galway County Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the above named individuals for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

Industrial Relations

The Human Resources Department have a policy of fostering good industrial relations at corporate level and this continued during 2008. Every effort to resolve staff issues,

at the earliest possible stage, was made in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions, through the Partnership process and Handling Significant Change mechanism.

Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department continue to provide a myriad of staff welfare schemes. Details of these schemes are available on our intranet and communicated in detail to all new employees on joining the staff of the Council.

Annual Retirement Function:

One of the highlights of 2008 was a Retirement Function hosted by the Human Resources Department. The function took place in October at Áras an Chontae for thirty two employees who retired in 2007. Presentations were made to the retirees by Councillor Peter Feeney, Mayor of County Galway and County Manager Ms. Martina Moloney, in recognition of their dedicated service to Galway County Council. Attendees on the night also included families of those on the honours list and work colleagues.

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Law Agent's Section provided legal services for all programme areas, including the purchase and sale of properties, conduct of litigation including District Court prosecutions, Circuit and High Court litigation, including judicial review. In particular, the Compulsory Acquisition and preparation for oral hearing and arbitration of lands required for inter-urban routes was a substantial area of work. A system of quarterly/bi-annual meetings was set up with all Units of the Council, in order to aid planning of work in progress and anticipated work.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Continuous progress was made during the year in the provision and improvement of office accommodation:

- Construction commenced on the Tuam Regional Offices and Library.
- Office Accommodation was provided for the Water Services/Environment Unit at Centrepoint in Liosbaun.
- Re- allocation of office space in Áras an Chontae included refurbishment works to accommodate the Law Agent's Section and expansion of the Information Systems Section.

MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

In compliance with our Record Management Policy the following activities were conducted in 2008

- Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management.
- Provided researchers with access to the archives and assisted with queries.
- Processed & colour scanned valuation lists (Phase 2)
- Microfilmed two Poor Law Union collections
- Continued the management of non-current record retrievals & returns: 1,353 controlled recalls carried out in 2008.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

A total of 58 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2008 under

the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended.

Of these, 10 sought access to personal information and 48 sought access to non-personal information.

The following table shows an analysis of the decisions made on these requests:

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	24
Requests Part-Granted	24
Requests Refused	10

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

The Workplace Partnership Committee consists of management representatives working together with staff/union representatives in dealing with employment, organisational and customer service delivery matters. The following activities occurred during 2008:

- *Customer Service:* Following the result from a staff survey a recommendation from the Workplace Partnership Committee to extend the office opening hours at Áras an Chontae during July Race Week was approved by the Management Team and implemented.
- *HSCTP Forum:* The Handling Significant Change Through Partnership protocol was initiated in Galway County Council. The County Manager and members of the Management Team met with the local Trade Union officials and the Workplace Partnership Committee Joint Chairs and agreed agenda issues for progressing through the Workplace Partnership Committee.
- *RTL:* The Return to Learning Initiative continued with delivery of three schemes consisting of computer skills to ECDL entry level for General Operatives and related grades
- *Apprenticeship Scheme:* Re-introduction of the Apprenticeship Scheme agreed with the appointment of one Apprentice in 2008.
- *Communications:* The Partnership Committee approved the recommendation from the Communications Focus Group Report for inclusion in a new organisational communications strategy.
- *Education Grants:* The Committee approved payment of the LANPAG Education Grant to four staff members.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ongoing implementation of The Customer Service Action Plan 2005 – 2009 was co-ordinated by the Customer Services Officers Group and resulted in a number of initiatives being progressed in 2008, including; monitoring of the on-line comments system and formal review of effectiveness of customer complaints systems, a full revision of relevant application forms to ensure bilingual and accessibility requirements, phone and motor tax queuing surveys completed, customer service intranet site established, guidance for staff in handling complaints circulated, Directory of Services published, Accessible Information Policy drafted, and the installation of a new reception desk in County Hall.



COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Mr. Frank Dawson Director of Services

The Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Unit continued to contribute to the achievement of the corporate objectives of Galway County Council through the specific initiatives outlined below implemented in the areas of Economic Development, Social Inclusion, Arts and Culture and Sports. Supports were provided by the Unit through financial assistance, advisory services, research and project management services. During 2008, the Unit managed an investment of €440,000 by Galway County Council in Community and Voluntary projects in County Galway with a further €130,000 investment in Arts and Cultural projects. Further resources of €600,000 were directed by the Unit to projects in the County through the RAPID programme. Other key programmes implemented by the Unit included the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme 2008, Pride of Place, Tourism Infrastructure Development and Comhairle na nOg events. In 2008, an Arts project which the Unit was involved with was nominated for a Chambers Ireland National 'Excellence in Local Government' Award. 2008 saw the County Galway Sports Partnership and Social Inclusion Unit becoming fully operational within the Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Unit.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Unit acts as the executive to the Galway County Development Board which met four times in 2008. Over 2008, the CDB has focused on reviewing the implementation of the priority actions of the 2005-2008 Programme of Actions and developing a priority Programme of Actions for 2009-2012. Over 15 sub-groups meetings were facilitated to advance implementation of actions in the County Strategy. At the end of the year the CDB reviewed the progress on its 2006-2008 Priority Action Plan and identified that over 90% of the actions are either fully completed or well advanced.

Nine inter-agency actions in Priority Action Plan 2006-2008 were completed in 2008 by this Unit under the following programmes Economic Development (4) Tourism (1); Social Inclusion (1); Transport (1); Health (1); Youth (1). The CEED Unit also supported other Council Departments responsible for delivery of a further 11 actions in County Strategy. Cllr. Sean Canney was selected by the Corporate Policy Group to replace Cllr. Hynes as the new Chair of the CDB.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Unit has played a key role in implementing projects that support balanced development of the County. This has included;

- Assisting Headford Development Association secure €500,000 capital support for the development of a Community Enterprise Centre.
- Participation in and support of the Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurism Road Show.
- Participation in and support of the 'Look West' economic development campaign.

- Establishment of the Tuam Hub Committee.
- Support of Tourism Events such as the Clifden Air Show.
- Support of Festivals, Agricultural shows and Farmers and Country Markets.
- Supported the development and marketing of Galway Airport.
- Promoted County Galway as a location for enterprise in National and local media.
- Secured European Funding from Interreg IVC to participate in a project to transfer best practice in the use of Wireless to provide Council and Tourism Services.
- Support for the Galway Science and Technology Festival.
- Provided ongoing support and research services to advance the Western Rail Corridor.
- The NASC National Conference - Sustainable Development on the Edge of Europe- was hosted by Galway County Council in Tuam in 2008.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Galway County Council continued its active participation in the City and County Tourism Forum established under the County Development Board. The Council worked in close partnership with Failte Ireland West in 2008 and invested in partnership with Mayo, Roscommon and Galway City Councils in a Fáilte Ireland Domestic Marketing Campaign.

Some of the initiatives implemented by the Council included;

- Galway County Council supported the development of Galway East Tourism and targeted promotions of the region.
- Wayfinding walking tours of six towns in Galway East were actively promoted.
- Support was provided for a domestic Marketing Campaign with Failte Ireland.
- Oughterard Tourism was assisted to support developments of the Western Way
- Galway County Council managed an investment of €300,000 into Tourism infrastructure in the County in conjunction with Failte Ireland.

Theme: SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

COUNTY ARTS SERVICE

In 2008, the Arts Office continued to support the development of Arts activities in County Galway. The level of success of this work can be identified through the increasing standard of applications to the County Arts Awards which was also hosted in May 2008.

An indication of the activities undertaken were as follows;

- In 2008, 105 groups were allocated funding from the Arts Grants amounting to €170,000.
- 12 Nursing Homes took part in Burning Bright Initiative.
- 48 Schools (Primary & Second Level) took part in Writer (Poetry Ireland) in Schools, Film (Galway Film Centre) in Schools and Theatre Initiative (with Galway Youth Theatre).
- 69 Festival events took place in Galway City & County, support & advice was provided by the Arts office to a high percentage of these events.
- A Monthly Arts Newsletter is ongoing and has an on-line subscription over of 3,000 individuals, agencies and groups locally, nationally and internationally.
- The establishment of Screen Commission for West of Ireland promoting Galway County as a location for film and television production with capacity to generate significant revenue in the local economy.
- Examination of the potential to develop a County Music School in partnership with VEC.

- The Public Arts Programme Officer is in place and currently auditing capital schemes with potential for 'Percent for Arts Scheme'. This is important new scheme in County Galway and will include % investment from the County Water Services Investment Programme Capital Infrastructure Programmes and Housing Capital Programmes .

COUNTY GALWAY LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP LSP

The County Galway LSP is managed by Galway Council. It received official designation from the Irish Sports Council in March 2008 and was officially launched on the 29th September 2008 by Mr. John Treacy, CEO of the Irish Sports Council. The vision of County Galway LSP is to make sport and recreation part of every day life for the citizens in County Galway.

In 2008 supported by the Irish Sports Council, the Partnership rolled out the following programmes,

- Buntús for Primary Schools.
- Volunteer Training.
- Club Development Programme.
- Women in Sport initiative.

Other programmes included

- Distribution of defibrillators to twenty communities in Co. Galway, and training in the use of these by 112 persons from these communities, free of charge. This was achieved through funding from Galway County Council.
- Provision of Code of Ethics courses at varying locations throughout the county on a monthly basis.
- Distribution of funding to sports clubs and organisations in the county under Youth in Sport.
- Successful application for funding for RAPID projects from Dormant Accounts Funds. Projects to be implemented in 2009.
- County Galway LSP ran a SAQ (Speed, Agility and Quickness) Course in 2008 attended by 86 persons in total, all of whom received certificates of qualification.

The partnership has identified locally specific sporting requirements, and will address these issues over the next three years through the implementation of the Partnership's three year Strategic Plan.

Theme: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2008, the Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Unit invested €200,000 in 76 projects via the Amenity Annual Grant Scheme and €240,000 invested in 84 projects via the Community Economic Grant Scheme supporting youth projects, rural transport, community centres and residents associations throughout the County. The Unit provided project development support and advice to community organisations throughout the year.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Five communities represented County Galway in the All Ireland Pride of Place competition run by Co-operation Ireland in association with local authorities North and South of the border. The Pride of Place Awards Initiative is a competition to recognise improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The aim of Pride of Place is to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing vibrant sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for all.

In 2008, Galway County Council nominated five communities from the applications received to represent the County in the following categories.

Community	Local Co-ordinating Group	Category	Population / Theme
Milltown	Community Council	2	201 – 500
Inis Mor	Comharchumann Forbartha Árann	3	501 - 1,000
Portumna	Na Calaí CDP	5	2,001 - 5,000
Ballygar	Aonad Family Resource Centre	8	Community Facility
Athenry	Environmental Network	9	Care of the Environment

At the Pride of Place Gala awards ceremony in Co. Waterford in November the communities of Inis Mor, Milltown & Portumna achieved All- Island runners up awards in each of their respective categories.

TIDY TOWNS INITIATIVE

The CEED Unit allocated €15,000 towards the 2008 Tidy Towns Initiative lead by the Environment Unit. This initiative provided special support to Towns who achieved the highest score in each of the five electoral areas in the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition.

Electoral Area	Town
BALLINASLOE	Monivea
CONNEMARA	An Spideal
TUAM	Milltown
LOUGHREA	Abbey
ORANMORE	Clarinbridge

The aim of this initiative was to allow Galway County Council to effectively concentrate resources to enable County Galway towns & villages to make a significant positive impact on their performance in the 2008 National Tidy Towns Competition.

RAPID - PROGRAMMES IN BALLINASLOE & TUAM

In 2008, the two new Community based CCTV schemes in Ballinasloe and Tuam became fully operational and were complemented by a Community Graffiti Initiative in both towns which has led to the removal of substantial amounts of graffiti from both public and community facilities.

Work continued on the upgrading and improving of local authority housing estates, traffic safety measures and further playground and neighbourhood park initiatives.

In Tuam, two new play areas were developed in Parkmore Estate and in Tirboy Estate, and in the latter an all-weather five a side pitch was also constructed with the aid of co-funding from the County Council and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Traffic safety improvements included the provision of speed bumps to slow internal traffic in both Parkmore and Tirboy, while some additional pavement improvements took place along the Dublin Road. Communal walls in Parkmore also benefited from a repainting programme and a neglected communal backyard area has now been divided up so that individual residents will take responsibility for the garden areas.

Further developments have also taken place in the Community Garden in Parkmore with the Residents Association working closely with the County Council, Galway Rural Development and the University to develop a wildlife garden with local children and to undertake additional tree planting.

Another allocation of funding to community groups from the Dormant Account fund assisted a further 11 projects in Tuam ranging from an inclusive play area at Stepping Stones childrens centre, to the provision of audio visual equipment to both the Arts Lab (Earwig Community Arts new facility) and the Mall Theatre.

The Council also continued its support for the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) Higher Certificate in Enterprise Programme being delivered in Brú Bhríde in Tuam in conjunction with RAPID, Western Traveller and Intercultural Development and the Tuam Chamber of Commerce. Over 30 mature students are continuing this course and a number expect to graduate in Tuam during 2009.

In Ballinasloe, a 'kick-about' area for teenagers and children within Dunlo Recreational Park was completed. Traffic calming measures were put in place on Poolboy Road, at the entrance to Hymany Park, Portnick Drive and on Society Street and Dunlo Street. In relation to estate enhancement public spaces in Dunlo Recreational Park were improved.

Another allocation of funding to community groups from the Dormant Account Additionality Fund assisted a further 13 projects in Ballinasloe ranging from the provision of an ICT Literacy Project at Garbally College to the development of a Food and Nutrition Project in conjunction with the Ballinasloe Training Initiative.

Under the Sports Capital Programme €130,000 was leveraged by sporting organisations in the Ballinasloe RAPID area in 2008.

Actions under the Ballinasloe Economic Programme of Actions 2006-2009 in the areas of promotion of tourism development, economic development, infrastructure development, training & employment, social infrastructure and social capital were progressed.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES

During 2008, the Unit facilitated a range of youth participation activities, including the participation of 7 young people in the national Dáil na nÓg event, the holding of six local area Comhairle na nÓg events and a repeat of our successful Young Citizen's awards, held in the Claregalway Hotel in November. The Council was also successful in developing a Youth Democracy Project in conjunction with a number of locally based youth organisations, with a Voter Awareness training programme for young people held in

Brigid's Garden, Rosscahill, while the Ballinasloe Youth Democracy group hosted a successful visit by groups of young people from Finland and Greece culminating in an official reception for local and visiting youth by Ballinasloe Town Council.

With additional grant aid from the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, 65 young people from the various Comhairle na nÓgs participated in a team building activity weekend in Delphi Adventure Centre in Conamara. Galway County Council also provided support in the region of €50,000 towards the development of Youth Cafés around the County as well as contributing to another Speak Out Forum as part of the Young Social Innovators programme in schools. Over 30 schools across the County sent participants to these events and activities.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY FORUM

In 2008, the Community Forum in County Galway had over 500 affiliated groups who are actively delivering community and voluntary services in County Galway. Galway County Council supported the work of this Forum through the following initiatives.

- Developed the representative role of the Fóram Pobal and provided support to existing nominees including those on Council's SPCs.
- Expanded and developed membership of the Fóram from 450 to 550 registered groups.
- Established 3 local area community support offices.
- Implemented the Communication Strategy for the Fóram which involved publishing a brochure and the forum website.
- Assisted in the implementation of agreed actions for the Fóram in the Galway CDB Strategy.
- Supported the Training and Education needs of the Fóram members and nominees.
- Facilitated the Fóram to be used as the mechanism for nomination to other bodies.
- Completed the Audit of Community services and facilities in conjunction with SI Unit, The Sports Partnership and the Arts Office.

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

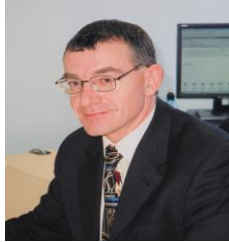
The Social Inclusion Unit of Galway County Council was established in early 2008.

The main role of the Social Inclusion Unit is to embed social inclusion policy and practice into the day to day operations of the Council, and to work with other organisations to support the Council in tackling social exclusion.

A range of projects and initiatives were undertaken during 2008 including:

- Official launch of the Social Inclusion Unit by the County Manager and Mayor.
- Implementation of Galway County Councils Social Inclusion Strategy 2006 – 2009.
- 'Your Guide to Our Services' was developed, published and distributed. This Guide gives our customers quick and easy access to the wide range of services delivered by Galway County Council and was distributed free of charge through our network of offices / libraries / and community & voluntary groups.
- County Galway Socio Economic Profile 2008 completed and distributed, based on the Census 2006 data.

- Community Smoke Alarm Scheme 2008 rolled out in conjunction with the Fire Service and Community Forum. 750 sets of smoke alarms were distributed throughout the County to identified vulnerable households free of charge.
 - Cultural Diversity Awareness training delivered to front line staff in a number of Units in 2008 and Social Inclusion included in Induction Training for all new staff.
 - Audit of Community, Sports and Arts facilities was carried out in 2008 on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 331 such facilities have been identified in County Galway.
 - An application for funding to the value of €30,000 was approved from POBAL and a number of Traveller Art projects were run in Athenry, Tuam and Killimor.
 - The Social Inclusion Unit were also successful in their application to POBAL under Round 3, Strand 1 of the Traveller Interagency Fund and were offered grant aid of €103,138 over a 2 year period to carry out Traveller related initiatives in South East Galway.
- The Social Inclusion Unit also facilitates the Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) committee of the County Development Board. In 2008 a review of the Social Inclusion actions was completed and initiatives progressed included:
- Funding for the proposal to establish a rural transport service for North & North East Galway.
 - Implemented the Cohesion process and supported the set up of the new Local Development Companies in the County.
 - Local development agency endorsement.
- The SIM committee has also prepared their Programme of Priority actions for the 2009 – 2012 period. A number of meetings and one facilitated workshop session were held during 2008. These actions will focus on Integration, Older People, Disability and Youth.



ENVIRONMENT, VETERINARY & WATER SERVICES UNIT

Mr. Jim Cullen Director of Services

In 2008, the Environment Veterinary & Water Services Unit continued to progress and develop its extensive and varied work programme, with significant progress being made in many key areas, the details of which are set out below.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (EWS 4)

There are currently three recycling centres in operation (Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe), and there are 93 Bring Bank Centres located throughout the County for the collection of glass and beverage cans for recycling. Timpeallacht na nOilean operates an integrated waste management scheme for the Aran Islands, on a partnership arrangement with the Council.

Galway County Council continued the implementation of the Local Authority Prevention Demonstration (LAPD) Programme. The main focus of the programme was to prevent waste and reduce consumption of water and energy, which included the following initiatives ;

- Green Business Initiative
- Public Building Initiative
- Green Community Initiative
- Electronic Auditing Tool

Mobile Hazardous Waste, as well as Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) collections were organised.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 2006

Under these regulations, a producer, who is a person who imports into or manufactures a vehicle, in the state, is responsible for the appropriate treatment and recovery of the end-of-life vehicle. In 2008, 24 producers were registered with Galway County Council.

There are 3 registered Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF's) in the functional area of Galway County Council. ATF's are facilities which will accept vehicles free of charge in accordance with the provisions of Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006. .

WASTE MANAGEMENT (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) REGULATIONS 2005

Under the above Regulations, retailers are required to take back electrical and electronic equipment from members of the public, free of charge, on a one-to-one basis.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS 2007

The above Regulations are aimed at increasing recycling and recovery of packaging waste and place obligations on businesses which sell or supply packaging material or packaged products on the Irish Market.

Theme: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT MEASURES (EWS 9)

The Council issued enforcement notices and instigated legal prosecutions in regard to Sections 18, 55 and 71 of the Waste Management Act 1996 to 2003, in regard to the illegal dumping of waste, the illegal use of sites for holding waste and abandoned vehicles.

During 2008, the Council issued a total of 175 enforcement procedures in relation to environmental complaints, while a total of 418 on-the-spot litter fines were issued. and 40 prosecutions were taken for non-payment of litter fines.

Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the relevant environmental legislation in relation to drinking water, bathing water, urban wastewater discharge, landfills, rivers and lakes. 5 Discharge Licence applications and reviews were processed by the Council in 2008

Blue Flag status was awarded to the following beaches in 2008,

- Traught Beach, Kinvara
- The Long Point, Loughrea
- Tra an Doilin, An Cheathru Rua
- Tra Mor Coill Rua, Indreabhan,
- Tra Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mor
- An Ceibh, An Spideal

.Green Coast Awards were received by the following

- Dogs Bay, Roundstone
- East End Inishboffin
- Inis Oirr, Aran Islands
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely

The Waste collector permit holders and waste facility permit holders were audited during the year on a priority basis.

The use of CCTV to monitor illegal dumping was extended to various locations throughout the County, including several Bring Banks.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL WATERS (EWS 10)

In 2008 the Projects assisted Local Authorities in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the ongoing development of the Programme of Measures and the completion of the draft River Basin Management Plans. The responses to the public consultation on the significant water management issues report “Water Matters” were collated and published on the respective websites.

Theme: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

DERELICT SITES (EWS 11)

Under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, 81 sites are entered in the Derelict Sites Register, 26 sites have been removed and a further 169 sites are under investigation.

BURIAL GROUNDS (EWS 12)

There are currently 231 burial grounds situated throughout the County. The Council, with the participation of the many local burial ground committees, carry out works of maintenance and improvements.

An annual grant of €1000 was provided to committees who maintain the burial grounds in their area.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION (EWS 14)

The Environment Awareness Officers were involved in promoting environmental awareness through information meetings with community, voluntary groups, and tidy towns committees. Press releases and radio advertising on environmental issues were produced and circulated.

The implementation of the Green Schools programme is on-going and has been very successful to date with 131 schools being awarded the coveted Green Flag.

The following actions and achievements were also undertaken in 2008

- Information meetings with the community, voluntary groups and tidy towns committees.
- Anti-litter advertising campaign in conjunction with Galway City Council.
- Reusable shopping bags with anti-litter message distributed.
- A National Spring Clean campaign was undertaken.
- Ongoing work with the Tuam Hub Development Committee.
- Published information leaflets on waste management issues.

The Council organised a very successful Environment Awards programme to encourage and recognise the work of community groups around the County in environmental activities.

ANIMAL CONTROL & WELFARE (EWS 16)

Animal welfare cases involving dogs, cattle and sheep were investigated in conjunction with Gardai, Dept of Agriculture and welfare groups.

A full review of dog control practices and standard operating procedures were completed including the preparation of policy and procedure documents.

FOOD SAFETY (EWS 17)

The council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service under the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

There are 10 licenced abattoirs in the county and the licencing of these is the responsibility of the local authority. The council approves, registers and has responsibility for the day to day supervision of these premises. The council supervises 10 premises in both the city and county.

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CORPORATE SUPPORT (EWS 22)

The Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions during 2008. At these meetings, discussion took place in relation to:

- Water Services Investment Programme
- Remedial Action Programme
- Water Framework Directive – River Basin Management Plans
- EPA Drinking Water Report
- Water Metering Project
- Environmental Enforcement
- Dog Control
- Ground Water Protection Scheme
- Invasive Species in Lough Corrib
- Tidy Towns

Theme : MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

CUSTOMER SERVICE (EWS 24)

The Unit is complying with the service delivery standards as set out in the Customer Service Action Plan. A transaction aid kit is also available at the public counter in Centrepoint to improve customer service.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (EWS 26)

The Units budgets are monitored on a weekly basis and regular financial reports prepared.

WATER SERVICES

The Water Services Investment Programme and Rural Water Programme is the vehicle for new and upgrading of infrastructure, both domestic and non-domestic users, with a major emphasis on water conservation, source protection, catchment management and operational effectiveness. The Council acknowledges that water is a limited resource and must be managed in a sustainable manner, to allow for an increasing population and increased demand.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE: EW1.

The following schemes were completed in 2008

Scheme

- Carna/Cill Chiarain Regional Water Supply
- An Cheathru Sewerage Network
- Headford Sewerage Network
- Clarinbridge Water Supply
- Tuam Regional/Headford Water Supply
- Craughwell Water Supply

The following schemes were under construction in 2008

Scheme

- Dunmore Kilkerrin and Leenane Sewerage
- Barna Sewerage
- An Fhairce and Letterfrack Sewerage
- Loughrea RWSS – extension to Craughwell
- Roundstone Water

**RURAL WATER PROGRAMME:
(GROUP WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES) EWS 2 & 3**

The Rural Water Programme plays a critical role in sustaining local communities through financial supports for new and existing Group Water Supply Schemes. The total expenditure on the programme was €19.53m for 2008.

Subsidies:

No. of Schemes assisted	128
No. of Individual Wells	18

Contract Works for Water Quality Improvement

DBO Bundle No. 1.	14
DBO Bundle No. 2 (Planning)	16
New Schemes and Upgrading	25
Taking in Charge	40
Upgrading	39
Connecting to Public Mains	4

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME: EWS 6

The Water Conservation Programme enhances environmental sustainability and aims to improve operational efficiency of water schemes and has the potential to be a viable alternative to capital expenditure on new infrastructure provisions.

Phase 1 of the Water Conservation Programme – the planning and study phase - was completed and works commenced on Phase 2, which involved leakage control, pressure management and district metering. The total expenditure on the programme in 2008 was €554,000.



ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Mr. John Morgan Director of Services.

The Roads & Transportation Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County. It also has responsibility for Marine, Road Safety, Health & Safety and Arterial Drainage. The service objective of the Unit is to provide a safe and efficient transport network for the movement of persons and goods within sustainable and integrated transportation policies.

The Unit delivered a substantial and varied programme of work during 2008 with further significant progress being achieved in transforming the transportation infrastructure of the County, including the Major Inter Urban Road Network and Maritime Infrastructure Development Programme, which will serve to underpin the continued balanced development and sustainable growth of the County.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

National Primary & Secondary Roads:

The total grant allocated by the National Roads Authority for the year 2008 was **€133,677,326**. The grant allocation divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€130,245,000
Maintenance Works	€ 3,432,326

The substantial funding provided by the National Roads Authority for Improvement Works in 2008 facilitated the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban routes element of the **National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 & Transport 21** with progress during 2008 including the awarding of the contract for the **N18 Gort – Crusheen Scheme** to SIAC/Wills JV in October 2008.

In addition, construction work on the **N6 Galway to Ballinasloe (PPP) Scheme** and the **N6 Ballinasloe to Athlone Scheme** continued during 2008. The Oral Hearing for the **N6 Galway City Outer Bypass** concluded in early 2008 with work continuing on the preparation of contract documents for the scheme during 2008. In addition, the Motorway Order and EIS for the M17 were the subject of an Oral Hearing by An Bord Pleanála between the 23rd April and the 29th April 2008.



Construction Work on the N/M6 Galway to Ballinasloe element of the Galway / Dublin Interurban route continued during 2008 with the Galway to Ballinasloe element being undertaken as a Public Private Partnership.

The National Roads Design Office continued to manage the delivery of the Major Inter Urban projects with the associated costs recouped in full from the National Roads Authority:

National Road No.	Route Section
N6	Athlone / Ballinasloe
N6	Galway City Outer Bypass
N6	Galway / Ballinasloe
N18	Oranmore to Gort
N18	Gort to Crusheen
M17	Galway / Tuam
N17	Tuam Bypass
N17	Tuam to Claremorris
N59	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass

A full programme of **Pavement & Minor Improvements** was undertaken on the National Primary & National Secondary Road network with a grant allocation of **€5,420,000**. The annual **Resurfacing and Maintenance Programme** for National routes was also undertaken in accordance with the budget provided by the National Roads Authority.

During 2008 the contract for the replacement of **Leenaun Bridge** on the N59 was awarded to Ward & Burke Ltd with the contract signing taking place on Monday, 15th September 2008.



Signing of the Contract for the Replacement of Leenaun Bridge on the N59 with Ward & Burke Ltd



Signing of the Contract with RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd for Consultancy Services for the R336 Bearná to Scríob via Ros an Mhíl Road Scheme

Galway County Council was notified of its initial Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation in the amount of **€30,508,000** in early 2008, which divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€22,692,000
Maintenance Works	€ 7,816,000

The Grant Allocation for Regional & Local Roads included:

- A grant in the sum of **€500,000** under the Strategic Regional & Local Road Schemes (National Spatial Strategy) for the **R336 Bearnna to Scriob via Ros an Mhíl** with the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project being awarded to RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd on Monday, 22nd September 2008.
- A sum of **€200,000** for the **Athenry Northern & Southern Relief Roads** and a grant of **€1,600,000** for the **Oranhill Distributor Road** under the Strategic Regional & Local Roads Grant Scheme.

A total of **281,312** square metres of Regional roads were improved under the **Restoration Improvement Programme** at a total cost of **€1,571,913** and a further **771,291** square metres of local roads were improved under the Programme at a cost of **€4,211,598**.

The annual programme of **Improvement Works to Regional and Local roads** funded by the Department of Transport, and in accordance with the 2008 Roads Programme, was carried out with a budget of **€14,329,000**. The annual **Resurfacing and Maintenance Programme for Regional and Local roads** funded by the Department of Transport was completed with a budget of **€7,816,000**

A total of **19.76** kms of the following Regional and Local Roads were improved under the **Specific Improvement Grant** during 2008:

L8104 Oranmore / Rinvilla (Maree Road)	R328 Dunmore / Ballindine (Knockatee)
R339 Galway / Monivea	R328 Moylough / Clonberne (Cloonkell Bridge)
LP1102 Cleggan / Claddaghduff Loop	R332 Kilbannon Tuam (twds Clare River Bridge)
LS5105 An Tulaigh / Renvyle Loop	L4202 Knockaunloughla Bridge
R336 Bearnna	L4219 Roo Bridge
R336 Casla / Baile na hÁbhainn	L7201 Srah Bridge
R340 Carna / Cashel / N59	Oxgrove Bridge
R343 Casla / An Cheathrú Rua	R348 Knocktogether Bridge
LP4310 / LP4312 Derryfrench / Tynagh	R351 Loughrea / Woodford (Ballinagar)
R356 Eyrecourt / Banagher (Lower Esker)	R339 Carnmore / Monivea Road

An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta provided funding in the amount of **€2,634,300** under the **Strategic Roads Measure** to facilitate improvement works on the following roads:

R340 Doire Inbhir – Cill Chiaráin	Ardmore – Carna
An Fháirce – An Cloch Breac	LP1302 Corr na Mona – Cloch Breac
Baile na Cille	Doire Fhartharta
Carna	An Fháirce – Corr na Mona

R336 Scríob - Casla	L5238/5239 Camus
R336 Minna	

The Council continued to allocate significant resources for the maintenance and improvement of the Regional & Local Roads in its charge and in 2008 funding in the amount of **€8,668,500** was provided for this purpose including a sum of **€3,956,000** for general maintenance, verge trimming, drainage and the renewal and provision of signage on Local roads.

Traffic Management:

The first phase of the **N17 Baile Chláir Quality Bus Corridor** opened for qualifying traffic on Tuesday, 1st July 2008 with work on the second phase, N17 Northern Approach to Baile Chláir, commencing in 2008 with funding of €1,200,000 provided by the Department of Transport. In addition, revised traffic management arrangements for the **N17/N18 Junction in Baile Chláir** consisting of a controlled junction and improved pedestrian facilities were official launched on the 17th September 2008.

The Council adopted the **Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Tuam Bye Laws** during 2008, which were brought into force on the 16th June 2008 to facilitate the provision of Taxi ranks in Tuam.



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway, Ms. Martina Moloney, County Manager and Mr. John Morgan, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation with Mr. Martin Mannion, Community Warden and Mr. Christy Corcoran, Community Warden launching the introduction of the Finetracker Handheld System for the processing of Fixed Charges/Parking Fines on Monday, 22nd September 2008

The Council introduced **Pay Parking in Athenry** on Monday, 22nd September 2008 and in **Gort** on Monday, 24th October 2008. Whilst, the introduction of the **Finetracker Handheld System** including the provision of handhelds improved the efficiency of the Council's parking enforcement system.

The Roads & Transportation Unit continued to implement **Road Works Speed Limits**, in consultation with An Garda Síochána and the National Roads Authority, as deemed necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Council's various work programmes.

Strategic Piers and Harbours:

Significant progress was achieved during 2008 in advancing the extensive programme of works under An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Strategic Piers & Harbours Programme. Some notable milestones included:

- Construction work on the **Coastal Protection and Pier Improvement project at the South Facing**

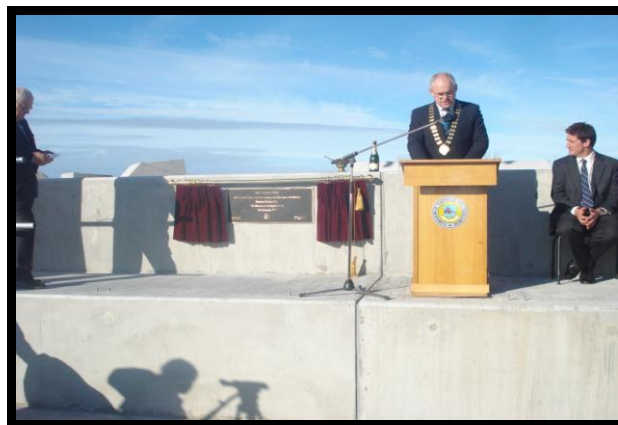
Shore on Inishbofin was completed in the third quarter of 2008 with the official opening taking place on Friday, 14th November 2008.

- Work commenced on the redevelopment of **Cill Rónáin Harbour** with an anticipated completion date of 2010. The project with an estimated cost of approximately **€40 million** represents the highest ever spend on island infrastructure in the history of the State and provides for a 550m breakwater, the extension of the existing pier, the creation of a deepwater berth for fishing boats, provision of a cargo quay, upgrading of the existing pier, provision of a pedestrian only zone for users of the ferries, a berth for the lifeboat, the provision of a slip way and provision for future roll-on-roll-off cargo services.
- The completion of work on the development of the harbour at **Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin** consisting of dredging, pier extension, provision of breakwater and parking area with the official opening taking place on 3rd November 2008.

The Unit managed the delivery of record levels of investment in the maritime infrastructure of the County's offshore Islands during 2008 which will result in the transformation of the connectivity both between the various Islands and between the Islands and mainland.



Development of the Harbour at Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway at the Official Opening of Caladh Mór Harbour

Small Piers and Harbours:

The Council delivered a maintenance programme for small piers, harbours and yacht moorings and carried out works as follows under the **Fishery Harbour Programme** with funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and CLÁR together with a contribution from Galway County Council:

Pier / Harbour	Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	CLÁR	Galway County Council	Total Budget
Wallace Quay	€75,000	€75,000	€50,000	€200,000
Parkmore Pier	€150,000		€50,000	€200,000
Total	€225,000	€75,000	€100,000	€400,000

Arterial Drainage:

The Council has statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County and the Council's responsibility is discharged by the Roads and Transportation Unit via the Council's Regional

and Area Offices. The Council has charge of twelve **Drainage Districts** and there are two Districts in the charge of **Joint Drainage Committees** with Roscommon and Clare County Councils.

Drainage Districts:

Ahascragh	Annagh	Boley
Dunkellin (Gort)	Dunkellin (Athenry)	Dunkellin (Loughrea)
Kellysgrove	Kilchreest	Lavally
Meelick Pollshask	Mountbellew	Oranhill

Join Drainage Districts:

- River Fergus Joint Drainage Committee
- River Suck Joint Drainage Committee

Theme: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

European Mobility Week & ‘In Town Without My Car’



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway signing the European Mobility Week Charter to signal Galway County Council’s participation in European Mobility Week 2008



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway, Ms. Martina Moloney, County Manager and the Members of Galway County Council mark *In Town Without My Car* on the 22nd September 2008

Galway County Council participated in **European Mobility Week** (16th - 22nd September) and ***In Town Without My Car*** (22nd September) for the first time in 2008. The Council’s participation was acknowledged by the European Commission with the Council being shortlisted by an independent panel of experts who considered the Council had performed “*outstandingly well*” and regarded the Council as a ‘*promising newcomer*’ to the event. Over 2,000 separate European towns, cities and local authorities took part in European Mobility Week 2008 and Galway County Council was one of 10 local authorities shortlisted for recognition by the European Commission.

The Council availed of the platform provided by European Mobility Week to promote existing policies and initiatives relating to sustainable mobility and to increasing public awareness of the impact of certain

current mobility trends on the environment and the quality of life.

A series of daily thought provoking events centered on specific themes provided the public with an opportunity to consider the appropriate balance to be achieved between competing streets users and forms of transport and the need to reduce individual private car use. The approach of identifying specific daily themes ensured that activities based on all the key sustainable transport themes: cycling, responsible car use, public transport, green spaces, mobility and health and the interrelationship between the various elements were considered during the week.



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway with Pupils from The Glebe National School, Ballinasloe enjoy 'Animal Magic' a road show exhibiting a range of animals and wildlife held in Ballinasloe in September 2008 to mark European Mobility Week.

The Council also recognised *In Town Without My Car* as a unique opportunity to demonstrate the potential of using streets as social spaces and as such, although 2008 was the first year for the Council to participate in *In Town Without My Car* road closures were implemented on **Dublin Road, Tuam** from Saturday 20th to Monday 22nd September 2008 and **Main Street, Loughrea** was closed from Sunday, 21st to Monday 22nd September to facilitate a range of community events including the 'Pedestrian Paradise Street Carnival'.



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway opens 'Pedestrian Paradise' as Main Street, Loughrea is transformed to host a Community Street Carnival with Air & Street Dancers, Stilt Walkers, Hand & Foot Jugglers, Novelty Bikes, Comedy Characters, Magic Shows and a BMX Stunt Demonstration to mark European Mobility Week.

During European Mobility Week a total of 230 people participated in an opinion poll which was undertaken

by the Council at various locations. The main findings of the opinion poll included:

- 96.5% thought that European Mobility Week / In Town Without My Car was a good or very good idea.
- 81.7% thought that European Mobility Week and the events organised by the Council help people to leave their cars at home.
- 69.6% wanted the car free zone to be bigger next year.
- 82.6% thought that the permanent measures introduced by the Council during European Mobility Week were quite good/very good.
- 64.8% could imagine using other means of transport for their daily journeys to work.
- 49.1% indicated that they used/would use other means of transport for their journeys during European Mobility Week.



'Bulb Plantathon' a community initiative led by Galway County Council and the Athenry Environmental Network to mark European Mobility Week involving the enhancing of public green spaces, walking routes and cycle trails in Athenry through the planting of thousands of spring flowering bulbs by community groups and school children.

Local Improvement Schemes:

In recognition of the opportunity provided by **Local Improvement Schemes** to provide assistance towards the construction or improvement of non-public roads, the Unit continued to actively promote this scheme during 2008. A grant allocation of **€924,000** was provided by the Department of Transport in 2008 which facilitated **38** schemes being offered during the year.

An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta provided funding of **€390,450** which together with a contribution of **€7,250** from Galway County Council facilitated the improvement of **24** non public roads.

Community Involvement

The Council continued to actively promote the **Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme** as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A sum of **€206,837** was provided from the Restoration Improvement Grant with a further sum of **€233,991** from the Restoration Maintenance Grant provided a total budget of **€440,828** for the scheme. A total of **65** applications were

received to avail of the 2008 scheme. Following assessment a total of **55** were recommended for funding with provisional approval being granted for **43** schemes in 2008.

Community Employment Schemes:

The Council, in partnership with FÁS and the local community, continued to promote and encourage the development of opportunities for **Community Employment Schemes**. Accordingly, the Council continued to sponsor the following schemes during 2008: Maigh Cuilinn / Collinamuck, Laurencetown / Abbey, Órán Mór / Gort, Tuam, and Cloch na Rón / Clifden.



Participants on the Laurencetown/Abbey Community Employment Scheme undertaking Village enhancement works.

Village Renewal Scheme:

The Council continued to work with An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta in delivering projects under the **Village Renewal Scheme** with work being undertaken in the following villages during 2008:

An Spidéal	Carna	Ros Muc [Gort Mór]	Indreabhán	Cill Chiaráin	Maigh Cuilinn	Camus
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Town & Village Maintenance & Enhancement

The Council continued to support community effort in maintaining and enhancing the physical environment of town and villages and provided funding of **€450,000** in 2008 to facilitate maintenance and small improvement works. An element of the funding was focused to facilitate the Council in further supporting the input and performance of communities involved in the National Tidy Towns Competition.



Environmental Enhancement Works Undertaken and Maintained by the Council in Abbey and Laurencetown.

Road Safety:

The **Road Safety Together Committee** continued its active role in the promotion of Road Safety and held three meetings in 2008.

Pupils from **St. Patrick's Primary School, Tuam** Overall Winners of the Inaugural **County Galway Primary Schools Cycling Championship**, held in the Palace Grounds, Tuam on Friday, 19th September 2008. The event was organised by the Council and the Safer Cycling



Galway County Council in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the local emergency services hosted **'Think Twice' A Road Safety Awareness Event** in Leisureland, Salthill with the aim of delivering a hard hitting road safety message to hundreds of Galway teenagers.



Cllr. Peter Feeny, Mayor of the County of Galway launches the 2008 High Visibility Vest Campaign.



Pupils participating in the 2008 Junior School Warden's Competition

Further road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2008 included:

- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools.
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme.
- Support Cycling Safety Training Programme in National Schools.
- High Visibility Vest 'Be Safe Be Seen' Campaign promoting the sale of High Visibility Vests in conjunction with Anchor Safety and Supervalu.



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway attends (*left*) the launch of 'Bicycle Bonanza' involving the Council and bicycle outlets throughout the County promoting cycling as a healthy and fun means of sustainable transport, (*centre*) the Joint Launch of the new Travel Theme for An Taisce's Green Schools Programme promoting sustainable mobility options for school travel in Galway City and County and (*right*) 'Tyre Therapy – Pump Up & Cut Down' involving the Council, the Irish Tyre Industry Association and tyre dealers in County Galway teaming up to provide members of the public with free tyre checks and professional advice on tyre maintenance.

Safety Improvement Works and Measures:

The National Roads Authority provided funding of **€225,000** for **Safety Measures** on the following National Primary & Secondary roads:

N17 Traffic Calming Laghtgeorge	€100,000
N63 RSRM Moylough School	€50,000
N63 RSRM Annagh Cross	€40,000
N65 RSRM Killimor School Pedestrian Crossing	€35,000

An allocation of **€375,000** was provided by the Department of Transport to enable low cost safety improvement works to be carried out on the following regional and local roads:

L4519 Castlequarter, Gort	€ 30,000
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R364 & L2206 Cloonminda Junction, Glenamaddy	€ 10,000
R357 Creagh National School, Ballinasloe	€ 30,000
R336 Main Street, An Spideal	€ 30,000
R328, L2304, L6308 & L2226 McGann's Cross	€ 25,000
R338 Orantown Shopping Centre, Oranmore	€ 30,000
L4322 Oxgrove Bridge, Killimor	€ 15,000
LP2233 Patch, Glenamaddy	€ 25,000
LP2145 Purcell / Stockwell Road, Tuam	€ 30,000
R347 Railway Bridge, Athenry	€150,000

The Council provided funding of **€21,000** to provide Flashing Amber Safety Lights at the following primary schools outside the CLÁR Regions during 2008.

1. Clydagh National School
2. Claran Boy's National School
3. Annaghdown National School
4. Lisheenkyle National School

Public Lighting:

A sum of **€849,502** was provided in the 2008 Budget to fund the cost of the public lighting programme. The 2008 programme consisted of the following:

- A sum of **€612,502** to finance the maintenance/energy costs associated with the existing public lighting network.
- Provision of new lights at Members' discretion at a cost of **€105,000**.
- The provision of a further **76 new lights** across the five electoral areas at a total cost of **€132,000**.

In addition the National Roads Authority provided funding of **€204,000** for **National Primary Route Lighting** & **€56,000** for **National Secondary Route Lighting**.

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE:

Disability Sectoral Plan:

A programme of access improvement works were undertaken in accordance with the Galway County Council Implementation Plan with the objective of ensuring that roads, streets and footpaths, are as far as practicable, accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities.

The findings of the Roads & Streets Access Audit undertaken for County Galway Local Authorities under the Disability Act 2005 were also taken into consideration in preparing the 2008 Roads Programme.



The Mayor of the County of Galway, Cllr. Peter Feeney highlights the importance of the Rural Transport Programme for rural communities in County Galway and experiences at first hand the rural transport service provided in Conamara by BEALACH during a visit to An Tulaigh in September

Corporate Support:

The **Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee**, under the Chair of Cllr. Pat Hynes and Cllr. Sean Canney considered a number policy issues during 2008 including:

- Place Names.
- Townland Stone Signage.
- Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Tuam Bye-Laws 2008.
- Review of Maximum Taxi Fares.

The Strategic Policy Committee also formulated a draft policy relating to the **Temporary Closing of Public Roads to Facilitate Motor Sport Events** which was subsequently adopted by Council in December 2008.

The Unit continued to facilitate the **Conamara Area Committee** which held **7** meetings during 2008 dealing with a broad range of operational matters.

The Unit also supported the operation of the **Islands Committee** which dealt with a diverse range of issues of particular relevance to the Islands including infrastructural development, planning policy and fire prevention.

Theme: SUPPORTING CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Signage:

A grant of **€400,000** was provided in 2008 by the Department of Transport to facilitate the completion of the **Regional Roads Signposting Programme** which began in 2003, whilst funding in the amount of

€200,000 was provided from the General Maintenance allocation for the provision and renewal of signage on local roads.

In addition, funding was made available from the National Road and Regional Road Maintenance allocations for the maintenance and renewal of signage and the Council continued to assist the National Roads Authority in relation to the signage programme for National routes.

Theme: MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS

Safety, Health & Welfare at Work:

Galway County Council is committed to performing all of its activities, operations and other services in a manner that eliminates or minimises any adverse impacts on the safety and health of employees, visitors, contractors and suppliers. The Council is committed to continued improvement in terms of a safe place of work, a reduction in occupational injury and illness and to encouraging personal responsibility for health and safety.

The Council's pursuit of excellence in the area of Occupational Health & Safety was once again recognised by the National Irish Safety Organisation in the 2008 Occupational Safety Awards. This followed on from the Council's success in the 2006 Awards where the Council was 'highly commended' for its progressive approach to Health & Safety and the 2007 Awards where the Council won the overall local authority safety award.

An extensive range of projects were undertaken during the year including:

- Seminars for staff in relation to Safety, Health & Welfare.
- Events to mark European Health & Safety Week.
- Updating/reviewing Risk Assessments/Safety Statements for all Units.
- A programme of audits of direct labour and contractor controlled construction sites continued during the year.



Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher TD launching the '*Working on Roads*' Safe System of Work Plan on the 4th March 2008

The Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Committee were extremely active during 2008 with the Committee considering the following issues:

- Review of Safety Statements
- Safety Training
- Construction Regulations
- Accident/Incident Reporting/Recording procedures.
- Safety Audits
- Appointment of safety representatives
- Information Seminars

The Council continued to actively engage with the Local Authority Safety Advisors Group with the Council represented at meetings of the group which were held during 2008. The purpose of the group is to address issues that are pertinent to all local authorities in order to develop a consistent approach by all local authorities.

The Council played an active role in developing the Health & Safety Training Matrix, the 'Building Maintenance' Safe System of Work Plan and the 'Working on Roads' Safe System of Work Plan which was launched by the Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher TD on the 4th March 2008.

Customer Service:

The Roads & Transportation Unit introduced an On Line Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines) and in the context of the introduction of pay parking in Gort, the Unit published relevant application forms and public notices in Portuguese.

A Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadwork's speed limits etc was provided on www.galway.ie.

Workshops to facilitate the operation of LAQuotes.ie as a means of submitting on-line quotations for supplies and services, plant hire and tool hire for 2009 were delivered and the Unit contributed to the publication of 'Your Guide to Our Services' for County Galway Local Authorities.

Machinery Yard:

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard and the Council is committed to the ongoing development of this service in order to provide an efficient and effective resource to facilitate the delivery of the Council's Work Programmes.

Activities undertaken by the Machinery Yard during 2008 include:

- Continuation of the plant replacement and acquisitions programme including the purchase of patching units to facilitate the Council in maintaining the efficiency of its routine and response maintenance capability.
- Winter Maintenance equipment maintained in order to ensure an effective and timely response to severe weather conditions.
- Compilation of quotations for Plant and Tool Hire in order to supplement the Council's resources when necessary.

Working In Partnership:

In accordance with the Galway County Development Strategy 2002 – 2012, the Roads & Transportation Unit is the lead partner of the **Integrated Transportation Coordinating Group** which is comprised of representatives from various groups who have an interest in transportation related matters both locally and nationally: Iarnród Eireann, Bus Eireann, An Garda Síochána, HSE (West), Galway Rural Development Ltd, Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta, Údaras na Gaeltachta, PAMBO, Galway Harbour Company, Department of Transport and Galway Trades Council.

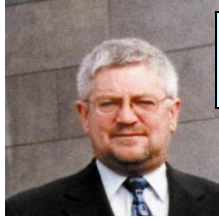
The Roads & Transportation Unit continued to engage with **An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta** through regular meetings to assist in formulating and delivering an extensive work programme for the Gaeltacht and the County's offshore Islands.

A total of **4** meetings were held with **Údarás na Gaeltachta** during 2008 which addressed a broad range of issues of mutual interest including the following:

- Údarás Action Plans for the Gaeltacht.
- Planning & Development Issues.
- Recreational & Amenity Facilities.
- Islands Development.
- Traffic Management.



Cllr. Peter Feeney, Mayor of the County of Galway with Birds of Prey exhibited by *Animal Magic* to mark the theme of European Mobility Week 2008 '*Clean Air for All*' in Ballinasloe in September 2008



HOUSING & EMERGENCY UNIT

Mr. Frank Gilmore Director of Services

The Housing Unit continued to progress the provision of appropriate housing accommodation and provide a responsive housing service for those in need of assistance during 2008.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

LAND ACQUISITION

In order to facilitate Housing Construction Programmes currently and into the future, the Council acquires lands from time to time. This land-bank is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. In 2008, land was acquired under Part V in Kinvarra.

Theme: PRESERVING AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

FIRE SERVICES

Minister Micheal Kitt accepted a new fire appliance for the Mountbellew Station in autumn 2008. The Department of Environment gave approval for the purchase of two new water tankers and a Class B Appliance which will be delivered in 2009. All stations in the county are included in the Computer Aided Mobilisation Project (CAMP) and Galway City station will be included in Spring 2009.

The Major Emergency Development Programme:- A new format major emergency plan was issued in September 2008 for the county. A Seveso II Plan was prepared for new oil depot in Galway docks.

The total number of turn-outs attended by Galway Fire Service on behalf of Galway County Council and Galway City Council in 2008 was 2,100. The average time to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations in respect of fire incidents was 2.39 minutes and 4.86 minutes in part time stations (retained service).

For all other emergency incidents the average rollout times were 3.15 minutes for Galway City and 4.60 minutes for County stations

The Fire Service includes the carrying out of inspection and issuing fire Safety Certificates. The total number of Fire Safety Certificate applications processed in 2008 was 451. 257 were processed for Galway County Council and 194 for Galway City Council.

Theme: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

HOUSING PROGRAMMES

Each local authority carries out a statutory Assessment of Housing Needs every 3 years. The figure for social housing in County Galway was 883 at 31/3/2005, and this has increased to 1,077 at 31/3/2008. This figure of 1,077 is broken down between the various categories of need as follows:

Category	No.	%
Homeless	8	1%
Traveller	81	8%
Living in unfit accommodation	108	10%
Living in over-crowded accommodation	38	4%
Involuntarily sharing	57	5%
Leaving Institutional Care	0	0%
Medical / Compassionate	124	12%
Elderly	94	9%
Disabled	50	5%
Financial	517	48%
Total	1077	100%

Taking into account applications received since that time, there were 1,643 approved applicants on the Housing Waiting List at the end of 2008.

The provision of Social Housing by the Council may be achieved by construction of new houses, re-allocation of existing houses, purchase of houses, or procurement of housing units under Part V of the Housing Strategy. The following table shows the number of houses allocated to persons on the waiting list throughout the year:

Programme	No. allocations
Provision of new / purchased houses	93
Housing Strategy – Part V	19
Re-allocation of existing houses through casual vacancies	89
Total allocations	201

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Our Social & Affordable Housing Action Plan continues to meet its targets with an end of year review conducted and agreed with the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

At the end of 2008, a total of 106 Social houses were under construction through the following schemes:

Location	No. of Houses per Scheme
Portumna	3
Loughrea	17
Raheen Athenry	50
Carna	17
Rurals	12



Social Housing at Woodview Woodford.

EXTENSIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

The Council approved 2 extensions during the period 1st January to 31st December, 2008. Eight units were completed and 1 are in progress

REMEDIAL WORKS

A survey of all rural houses built pre 1985 was completed. A remedial scheme for rural houses and two housing estates in Ballygar and Ahascragh have been approved by the DOEHLG. Works are ongoing, these schemes will include provision of boundary walls, landscaping, external and internal refurbishments, septic tanks, etc.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

An Affordable Housing Register has been established and there are currently 573 applications registered. Affordable units are allocated in accordance with a scheme for Affordable Housing, which was adopted by the Council. 183 houses have been provided under the '99 scheme of Affordable Housing in Loughrea, Athenry, Portumna, Tuam, Abbey, Mountbellew, Tynagh and Corofin.



Affordable Housing Scheme at Gortnahown Athenry .

HOUSING STRATEGY

Under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended 2002, the Local Authority acquires units in private developments which are allocated to applicants on the Affordable and Social Housing Registers.

In 2008, 36 houses were acquired and allocated under Part V. Five were sold to Affordable Housing applicants and 31 were allocated to Social Housing applicants. To date, 145 units have been acquired under Part V. Locations include Clifden, Oranmore, Kinvara, Loughrea, Gort, and Tuam.

Formal Agreements are in place for the acquisition of a further 125 houses.



Social Housing in Abbey Loughrea

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Under the *Sustaining Progress Partnership Agreement*, the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) was established. Its aim is to provide homes for those, who in the past would have been expected to purchase a house from their own resources, but who find that they are unable to do so in the current housing market.

There are 62 *AHI* houses currently under construction in Gortnahown, Athenry.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

The following table shows Capital Assistance Scheme & Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme projects which were completed in 2008.

Location	No. of Units
Killimor	5
Oranmore	5

The Housing Unit continued to liaise with local and national Voluntary Housing Bodies with a view to encouraging them to increase their output.

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

HOUSING SERVICES SPC

There were 3 meetings of the Housing SPC during 2008. The following issues and policies were reviewed and approved by the SPC during the year; Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme and Housing Aid for Older People, Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013; Revised Tenancy Agreement and Tenant Information Pack.

HOUSING PROGRAMMES

The Housing Unit administers a range of loans and grants schemes aimed at assisting persons who are housing themselves. In addition, the Unit administers specific programmes and initiatives aimed to assist, and encourage participation, within particular categories of need.



Older Persons Dwellings at Nead St. Laurence's Field Loughrea.

Loans & Grants Schemes	
Scheme	No. approved in 2008
Disabled Persons / Housing Adaptation / Mobility Aids Grants	220
Essential Repairs / Housing Aid for Older People Grants	133
Improvement Works Loans	4
Housing Loans	1
Shared Ownership Loans	2
Tenant Purchase Loans	13

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a nationwide scheme for people who are receiving rent supplement and have a long term housing need. Galway County Council is currently rolling out this scheme on a phased basis throughout the County, and is also implementing the scheme for the town of Ballinasloe.

The scheme involves the Local Authority sourcing accommodation, transferring persons with long term housing need to the Local Authority; entering contractual agreements with Landlords; arranging rent payments; and recoupments from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

There are a number of benefits for those eligible for RAS. These include the provision of long-term housing security and access to a range of housing supports. The RAS will also lead to improvements to the quality and standards of housing accommodation. Finally, if you get a job you can stay in RAS and Galway County Council will continue to pay rent to your Landlord but you will have to make an increased contribution towards your rent.

Galway County Council has transferred 227 Rent Supplement Recipients from the HSE and has entered 85 no. contracts with Private Landlords.

STANDARDS FOR RENTED DWELLINGS

The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 requires the registration of tenancies with the Private Rented Tenancies Board. The published register is available on the Private Residential Tenancies Board website. The Council has inspected 181 properties to date to ensure compliance with standards for private rented houses and issue of rent books, of which fifteen houses have failed to meet standards. Appropriate notices have been issued in these cases.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORTS

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008 sets out the aims of the Council for accommodating travellers in traveller-specific accommodation such as group housing and halting sites, as well as in standard houses and single instance (purchased) houses. The Programme expired on 31st December 2008, and the Tables below show the number of traveller families accommodated throughout the Programme:

	Annual Targets by Accommodation Type				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total:
Standard Houses:	10	33	22	20	85
Group Houses:	0	13	3	0	16
Halting Sites:	0	2	0	0	2
Single Instance:	1	1	4	4	10
Total:	11	49	29	24	113

	Annual Outputs by Accommodation Type				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total:
Standard Houses:	27	26	22	18	105
Group Houses:	1	4	0	3	8
Halting Sites:	0	3	9	0	12
Single Instance:	6	5	5	2	17
Total:	34	38	36	23	131

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008 was reviewed by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) as part of the preparation process for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013. While the overall targets within the Programme were achieved, some Group Housing Scheme projects did not progress to construction stage and were carried over to the next Programme.

The Annual Count of Traveller Families and their accommodation position was carried out on 30th November 2008, and showed that there were 496 traveller families living in Galway County, as follows:

Type of Accommodation	Number of families
Local Authority housing	289
Voluntary Housing	6
Home ownership facilitated by Local Authority Schemes	45
Home ownership without LA assistance	10
Private-rented accommodation	89
Involuntary sharing with other families	16
Halting Sites	11
Unauthorised sites	30

HOMELESSNESS

The Housing Unit provides assistance for persons who are assessed as homeless. During the year, 32 persons / families were accommodated in emergency

accommodation until they obtained private rented accommodation with the aid of rent allowance.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Under the Central Heating Programme, central heating was installed in 834 Council houses to the end of 2008, and the programme has now been completed. Housing maintenance works were carried out during the year on a priority basis, including maintenance works on vacant houses to facilitate re-letting.



PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Mr. Paul Ridge Director of Services

In year 2008 the Planning & Sustainable Development Unit continued to promote and support development within the county so that our customers can live in vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, where people have access to an acceptable level of services and infrastructure.

Theme: ACHIEVING BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FORWARD PLANNING

This section has been reviewing the County Development Plan over the past year and prepared a Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the process. They were placed on public display in August. 112 submissions were received. The Manager's report was presented to the Elected Members in December. It is anticipated that the Plan will be placed before the Council in January 2009 and will be adopted in May 2009.

- Plean Ceantáir Aitiúil na Gaeltachta 2008-2014 was adopted on the 25 February 2008.
- The Galway County Council and Ballinalsoe Town Council Joint Draft Housing Strategy 2009 -2015 was prepared and put on public display from 15 August 2008 to 23 October 2008.
- The Draft Clifden Local Area Plan was prepared and put on public display in October 2008. A Manager's Report was prepared on the 34 submissions received for presentation to the Elected Members.
- The Draft Craughwell Local Area Plan has been prepared and will be on public display in February 2009.
- Work has continued to progress on the preparation of the Ardaun / Garraun plan.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

3829 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2008.

2022 of the planning applications received were for Dwellinghouses.

1445 one off dwellinghouses were granted.

158 housing developments (two or more houses) were granted permission

751 applications were for extensions to Dwellinghouses.

€1,896,472 was received in Planning Fees.

1462 Commencement Notices were received.

€6,427,953 was received for Development Contributions.

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

It is the policy of Galway County Council to secure compliance with Planning Permission and to prevent Unauthorised Development in accordance with the statutory requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development Regulations. 2008 was a busy year for this section as can be seen from the following table:

No. of complaints received in 2008	634
No. of 2008 complaints investigated (this figure does not include files pre-2008, examined in 2008)	499
Warning Letters served (includes pre-2008 files)	386
Enforcement Notice served following a Warning letter (S154) (includes pre-2008 files)	168
Enforcement Notice served urgently (S155) (includes pre-2008 files)	34
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent for Summary Proceedings (includes pre-2008 files)	82

BUILDING CONTROL

This Section carried out 415 Building Inspections. Over the past year 11 no. Housing Estates have been recommended to the Roads and Transportation Department for Taking in Charge.

HERITAGE:

Projects carried out during the year include :

- **People and Nature Biodiversity Project**
Local Biodiversity Action Plan adopted at the April meeting of Galway Council.
- **Review of County Heritage Plan 2004-2008 and development of a new County Heritage Plan 2009-2013**
A review of Galway County Heritage Plan 2004-2008 was started in 2008. Eighty submissions were received and public consultation meetings were held in each Electoral Area.
- **Farm Buildings Audit for the Electoral Areas of Tuam and Ballinasloe**
A total of 131 farm buildings were assessed as part of the audit. A report on the findings has been published a leaflet produced that outlines the result.
- **Athenry Public Realm**
Consultants were appointed to develop a Public Realm Plan for Athenry.

A Draft document has been produced that deals with planning policy, geographical and historical context, the development of a strategy, consolidation of the medieval town core, entrances and approach routes, the transitional zone, sustainable growth and opportunity sites, the built heritage and design guidance.

- **Golden Mile Competition for County Galway 2008**
22 Groups entered miles into the Golden Mile Competition for County Galway 2008. The Award winners were:
The Golden Mile of Galway 2008 – Coldwood, Craughwell; The Mile showing best potential: Oughterard; Best Natural Heritage Mile: Dunmore; Best Built Heritage Mile: Moylough; Best Litter Free Mile: Leenane; Best Community Effort – Tony Dervan (R.I.P.) Award: Newbridge.
- **Publication of Thatched Houses**
A bi-lingual publication entitled *The Thatched Roofs of County Galway: Díonta Ceann Tuí na Gailimhe* was produced.
- **Galway County Council Heritage Grant Scheme**
€60,000 was allocated to 82 community groups in the heritage grant scheme in 2008.
- **Athenry Town Walls Conservation and Management Plan**
Athenry Walled Town Conservation and Management Plan was adopted by the elected members of Galway County Council on 28th April 2008.
- **Clifden Railway Heritage Week 2008**
Clifden Chamber of Commerce together with Galway County Council organised the first Railway Weekend in the Station House Theatre from Friday 18th to Sunday, 20th April, 2008.
- **Heritage Week Events**
Heritage Week this year took place from 24th to the 31st August.
- **Galway County Heritage Awards 2008**
The County Heritage Awards were held in Thursday 28th August 2008 the winners were:

SCHOOLS

Winner	Scoil Mhuire, Doire Glinne
2 nd Prize	Scoil Bhearna Dhearg
Highly Commended	St. Oliver Plunkett National School, Newcastle

BALLINASLOE ELECTORAL AREA

Winner	Laurencetown Community Enterprise Co.
2 nd Prize	An tAthair Pádraig Eric MacFhinn & Monsignor Louis Page Commemoration Committee

TOGHCHEANTAR CHONAMARA

Winner	Clifden Chamber of Commerce
2 nd Prize	Pádraic Ó Biadha, Leitir Meallain

LOUGHREA ELECTORAL AREA

Winner	Slógadh Eachtaí
2 nd Prize	Ceoltóirí an Doirín (Ballindereen Music Group)

ORANMORE ELECTORAL AREA

Winner	Claregalway Historical & Cultural Society.
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2nd Prize

Headford District Association

TUAM ELECTORAL AREA

Winner

Dunmore Tidy Towns Committee

2nd Prize

Moylough Tidy Towns

PUBLICATIONS

Winner

Meitheal Leabhar Chill Éinde

2nd Prize

John Joe Conwell

OVERALL WINNER

Galway East Tourism – Wayfinding Project

Sponsorship was given to The Royal Irish Academy for a forthcoming publication on the heritage of Tuam.

Galway County Council sponsored The Heritage Bursary to GMIT Best Heritage Studies Student for 2008.

Other Projects undertaken during the year include :

- Field Monument Advisor Programme
- Graveyard Survey
- Hedgerow Booklet and Leaflet
- Uncovering the Heritage of Our Blue Flags Beaches Phase 1
- Galway Wetland Scoping Phase 1
- BEO: Our School a Living Heritage
- Graveyard Seminar



Golden Mile Awards 2008: Overall winner Coldwood Craughwell.

CONSERVATION

- The core work of the Conservation Officer includes input into approximately 300 planning applications for works to Protected Structures and within Architectural Conservation Areas, pre planning consultations and advice on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the general statutory and non statutory bodies.
- The Conservation Officer contributed to the policies on Architectural Conservation in the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015.
- There were no additions or deletions to the Record of Protected Structures in 2008. New identifications continue to be made and included in the AIS database on an ongoing basis in response to queries from the public.
- Galway County Council liaised with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which commenced an inventory of architectural heritage of County Galway in 2008 and will be completed in 2009 with Ministerial recommendations to follow.
- Galway County Council hosted an US-ICOMOS International Conservation intern for the summer period. It carried out a pilot Condition Survey on Local Authority owned Monuments and Structures in the County.
- The departmental allocation for Conservation Grants 2008 was €217,000, for which 58 applications were received. Under the Civic Structures Grant Scheme €130,000 has been allocated to conservation works in County Galway.

Liaison is also maintained with the Marine and Bridges Section of Galway Co. Council.



Stone wall on Inis Oirr

Theme: MAXIMISING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Planning and Sustainable Development SPC had five meetings over the past year. The main policy issues discussed during the year included :

- The Draft County Development Plan
- The Draft Biodiversity Plan
- The Draft Development Contribution Scheme
- The Ardaun / Garraun Concept Plan
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

Theme 6: MAXIMISING ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Planning and sustainable Development Unit continues to provide an excellent customer service. A very informative Planning Seminar was held in the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort and was attended by 200 approx. and included many local Agents, Engineers, Architects and Technicians.

Planning clinics are still being held weekly in Ballinasloe and at Áras an Chontae

There were in excess of 2000 Pre Planning meetings held during the year.

The Map Shop again provided a wonderful service for our customers having carried out 3,897 transactions to the value of €258,941.25.

GALWAY HARBOUR BOARD COMPANY

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Cllr. Bridie Willers

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Cllr. Sean Canney

WESTERN REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

Cllr. Sinead Connaughton

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Cllr. Pat Hynes

Cllr. Michael Mullins

Cllr. Tomas Mannion

Cllr. Josie Conneely

FORUM LETTERFRACK

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Comh. Seosamh O’Cuaig
Cllr. Josie Conneely
Cllr. Thomas Welby

COMHDHAIL OILEAIN NA H-EIREANN

Comh. Seosamh O’Cuaig

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Cllr. Seosamh O’Cuaig
Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Jim Cuddy

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Cllr. Dermot Connolly

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Cllr. Tiernan Walsh
Cllr. Pat Hynes
Cllr. Dermot Connolly
Comh. Connie Ni Fhatharta
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Sean Canney.

WESTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Comh. Sean O’Tuairisg

SHANNON RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Cllr. Michael Connolly
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

COUNTY GALWAY LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Tomás Mannion
Cllr. Dermot Connolly

CO GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The Mayor, (Cllr. Feeney), Cllr. Kyne, Cllr. Carey, Cllr. T. Walsh, Cllr. Willers, Cllr. Mullins, Cllr. D. Connolly, Cllr. Keaveney, Cllr. Hynes, Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Regan, Cllr. Mannion, Cllr. M. Connolly, Cllr. Conneely, Cllr. Cuddy.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY THE MEMBERS 2008

	Conference	Organised By	Venue	No. Attended
1	Atlantic Way Presentation	Atlantic Way	Westpark, Shannon. 25.01.2008	2
2	Antrim Tourism Conference	Clare Tourist Council & Antrim Borough Council	Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co. Antrim 01. – 02.02.2008	2
3	Merriman Winter School	Cumann Merriman	Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo 01. – 03.02.2008	3
4	Local Government Planning Service	Kadenza Consultancies	Clonea Strand Hotel, Clonea, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 01. – 03.02.2008	3
5	GM Food	The Hist	Trinity College, Dublin 06.02.2008	1
6	14 th Annual Conference – Planning for Renewable Energy	Mid-West Regional Authority	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick 07. – 08.02.2008	8
7	A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar 2008	A.M.A.I.	Trim Castle Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath 15. – 16.02.2008	9
8	Ireland's Newest Immigrants	Third Sector Forum	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 21. – 23.02.2008	10
9	National Rural Development Conference 2008	Teagasc	Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, Galway City 22.02.2008	1
10	Suicide Prevention: A call to Action	Kadenza Consultancies	City West Hotel, Dublin 23.02.2008	2
11	19 th Colmcille Winter School – The Mutual Benefits of North-South Co-operation	Colmcille Heritage Trust	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 29.02. – 02.03.2008	15
12	Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference	Association of County & City Councils	Roganstown Country Club, Swords, Co. Dublin 06. – 08.03.2008	10
13	Annual Energy Seminar	Kadenza Consultancies	Raheen House Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 07. – 09.03.2008	1
14	Annual Spring Seminar 2008	L.A.M.A.	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath 27. – 28.03..2008	19

15	16 th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference	Rattoo Heritage Society	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry 02. – 06.04.2008	7
16	Effective Communications for Councillors	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 04. – 06.04.2008	6
17	Environmental Seminar	Irish Concrete Federation	Marriott Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co. Meath 09.04.2008	4
18	A.G.M. & Annual Conference 2008	Inclusion Ireland	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly 11. – 12.04.2008	3
19	24 th Annual Environmental Conference – Water: The Challenges for Users	Sherkin Island Marine Station	Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co. Cork 17. – 18.04.2008	2
20	Clifden Heritage Railway Weekend	Clifden Chamber of Commerce	Clifden Station House, Clifden, Co. Galway 18. – 20.04.2008	2
21	1916 Revolution or Betrayal	Enniscorthy Town Council	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford 19.04.2008	1
22	Developments in the Planning Systems, North & South	Confederation of European Councillors	Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh 24.04.2008	3
23	Housing Conference – A shared future – shaping the fabric of our communities	Cork City Council	Silversprings Moran Hotel, Tivoli, Cork 24. – 25.04.2008	3
24	International Festival of Peace	Tipperary Peace Convention	Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary 25. – 27.04.2008	2
25	Planning Seminar for Councillors	TJK Conferences Ltd.	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 26.04.2008	4
26	Annual Conference – Quality of Life: The Key to Successful Regions	Border, Midland & Western (BMW) Regional Assembly	Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 01.05.2008	5

27	The Role of Local Government in Community & Rural Development	Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry 08. – 09.05.2008	8
28	Bringing the Bogs back to Life	Coillte	Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim 08. – 09.05.2008	1
29	Community Transport in the 21 st Century	Kerry Community Transport Ltd.	Tralee, Co. Kerry 14. – 15.05.2008	1
30	9 th Annual Regional Assembly Conference	Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	Marriott Druids Glen Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow 16.05.2008	1
31	Local Government & the Environment	Kadenza Consultancies	The Burren Coast Hotel, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare 16. – 18.05.2008	2
32	Democracy in Africa Conference	African Voice Newspaper	The Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin 21.05.2008	1
33	National Hub Conference	Cork Co. Council	Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co. Cork 29.05.2008	7
34	Mutual Insurance A.G.M.	Irish Public Bodies	Croke Park, Dublin 29.05.2008	1
35	Sustaining Social Housing Communities	Respond – Housing Association	The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 05.06.2008	2
36	Housing in a Changing Climate	Energy Action	Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Dunboyne, Co. Meath 05.06.2008	1
37	NASC Annual Conference 2008	Galway Co. Council	Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway 05.06.2008	11
38	The Local Government Housing Service	Kadenza Consultancies	Bellingham Castle Hotel, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth 06. – 08.06.2008	5
39	National Tourism Conference	Carlow Tourism	Killerig Golf Resort, Killerig, Co. Carlow 18. – 20.06.2008	11
40	Fish Ireland 2008 – Conference on Innovation & Sustainability	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Donegal 26.06.2008	1
41	Byrne/Perry Summer School 2008	Wexford County Enterprise Board	Christian Brothers School, Gorey, Co. Wexford 27. – 29.06.2008	9
42	Synge Summer	Synge Summer	Avondale House,	1

	School 2008	School	Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 29.06. – 05.07.2008	
43	The Local Government Planning Service	Kadenza Consultancies	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork 04. – 06.07.2008	8
44	Green Paper for Local Government Reform	Institute of Public Administration	Hilton Hotel, Limerick 07.07.2008	4
45	Alternative Enterprise, the key to sustaining the Rural Economy	Esperanza Enterprises	Mannin Bay Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway 09. – 12.07.2008	4
46	MacGill Summer School Arts Week 2008	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal 12. – 19.07.2008	8
47	The Role of Local Government in Sport	Esperanza Enterprises	Connemara Gateway Hotel, Oughterard, Co. Galway 30.07. – 01.08.2008	3
48	Parnell Summer School 2008 – Educating Ireland	Parnell Society	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow 10. – 15.08.2008	8
49	Irish Language Course	Esperanza Enterprises	Inis Mor, Aran Islands, Co. Galway 13. – 16.08.2008	1
50	Merriman Summer School	Cumann Merriman	Ennis, Co. Clare 17.08. – 23.08.2008	6
51	Humbert Summer School	International Humbert School	Newman Institute, Ballina, Co. Mayo 21. – 24.08.2008	1
52	Local Government & the Arts	Kadenza Consultancies	Dooley's Hotel, Birr, Co. Offaly 22. – 24.08.2008	3
53	Connecting with Family Carers	The Carers Association	Boole 1, University College Cork 04.09.2008	2
54	A.M.A.I. Annual Conference 2008	A.M.A.I.	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo 10. – 13.09.2008	15
55	Annual Conference	Agricultural Science Association	Galway 12.09.2008	1
56	Does the Medium Matter?	Broadcasting Commission of Ireland	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 17. – 18.09.2008	1
57	National Advisory Council Conference 2008	Carlow County Council	Lyrath Estate Hotel, Dublin Rd., Kilkenny 18.09.2008	1

58	Human Rights Education for a Sustainable Future	Centre for Human Rights & Citizenship Education	St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 19. – 20.09.2008	1
59	Energy Efficiency	Esperanza Enterprises	Mannin Bay Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway 19. – 22.09.2008	3
60	Local Government & Sustainable Economic Development	Kadenza Consultancies	Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow 23. – 25.09.2008	1
61	Citizen First International Conference	Mid-West Regional Authority	Ennis, Co. Clare 25. – 26.09.2008	2
62	Getting a Grip 2008 – Addiction proofing our Communities	Kerry Life Education Ltd.	Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry 02. – 03.10.2008	4
63	La Touche Legacy Seminar 2008	Greystones Town Council	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow 03. – 05.10.2008	3
64	The Credit Crunch – Europe's Role in Changing Economic Circumstances	European Commission	European Commission, Dawson St., Dublin 2 09.10.2008	1
65	Feile Frank McGann	Feile Frank McGann Ltd.	Strokestown, Co. Roscommon 09. – 13.10.2008	4
66	Freedom of Information Seminar	TJK Conferences Ltd.	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick 10. – 11.10.2008	4
67	Study Trip - Greenbox Biodiversity Tourism Project	Galway Rural Development	Co. Fermanagh & Co. Leitrim 15. – 16.10.2008	1
68	Climate Change Conference	Dublin City Council	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 16.10.2008	4
69	Local Authority Financing	Third Sector Forum	Killarney Plaza Hotel, Kenmare Place, Co. Kerry 16. – 18.10.2008	2
70	Ireland's Waters – An Untapped Resource	Association of Irish Regions	Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 17.10.2008	1

71	Lost in Translation	Roscommon County Council	Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon 17. – 19.10.2008	3
72	Autumn Conference 2008	Irish Planning Institute	Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8 24.10.2008	1
73	The Good Friday Agreement – 10 Years on	Kadenza Consultancies	Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway 24. – 25.10.2008	2
74	The Local Government Budget 2009	Superior Training	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 31.10. – 01.11.2008	2
75	Anti Social Behaviour & Associated Health & Safety Issues	Kadenza Consultancies	Carraig Hotel, Main St., Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary 31.10. – 02.11.2008	1
76	National Reps Conference 2008	Teagasc	Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly 06.11.2008	2
77	Business Improvement Districts Conference	County Carlow Chamber	Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow 07.11.2008	2
78	All-Island Public Consultation Conference	Ultimate Communications	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 13.11.2008	1
79	Public Relation & Communication Skills for Councillors	Kadenza Consultancies	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 14. – 16.11.2008	5
80	Combat Poverty Seminar	Combat Poverty	Menlo Park Hotel, Galway City 17.11.2008	1
81	A Responsibility to Protect? Sovereignty vs. Intervention	Royal Irish Academy	Academy House, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2 21.11.2008	1
82	Information & Communication Technologies for Councillors	Esperanza Enterprises	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 21. – 23.11.2008	5
83	Annual Winter Seminar	L.A.M.A.	TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo 26. – 27.11.2008	15
84	Co-operation & Integration – The Key to Successful Tourism	Clare Tourist Council	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 28. – 29.11.2008	5

85	Homelessness in Ireland	Superior Training	City West Hotel, Dublin 05. – 06.12.2008	6
86	Effective Communications for Councillors	Superior Training	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo 12. – 14.12.2008	6

	Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council Meetings	Organised By	Venue	No. Attended
1		SRBDAC	Limerick 10.05.2008	1
2		SRBDAC	Claremorris, Co. Mayo 04.09.2008	1
3		SRBDAC	Athlone, Co. Westmeath 16.10.2008	2
4		SRBDAC	Mount Nugent, Cavan 26.11.2008	1

	Foreign Conferences	Organised By	Venue	No. Attended
1		NASC	Brussels 04. – 06.03.2008	2
2		ERNACT	Santander 15. – 17.09.2008	1

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2008

The Strategic Policy Committee system is intended to give Councillors and relevant Sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy shaping process from the earliest stages. The various SPCs met on a several occasions during 2008 to produce policy documents for approval by the full Council.

Housing Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Tiernan Walsh, Chair
2. Comh. Seosamh O’Cuaig
3. Cllr. Tom Mc Hugh
4. Cllr. James Joyce
5. Cllr. Michael Regan
6. Cllr. Imelda Kelly (Tuam Town Council)
7. Cllr. Michael Maher (Loughrea Town Council)
8. Ray Gilboy (CIF)
9. Brendan Duffy (ICTU)
10. Patricia J. Goan (Community & Voluntary)
11. Noel Tarmey (Community & Voluntary)

Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Sean Canney, Chair
2. Cllr. Tomas Mannion
3. Cllr. Sean Kyne
4. Cllr. Sinead Connaughton
5. Cllr. Pat Hynes
6. Cllr. Tom Reilly
7. Cllr. Mike Kelly (Ballinasloe Town Council)
8. Aiden Carney (IBEC)
9. Pat Keane (TEEU)
10. Aodan Mac Donnacha (Community & Voluntary)
11. Martin Callinan IFA Representative

Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Seamus Walsh, Chair
2. Cllr. Thomas Welby,
3. Cllr. Mary Hoade,
4. Cllr. Willie Burke
5. Cllr. Colm Keaveney
6. Cllr. Peter Feeney
7. Cllr. Gabriel Burke (Loughrea Town Council)
8. Justin Molloy (CIF)
9. Michael Naughton (GEAA)
10. Ray O’Donoghue (Community & Voluntary)

11. Michael Healy IFA Representative

Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. C. Ni Fhatharta, Chair
2. Cllr. Jim Cuddy
3. Cllr. Michael Mullins
4. Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg
5. Cllr. Michael Connolly
6. Cllr. Josie Conneely
7. Cllr. Lucy Lloyd – Keighery (Ballinalsoe Town Council)
8. Con Mc Cole (Environment)
9. Martin Gormally (Community & Voluntary)

Corporate & Cultural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

1. Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Chair
 2. Cllr. Jarlath Mc Donagh
 3. Cllr. Michael Carey
 4. Cllr. Bridie Willers
 5. Cllr. Michael Fahy
 6. Cllr. Michael Finnerty
 7. Cllr. Teresa Mc Hugh (Tuam Town Council)
 8. Martin Concannon (Cultural)
 9. Morgan O Concubhair Uas (Gaeltacht)
 10. Bridin Ni Chonceanainn (Islands)
 11. Maura Kelly Stewart (Community & Voluntary)
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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL 2008

COUNTY MANAGER

Ms. Martina Moloney

CORPORATE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Kevin Kelly
Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Bríd Dooley
Senior Executive Officer, Corporate & Cultural Affairs:	Ms. Breda McDermott
Administrative Officer, Corporate & Cultural Affairs:	Ms. Margaret Jordan
	Mr. Dermot Mahon
Administrative Officer, Human Resources:	Ms. Anne Gardiner
Head of Information Systems:	Mr. Morgan Matthews (Acting)
County Librarian:	Mr. Pat McMahan
Senior Executive Librarians:	Ms. Maureen Moran
	Ms. Bernie Kelly
	Mr. Peter Rabbitte
Senior Executive Engineer:	Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)
Law Agent:	Ms. Vivian Raine
Senior Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Angela Casey
	Ms. Anne McCormack (Temp)
Executive Solicitors:	Ms. Dorothea Turley (Temp)
	Ms. Noelle Hogan Chambers (Temp)
	Ms. Orla Reilly (Temp)
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Bernie Welby

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Frank Dawson
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Ger Scully
Administrative Officers:	Ms. Eimear Dolan
	Mr. Brian Barrett
Community & Enterprise Development Officers:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan
	Mr. Kieran Coyne
Arts Officer:	Ms. Marilyn Gaughan

ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Jim Cullen
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Colm Wallace
Administrative Officer, Environment:	Mr. Mark O'Donnell
Administrative Officer, Water Services:	Mr. Paraic Carroll
Senior Engineer, Environment:	Ms. Maire Ni Chionna
Senior Engineer, Water Services:	Mr. Liam Gavin
Senior Executive Engineers, Environment:	Mr. Tony McInerney
	Mr. Jim McGuirk (Acting)
Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:	Ms. Martina Connaughton
	Ms. Fiona Holland
	Mr. John Diskin
	Mr. Paul Batty (Temp)

Chief Technician:	Mr. Paul Mulhern (Acting)
County Veterinary Officer:	Ms. Rita Gately
Veterinary Officer:	Mr. Pat McGrath (Temp)

HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Frank Gilmore
Senior Executive Officer:	Ms. Jean Brann
Administrative Officer:	Ms. Mary McGann
Senior Engineer:	Mr. Michael Timmins
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Alan Raleigh
	Mr. Michael Sheil
Senior Social Worker:	Ms. Mary Forde
Chief Fire Officer:	Mr. Michael Raftery
Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:	Mr. Chris McMullin,
	Mr. Joesph Kelly,
	Mr. Michael Clifford,
	Mr. Paul Duffy
Civil Defence Officer:	Mr. Tom Casserly

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. Paul Ridge
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Albert Comer
Administrative Officer:	Mr. Enda Moloney
Senior Planner:	Ms. Catherine McConnell
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Neil Howard
	Mr. Paraic Breathnach
Senior Executive Planners:	Ms. Saoirse Kennedy-Quinn
	Ms. Valerie Loughnane
Senior Executive Planning:	Mr. Noel Burke
Heritage Officer:	Ms. Marie Mannion
Conservation Officer:	Ms. Máirín Doddy
Community & Enterprise Development Officers:	Ms. Ann Mallaghan
	Mr. Kieran Coyne

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Director of Services:	Mr. John Morgan
Senior Executive Officer:	Mr. Michael Owens
Administrative Officer:	Mr. Sean Groarke
Senior Engineers:	Mr. Jack Eising
	Mr. Michael Dolly
	Mr. Martin Lavelle
	Mr. Evan Molloy
Senior Executive Engineers:	Mr. Aengus Breathnach
	Mr. Noel Forde
	Mr. Tony Collins
	Mr. Rory Timlin
	Mr. Fintan O'Meara
	Mr. Sean Breathnach
	Mr. Uinsinn Finn

Health & Safety Officer:
Financial Accountant (NRDO):

Mr. Diarmuid Croghan
Mr. John Leahy
Mr. Anthony Kelly
Ms. Julianne Gavin
Ms. Olivia Heffernan (Temp)

AREA ENGINEERS

Oranmore (Lackagh):
Ballinasloe (East):
Ballinasloe (West):
Clifden:
An Cheathrú Rua:
Oughterard:
Gort:
Loughrea:
Portumna:
Tuam (West):
Tuam (East):

Mr. Enda Gallagher
Mr. Adrian Headd
Mr. Enda Mulryan
Mr. T.J. Redmond
Mr. Pat Clarke
Mr. Feidhlim McGillicuddy
Mr. John Costello
Mr. Adrian Raftery
Mr. Cyril Mitchell
Mr. Peter Gavin
Mr. John Flesk

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance:
Financial Accountant:
Management Accountant:
Administrative Officer:
Senior Executive Engineer:
Administrative Officer, Motor Tax:

Mr. Gerard Mullarkey
Ms. Áine Fenton
Mr. Michael McGovern
Ms. Nuala Heffernan
Mr. Paul Duffy
Ms. Eileen Keaveney

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Senior Executive Officer:

Mr. Alan Farrell

WEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Director:

Mr. Jim McGovern

WORKPLACE PARTNERSHIP

Partnership Facilitator:

Mr. M. J. Walsh

OFFICES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL 2008

HEADQUARTERS:

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.
091 – 509000

FIRE BRIGADE:

Headquarters:
Fr. Griffin Road,
Galway.
091 - 583396

Housing Applications	(091) 509300
Housing Loans and Grants	(091) 509301
Environment	(091) 476482
Human Resources	(091) 509303
Motor Taxation	(091) 509099
Driving Licences	(091) 509305
Water Services	(091) 476427
Community, Enterprise & Economic Dev.	(091) 476400
Planning	(091) 509308
Engineering	(091) 509309
Register of Electors	(091) 509310
Higher Education Grants	(091) 509310

AREA OFFICES:

TELEPHONE NO.

Athenry	(091)	844042
Lackagh	(091)	737020
Ballinasloe	(09096)	42274
Portumna	(09097)	41019
Gort	(091)	631040
An Cheathrú Rua	(091)	595771
Clifden	(095)	21186
TuamEast (Tuam)	(093)	24123
Tuam East (Mountbellew)	(09096)	79221
Tuam West (Milltown)	(093)	51314
Loughrea	(091)	841536
Oughterard	(091)	552353

OPENING HOURS – MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

GENERAL: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

MOTOR TAXATION: 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.



OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY 2008

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTY 2008

TUAM TOWN COUNCIL

Tuam Town Council, Shop Street, Tuam Tel: (093) 24246

Mayor: Peter Warren.

Town Clerk: Angela Holian

Members: Gilleesa Browne-Lane, Paul O'Grady, Tom Reilly, Martin Anthony Ward, Peter Warren, Sally Ann Flanagan, Teresa McHugh, Ann O'Donnell-Brady, Imelda Kelly

LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL

Loughrea Town Council, Barrack Street, Loughrea Tel: (091) 841536

Mayor: Gabriel Burke

Town Clerk: Imelda Deeley.

Members: James Curley, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Michael Maher, Norman Morgan, Gabriel Burke, Seamus Tully, Geraldine Bane.

BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL

Ballinasloe Town Council, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe Tel: (09096) 42263

Mayor: Pat O'Sullivan.

Town Clerk: Alan Farrell

Members: Lucy Lloyd-Keighrey, Carmel Grealy, John Molloy, Sean Tully, Pat O'Sullivan, Johnny Walsh, Mike Kelly, Hugh Dolan, Jason Devlin.

SERVICE INDICATORS 2008

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	2.39
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.86
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	3.15
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	4.60

F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	49.30
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	36.67
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	14.02
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	39.16
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	46.15
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	14.69

F.3 Fire Prevention

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	434	Total consists of County 246 and City 188
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	451	Consists of County 257 and City 194
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	63	Consists of County 36 and City 27

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme 70

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum 540

C: CORPORATE ISSUES

C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave 3.96

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave 0.50

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs: 6.06 Includes Galway Co Co & Ballinasloe TC

E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WATER

E.1 Unaccounted For Water

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for 49.46

E.2 Drinking Water Analysis –Compliance with Statutory Requirements

A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes 94.91

B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate) 95.24

WASTE MANAGEMENT

E.3 Waste Segregation

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 77.16 (Sources for E3-E6 is National Waste Database Returns to EPA based on information relating to 2007)

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service And are provided with segregated waste collection for organics 5.48

E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 28.12

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling 12028

C. Tonnage of households waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities sent for recycling 5764

E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	69.80
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	29856

E6: Recycling Facilities**Glass**

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	93
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	96
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.01

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	93
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	96
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.01

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	53
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	56
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.76

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

Other materials

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	3
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	3
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.09

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens	0
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	15
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.47
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	418
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	173
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	40
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	9
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	40
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	9
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	15.34
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	42.33
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	34.92
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	6.88
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0.53

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1208
B. Number of complaints investigated	1208
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1033
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	175

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	76.89
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	75.68

H: HOUSING

H1: Housing Vacancies

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2284
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2284
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	5.21
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	87.39
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	12.61

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings

The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	45
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	2.6

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	70.02
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H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	37.50
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H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies	4768
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	181
C. Number of inspections carried out	181
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	3.80

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	14
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	6

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants	202
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

L: LIBRARY SERVICES

L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	33.47
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	11.46
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	20
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	46.63	Population includes County & City 231,670
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L.3 Library Stock

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	2.81	Population includes County & City 231670
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.50	Population includes County & City 231670
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.09	Population includes County & City 231670

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	303.87
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M: MOTOR TAXATION

M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions

A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	167175
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	35870
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	75982
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	59.91
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	12.86
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	27.23

M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications

A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	30741
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	4639
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	88
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	402
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	85.70
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	12.93
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.25
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	1.12

M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications

A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	15583
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	11314
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	3971
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	4196
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	44.44
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	32.27
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	11.33
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	11.97

M.4 Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	32.50
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P: PLANNING

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

Individual Houses

A. Number of applications decided	1451
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	533
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	528
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	391
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	80
F. Percentage of applications granted	81.05
G. Percentage of applications refused	18.95
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	57.45
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	42.55

New Housing Development

A. Number of applications decided	167
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	30
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	72
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	64
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	81
F. Percentage of applications granted	67.07
G. Percentage of applications refused	32.93
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	51.52
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	48.48

Other: Not requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	1881
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	1309
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	419
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	156
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	80

F. Percentage of applications granted	93.78
G. Percentage of applications refused	6.22

H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	67.21
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I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	32.79
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Other: Requiring Environment Impact Assessment

A. Number of applications decided	10
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B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	3
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C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4
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D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	2
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E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	111
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F. Percentage of applications granted	90.0
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G. Percentage of applications refused	10.0
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H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
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I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0
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P.2 Planning Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	631
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B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	105
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C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	188
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D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	436
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E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	242
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F. Number of prosecutions	65
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P.3 Planning Public opening hours

Average number of opening hours per week	34
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	1042
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B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	30
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P.5 New Buildings inspected

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	27.61
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P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	15
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	11
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	337
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	20.0
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0

Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.09
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.11

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	1367.39
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Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION

Rev.1 House Rent

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	91.16
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	7.15
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	10.78
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	72.94

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	87.12
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	5.68
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	18.59
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	75.73

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	89.5
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end 0

Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges 47

R: ROADS**R1: Road Restoration Programme**

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum

415.801 kms
The 415.801 kms were completed at a cost of €18,833,242 comprised of €18,716,628 funded by the Department of Transport under the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Grants, including €370,061 for the Community Involvement in Roadwork's Scheme and €116,614 in funding from the Council's own resources.

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum

19.76 kms:
The 19.76 kms were completed at a cost of €5,315,294, with €4,893,548 funded by the Department of Transport in 2008 under the Specific Improvement



UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2008

Mr. Gerard Mullarkey Head of Finance.

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to apply to all planning decisions made on or after the 8th March 2004.

In order to meet the Council's core objectives, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, there is a requirement for significant investment in creating the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of an expanding population. The Development Contribution Scheme is designed to help bridge the funding gap between the actual costs of creating that infrastructure and the exchequer and other funding that will be available. Since the inception of the scheme, whilst significant funding has been raised, the demands being placed on the Council are proving to far exceed the funding available.

The attached table illustrates this point where from the inception of the scheme we have received approximately **€30.4 million** to the end of December 2008, however we have commitments totalling almost **€31 million**. In addition I have listed details of our known commitments for projects due to commence in 2010 and beyond which total **€101.4 million** demonstrating the large funding gap that must be bridged to ensure that these projects proceed as planned.

Galway County Council also has significant demand for the development of our roads infrastructure to support development and growth, which is unlikely to be funded from existing resources. It will be necessary to revisit the existing Development Contribution Scheme if it is the intention to advance these desirable projects.

Summary of Development Contribution Scheme to 31 December 2008

Development Contributions Income	
Year ended 31 December 2005	5,677,011
Year ended 31 December 2006	11,046,830
Year ended 31 December 2007	7,869,865
Year ended 31 December 2008	5,785,676
Total Income Received	<u>30,379,382</u>

Development Contributions Committed

Water and Waste Water Facilities	28,350,000
Recreation & Amenity	2,350,000
Funds Committed	<u>30,700,000</u>

Estimated Future Demands	
Water and Waste Water Facilities	90,000,000
Recreation & Amenity	8,900,000
Car Parking Facilities	2,500,000
Subtotal of future demands	<u>101,400,000</u>

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008

Income & Expenditure Account

EXPENDITURE	2007 €M	2008 €M
Housing	10.134	10.913
Roads	62.367	53.490
Sanitary Services	18.637	23.186
Planning & Development	10.253	11.003
Environmental Protection	15.181	18.774
Recreation & Amenity	7.248	8.861
Agriculture & Education	17.100	19.322
Miscellaneous Services	7.119	8.837
Total Expenditure	148.039	154.386
INCOME	2007 €M	2008 €M
State Grants	103.495	104.368
Other Sources	49.027	52.323
Total Income	152.522	156.691
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	4.483	2.305
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(4.479)	(4.217)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	0.004	(1.912)
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	0.759	0.763
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	0.763	(1.149)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

Net Assets	2007 €M	2007 €M	2008 €M	2008 €M
Fixed Assets		3,493.926		3,497.766
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		306.091		356.526
Long Term Debtors		49.889		48.611
Current Assets	66.280		57.812	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	<u>(47.831)</u>		<u>(39.244)</u>	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		18.449		18.568
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		97.436		105.524
Total		<u>3,770.919</u>		<u>3,815.947</u>
Represented By				
Capitalisation Account		3,493.926		3,497.766
Receipts - Work in Progress		290.497		340.411
Other Reserves		(14.267)		(21.081)
General Revenue Reserve		0.763		(1.149)
Total		<u>3,770.919</u>		<u>3,815.947</u>

Further details of the AFS are available on request:

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997
 GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL OBSERVES THE REQUIREMENT OF THE PROMPT
 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS ACT 1997.