



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**Galway County Council**  
**Monthly Management Report**  
**February 2023**

## HOUSING & UKRAINE CRISIS

### Housing Project – Intellectual Disability – Galway (Ability West & The Brothers of Charity)

Galway County Council published their Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 in November 2021. One of the recommendations in this was for the intellectual disability sector to consider setting up a housing coordinator/project similar to the HSE Mental Health Housing Coordinator project/role. Ability West and the Brothers of Charity who are members of the Galway County Council HDSG took this on and sought funding under a joint proposal seeking funding from HSE Disability services.

The approved project is a pilot that will focus on younger / middle aged adults with mild/moderate support needs who have an intellectual disability and wish to progress to live independently with supports. They would be individuals who would not have a requirement for 'high needs' residential services but do have daily support needs. The identified clients for the project have originated from a Parents Advocacy group within Galway

#### Purpose of project

- To provide social housing for people with an intellectual disability within mainstream social housing options
- To avoid crisis residential placements for people who have the potential to live in their own homes when parents/carers become incapacitated or unwell.
- To support people with an intellectual disability to live a fulfilling life in their communities in their own homes.
- To provide supports where required from the HSE with MDT input from the relevant intellectual disability organisations as required. Scope Galway City and County.

A Housing Coordinator (G7) has been employed by Ability West and a Social Work Team Leader grade post has been employed by the Brothers of Charity. The Housing section will be liaising with these staff and the project under the existing Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) structures via the 'Intellectual Disability subgroup'.

Potential clients will be supported to be applicants on the housing list and will be considered under the Galway County Council Disability Strategy for LA housing or AHB nomination

### HOMELESS UNIT

The winter months have been extremely busy for the homeless unit in Galway County Council. While there is a national ban on evictions until the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 there are still a significant number of families and individuals availing of homeless services. Notice to Quits are on the increase and we expect that this will increase further if the eviction ban is lifted.

**b. Galway County homeless statistics**

	Previous meeting data September 2022	Data week 23 <sup>rd</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Galway County Individuals in EA	50	46
Galway County families and dependents in EA	14 30 dependants	12 25 dependants
Galway County exits and preventions	2	

**d. Galway County Council Housing First Data**

	Previous meeting data	Data week 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Individuals in a tenancy	10	13

Housing First is a tenant programme where HSE, COPE, Galway SIMON and Galway County Council work through a tenant support model to place individuals who need wrap around services to sustain a tenancy are placed on a programme to achieve this aim.

**TENANCY SUSTAINMENT:**

**b. Galway County Council Outcomes**

Outcomes	Data week 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Housed by LA or AHB	120
HAP	72
LTL/RAS	9
Private rented	1
Property acquisition	
Emergency accommodation	75
Family & Friends	9

**b. Galway County Council HAP Placefinder**

	Previous meeting data	Data week 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Tenancies established	1	2
Families previously in EA	1	0
Singles previously in EA	0	0
Households with a valid NTQ	86	90

## APPLICATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS

Galway County Council are currently preparing the NOAC and Department returns for 2022. We have through significant concentrated effort reduced the vacancies percentage from 7.28% to 3.67%.

PROPERTY STATUS	Athenry - Oranmore	Ballinasloe	Conamara	Loughrea	No Eircode	Tuam	Total
☒ New Props Awaiting Keys			18	11	2	51	82
☒ Occupied	2	250	482	801	32	473	2522
☒ Under Construction	2	16	8	9	7	183	226
☒ Under Offer		2	2		6	1	16
☒ Vacant	1	38	13	6	26	5	111
☒ Available Unit(s)		37	3		7		51
☒ Awaiting Minor Repairs			7	3	10		30
☒ Derelict	1	1	3	3	9	5	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>2957</b>

## NOAC & Dept Returns

	31/12/2021	%	31/12/2022	%
Total Occupied Stock	2417	92.11%	2511	95.01%
Derelicts	16	0.61%	35	1.32%
Vacant Units	191	7.28%	97	3.67%
Total Vacants	207	7.89%	132	4.99%
Total Stock	2624		2643	

An online workshop was held with Councillors on housing applications, allocations and voids in Feb 2023. This was attended by 16 councillors.

Tenancy training will be undertaken with a significant number of tenants in Athenry in early March to coincide with key handover. This will include a full presentation on tenancy handbook, Anti-social behaviour policy, environmental and waste management etc. A resident's association will also be set up following this process.

## CROI CONAITHE

An online workshop with Councillors was held in Feb 2023. This was attended by 20 Councillors.

## Eligibility

- Own the home
- Vacant for 2 years
- Pre 1993
- 1<sup>st</sup> time buyer , qualify for fresh start principle
- Inspections – certain works
- Clawback and stay put on property
- Reside in Property after refurb, Primary Residence



### CAPITAL UPDATE:

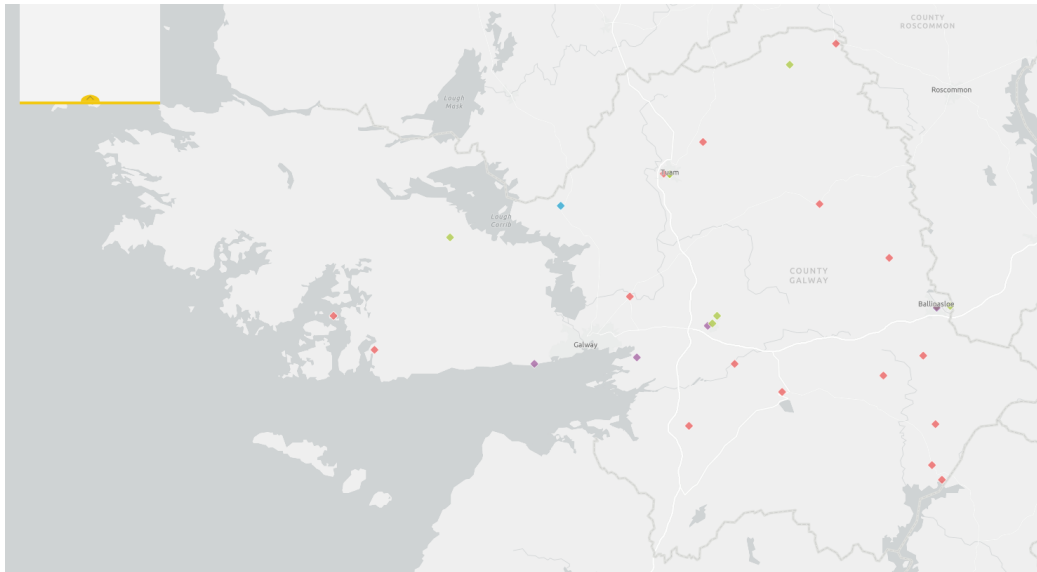
- Clifden units are nearing completion with houses completed and ongoing snagging and finishing being done on the apartment units.



- Ahascragh – ongoing work with completion due Q2/3 of 2023. Renaming of the estate being considered
- Weir rd, Tuam – confirmation has been received that the official name shall be **Páirc na Cille**. Works have begun on site with delivery aiming for early 2024

The below map highlights the projects with Stage 4, final approval





This map highlights projects with final approval only from the Department with permission to progress. It includes single unit construction, AHB delivery, Part V and Council turnkey and build.

Further Council part 8's, part V units being negotiated, and SHIP/CAS/CALF and Turnkeys are at Stage 1-3 of discussions with the Department which will add to housing delivery for 2023-25.

Yearly Breakdown <span style="float: right;">Drill</span>				
SchemeTypeDescription	2023	2024	2025	Total
⊕ Four Stage	61	55	74	<b>190</b>
⊕ Single Stage	77	4		<b>81</b>
⊕ CALF	52			<b>52</b>
⊕ LA Part V	24			<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>347</b>

## UKRAINE RESPONSE

Approximately 40 individual properties have been offered to Galway County Council under the Offer a Home initiative. These have all been inspected from a technical point of view. A number of the homes have been identified for progressing and have been offered to Ukrainian families via IOM (NGO liaising with families in hotels). The tenancies of these properties will be between the families involved and the owners. Galway County Council will liaise but will not have any responsibilities regarding tenant/landlord issues.

A number of large-scale projects have been identified for renovation/refurbishment. Galway County Council is liaising with the owners on QS, technical and building reg issues to try to return these premises to use. The owners will aim to have commercial contracts with the Department of Children on completion of renovation works.

- Training for relevant LCDC agencies and staff of Galway County Council is being delivered by Community Work Ireland on 21<sup>st</sup> February on “*A Guide to Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision-Making*” which was launched by Minister Joe O’Brien on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The Guide was developed by the Department of Rural and Community Development in collaboration with Pobal and the community & voluntary sector as part of a Dormant Accounts funded project to promote the engagement of marginalised communities at local level, particularly in the context of the LECP process. The guide is available [here](#)
- Expressions of Interest have been invited under the Community Recognition Fund, which is a once-off funding programme to recognise the contribution of communities in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries under Temporary Protection and International Protection Schemes. The aim of the Fund is to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in areas that are hosting high numbers of New Arrivals where a clear need for investment has been identified. In order to coordinate the process of identifying local community needs, staff have been assigned to work with each Municipal District, and there will also be direct engagement with the Ukrainian Community Response Forum and the LCDC. A closing date of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March has been set for the submission of Expressions of Interest from those who are hosting or supporting New Arrivals in the host communities/towns/villages.
- An LCDC Meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February to consider the SICAP Annual Progress Report 2022 and the draft Annual Plan 2023.
- 273 applications have been received for the Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022/2023 which are currently being assessed under the 2 separate streams of this funding programme, i.e., energy/running costs and capital grants. The detailed assessment will be carried out by the Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee with final approvals by the LCDC, and submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development prior to notifications to applicants.
- Healthy Ireland – Galway County Council had an interim funding scheme for the period June 2022-December 2022. Under this fund, Healthy Ireland delivered a number of actions under Physical Activity, Mental Health, Nutrition and Spaces and Places for health and wellbeing. These actions were identified through consultations with key stakeholders to identify gaps/needs. Healthy County Galway provided equipment packs and leader training for Older Adults and Disability Services, Healthy Food Made Easy Courses and Tutor Training, Disability Equipment Grants for Sports Clubs, Woodlands for Health Programmes, Galway Agency Mental Health Connect Cafe Workshop as part of October Mental Health Month, Ballinasloe Library Play Initiative and Community Health and Wellbeing Events. Healthy County Galway supported 772 people, provided 2,000 Mental Health Booklets, 40 Community Mental Health Boards, 45 Sets Activator Poles, 5 Boccia Sets and 12 Disability Equipment Grants during this period.
- Healthy County Galway has submitted an application under Healthy Ireland Round 4 2023-2025 and is currently awaiting approval on this application.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Community Support Schemes for 2023 have been advertised with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> March and similar to previous years, applications will be invited under the separate support schemes to promote economic development, community development, and cultural development, and the process will be coordinated through the Community Section.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

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### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN sent out 4 Weekly Digest emails (each Friday), 1 Newsletter along with 10 emails to all 1190 Member Groups.
- Regular updates across the PPN's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) Updates from various other shareholders shared.
- The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls and emails.
- The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

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### BUILDING CAPACITY:

- PPN training needs analysis results were shared with the Secretariat. The top 3 trainings were Making Successful Funding Applications, Writing a strategic plan for your group and Social Media Training. The secretariat agreed to prioritise these training options for 2023.
- Meeting with GRETB on 14/02/2023 to discuss possible areas for collaboration in delivery of training programmes.
- The PPN consulted with GCC Staff to discuss the delivery of public procurement training to groups and to deliver workshops on funding schemes.
- PPN took part in consultation to help Conamara Láir develop their 5-year Strategic plan.

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### PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- PPN Representatives were involved in a number of meetings during the month including the JPC, Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC. PPN reports of these meetings are subsequently uploaded to the PPN website for feedback from groups.
- PPN Secretariat meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 2 Secretariat vacancies to be advertised among the PPN membership.
- National and Local level consultations shared with member groups via email.



## ARTS OFFICE

Arts Office led a funding clinic with Creative Places Tuam in Tuam Town Hall for artists, community groups to assist them to build a toolkit to make funding applications with a focus on Galway County Council funding streams. This clinic also facilitated one to one meetings with groups/individual artists to discuss their projects.

**Public Art:** Assessment Panel convened to assess Tenders for the provision of Services for Project Management of Public Art for OPW/Galway County Flood relief schemes. Tender is in the process of being awarded to the successful tenderer.

**Artist Support Scheme:** Received 110 applications for the Support Scheme 2023. A peer panel with convene early March to assess and award the bursaries.

**Artist in School Scheme:** This scheme will be published in February with opportunities for schools and artists to apply to take part in one of 4 residencies in Galway County this year.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

The launch of the Galway County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 will take place in Dublin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The Local Authority Strategies will be launched by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD and the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage Darragh O’Brien TD as part of a national launch in Farmleigh House.

“Herself”, a large-scale public projection event took place in the centre of Gort for the new St. Brigid’s day celebrations. Individual moving portraits of local women, layered with visuals of nature will be projected at dusk on the neoclassical Courthouse building in Gort town square. In collaboration with local community groups, artists Shona MacGillivray and Jill Beardsworth identified 12 women whose lives and work embody the qualities that Brigid is known for. This project illuminates those women who work quietly in the background, making our world a better place to be. This project was supported by the Galway County Creative Ireland Bursaries.



*Herself photo credit Aengus Mc Mahon*

GENERAL

**Operation Transformation** – Annual Project targeted for general population. January 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022. 10 locations, over 250 participants.

**Couch to 2K** – 5 week progressive programme aimed at individuals over 18. 201 participants from Galway registered.

**Women in Sport** – 7<sup>th</sup> – 12 March 2022

Clubs engaged with, highlighted work done. Over 20,000 engagements, 200 plus comments on social media. Online and in person taster sessions aimed at women and teenager girls took place in city and county.

**Summer Paddle Series – Loughrea**

6 weeks of stand up paddle boarding. 89 women, men and children took part in beginner sessions. 3 separate delivery due to high demand.

**Marathon Kids**

11 schools in Galway city and county – over 250 children in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> classes participated.

Main focus on Deis schools. 2<sup>nd</sup> delivery of the programme.

**Direct Provision**

2 main programmes delivered to ethnic minorities. Access Tennis delivered by Tennis Ireland for children and adults living in Eglinton and Dominic Street. 30+ participants over 3 days.

Adults/toddler swim sessions.

**Men on the Move**

Targeted inactive men over 35. Programmes runs for 8 – 12 weeks with pre and post non invasive fitness testing .

**Buggy Buddies**

A post natal friendly class for parents of young babies and toddlers. Outdoor classes – studies show outdoor spaces improve sleep anxiety depression mood and wellbeing – during winter months it was moved indoors. 2022 had 129 participants who took part in 11 Buggy Buddies programmes held in 5 locations.

**HER Outdoors Week**

8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Watersports (wind surfing and stand up paddle boarding), trail running, mountain skills, gravel biking and open water programmes were run over the week. Each programme was sold out with nearly 100 participants involved in the introductory classes throughout the week.

**Sea Schools Project.**

A collaboration between Scoil Bhride and Galway Hooker Sailing Club. The timeline for this project is for 12 months starting in September 2022.

Some of the other Women's Programmes the GSP have run in 2022 includes: • Women's Gravel & MTB Spin events with Cycling Connacht, Cycling Ireland, Galway Bay Cycling Club

and Corrib MTB • Women in Sport week – online taster classes in Pilates, Yoga and Dance • Girls Get Active – pilot schools programme with girls from Coláiste Cholmcille in Inverin.

### **Safeguarding**

34 Safeguarding 1 – Basic Awareness Courses were delivered to a total number of 519 participants, of which;

- 6 were face to face
  - 28 were online
- 13 Safeguarding 2 – Club Children’s Officer Courses were delivered to a total number of 158 participants, of which were all online.

9 Safeguarding 3 – Designated Liaison Officer Training Courses were delivered to a total number of 101 participants, of which were all online.

### **First Aid Courses**

15 First Aid Courses delivered by Tribes First Aid on behalf of Galway Sports Partnership

This course teaches the basic techniques of CPR, how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and the relief for choking for adults, children and infants.

Participants received an Irish Heart Foundation Heartsaver AED Certificate which is valid for 2 years. The courses were delivered in 9 different parts of Galway city and county at a highly subsidize rate.

### **Disability**

Key initiatives include Operation Transformation, Equestrian Programs, Boccia Program & Tournament, Learn to Swim, Autism and Fundamental Movement Skills Series, Yoga in Special Schools,

Bike Week Event, Triathlon and the Autism Swim Project.

### **Older Adults**

Key initiatives include Come and Try Ballinfolle, Positive Ageing week we delivered an Older Adults Event in Clarinbridge Parish Hall, Physical Activity Leader Training (PALS), Good2Go and Walking Football.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Just Transition Fund (JTF) Emerge Programme webinar for East Galway and Offaly is on Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Promotion of same has been through the Public Participation Network (PPN).

Shared Island project is a unique collaboration with a shared commitment of Galway and Leitrim County Councils partnered with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to develop Excellence Centres in Food Innovation and Agritech. The initiative is progressing and the first partner meeting took place in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim on January 26<sup>th</sup>. A number of activities will be scheduled for the coming months and the various communications concerning this will issue in the course of time.

### HUBS INFORMATION AND NETWORKING EVENT

The Economic, Community & Rural Development Unit & Broadband Office hosted an Information and Networking Event for existing and developing Hubs in Galway County on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, titled Working Well for 2023 & Beyond.

The Event which was held in the Claregalway Hotel, was well attended with representation from Operating Hubs, Hub Management Committees, Community Hub Facilities and those considering establishing a Hub.

**Guest Speakers included:** Mr. Jake Ryan Principal Officer, Regional Development & Innovation Unit, Department of Rural & Community Development.

Mr. Stephen Carolan, National Hub Network Programme Manager, Western Development Commission. Ms. Joanne Mangan, Employers Lead, Grow Remote. Ms. Lyn Donnelly – Manager, Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. Mr. Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Galway County Council, and Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Services, Galway County Council.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

### 2023 REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD GRANT ALLOCATIONS.

The total grant allocation received from the Department of Transport for 2023 is **€39,329,263**. Set out below are the amounts available to Galway County Council under the various grant headings. A brief description of the allowable and applicable work types under each heading is also provided.

**Special meetings of each Municipal District will be convened in the coming days to clearly set out and explain the impact and distribution of these grant allocations at MD level.**

### RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (RI)

The RI Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme. An overall amount of **€20,455,000** has been provided under the 2023 Restoration Improvement Grant.

This is the strengthening programme and again is hugely important in terms of maintaining the network. It caters for surface restoration, pavement overlay works or inlay works (planing) and for complete road rehabilitation works as well as for drainage works where required.

### RESTORATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME (RM) (SURFACE DRESSING)

The Restoration Maintenance (RM) Programme continues to be an important programme aimed at protecting road surfaces. An overall amount of **€2,986,500** has been provided under the 2023 Restoration Maintenance Programme.

This is mainly the surface dressing programme, and it is important in terms of sealing the road surface (thus preventing the ingress of water) and in maintaining adequate skid resistance. A basic Surface Dressing is defined as the uniform application of a bituminous binder sprayed onto a road surface followed by a layer of single sized chippings.



*Recently Surface Dressed Road*

Also, given continuing constraints in relation to current funding for the RM programme, the provision of a Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) Grant using capital funding is being continued in 2023. An overall amount of **€2,346,500** has been provided under the 2023 Supplementary Restoration Maintenance.

RM and SRM grant funding **may only be used for Surface Dressing works**. If sealing works are required, other than surface dressing, then they should be included under the RI or Discretionary Grant programmes or funded through LA own resources.



This means that works such as slurry sealing, clause 942 bituminous material, wearing course macadam and HRA which are often used in urban areas may now be only carried out under the RI or Discretionary Grant programmes.

#### DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)

Discretionary Grants (DG) amounting to **€5,659,500** will be available to meet the cost of road maintenance and improvement works. Local Authorities are paid grants under this heading for improvement and maintenance works. Councils have discretion in spending these grants subject to selecting from the list of eligible works set out in the Memorandum On Grants For Regional And Local Roads. The cost of salt used by the Council in the winter period of 2021/2022 has been deducted from the Discretionary Grant. The Council can use Discretionary grant monies towards staff or plant costs associated with salting operations or for the purchase of salt.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME (CIS)

Ring-fenced funding for the Community Involvement Scheme was introduced in 2018. Since then, funding has been allocated for 2-year periods with a view to giving local authorities more flexibility in delivering this programme. Grants allocated under other Departmental grant programmes cannot be used for the community contribution. The allocation for Galway County Council for 2023 is **€1,131,840**.

#### DRAINAGE GRANT (DR)

In 2018, the Department introduced a separate grant for drainage measures. This is in recognition of the importance attributed to maintaining or installing proper drainage systems in an attempt to prolong the life of the pavement. The funding may be used for the alleviation of road drainage problems either through new works or remedial works. Grant funding of **€1,397,500** has been provided in 2023 for drainage measures.

#### LOWER COST BRIDGE REHABILITATION (BR)

In the second half of each year the Department issues a circular inviting applications for funding in respect of Bridge Rehabilitation Works for the following year. A list of candidate Bridge Rehabilitation was drawn up by Galway County Council and submitted, on a priority basis, to the Department. A grant allocation of **€630,000** has been provided in 2023 to fund bridge rehabilitation works.

2023 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads		
Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
L-6143	Mahanagh Bridge 1	€20,000
L-3117	Cormacuagh (Clogh)	€20,000
L-8229	Derrygarraff	€20,000
L-85141	Derreen Bridge 4	€20,000
R-336	Waterfall Bridge	€20,000
L-87902	Mountain Park Bridge	€20,000
R-345	Cornamona Bridge	€20,000
L-12010	Formweel, Shannapheasteen	€100,000
R-348	Suck Bridge, Ballinasloe	€150,000
L-51374	Derrynavglauun, Ballinafad	€140,000
L-50101	Tirneevin, Gort	€30,000
R-363	Ballinamore Bridge	€70,000
		<b>€630,000</b>

## LOWER COST SAFETY SCHEME (LCS)

Similarly, In the second half of each year the Department normally issues a circular, inviting application for funding in respect of Lower Cost Safety works for the following year. A list of candidate regional and local road sites was drawn up by Galway County Council and submitted, on a priority basis, to the Department. The Lower Cost Safety scheme remains in place for 2023 and Galway County Council's allocation of **€418,400** is set out below.

2023 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads		
Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
R348/R446	Derrydonnell Beg. Junction of R348/R446	€40,000
R374	Casla to Bealadangan, Carrowroe West	€45,000
R446	Moyveela (Oranmore to Craughwell)	€20,000
R446	Oranbeg (Oranmore to Craughwell)	€40,000
L-4304/L-43042	Narrow junction with poor visibility close to dangerous bend	€30,000
R380/R460	Series of sharp bends and narrow road due to bridge parapets (6 No.) and approach to Gort Town (4No.). Total 10No.	€44,900
R-333/L-2109	Creavins Bend, Caherlistrane - Sightlines	€28,000
R360	Knockaunbrack - Sightlines	€25,000
L-4322	Killimor to Kiltormer road at Derrew Cross	€25,500
R341	Derrigimlagh	€40,000
R363/L-3210	Poor sight visibility to the left when entering R363,	€30,000
L-1322/L-5383/L-5382	Boleybeg East	€30,000
L-2212	Dalgin - Improvement of Sight lines	€20,000
		<b>€418,400</b>

## FORMER NATIONAL ROAD REHABILITATION GRANT (FN)

In light of the 2018 regional road pavement condition survey findings, the Department introduced a grant in 2019 to assist local authorities with the rehabilitation of sections of former national roads with a poor condition rating and this grant is being continued this year.

Following consideration of applications received from Galway County Council, grant allocations under this heading to the value of **€775,000** have been provided for two sections of R446 formerly the N6.

2023 Former National Road Rehabilitation Works		
Road Number	Former National Road Number	LA Allocation
R446	N6	€275,000
R446	N6	€500,000
		<b>€775,000</b>

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE (CCAR)

As the impact of climate change on the road network is becoming more apparent, the Department has introduced a Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Grant. Allocations under this heading in 2023, totalling **€1,169,193** are set out below.

2023 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works		
Road Number	Scheme Title	LA Allocation
L-6214	Clogher Flood relief	€35,000
L-4512	Ballyboy	€90,000
L-6412	L6412 at Cloondroon	€37,000
L-5140	Inishbofin rock armour and sea wall	€30,000
L-7125	Ballydavid South Flood relief	€40,000
R-353	R353 Ballyturin	€96,000
L-2209	L2209 at Kilgevrin	€45,000
R-341	Ballinahinch rising level of road	€50,000
L-3112	Gloves West Flood relief	€20,000
R-332	R332 at Grange	€20,000
L-5394	Doire Lochán Thoir, an Spidéal	€70,000
L2117	Lisheenananoran Flood relief	€25,000
L2105	Weir Road	€60,000
L3117	Cormachugh Flood relief	€18,000
L-8789	L-8789 Lackan	€37,000
L-81065	L-81065 Tonroe	€30,000
L4514	Sheenaun	€10,000
L6488	Road Drainage at Pollacorragune	€42,000
R360	R360 at Balladorragha	€45,000
L-2219	Ahaun	€30,000
L6102	Newline, Caherlistrane	€60,000
L-2219	Ahaun	€30,000
L-4312	L-4312 Tynagh	€49,486
L2123	Myles Park	€10,000
L-4311	L-4311 Lisheennagat	€21,111
L-7408	Bredagh, Caltra	€35,000
L-7415	Lissyegan, Ahascragh	€100,000
L-8244	L-8244 Ballydoogan	€33,596
		<b>€1,169,193</b>

#### TRAINING GRANT:

A Training Grant is allocated to each Local Authority annually in order to assist Local Authorities in the provision of appropriate training for roads staff directly engaged in the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The programme is designed to enhance and further develop the skills of such staff and contribute to the delivery of an efficient and quality maintenance service for regional and local roads. A grant of **€128,000** has been received for 2023.

#### SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: (PROJECTS WHICH COST IN EXCESS OF €200,000 BUT LESS THAN €5 MILLION INCL VAT)

The Department does not seek annual applications from Local Authorities in respect of the Specific Grant programme. However, Capital Projects that are outside of the Department's Bridge, Safety and Pavement, Restoration and Rehabilitation programmes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The grant applications will be considered under the categories set out in the Memorandum On Grants For Regional And Local Roads. Galway County Council has received a grant allocation of **€1,000,000** for 2023 to continue with the following projects.

2023 Specific Improvement Grants	
Scheme Name	LA Allocation
R332 Kilbannon	€750,000
R374 Causeways & Bridges	€100,000
R339 Belville	€150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,000,000</b>

#### STRATEGIC REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS (SRLR) (PROJECTS WITH AN ESTIMATED COST IN EXCESS OF €5 MILLION (INCLUDING VAT))

Again, the Department does not seek annual applications from Local Authorities in respect of the Specific Grant programme. However, Capital Projects that are outside of the Department's Bridge, Safety and Pavement, Restoration and Rehabilitation programmes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The grant applications will be considered under the categories set out in the Memorandum On Grants For Regional And Local Roads. Galway County Council has received a grant allocation of **€1,100,000** for 2023 to continue with the following project.

2023 Strategic Regional and Local	
Scheme Name	LA Allocation
SRLR: Athenry Relief Road Sections 3 and 5	€1,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,100,000</b>

#### PSCI GRANT: PAVEMENT SURFACE CONDITION INDEX

Pavement asset management is a key component of future Regional and Local Road maintenance. The achievement of successful asset management will depend on the measurement, collection and analysis of data relating to the condition of the public road asset throughout the country.

As part of the data collection exercise each Local Authority is required to monitor and quantify the condition of the public road network within its functional area through the regular measurement and recording of the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI).

The Department provides annual funding to Local Authorities to aid compliance with the requirements of the Pavement Survey Standard in respect of network PSCI surveys. Galway County Council has received a budget allocation of **€52,000** for 2023.

#### RURAL LIMIT SPEED SIGN

With a view to supporting the roll out of the Rural Speed Limit sign as provided for in the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits, Galway County Council was able to apply for funding this year for the deployment of the sign and supplementary plate. The Council has received a budget allocation of **€34,000** for 2023.

#### SPEED LIMIT SIGNAGE IN HOUSING AREAS

Local authorities were requested to submit details of proposed expenditure in 2023 on signage related to implementing 30km/h speed limit/slow zone signage programme in housing areas. The Council has received a budget allocation of **€33,290** for 2023.

## CYCLE "SAFE PASSING" SIGNS

Following the inclusion in the updated Traffic Signs Manual of a new cycle warning sign which advises motorists of the need to leave adequate space when overtaking cyclists, Circular RST 04/2019 issued to all local authorities on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

This Circular included an Advice Note to assist local authorities in determining where the provision of such signs would be most effective. The Council has received a budget allocation of **€12,540** for 2023.

In summary:



### Grant Allocations

Galway County Council	
Restoration Improvement	€20,455,000
Restoration Maintenance	€2,986,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€2,346,500
Discretionary Grant	€5,659,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€630,000
Specific Imp. Grant	€1,000,000
Strategic Regional & Local Roads	€1,100,000
Safety Improvement Works	€418,400
PSCI: Survey Support	€52,000
Training Grant	€128,000
Drainage Works	€1,397,500
Former National Roads	€775,000
Cycle Signs	€12,540
Speed Limits (Housing Area Signage)	€33,290
Speed Limits (Rural Speed Limit Signage)	€34,000
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works	€1,169,193
Community Involvement Scheme	€1,131,840
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€39,329,263</b>

## LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2023 (LIS)

Galway County Council has received an allocation of **€954,736** under the LIS grant 2023. In addition to this, the Council is pleased to inform the members that an additional **€250,000**, which is ringfenced, has been provided for similar works exclusively on the islands. This is the first year that this ringfenced island funding has been provided. This brings the total LIS funding for 2023 to **€1,204,736**. This is the largest allocation in the country.

The objective of the LIS is to fund the construction or improvement of non-public roads. Each local authority must submit a Priority List of eligible road projects which will be completed within this allocation. A Secondary List of eligible roads will also be submitted which can be used to select substitute road(s) in the event that a road on the Priority List cannot be completed.



Roads that have not been notified to the Department as part of the Priority or Secondary lists cannot be funded through the Scheme.

Eligible road projects are those that involve the construction or improvement of non- public roads which provide access:

- to parcels of land, of which, two or more are owned or occupied by different persons engaged in separate agricultural activities; or
- for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for two or more persons; or
- to at least one parcel of land owned or occupied by a person engaged in agricultural activities AND which separately provides access for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for at least one other person.

In addition, works can also be carried out on Amenity Roads. Amenity Roads are non- public roads leading to important community amenities such as graveyards, beaches, piers, mountain access points or other tourist/heritage sites. Such roads may not account for more than 25% of the annual allocation provided to each local authority.

Non-eligible road projects

The following road projects are not eligible for funding under the Scheme:

- A road serving only houses or buildings occupied or used by persons not engaged in agriculture.
- A road serving only Local Authority properties.
- A road leading to bogs developed commercially for large scale turf production.
- Projects involving drainage works only.
- A road leading to commercial enterprises.
- A road involving minor works which is within the competence of the applicants to do themselves.
- A road which, because of its small size, would involve work which the local authority would consider as being uneconomic to carry out.

LIS funding may be used for the construction, improvement or reconstruction of roads or bridges on LIS road. The works should not involve ordinary maintenance which the applicants could reasonably be expected to do themselves but should provide for essential works of a more substantial nature such as strengthening weak sections, rut filling, resurfacing and opening water channels.

Existing fences may be removed or set back, and new fences provided as part of the road project, where necessary and feasible at reasonable cost. The provision of new fencing or replacement of existing fencing on its own is not eligible for grant assistance.

**No individual project supported under the LIS Scheme should be prioritised and considered for additional funding for a further 3 to 5 years, except in the case of express prior written agreement from the Department.**

The local contribution is an integral part of the Local Improvement Scheme. The local contribution must be paid before any works commence and the local authority may not

proceed with a road project where the local contribution has not been paid by the beneficiaries. Free labour or materials are not acceptable as part of the local contribution.

## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND 2023 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR NATIONAL ROADS AND GREENWAYS

The total allocation from TII to Galway County Council for 2023 is **€44,566,418**. In accordance with the Roads Acts 1993 to 2015, it is the general duty of TII to secure the provision of a safe and efficient network of national roads and for that purpose TII has overall responsibility for the planning and supervision of works for the construction and maintenance of national roads.

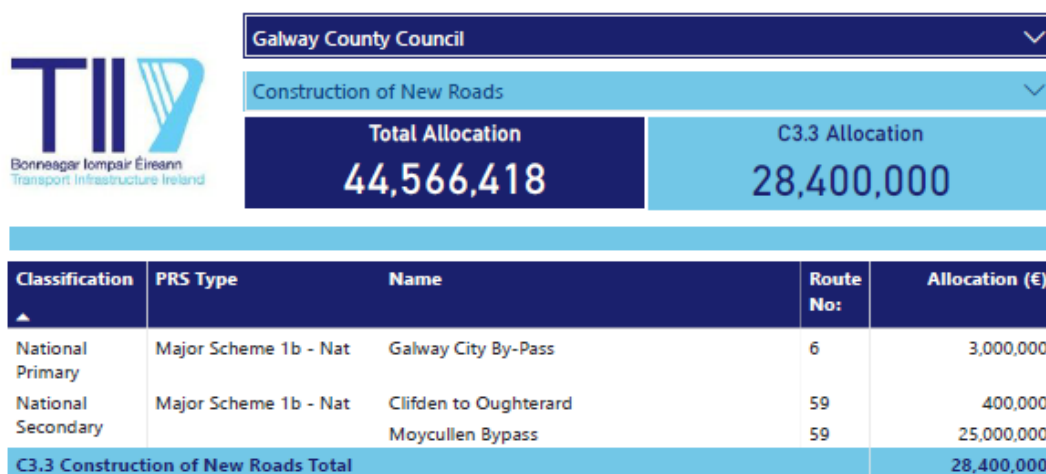
Pursuant to its statutory duty for national roads, and its agreement with the Minister for greenways,

TII allocates the Exchequer Capital Allocation for 2023 to Galway County Council for national roads and greenways.

For each Local Authority the allocation for national roads is made under two main headings:

- Improvement: Allocated to specific projects, programmes, and/or operations.
- Maintenance: Separate allocations for national primary and national secondary routes, and further sub-divided across ordinary maintenance, route lighting, and winter maintenance.

In keeping with current practice and procedures, TII and Local Authorities will continue to monitor progress on the planning, design and delivery of programmes, projects and operations set out in the Allocations through established Management Advisory Committees and related reporting and management processes.



Classification	PRS Type	Name	Route No:	Allocation (€)
National Primary	Major Scheme 1b - Nat	Galway City By-Pass	6	3,000,000
National Secondary	Major Scheme 1b - Nat	Clifden to Oughterard	59	400,000
		Moycullen Bypass	59	25,000,000
<b>C3.3 Construction of New Roads Total</b>				<b>28,400,000</b>

Galway County Council

Greenways

**Total Allocation**  
**44,566,418**

**A.4.1 Allocation**  
**4,650,000**

PRS Type	Name	Allocation (€)
Greenway - Nat	Athenry to Milltown	300,000
	Connemara - Clifden to Recess	2,500,000
	Connemara - Derrygimlagh - Clifden - Kylemore Abbey	200,000
	Connemara - Galway to Oughterard	1,200,000
LA Eng Support - E7 - Nat	NCN - Galway to Athlone Cycleway - NRO Support GC	250,000
	NRO Regional Greenways Support -2023 GC	200,000
<b>A.4.1 Greenways Total</b>		<b>4,650,000</b>

Galway County Council

Capital Investment - Protection & Renewal & Active Travel (AT)

**Total Allocation**  
**44,566,418**

**C3.1.2 Allocation**  
**10,443,060**

Classification	PRS Type	Name	Route No:	Allocation (€)	
Both NP/NS	Bridge Rehabilitation 1a - Nat	Galway Bridge Rehabilitation	-	250,000	
		HD15 and HD17 Minor Works 1a - Nat	Fencing Retrofit 2022 GC	20,000	
		LA Eng Support - B.1.1a - Nat	Local Authority Support (Improvement) 2023 GC	284,560	
National Primary	Minor Works 1a - Nat	NRO Support (Improvement) 2023 GC	-	1,721,000	
		N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment (Minor 2016)	17	300,000	
National Secondary	AT: Minor Works 1a - Nat	AT - N63 Abbeyknockmoy Village	63	200,000	
		AT - N67 Clarinbridge to Oranmore	67	80,000	
		AT - N67 Kinvara Village	67	300,000	
		AT - N67 South of Ballinderreen Cycleway	67	85,000	
	Bridge Rehabilitation 1a - Nat	N59 Oughterard Bridge	N59 Oughterard Bridge	59	1,000,000
			HD15 and HD17 Minor Works 1a - Nat	N59 Pedestrian crossing in Oughterard ( Bridge Controlled Crossings)	59
	Minor Works 1a - Nat	N59GC_295 Kentfield	N59GC_295 Kentfield	59	15,000
			N67GC_Carrowmoneash Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study	67	37,500
			N83 Claregalway Traffic Calming & Pavement Restoration	83	1,000,000
			N83GC RSI Implementation 2023	83	100,000
			N83GC_010 Carrowmunnigh Road Widening	83	200,000
			N84 GC RSI Implementation 2022	84	140,000
	Pavement 1a - Nat	N59 Bunnakil to Claremount	N59 Bunnakil to Claremount	59	500,000
			N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh (Part of Gort/Tuam Residual Network)	63	100,000
N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment (Minor 2016)			63	200,000	
N65 Kilmeen Cross			65	50,000	
Pavement 1a - Nat	N84 Galway to Curraghmore	N84 Galway to Curraghmore	84	100,000	
		N59 Crocknaraw	59	350,000	
		N59 Derrynacleigh	59	1,080,000	
		N65 Killimor to Ramore Cross	65	880,000	
Pavement 1a - Nat	N83 Claregalway	N83 Claregalway	83	1,200,000	
<b>C3.1.2 Capital Investment - Protection &amp; Renewal &amp; Active Travel (AT) Total</b>				<b>10,443,060</b>	



Galway County Council	
PPP Payments	
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>C3.4 Allocation</b>
<b>44,566,418</b>	<b>25,000</b>

Classification	PRS Type	Name	Route No:	Allocation (€)
National Primary	Major B.1.4 - Nat	Gort to Tuam	17	25,000
<b>C3.4 PPP Payments Total</b>				<b>25,000</b>



Galway County Council	
Current Maintenance - Protection & Renewal	
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>C3.1.1 Allocation</b>
<b>44,566,418</b>	<b>1,048,358</b>

Classification	PRS Type	Name	Allocation (€)
Both NP/NS	LA Eng Support - B.1.2	Local Authority Support (Maintenance) 2023 GC	52,000
		Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance) 2023 GC	10,000
National Primary	Ordinary Maintenance	NP Ordinary Maintenance 2023 GC	150,716
		Route Lighting	9,562
		NP Motorway MMaRCLighting 2023 GC	36,929
National Secondary	Winter Maintenance	NP Route Lighting 2023 GC	119,600
		NP Winter Maintenance 2023 GC	352,777
		Route Lighting	67,174
		NS Ordinary Maintenance 2023 GC	249,600
<b>C3.1.1 Current Maintenance - Protection &amp; Renewal Total</b>			<b>1,048,358</b>

### ACTIVE TRAVEL 2023

With regard to the construction of new footways, or renewal of existing footways, the NTA has advised the Council of the following specific conditions:

- Footpaths must be useful for active travel purposes i.e. for travel to work/school/shops/ services etc. Footpaths that are predominately for leisure/recreational purposes (e.g. walking loops/leisure tracks/Slí na Sláinte) are generally not suitable for funding under the Active Travel Programme.
- For retrofit schemes, increasing footpath widths should be a priority and where appropriate, accommodated by narrowing vehicular lane widths.
- Public lighting shall be provided unless otherwise agreed with NTA.
- Footpath widths and cross/long falls shall be strictly in accordance with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and relevant Accessibility Guidance. There should be no change in level to the pedestrian footways and avoidance of any changes in surface treatments, which may incorrectly indicate vehicular priority across a footpath.
- Where footpaths cross priority junctions, the crossing point shall be designed in accordance with the NTA Junction Tightening Guidance Note (2021).

- Mid-block crossings shall be provided at regular intervals and strategic locations/key desire lines as per DMURS requirements.
- Sponsoring Agencies must consider whether cycle facilities are likely to be required at each location proposed (i.e. is the route identified in a Cycle Network Plan (CycleConnects). If cycle facilities are likely to be required in future, local authorities must seek clarification from NTA as to whether footpath works can proceed in advance of future cycle scheme.

The full list of 2023 Projects amounting to €3,000,000 are listed overleaf. For further details on any of these please contact Paula Higgins in the Active Travel Team at [phiggins@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:phiggins@galwaycoco.ie)

Table A: Galway County Council		
Active Travel Investment Grants: 2023 Allocations		
Project Code	Project Name	2023 Allocation
<b>Galway County Council</b>		
GCO/21/0001	Cycle parking	€ 25,000
GCO/22/0012	Public Lighting for Active Travel Projects	€ 48,000
GCO/22/0014	Athenry, Gort & Loughera Local Transport Plans	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Rural Towns & Villages Active Travel Schemes East	€ 514,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Beechlawn & Shannonbridge Active Travel Schemes	€ 316,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Lackagh & Annaghdown Active Travel Schemes	€ 106,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Rural Active Travel Schemes West	€ 348,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Tuam Active Travel Schemes Design	€ 80,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Loughrea Active Travel Schemes Design	€ 103,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Athenry Active Travel Schemes Design	€ 80,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Ballinasloe Active Travel Schemes Design	€ 85,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Selected Green Schools Walkability Audits Infrastructure	€ 25,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Oranmore Active Travel Schemes	€ 150,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Scheme	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	SRTS R1 Athenry Boys National School	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	SRTS R1 Oranmore - Calas Sanctius College, Gaelscoil de hÍde & Scoil Íosaif Naofa	€ 120,000
GCO/23/xxxx	SRTS R1 St Pauls Oughterard	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	SRTS R1 Scoil Bhaile Nua Moycullen	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	SRTS R1 Scoil Chroí Naofa Athenry	€ 100,000
GCO/23/xxxx	Safe Route to Schools R2	€ 50,000
GCO/23/xxxx	East Galway City Suburbs Local Transport Plan	€ 100,000



In addition to the schemes listed above, there is €250,000 assigned to Active Travel Staff Costs which brings the overall allocation for 2023 to **€3,000,000.**

To date (22/02/2023) €300,000 or 10% has been expended on schemes across the county.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

165 employees attended the annual H&S seminars that took place for indoor staff on January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Dean Hotel – keynote speakers were Dr Eddie Murphy (clinical psychologist) & The Irish Cancer Society. That ended the annual seminars which took place on 5 separate occasions and were attended by approx. 500 staff.



### Dr Eddie Murphy

- Dr Eddie is a clinical psychologist, author & health advocate
- Dr Eddie is the psychologist on RTE's Operation Transformation
- Dr Eddie is an engaging, dynamic and entertaining public speaker and has given many seminars and training events on mental health, wellness to the general public, schools, professionals, organisation's and companies.
- Author of best-selling book 'Becoming your real self'

### Irish Cancer Society

- The Irish Cancer Society is the national charity in the Republic of Ireland dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem and improving the lives of those who have cancer.
- Founded on October 10, 1963, by Austin Darragh
- Austin Darragh was an Irish medical practitioner, entrepreneur, broadcaster and writer. He is also known for being the radio doctor on The Gay Byrne show
- Speaker today: Sarah Egan





Galway County Council hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Telecommunications Action Group (TAG) meeting of 2023 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January.

These meetings provide a forum to help identify barriers to the provision of telecoms services, promote the use of digital technologies & also supports the work of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce.

Through these meetings information and updates are provided relating to broadband delivery projects, BCP projects, Connected hubs Etc.

This meeting was attended by members of the Dept. of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) - Regional Development and Innovation Unit, local authority broadband officers and representatives of several telecommunications companies & IBEC (Telecommunications Industry Ireland) members.

The meeting welcome address was delivered by Director of Services Derek Pender.

On the day there were presentations from.

- Jim Leahy on the National Low Latency Platform.
- Oonagh McCutcheon on Weare.ie.
- Galway County Council on Shared Infrastructure Project.
- And an update from Joe Lavin of NBI fibre roll out program.

This meeting also facilitated a Panel discussion with representatives of the telecoms industry (both fixed line and mobile services).

Galway County Council has prepared a Draft Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 –2029 for the town of Tuam.

The following link provides access to the Draft LAP and associated documents <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/draft-tuam-local-area-plan-2023-2029>

Public consultation events on the Draft LAP are scheduled to take place in March. These include a public information event in the Tuam Civic Offices on 6<sup>th</sup> March between 2.30 – 7.30 pm and a Webinar event on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6 pm. In addition, the Planners in the Forward Planning Policy Unit are available to take calls and answer any queries.

The Draft LAP is accompanied by a Local Transport Plan (LTP), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004-2011, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), prepared in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009.

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THE DRAFT TUAM LOCAL AREA PLAN IS SET OUT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Written Statement**
- 2. Zoning Map**
- 3. Flooding Map**
- 4. Local Transport Plan**
- 5. Environmental Reports**

Written submissions/observations can now be made up until **4PM on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**. Submissions/Observations can be made as follows:

**Online**

On Galway County Council’s website: <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/draft-tuam-local-area-plan-2023-2029>

Or

**By email**

[forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie)

**In Writing to:**

“Tuam Local Area Plan”, Forward Planning Section, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Planning Department, Prospect Hill, Galway

## SCHOOLS COLLABORATE WITH UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON UNIQUE SPATIAL PLANNING PROJECT EXCHANGE.

A joint initiative in education and spatial planning is taking place between the University of Galway (Geography, MA in Rural Futures Planning & Innovation) and Queens University Belfast (Planning, MSc in Planning & Development), in collaboration with the Geography Department at Presentation College Athenry and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew. The initiative is supported by the Planning Department of Galway County Council.

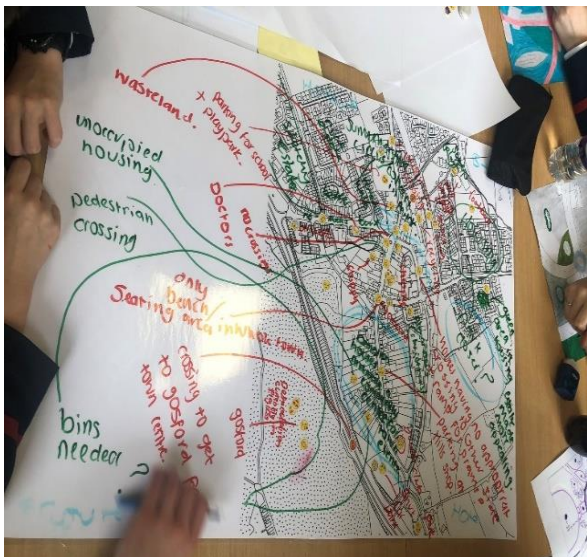
The project is funded by SCoTENS- the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South, under its Seed Funding Scheme. Each year, SCoTENS provides Seed Funding to support a number of collaborative research projects and professional activities in teacher education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The project aim is to link spatial planning as a statutory exercise conducted by local authorities to second and third level teaching (geography and planning) in order to enhance the teaching and learning experience for teachers and students. While statutory planning is predominantly about land use planning, it also encompasses economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability. These are all topics of interest to the secondary school Geography syllabus, as well as to third level programmes on geography and on planning. The main vehicle for contributing to spatial planning is through local authority plan-making; county plans, and local area plans.

The first leg of the project is a trip to Belfast on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023 where the delegation from Galway with representations from each of the educational facilities (Teachers/Lecturers and students with staff from the Forward Planning Section of Galway County Council will meet their counterparts in Queens University Belfast, staff from Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and two secondary schools in the Borough Council (New-Bridge Integrated College, Loughbrickland, Banbridge, and Royal School, Armagh) to take part in a series of collaborative research projects and professional activities that will both contribute to the work of each local authority and enhance teacher education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The photos below illustrate the collaboration exercises that were undertaken during the course of the two-day events in both New-Bridge Integrated College, Loughbrickland, Banbridge, and Royal School, Armagh.

A return leg from Northern Ireland to Galway (Athenry and Mountbellew) occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.





## PROPOSAL FOR A 'NO-SMOKING' CONDITION ON SECTION 254 LICENCES

At a recent meeting of the Planning, Environment, Agriculture and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) correspondence received from ASH Ireland was discussed.

By way of background, The Chairperson ASH Ireland, Council of the Irish Heart Foundation, wrote to all chief executives of city and county councils on behalf of ASH Ireland in 2021 and has recently followed up again, with a request to make all outdoor areas in pubs, restaurants, and cafes, in the City/County Council areas non-smoking areas to protect public health.

*ASH believe this policy has the potential to significantly reduce harmful second-hand smoke exposure and to further denormalise the act of smoking. Nearly 6,000 people die in Ireland each year from the effects of smoking and one in every two smokers will die from tobacco related diseases. ASH would urge your County Council not to disregard the dangers of second-hand smoke this summer as we continue to enjoy an increased outdoor hospitality environment.*

To give effect to their request ASH are seeking to have a condition included to prohibit smoking in outdoor seating areas at which food and drink is served as Part of Section 254 licence process and to have the condition also included that appropriate signage is displayed.

Following lengthy debate on the matter at the SPC, it was decided to advise Councillors of consideration of the proposal by the Planning, Environment, Agriculture and Emergency Services SPC to allow for wider input to inform consideration of the proposal.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### PÁDRAIG PEARSE GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Pádraig Pearse Gaeltacht Scholarships** are offered each year in accordance with our Corporate Objective to promote the Irish Language. This Scholarship Scheme was initiated in 2016 to mark the centenary commemorations of the 1916 Rising and the strong ties between Pádraig Pearse and the County of Galway and have been continued as a legacy of the commemorations.

12 Scholarships will be awarded in 2023, to fund the attendance of qualifying second level students at Gaeltacht Summer Colleges in County Galway. These will comprise of six full Scholarships funded and presented by Galway County Council and also, six Scholarships funded and presented jointly between the Gaeltacht Colleges listed below and Galway County Council:

- Coláiste Chonnacht, An Spidéal
- Coláiste Chamuis, An Tulach / Camas / Ros an Mhíl



- Coláiste Lurgan, Indreabhán
- Coláiste Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua
- Spleodar, Ros Muc / Corr na Móna / Leitir Mealláin / Leitir Móir
- Coláiste Sheosaimh, Carna / Cill Chiaráin

This year Galway County Council ran the competition from 23/01/2023 – 14/02/2023 and received 54 applications.

The selection process will be an open draw where two successful applications will be selected from each municipal district and all remaining applications will be entered into the draw for the final two places. The draw is scheduled for Monday 27/02/2023 and the Cathaoirleach from each Municipal District has been invited for the draw.

#### AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR VISIT

The Austrian Ambassador visited Galway County Council and met with the Cathaoirleach of County Galway and the Chief Executive of Galway County Council on 31st January 2023.



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The following is a summary of the applications received by Galway County Council during 2022 under the Freedom of Information Act:

Year	Total FOIs received	Granted	Part granted	Refused	Transferred	Withdrawn	Withdrawn & handled outside FOI
2022	125	87	48	71	5	6	8

The following is a summary of the applications received by Galway County Council during 2022 under the Access to Information on the Environment

Year	Total AIEs received	Granted	Part-granted	Refused	Refused and Transferred to another PA	Withdrawn (agreed and confirmed in writing by the applicant)	Withdrawn and handled under FOI (agreed and confirmed in writing by the applicant)	Not responded to within one month (deemed refusal)
2022	30	9	9	9	0	1	1	1

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### MOL (MY OPEN LIBRARY) BALLINASLOE LIBRARY – MOL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

#### MEMBERSHIP DETAILS: SERVICE WAS LAUNCHED ON 18/11/2022

	New	Existing	Adult	Young Adult	Total
<b>November</b>		3	3		3
<b>December</b>	2	28	29	1	30
<b>January</b>	7	27	34		34
<b>February</b>	1	9	10		10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>

- 13% of MOL sign-ups are new library members.

#### Usage details:

- Number of individual entries: \* 170
  - \*Where members entered multiple times on the same day only 1 entry was counted for them.

- Days of the week: Friday is the busiest and Saturday is the least busy. Sunday is busy with families and older people.
- Whilst we don't have an accurate figure for students using the service, we would estimate that they account for about 80% of those using the new service.
- Members using the service have expressed their satisfaction and feel that it has greatly improved access hours for Ballinasloe Library.

#### KILLIMOR PLAYTIME

Killimor Library is open 2 days a week and has a lovely cosy reading corner much loved by the children using the Library as can be seen from the pictures below.



#### EYRECOURT LIBRARY LEGO PLAYTIME



Eyrecourt Library was a hive of creativity as children got busy with Lego and let their imaginations create wondrous creations.



BALLYBANE LIBRARY: CELEBRATING IMBOLC AND ST BRIGID' DAY



TUAM LIBRARY: CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY



Tuam Libray hosted workshops to celebrate Valentine's Day and created truly magnificent cards

## ORANMORE LIBRARY: STORYTELLING WITH LIZ WEIR

3 PM: TALES OF MISCHIEF AND MAGIC



Moth & Butterfly presents renowned Antrim storyteller *Liz Weir*, who will lead us on an exciting journey through the imagination...

WHEN: Fri, 3rd February 2023, 15:00

WHERE: Oranmore Library,  
Main St, Oranmore, Co. Galway

**ADMISSION FREE**

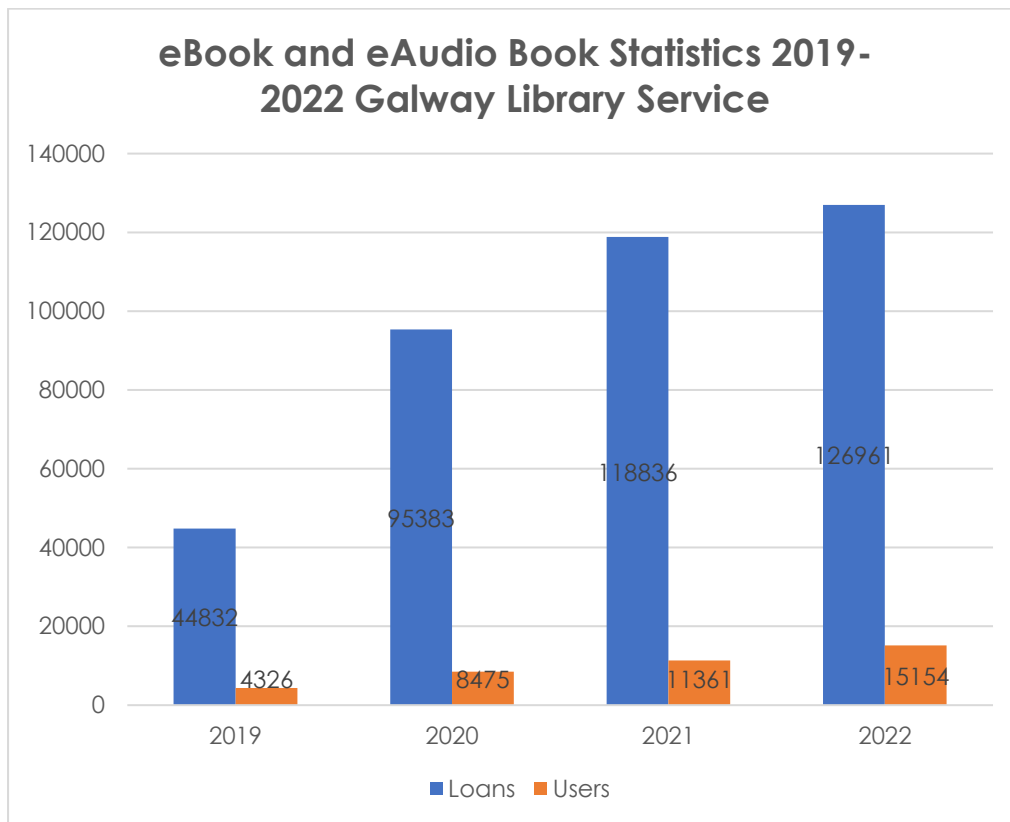
There'll be plenty of fun and interaction, as we hear great stories from far and wide! Ages 6+  
No booking required. All children must be accompanied by guardian and admission is free.

The legendary Liz Weir from Co. Antrim paid a visit to Oranmore Library on 3<sup>rd</sup> February to regale her audience with tales of mischief and magic. Liz has written a number of books and has told her stories to people of all ages.

## GORT LIBRARY: ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS PROJECT.

Great attendance at the craft workshops in Weaving and Embroidery.





The loans of eBooks and eAudio books from the Library Service in Galway has shown phenomenal growth over the last 4 years as seen in the above chart. From a base of 44,832 loans in 2019 to loans of 126,961 last year, this service has proved of enormous benefit to the citizens of Galway particularly over the years of the Pandemic when physical buildings were closed but online resources could be accessed. The numbers using this service has seen growth from just 4,326 in 2019 to a staggering 15,154 users last year. For comparison purposes the loans for neighbouring counties are as follows

**Mayo 49,440**

**Clare 46,138**

**Roscommon 15,810**

eBooks and eAudio books provide a valuable resource to the public in terms of ease of access and use. Many use e resources as they drive, walk or otherwise go about their daily lives. The ability of the Library Service to provide them with this material free of charge is a wonderful asset.



## IRELAND READS DAY, SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

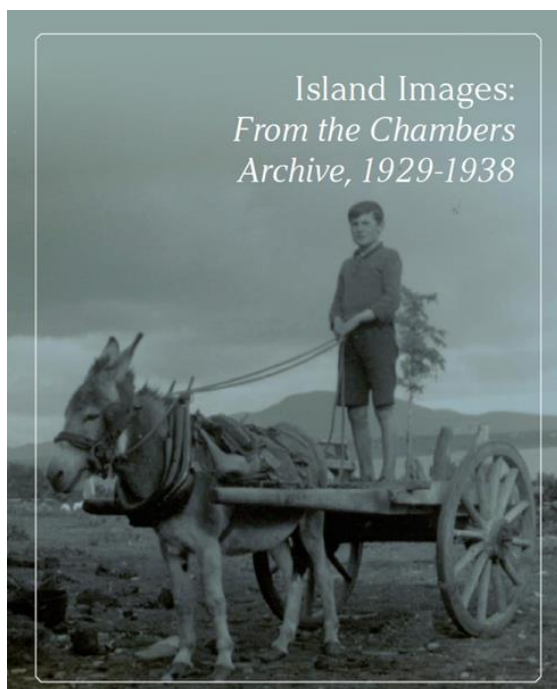
Everyone was encouraged to read for one minute, ten minutes, an hour or more on this day. Why? Because taking time for yourself to relax and do the little things you like (reading) is important to help look after your mental wellbeing.

**Ireland Reads** is an initiative of the government of Ireland, funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote literacy and the arts.

Visit one of the 29 Libraries in County Galway on that day (or any other day) and see what an amazing resource we have in our communities for free.

## ISLAND IMAGES: FROM THE CHAMBERS ARCHIVE, 1929-1938

Galway County Council Archives' new publication [\*Island Images: From the Chambers Archive, 1929-1938\*](#) shines a spotlight on the George Chambers archive collection. This wonderful collection presents an interesting and important photographic record of island life in Ireland, from 1929 to 1938. The collection (GP9/) contains five albums, each of which focuses on one or more islands along the coast of Ireland. The photographs give an English gentleman tourist's sympathetic perspective of the rugged landscape, the people and their lives as witnessed by him during his summer vacations.



To emphasise the national significance of the Chambers collection, *Island Images: From the Chambers Archive, 1929-1938* is comprised of essays by archivists and heritage professionals from the various counties which are represented in the albums. Each essay provides historical background on the places captured in the photographs, and gives context to the images, bringing the archival material to light and life.

A limited quantity of the hardcopy publication is available through the library network. A substantial quantity of the hardcopy of *Pictiúir ar Oileáin: As Cartlann Chambers*, the Irish language version, has been issued to the library

at Kilronan, Inis Mór, for free distribution on the Island. A digital version of the publication is available for free download on the Archives' website at <https://www.galway.ie/archives/publications/> and <https://www.galway.ie/ga/seirbhisi/tuilleadh/cartlainne/foilseachan/>

The complete Chambers archive collection has been digitised and is free for all to explore on the Digital Archives @ [www.galway.ie/digitalarchives](http://www.galway.ie/digitalarchives) .

The Chambers collection is just one of the many collections, held in the Archives, which reflect the social, economic, and political history of our county. The material, in particular the local authority collections, are our County's most important cultural heritage asset, providing invaluable evidence of our identity, values, activities, and evolution. It requires preservation and safeguarding.

*[Island Images: From the Chambers Archive, 1929-1938](#)*, which was funded by Creative Ireland, through Galway County Council Cultural and Creativity Strategy, 2018-2022, was featured in an article in the *Connacht Tribune* (27<sup>th</sup> January 2023) and was also highlighted on Connemara Community Radio on 2nd February 2023. It is also featured in a recent edition of the *Galway Advertiser*.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE & MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES,  
HUMAN RESOURCES & INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES  
DIRECTORATE

ENVIRONMENT:

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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### **National Spring Clean**

The National Spring Clean campaign which is organised by An Taisce is now open for registration at <https://nationalspringclean.org/>. Galway County Council will again support this campaign through the Voluntary and Community Groups Scheme procedure.

### **Green Schools**

Assessments continue in the Green Schools Programme with 11 schools assessed since January.

### **Anti-Litter Radio advert**

Anti-Litter radio adverts are running on Galway Bay FM and Connemara Community Radio during February.

### **Social Media**

Anti-Dumping and Anti –Dog Fouling campaigns are being promoted on social media.

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## WATER FONT INSTALLATION IN SCHOOLS

We have grant aided an additional secondary school for the installation of a water font in the school. This encourages the reduction of single use bottles in schools.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

### Internal Energy Use

We carried out an ISO50001 workshop with the Regional Energy Bureau earlier this month and have agreed to progress as follows :

1. Sign up to the SEAI Accelerator Programme to enable training of key staff in relation to the requirements of ISO50001 Energy Management accreditation. GCC obtained accreditation under this standard in 2017 but it lapsed in 2020.
2. Proceed with the actions required to establish an Energy Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO50001 with a view to reapplying for accreditation in 2024.
3. Provide the lead on a regional tender for an Energy Data Management System to put in place a metering and data management system that will enable efficient management and reporting.

We have not yet received an update from the SEAI in relation to the 3 buildings put forward for funding for initial upgrade works under pathfinder funding. A response is now expected by the end of Feb 2023.

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## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Work has commenced on the development of the GCC Climate Action Plan. We have reviewed the draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment and Risk Assessment and made significant recommendations to ensure that these chapters of the plan will be clear and concise. A regional workshop will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March to identify potential actions from the Emissions Assessment.

We attended training on the CiviQ IT system with a view to using it for stakeholder engagement and consultation at pre-draft stage. We have also started initial engagement in relation to the Pobal-funded CONNECTED project which will support our work in relation to the Decarbonisation Zone.

The application period for the Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer positions has closed and we will now proceed to the shortlisting and interview phase.

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## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND JUST TRANSITION

We are continuing to support communities in relation to the production of their Energy Masterplans and tenders have been invited for three Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC). Community and Enterprise are expected to be able to fund additional energy audits for community buildings and the Environment Section will also progress this tender.

## FIRE & MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

The contract for the construction of the new 3-Bay Athenry Fire Station at Ballygarraun South, Athenry was signed at Áras an Chontae on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The main contractor is Coolsivna Ltd, Mountbellew, Co Galway and the Design Team Lead is Vincent Hannon Architects, Sligo. The contract is worth just under €2.5 million (inclusive of VAT) and is expected to take 10 months to complete.





*Photo: Murtography*

The Athenry Fire Station Contract Signing took place in Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae on Monday 20th February.

**Mise, le meas,**

**Mr. Jim Cullen**

**Chief Executive**

**Galway County Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**