

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



TURASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2021
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

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INTRODUCTION

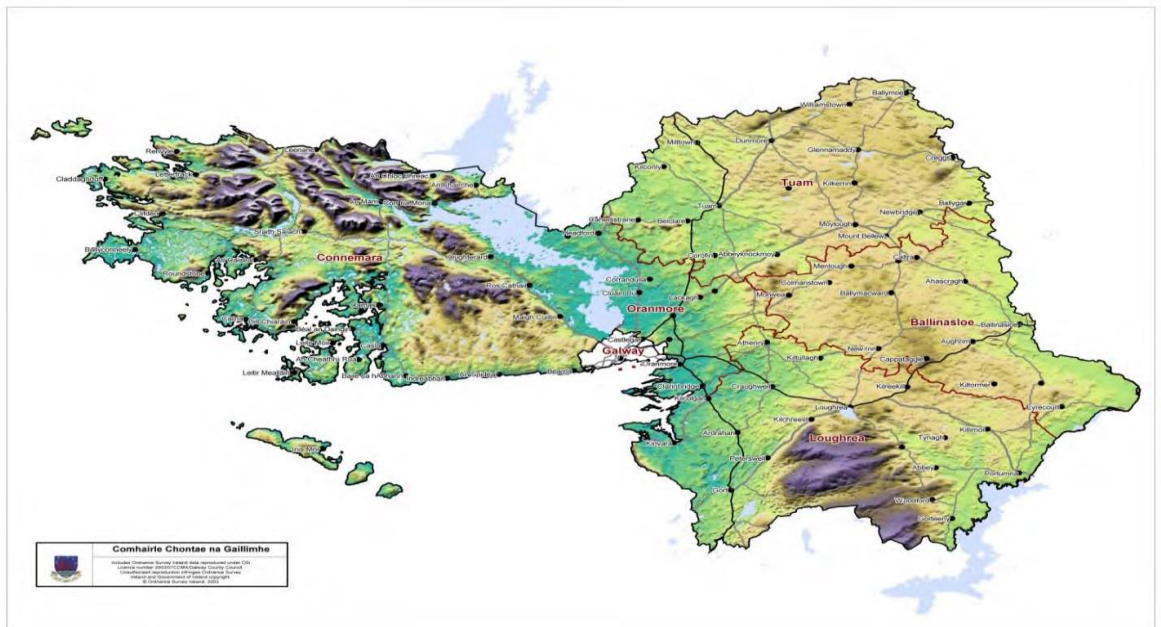
MISSION STATEMENT



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

To enhance the quality of life for the people of County Galway by leading and strengthening Community and Economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.

CORE VALUES AND VISION



CORE VALUES

- **Accountable**
- **Helpful**
- **Inclusive**
- **Democratic**
- **Sustainable**
- **Value for Money**

VISION FOR GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

A county with a clear sense of identity, reflecting its heritage, language and culture, that promotes sustainable economic and community development, citizen and stakeholder engagement, develops essential infrastructure and protects our environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



As Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, it is a privilege to introduce this Annual Report, on behalf of Galway County Council, detailing what it has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the County during what was a particularly challenging year in 2021 due to the Covid19 pandemic.

It was a great honour to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council on 18th June 2021 and to represent Galway as its first citizen for the County. While there was a different focus this year due to the pandemic, staff continued to provide essential services and we, the elected members also continued to work and collaborate with the Councils executive and officials, Government Departments, Oireachtas members and other stakeholders.

This report is a comprehensive record of what Galway County Council has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the county over the past twelve months. The range of initiatives and services delivered by Galway County Council across the county is considerable and the council continued throughout 2021 to ensure that our citizens received an efficient, and reliable service in a cost-effective manner, despite the limitations that Covid- 19 brought.

The Community Response Helpline, which was set up in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, continued to operate in 2021. Community Department staff coordinated a community wide response to the pandemic crisis, taking calls from vulnerable people and assigning calls for assistance to a wide array of volunteers, particularly from within the GAA, Gardai, Civil Defence and others. I would like to acknowledge the support, dedication, and cooperation of staff in the Community Department together with Civil Defence, the Gardai and in particular the community groups who made it possible to continue to deliver this service throughout the pandemic.

As Cathaoirleach of the Council, I wish to sincerely thank the staff of the organisation for their work throughout the year and throughout the difficult and challenging time that we faced. I wish to thank our Chief Executive Jim Cullen and his Executive team for supporting me and my fellow Elected Members in our work.

I would also like to thank Cllr. James Charity who presided as Cathaoirleach for the first six months in 2021 and also sincerely thank my colleagues on the Council for their support and co-operation during my term as Cathaoirleach of the County with a special word of thanks to my Leas-Chathaoirleach, Cllr. Jim Cuddy.

Is onóir mhór dom gur toghadh mar Chathaoirleach ar Chontae na Gaillimhe mé. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl leis na comhairleoirí eile, leis an bhfoireann feidhmiúcháin agus le foireann na Comhairle ar fad. Bhí bliain chrua againn i mbliana mar thoradh ar Covid19, mar aon leis na gnáthdhusláin eile ach leanfaimid orainn ag obair linn agus ag comhoibriú lena chéile, ar son mhuintir na Gaillimhe ar fad.



I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2021 which details the Council’s progress on delivering the strategic goals of our Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 and highlights the essential work and achievements of the Council in the past year in all our business areas.

Under the Government’s plan to increase the supply of social housing over the next decade, the “Housing For All – a new social housing plan was launched in September 2021. This set challenging targets for local authorities for the delivery of social housing in their areas. Galway County Council has prepared its own Housing Delivery Action plan which sets out proposals to achieve its targets over the period of the plan. While a level of disruption occurred in 2021 due to Covid, good progress was still achieved with 128 new homes

brought into active social housing stock.

With the support of grant funding from the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority, the council continued to invest heavily in our roads and transportation infrastructure. In 2021, more than €48m was spent on maintenance and repair of the roads network. Several important milestones were reached including the commencement of the Maigh Cuilinn bypass, the completion of the N59 Maam Cross to Bunakill scheme and the Ballindereen to Kinvara project. Construction is continuing on the Conamara greenway between Clifden and Recess with planning and design underway for the link between Oughterard and Galway. Other projects are in the early stages of planning and route selection. In December 2021, An Bord Pleanála granted approval for the much-needed Galway City Ring Road. This was a most welcomed approval but is currently the subject of judicial review.

The council advanced the preparation of the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. The draft plan was placed on public display and, reflecting both the importance of the plan and interest in it, more than 2,500 submissions were made during the display period. In 2021 a total of 2,254 applications for planning permission were made representing a 25% increase on 2020 signalling renewed development activity ahead in the post Covid environment. Resourcing the planning function was challenging in the face of increased activity and service demand levels in a difficult financial and recruitment environment.

Rural Regeneration continued to be a key objective in 2021 and the council sought to maximise its funding opportunities over a range of programmes including street enhancement, town and village renewal, public realm, Clár and so on. Tourism and hospitality were supported to respond to the impact of Covid through several schemes including Outdoor Seating and Furniture. The council granted

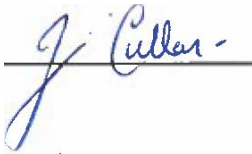
funding of €800K to 260 applicants. Other supports to business included the rates waiver scheme €7.2m, the small business support and digital vouchers €2.3m.

In addition to those mentioned above, there are so many more services the council provides to enhance the quality of life for the people of County Galway including environmental management, emergency response, heritage, climate change response, civil defence, libraries etc. More detail on all the activities under each service are set out in this report.

I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the assistance and support of the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Peter Keaveney and the former Cathaoirleach Cllr. James Charity. I would also like to thank all the Elected Members for their collective input and support in responding to the challenges in 2021.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Team and all the staff for their professionalism, support, valuable contribution, effort, and commitment in continuing to deliver all our essential services in difficult circumstances in 2021.

Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Cullen", is written over a horizontal line.

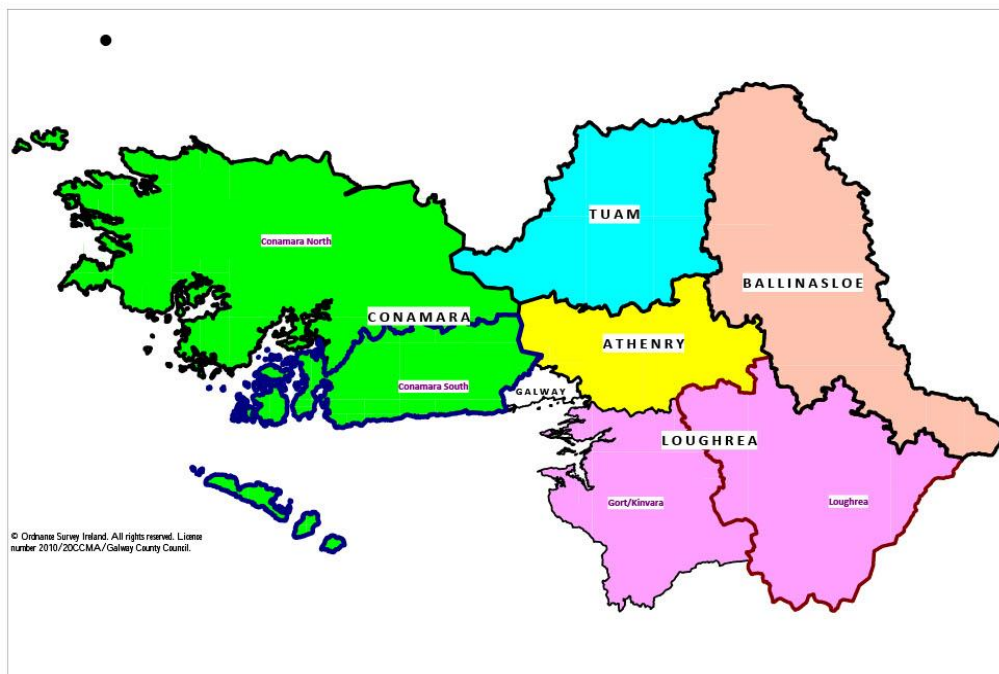
Mr. Jim Cullen
Chief Executive
Galway County Council

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS/MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

In accordance with Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 618/218 - *County of Galway Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018*, “the County of Galway shall have the following municipal districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014)) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001)”. The effect of the Order is to amend the division of County Galway into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Galway County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Galway as follows:

- (a) The Municipal District of Ballinasloe consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Ballinasloe;
- (b) The Municipal District of Conamara consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Conamara North and the Local Electoral Area of Conamara South;
- (c) The Municipal District of Loughrea consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Loughrea and the Local Electoral Area of Gort — Kinvara;
- (d) The Municipal District of Athenry consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore;
- (e) The Municipal District of Tuam consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Tuam.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS MAP

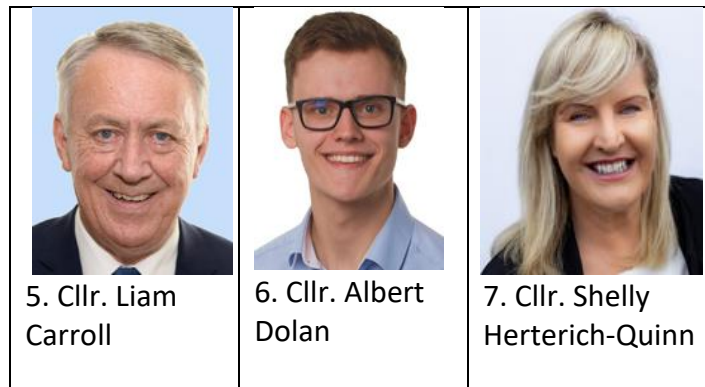


ELECTED MEMBERS BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The following pages list the Elected Members of Galway County Council for each Municipal District /Local Electoral Area:

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ATHENRY - ORANMORE

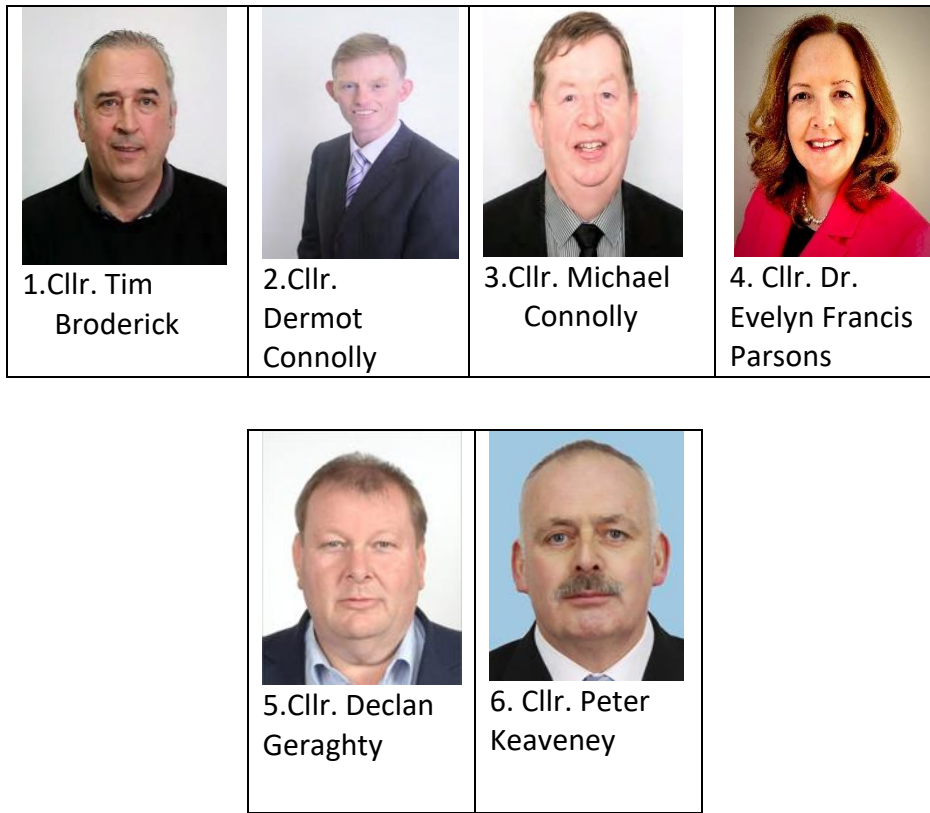
Athenry – Oranmore Local Electoral Area (7 Members)



Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. James Charity, Tonegurrane, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway.	-	087 2191792
2. Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cloonkeen, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2066810
3. Cllr. Jim Cuddy, An Laighdeacán, An Carn Mór, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 798136	087 6360242
4. Cllr. David Collins, Waterview, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.	-	087 7831687
5. Cllr. Liam Carroll, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway.	091 794677	087 6488684
6. Cllr. Albert Dolan, Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	086 7358081
7. Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn, The Forge, Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway.	-	087 2871355

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

Ballinasloe Local Electoral Area (6 Members)



Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Tim Broderick, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9686896	087 2728058
2. Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Glennavaddogue, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9642986	086 0886160
3. Cllr. Michael Connolly, Moyloughmore, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9679465	087 6829049
4. Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons, Beechlawn Hill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	-	087 1365793
5. Cllr. Declan Geraghty, Williamstown Via Castlerea, Co. Galway.	094 9643355	086 2543304
6. Cllr. Peter Keaveney, Bushtown, Glenamaddy, Galway.	094 9659388	087 2533098


MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CONAMARA

Conamara North Local Electoral Area (4 Members)

			
1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion	2.Cllr. Thomas Welby	3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh	4. Cllr. Gerry King

Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Sky Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	087 9555645
2. Cllr. Thomas Welby, Cregg, Oughterard, Co. Galway.	091 552748	087 2855676
3. Cllr. Séamus Walsh, Glann, Oughterard, Co. Galway	091 552726	087 0519884
4. Cllr. Gerry King, Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway.	-	086 1798749

Conamara South Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

				
1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin	2. Cllr. Noel Thomas	3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry

Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. An Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin, Na Foráí Maola Thiar, Bearna, Co. Galway.	-	087 2933782
2. Cllr. Noel Thomas, Gort an Chalaídh, Maigh Cuilinn, Gaillimh.	-	087 7372147
3. An Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin, Cor na Rón Láir, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.	-	087 9023755
4. An Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, Na Doireadh, Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 572974	087 9213795
5. Cllr. Alastair McKinstry, Croílár, Baile na hAille, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe.	091 868678	087 6847928

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LOUGHREA

Loughrea Local Electoral Area (5 Members)






				
1. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	2.Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	3.Cllr. Declan Kelly*	4. Cllr. Ivan Canning	5. Cllr. Shane Curley

Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher, Clostown, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	091-842968	086 8109185
2. Cllr. Jimmy Mc Clearn, Tynagh Road, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	090 9676235/9676963	087 2548723
3. Cllr. Declan Kelly, 7 College Green, St Brigid's Road, Portumna Co. Galway	-	086 8032732
4. Cllr. Ivan Canning, Lecarrow Gortanumera, Portumna, Co. Galway.	-	087 1376666
5. Cllr. Shane Curley, Raheen, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	-	086 2706550

***Cllr Declan Kelly replaced the retiring Cllr Pat Hynes on 22nd November 2021**

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GORT-KINVARA

Gort-Kinvara Local Electoral Area (5 Members)

				
1.Cllr. Joe Byrne	2.Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	4.Cllr. Martina Kinane	3.Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	4. Cllr. PJ Murphy

Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Joe Byrne, Highfield House, Cloonasee, Kinvara, Co. Galway	091-638130	087 2625775
2. Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Ballymurphy, Gort, Co. Galway	091-632167 /091-633291	087 2674295
3. Cllr. Martina Kinane, Stradbally North, Clarenbridge, Co. Galway.	-	087 2692102
4. Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, Springvale, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway	-	086 1692827
5. Cllr. PJ Murphy, Ballindive, Ardahan, Co. Galway	-	087 7905401

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM

Tuam Electoral Area (7 Members)



Elected Members	Telephone	Mobile
1. Cllr. Mary Hoade, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway	091 789854	087 2255979
2. Cllr. Peter Roche, Moyne, Abbeyknockmoy, Tuam, Co. Galway	093 49187	087 8251470
3. Cllr. Donagh Mark Killilea, 171 Palace Fields, Tuam, Co. Galway	-	086 6079563
4. Cllr. Karey Mc Hugh Farag, Brooklodge Demesne, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway	-	087 2822225
5. Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Kilcreevanty, Tuam, Co. Galway	-	087 6776812
6. Cllr Andrew Reddington, Coarsepark, Headford, Galway		087 6458115
7. Cllr. Joe Sheridan, Milltown, Tuam, Co. Galway		087 9897072

GENERAL INFORMATION

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. Galway County Council 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, economic, 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 functions performed by the elected Members are called "**reserved functions**". These lay down the framework of policy, under which the Chief Executive operates.

Such functions include:

- adoption of annual Budget;
- making or varying the County Development Plan;
- adoption of the Allocation Scheme for social 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 Chief Executive and staff perform the **operational role** of Galway County Council. They are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the County Council. The Chief Executive performs, what are called, the "**executive functions**" and the Chief Executive's decisions are made by written "Chief Executive Order".

These functions include:

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

The Chief Executive, 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 IN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, and Local Government Reform Act 2014 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 and for the development of key areas including economic, business, heritage and cultural affairs.

The Reform Act which established the Municipal Districts and dissolved the Town Councils also introduced Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to be established as committees of the local authority in each local government area. The legislation provided for the cessation of the County Development Boards and the introduction of the Public Participation Network.

THE COUNCIL

The thirty-nine elected Councillors from the Municipal Districts collectively lay down the framework for the policy under which an Executive Team operates. A Corporate Policy Group and six* Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) 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. The Executive Team headed by Chief Executive operates in an executive capacity. *Six SPC's was set up following the Local Elections in May 2019.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Five Municipal Districts are established in the County of Galway, (with seven Local Electoral Areas), and are served by the elected representatives from that Area. The Municipal Districts are designed to enhance democratic governance, subsidiarity and accountability. These arrangements are also intended to improve operational efficiency and value for money, with a single county-wide executive and operational structure. The Municipal Districts are decision-making entities rather than corporate structures.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group comprises the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides 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.

10 Meetings of the CPG took place in 2021.

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.

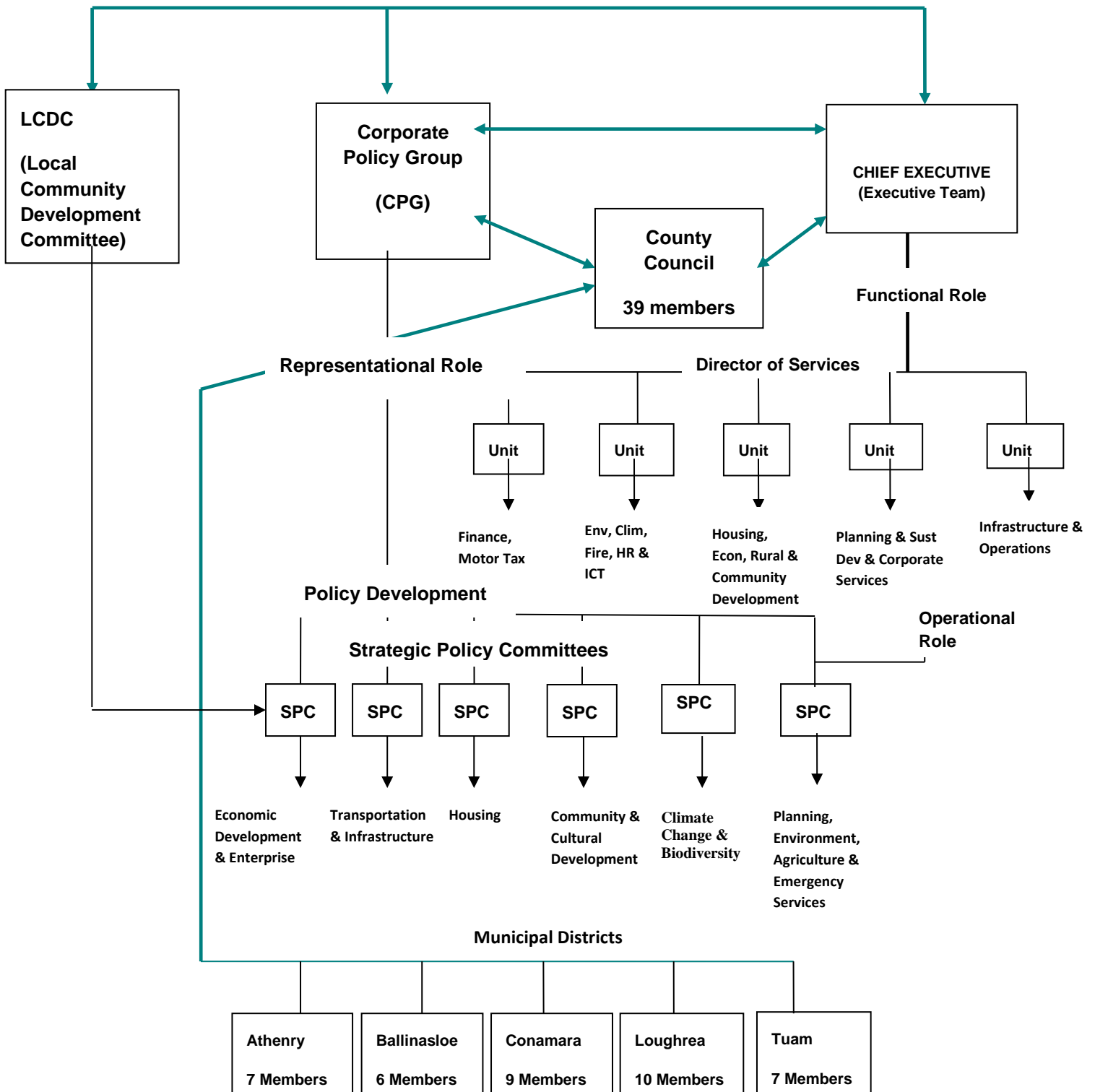
Six Strategic Policy Committees comprised of Councillors and Sectoral Representatives have been established in the Council as set out in the following table:

SPC	Elected Members	Sectoral Representations	Committee Total
Housing	7	4	11
Economic Development & Enterprise	6	4	10
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Community	7	4	11
Transport & Infrastructure	7	4	11
Community & Cultural Development	6	4	10
Climate Change & Biodiversity	6	4	10

Executive Team

The Executive Team is headed by the Chief Executive and consists of Directors of Services, Head of Finance, the Law Agent and the County Secretary.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2021



GOVERNANCE

Governance is concerned with developing the appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing Galway County Council so that stakeholders can be assured that Galway County Council is operating effectively and efficiently. Governance focuses on the legal, regulatory and service obligations and on the sets of relationships between the Council, the Committees, the individual Members, the Chief Executive, the Executive Team, staff and stakeholders in determining the direction and performance of this Council.

The following six good governance principles and supporting principles, help to guide Galway County Council in its delivery of service.

CORE PRINCIPLE 1

Good Governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on the outcomes that deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising strategic leadership by developing and clearly communicating the authority's purpose and vision through the corporate plan and ensuring that service users receive a high-quality service.
2. Ensuring that the authority, through its service delivery plan, makes best use of resources to ensure achievement of outcomes is optimised.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2

Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

Supporting Principles

1. Exercising effective leadership throughout the authority, being clear about reserved and executive functions and the respective roles and responsibilities of members and officials.
2. Creating a constructive and respectful working relationship between members and officials and ensuring that the functions of the Authority are performed to a high standard.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3

Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Supporting Principles

1. Ensuring members and officials, in exercising leadership, behave in ways that exemplify high standards of conduct, ethical behaviour and effective governance.
2. Fostering a culture and ensuring mechanisms that encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to the organisational values as espoused in the corporate plan.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4

Good governance means taking better informed and transparent decisions and managing risk and performances.

Supporting Principles

1. Being rigorous and transparent about the decision-making process and having good quality information, advice and support available to decision makers.
2. Ensuring that an effective risk, financial and performance management systems are in place. Which address uncertainties and exposures, enforce financial discipline, and emphasises strategic resource allocation and the efficient and effective delivery of services

CORE PRINCIPLE 5

Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and the purpose of the organisation.

Supporting Principles

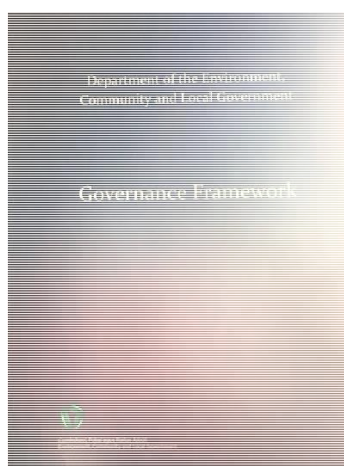
1. Ensuring that members and officials have the supports and appropriate structures they need to perform effectively in their roles.
2. Developing the capability of those with governance and leadership responsibilities to ensure outcomes achieved are consistent with good governance obligations.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6

Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens, and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

Supporting Principles

1. Providing clarity in relation to accountability relationships and organisational assurance, audit and scrutiny functions.
2. Ensuring there is a process and mechanism that deliver clear communication, effective stewardship and accountability to stakeholders.



The Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 as adopted by the Elected Members of Galway County Council, provides the framework to enable Galway County Council to guide the strategic direction and development of the County of Galway for the period 2020 - 2024.

The strategic goals and supporting strategies identified in the Plan support Galway County Council in carrying out its functions, prioritising its actions, and assessing its progress. The core values will underpin and guide the delivery of local authority services over the period 2020 - 2024, while the mission reflects the importance of enhancing the quality of life for people of County Galway by leading and strengthening community and economic development and delivering efficient and sustainable services.

The achievement of our mission and vision will be realised through the attainment of a number of interrelated Goals. To deliver these goals the council will implement a range of Supporting Strategies. These Supporting Strategies will form the basis of the functions as set out in the Annual Service Delivery Plans and schedule of Municipal District works.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Community Participation

“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”

Economic & Enterprise Development

“To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.”

Infrastructural Capacity

“To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.”

Organisational Capacity

“To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members.”

Protection of Environment & Heritage

“To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.”

Quality Customer Service

“To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.”

An assessment of our performance against the targets set in the 2021 Service Delivery Plan is also included on pages **257 to 221**, while details of our performance against the national performance indicators is included on pages **256**.

Note: Please refer to Galway County Council's Annual Budget 2022 for additional information on the Annual Progress Report on the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

This Document can be located at: -

<http://www.galway.ie/en/services/yourcouncil/finance/annualbudgets/>

PLANNING &
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT &
CORPORATE SERVICES

PLANNING

In 2021 the Planning 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.

FORWARD PLANNING

REVIEW OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) 2022-2028

Galway County Council commenced the preparation of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 in June 2020. The Plan-making process must be completed within two years by May 2022.

The new County Development Plan will set out the strategy for the future planning and sustainable development of County Galway up to 2028 and beyond.

Galway County Council prepared a Pre-draft Issues Paper in 2020 to stimulate discussion and to encourage involvement at this early stage in the process to help identify what broad planning and development matters should be considered in the new County Development Plan. During this and subsequent stages, the Planning Authority consulted with the public to encourage and facilitate public participation in the preparation of the new Development Plan.

Submissions were invited from Members of the public and prescribed stakeholders. A Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Consultation was prepared and circulated to Members for their consideration. The report listed the persons who made submissions, summarized the issues raised and indicated the opinion and recommendation of the Chief Executive in relation to such issues. The Plan was adopted for public display at a Council Meeting in May 2021 subject to a number of amendments. This formed the basis for the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 was on public display from 20/05/21-30/07/21.

As part of the consultation process for the Draft Galway County Development Plan, Galway County Council hosted two public Webinar Events on 30th June & 1st July 2021 which gave an overview of the Draft County Development Plan and guidance on how to make a submission. Also, a number of Members Workshops and Public Participation Network events were held to engage with members of the public and Elected Members. Workshops were held with Members in April 2021 and November 2021 at which they were informed of the evolving Draft Plan structure and layout as well as timescale and procedures in the review process.

2,877 submissions were received during the consultation process from members of the public, Elected Members and Prescribed Bodies.

The Chief Executive's Report on public submissions received was prepared. The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to Members for their consideration in October 2021. Council Meetings commenced in December 2021 for consideration of same.

Once the County Plan is adopted, there will be additional strategies and studies to be undertaken as outlined in Policy Objectives within the County Development Plan.

BALLINASLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022-2028

The Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028 was placed on public display for six weeks, from 22nd October 2021 to 3rd December 2021.

Public consultation drop-in sessions were also held in Ballinasloe on 16^t and 18th November 2021. A Webinar Event was also held on 17th November 2021. All events were well attended. A total of 40 no. submissions were received within the public consultation period. The statutory process will conclude in 2022 with the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan having effect 6 weeks from the day it is made.

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

In March 2021, 9.28 million was awarded to Galway County Council through by means of a successful URDF funding application in collaboration with Iarnród Éireann.

There are three main elements to the funding allocation which is centred around the existing train station at Oranmore in County Galway's metropolitan area.

Funding has been awarded for:

1. Railway Infrastructure Upgrades to include a 1KM passing railway loop at the existing Oranmore Train Station; including additional platform and associated infrastructure (12 million)
2. Design of the local centre (see attached) and lands south of the train station to include a detailed design of the local centre, associated car park (existing), (architectural/structural engineering detail) and landscaping plan (for public use); (€300,000)
3. A study on the Design Development of Typologies to implement the Urban Framework Plan (€75,000)

Primarily the focus is on approximately 60HA of land around Oranmore Train Station which are the subject of a comprehensive Urban Framework Plan (UFP). However, the benefits of the proposal as outlined would reach far beyond the UFP area.

At the time of the funding application (May 2020) the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (now Department of Transport) provided written confirmation of their commitment to the project from a Match Funding perspective whereby €3 million is provided from the Sustainable Mobility Investment Programme. The Match Funding for the remaining elements of the proposal (points 2 & 3 above) will be provided by Galway County Council (€93,750).

Critical to the success of the Urban Framework Plan will be a high-quality rail service that is both dependable and frequent which reduces reliance on the private car. The existing single-track rail line between Galway and Athenry is over 20km long, and the single-track nature of the rail line limits the maximum frequency of trains to 3 trains per hour (every 20 minutes). A passing rail

loop at Oranmore Station would improve this frequency to 15 minute intervals (4 trains per hour) at peak times. Subject to fleet availability, this would increase to 12 minute intervals (5 trains per hour) at peak times, which amounts to a 40% increase in rail capacity and an upgrade in the frequency of services to an almost “turn-up and go” railway service for commuters and other users.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION

Galway County Council commenced a 12-week Pilot of Online Planning Applications using the National Portal during 2021. Since December 2021, Planning Agents have begun to use the National Portal to submit their applications with very positive feedback from these agents. The portal will continue to be developed for the Submissions and Part 8 modules, which will then be piloted in Galway County and Tipperary before the national rollout begins, later in 2022.

- 2,254 Planning Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2021.
- 2,086 Planning decisions were made in 2021.
- €788,136.98 was received in Planning Fees in 2021.
- 102 Exempted Development Declaration Applications were presented to the Planning Office in 2021.
- Strategic Housing Consultations.
 - Stage 1: 7
 - Stage 2: 5
 - Stage 3: 2

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.

No. of complaints received in 2021	240
Warning Letters served	80
Enforcement Notice served	14
No. of new cases referred to Law Agent and external Solicitors for Summary Proceedings	12

BUILDING CONTROL

The Building Control staff carry out the following duties in conjunction with other Statutory Bodies.

- (a) Validating and registering Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices through the Building Control Management System,
- (b) Processing applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Disability Access Certificates through the Fire Service,
- (c) Advising Designers/Assigned Certifiers in relation to issues of compliance with the Building Regulations 1997,
- (d) Validating and registering the Certificate of Compliance on Completion,
- (e) Maintaining the Statutory Register,
- (f) Inspecting construction works in progress in relation to compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and carrying out enforcement as necessary.
- (g) Ensuring compliance of Construction Products in line with EU(Construction Products) Regulations 2013(S I No. 225 of 2013) in conjunction with the National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office.
- (h) Ensuring compliance of Building Energy Rating Certificates in line with the EU(Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulation 2012 (SI No. 243 of 2012)

COMMENCEMENT NOTICES FOR 2021

Number	Status on BCMS
740 no.	'Complete' status of Commencement Notice on the BCMS: (732 no. Valid Commencement Notices and 8 no. Invalid Commencement Notices)
85 no.	'Revised Information' of Commencement Notice on the BCMS

HERITAGE

During 2021, the Heritage Office of County Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the rich heritage and biodiversity of the county of Galway.

The Heritage Office works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2021:

HOLY WELLS AUDIT



Preliminary Map of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway (Source: Galway County Council)

Holy Wells are for the most part lesser known aspects of our heritage and in order to gather together as much information as possible about this valuable aspect of our intangible heritage, the Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway was initiated.

The Audit is being undertaken in a series of phases, due to the geographical spread of the County and the number of recorded (Records of Monuments and Places – National Monuments Service) and potentially unrecorded holy wells present. Phase 1 of the Audit (2020) was designed to provide a baseline of information, collected through desk research and community consultation. It also involved the planning and development of a comprehensive, future proofed, digital field data collection methodology and a searchable database for storage and dissemination of information. From this base, field survey commenced in Phase 2 in 2021.

It is proposed that the ‘Galway Holy Wells Audit’ will cover two Municipal Areas each year. The Municipal Areas of Loughrea and Ballinasloe were the focus of the 2021 phase. This will be followed by the Audit of Tuam and Oranmore/Athenry in 2022; Connemara North and South in 2023 and the development and dissemination of interpretive resources in 2024.

THE AIM OF THE AUDIT

The aim of the Audit of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway is to collect and collate information which may be in danger of being lost due to a largely, older generational knowledge base and development pressures, including land clearance. The data being collected through the County-wide audit of each holy well includes location, infrastructure, physical condition, access, protection status, ownership, archaeology, biodiversity, traditions, folklore, oral heritage and customs associated with and connected to the holy wells. This information will be used to develop high quality promotional resources for this aspect of the County's Heritage in the longer term.

WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

The details of 90 holy wells in the Municipal Districts of Loughrea and Ballinasloe were recorded using the specially designed 'Galway Holy Wells Survey 123 App' developed during Phase 1 of the Audit. Where encountered, enquires were made with regard to 'Wells' recorded by the National Monuments Services to determine any spiritual connection.

The 'Galway Holy Wells App' is arranged on five pages as per numbered titles given below. As the field survey progressed, data for each well visited was inserted as per the sub-headings detailed under each page title where relevant to field research (other desk research data was inserted later directly onto the web platform). Photographs were taken at each well (a maximum of 20 photographs can be taken at each well) as detailed under the specific headings provided below:

1. LOCATIONDETAILS

- a. Well ID no. (assigned by surveyor)
- b. Field Surveyors Name
- c. Field Survey Date
- d. Location- tracked on internal GPS mapping system
- e. Townland
- f. Civil Parish

2. SITEDETAIL

- a. Well Name
- b. Local Name(s)
- c. Associated Saint
- d. Is there an associated Pattern - if yes - Pattern Date (Day/month) and detail of format e.g. prayers recited ad rounds performed
- e. Are there associated Cures - if yes - detail of cure(s) and how it is obtained

- f. Is it a Standalone Monument – if no - detail of other features at the site, their approximate dating and location in relation to the holy well (Up to 6 photos can be taken)
 - g. Well Setting – well description and setting including natural heritage and geology of surroundings (up to 6 photos can be taken)
 - h. Detail of folklore, stories associated with the well and the source of information
 - i. References for any published documents relating to the holy well
-

3. SITECONDITION

- a. Is the site maintained –if yes – description of any recent work carried out (up to 6 photos of work detail)
 - b. Organisation - insert name(s) and contact details of any organisations involved in maintenance work at the well
 - c. Is there Visible damage at the monument – if yes – describe the damage, its location and cause – human, natural, animal (Up to 5 photos of damage)
-

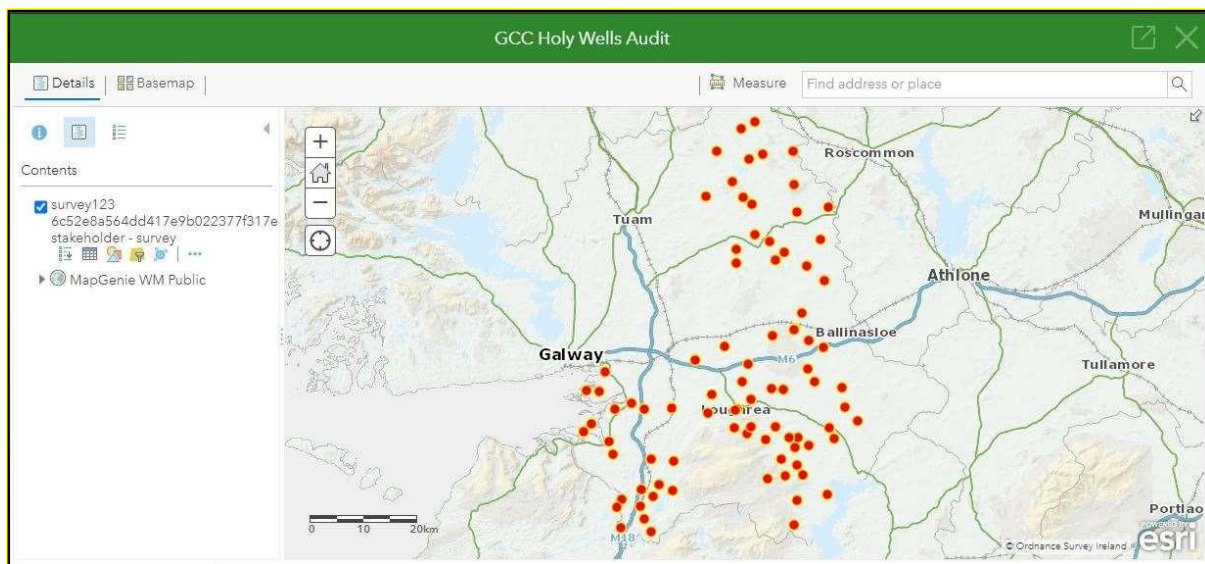
4. OWNERSHIPANDACCESS

- a. Is the well on Private or Public land?
 - b. Is the well signposted – if yes – where is signage located (up to 3 photos of signage)
 - c. Is there parking available at the site – if yes – number of cars accommodated (up to 3 photos of parking area)
 - d. Describe access to the site from the nearest road including physical obstructions (up to 6 photos of access and any obstructions)
-

5. SITEMANAGEMENT

- a. Is the well a Recorded Monuments – if yes – RMP Ref No.
- b. Is the well located in a Designated Area - if yes- detail whether SAC, SPA, NHA or pNHA and provide relevant site ref nos.
- c. Is the well a Protected Structure – if yes – insert RPS no., NIAH no. d.
Insert any other comments of observations

The data collected for each well during field survey was saved and uploaded to the “Galway Holy Wells’ Survey 123 web platform hosted by Galway County Council on return to the office.



DIGITAL SKILLS FOR HERITAGE

Galway County Council Heritage Office working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) developed a 4-week Digital Skills training course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council's administrative area only).

The course was delivered online and is free of charge 30 people attended this course.

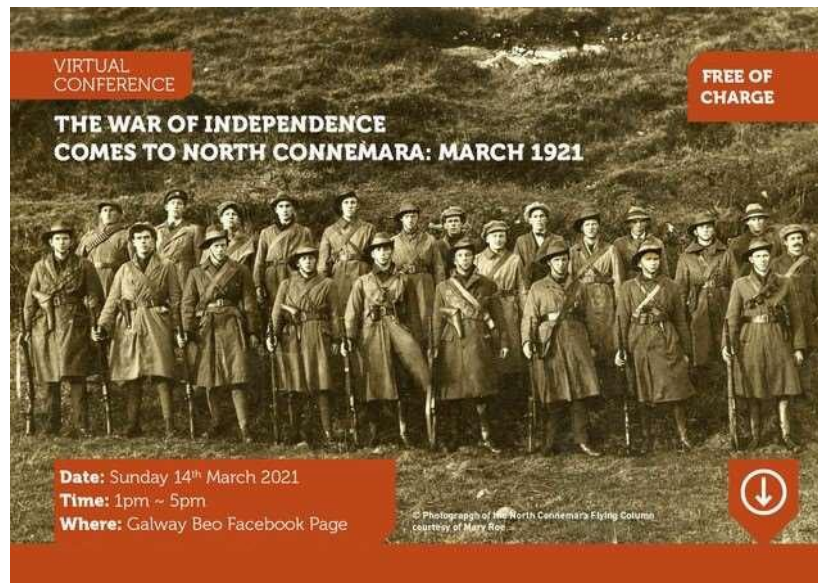
Thursday 18th Feb - 10am – 12 noon - Smartphone Filmmaking (2hrs with 15min break)

Thursday 25th Feb - Time: 10am – 12 noon – Facebook Inc & Business Suite

Thursday 4th Mar- Time: 10am – 12 noon – Video Publishing

Thursday 11th March - Time: 10am – 12 noon – Video Conferencing

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE COMES TO NORTH CONNEMARA: MARCH 1921



As violence raged throughout much of the country in the latter part of 1920, the Connemara area was generally quiet. The events of March 1921, however, changed this situation very quickly. The execution of a young Clifden man for involvement in the attack on the British intelligence network in Dublin on Bloody Sunday was the catalyst that brought a sequence of death and destruction on this part of Connemara that lasted until the Truce was called the following July. Tommy Whelan (1898-1921) of Gortrummagh, a townland west of Clifden, was an unlikely victim of the Bloody Sunday tragedy. Genial and trusting, he was deeply religious and was widely believed to have been innocent of the crime for which he was executed.

On Sunday 14th March 2021 his story was told by his niece, Irene Whelan, Professor of History and Director of Irish Studies at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. She covered his family background, the details of his imprisonment and trial, and the possible explanation for why he was charged with a capital offence. His execution on March 14th was the prelude to a night of horror in Clifden, when two policemen were shot dead as a reprisal and the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries burned several buildings and more civilians were killed and wounded.

Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill, a well-known local historian, spoke about the shooting of two RIC men, the burning of Clifden, and the consequences.

The events of March 14th – 18th precipitated a campaign by the Connemara Flying Column, led by P.J McDonnell, Gerald Bartley and Richard (Dick) Joyce, and others, whose exploits would long be remembered. Dr. Conor McNamara gave an indepth account of this campaign in the months that followed.

Verena Roe's talk was based on a memoir written by her grandmother, Mary Little Kane (1912-1996) a native of Tullycross, who left a remarkable manuscript documenting her long life. She was an eight year old child when the events of the War of Independence got underway, and her account of what happened on the Renvyle Peninsula is especially vivid.

The background to this turbulent period in our history was provided by Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Professor Emeritus in History at NUI, Galway. Breandan O Scanail, Chairperson, Clifden and Connemara Heritage Society provided the opening address for this virtual conference.

This virtual conference was organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Clifden and Connemara Heritage Society. It was funded by the Commemorations Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme and Galway County Council. It was an action of Galway County Council's Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023

The conference was shown free of charge on Galway Beo Facebook page on Sunday 14th March from 1pm to 5pm. It is also available on Galway Beo YouTube channel and on the following website link <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/the-war-of-independence-comes-to-north-connemara-march-1921>

Sustainable Gardening Course April 2021

This 5 week course was completed over zoom and included videos, discussions, activities and practical skills. The course was designed for resident's association members, Tidy Towns Groups, green schools' coordinators, allotment holders and anyone who wishes to live a more sustainable life. The following is an outline of topics covered:

Week 1 – Pesticides and Waste Reduction

Week 2 – Wildflowers

Week 3 – Bulbs and Trees

Week 4 – Grow your Own

Week 5 – Bioscaping and Compost Heaps

Council Staff Biodiversity Training - An online Biodiversity and Pollinators programme was delivered by Aoife Munn via Zoom over a three week period.

This course looked at community areas and how best to manage them to satisfy both the users and biodiversity in the area.

Week 1 - 4th May 2021: Weed control, Mowing regimes and Communication

Week 2 - 11th May 2021: Wildflower Masterclass

Week 3 – 18th May 2021: Pollinator friendly initiatives



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Heritage Office
presents
**Oral Heritage
Course**
6-Week Online Course
March to April 2021

ORAL HERITAGE TRAINING COURSE

Galway County Council Heritage Office working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) developed a 6-week Oral Heritage Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council's administrative area only). The course was delivered online and is free of charge. 21 people attended this training. The following is an outline of the course:

WEEK 1: MONDAY 08TH MARCH (2HRS)

Oral Heritage, Recording Techniques, Microphones & Equipment.

WEEK 2: MONDAY 15TH MARCH (2HRS WITH 15MIN BREAK)

Interview Techniques, Narration, Consent, & Clearance.

WEEK 3: MONDAY 22ND MARCH (2HRS)

Transcribing & Editing.

WEEK 4: MONDAY 29TH MARCH (2HRS)

Advanced Editing Session

WEEK 5: MONDAY 12TH APRIL (2HRS)

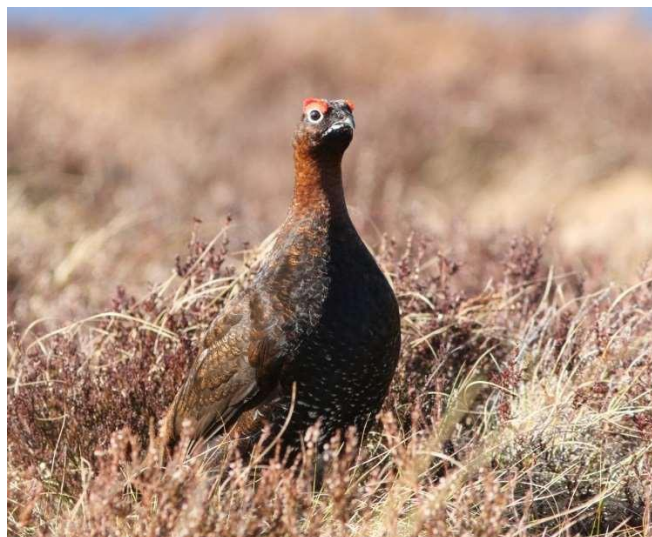
Online Publishing.

WEEK 6: MONDAY 19TH APRIL (2HRS)

Create an iTunes Account, Publish 3 Edited Cases Studies, ID Tag, and Promote Online.

NEW VIDEO SHOWCASES CONSERVATION EFFORTS BRINGING LIFE BACK TO A GALWAY BOG

The future of Carrownagappul Bog, like so many other raised bogs, was one of continuing deterioration. Through collective efforts to restore the bog, which have been embraced by local communities, the future of the site now looks very different. A new video by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council, and funded through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, called 'Life on the bog' showcases the rich biodiversity of Carrownagappul, the wildlife that is slowly returning to the bog and the efforts to restore this special site.



Red Grouse © Michael O'Clery

We often only appreciate something once we lose it. We have come dangerously close to this situation when it comes to our bogs, but thankfully this is changing.

Our relationship with 'the bog' in Ireland has been mostly one of underappreciation and over-exploitation. For many people, the word 'bog' still brings with it negative connotations, and conjurs images of an unproductive, dark place that is devoid of life – nothing could be further from the truth.

Collectively, it seems there is a slow awakening to the true beauty, rich biodiversity and unique nature of these special habitats, and an understanding of the vital role they play in all of our lives - it only took us a few thousand years!

Carrownagappul Bog SAC, near Mountbellew in east Galway is one of the largest remaining, relatively intact raised bogs in the country. The 325 hectare bog, is currently undergoing restoration - as well as a rebirth in the minds of the local community. Like so many bogs across the country, Carrownagappul Bog SAC was drained, dried out and degraded. With turf-cutting at an end on the site, communities surrounding Mountbellew are starting to embrace a new future for the bog, one which realises its significant potential for biodiversity and carbon storage as well as an amenity for locals.



Carrownagappul Bog © John Lusby

A number of different groups, from very different backgrounds have come together for the same purpose, to restore and protect Carrownagappul Bog, and part of this has involved raising awareness of the importance of the bog and encouraging people to come and appreciate it for themselves.

BirdWatch Ireland came on board and worked with Galway County Council and Galway Telework to undertake a survey of the breeding birds on the bog, which recorded forty breeding bird species.

BirdWatch Ireland, Galway County Council with help from Galway Telework, The Living Bog Project and MKO, also ran a nature camp at Carrownagappul Bog, which brought local children out onto the bog with scientists to get down and dirty and explore the wonders and the wildlife of the bog. Through hands on activities the children learned about how the bog was formed, the depth and age of the peat under their feet, the water retention qualities of sphagnum mosses, and the many specially adapted plants that live on the bog, including insectivorous plants! As well as some of the birds and mammals that depend on the bog, including up close encounters with some of these!

Galway County Council and BirdWatch Ireland, teaming up with The Living Bog Project and Galway Telework have developed a range of education materials on Carrownagappul Bog. A

video called 'Life on the Bog' showcases the wildlife on the bog, and documents the recent history and restoration works on Carrownagappul Bog.

This project was an action of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022, with funding provided through the National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Parks & Wildlife Service, from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council.

The video 'life on the bog' was filmed and edited by Crow Crag and is being released in conjunction with 'Worlds Wetlands Day 2021' and is available here: <https://youtu.be/CPXlxnplq8> and on the Galway Community Heritage website: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/topics/carrownagappul-bog/life-on-the-bog-carrownagappul-bog>

A range of other resources on Carrownagappul Bog, produced by BirdWatch Ireland and Galway County Council are available on the Galway Community Heritage website: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/carrownagappul-bog>

RODENTICIDE AWARENESS AND BEST PRACTICE RODENT CONTROL TRAINING FOR GALWAY COUNTY

Council Staff online 19th October 10am – 12 noon

The aim of this course is to increase awareness of the risks associated with the use of rodenticides and to improve understanding for the requirement and capacity for best practice rodent control. This course was relevant for anyone who is responsible for rodent control (either directly undertaking rodent control or responsible for the staff or contractors who undertake rodent control) as well as those who are responsible for premises or grounds where rodent control is required.

This course provided an overview of commensal rodents in Ireland, including their ecology and behaviour and the situations in which their control is necessary. The environmental implications of the use and misuse of rodenticides will be discussed through a range of locally relevant examples of how these compounds enter the food chain, the pathways of contamination to non-target wildlife species with a focus on our current knowledge of exposure of rodenticides to Irish Wildlife. The legislation regarding the control of rodents and use of rodenticides was given and an overview of the methods for best practice rodent control including the requirement for an Integrated Pest Management approach to achieve effective rodent control while minimizing the environmental risks.

Bringing Our Nature to You

Exploring the biodiversity of East Galway Online



Join us for a series of **free** hour-long online sessions (over Zoom) in which we'll explore and appreciate the biodiversity that surrounds us in east Galway. Though we currently have to restrict our movements, you can visit some of our most important sites for biodiversity with us, get familiar with the wildlife we share our county with, and learn what you can do to help protect biodiversity locally. Session titles and dates:

- *On our doorstep: habitats of East Galway* - Thurs. **18th** of March, **7-8pm**
- *Mammals of East Galway* - Thurs. **25th** of March, **7-8pm**
- *Birds of East Galway* - Thurs. **1st** of April, **7-8pm**
- *Biodiversity, Heart and Soul* - Thurs. **8th** of April, **7-8pm**

To register, click [here](#), or search "Bringing Our Nature to You," on EventBrite. Please note that spaces are limited.

Sessions will be delivered by BirdWatch Ireland with funding from the LEADER programme through Galway Rural Development, and in association with Galway County Council Heritage Office - delivering actions of Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2022



BEALTAINE EVENTS

The following events were programmed and delivered by the Heritage Office:

- ▮ Online Herb Hanging Basket Demonstration
- ▮ Tracing your Galway Roots:
<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/your-galway-genealogy>

THE DAOINE AGUS ÁIT HERITAGE POSTCARD COLLECTION



The bi-lingual project title encapsulated our objective of drawing on a shared history and heritage to connect people with their place, as well as connecting people within each community to each other and with their diaspora. We also wanted to strengthen the connections between the community groups within the iCAN network, while promoting our members' well-being through participating in creative activities.

Over May & June, 46 participants from 19 community groups based in counties Clare, Galway, Mayo and Wicklow, attended a series of photography and creative writing workshops with Aoife Herriot and Alice Kinsella.

Workshop participants were encouraged to experiment with different ways of capturing and documenting aspects of their local heritage, and to use newly learned writing techniques to compose poems and prose inspired by their surroundings.

At the end of the process, each group decided on the final image/s and text for their postcard and worked with graphic designer, Damien Goodfellow to improve and finalise their designs.

Each card in the collection is unique, and on the reverse details the group's website, email and social media to encourage engagement with their community archive websites. The postcards will be made available in each participating community during Heritage Week to be used to connect with friends and family at home and abroad. We hope that these postcards will raise awareness of our heritage assets and the role of community volunteers in preserving, protecting, and promoting our local history and heritage. See https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/about/network_news/daoine-agus-ait-connecting-our-communities-ican-heritage-week-project/postcard-photo-gallery

ONLINE LECTURE: “THE TRUCE OF 11 JULY 1921: A NATURAL END TO THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE OR SOWING THE SEEDS OF CIVIL WAR?”

Where: Premiering on Galway Beo Facebook page and Galway Beo YouTube Channel on Sunday 11 July 2021

This lecture explored the events surrounding the truce of 11 July 1922 that brought an end to the Irish War of Independence between the IRA and the crown forces. The truce was viewed by many republicans as merely a temporary measure, and some did not believe that the ceasefire would hold and that the war with the crown forces would resume on an even greater scale. This lecture examines the events surrounding the truce on both a local and national level and how ordinary fighters and communities in County Galway perceived the end of the republican campaign.

This lecture was organised by Galway County Council. It is funded by the Commemorations Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme and Galway County Council. It is an action of Galway County Council’s Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023

TIKTOK TRAINING FOR ATHENRY VIRTUAL WALLED TOWN DAY AND LOUGHREA VIRTUAL



Galway County Council Heritage Office and Athenry Heritage Centre working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) has developed a Full-Day TikTok Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council’s administrative area only). This project is funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network, Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

Although founded five years ago, TikTok is still a fairly new social media platform which consists of short video clips either 15 seconds or 60 seconds long. It has seen significant growth over the last two years and now has around 800 million active users per month.

Showing products, services and events in a visually appealing way is key on TikTok, as users want to be both entertained and informed.



Galway County Council Heritage Office and Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) has developed a Full-Day TikTok Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council’s administrative area only). This project is funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network, Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

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Showing products, services and events in a visually appealing way is key on TikTok, as users want to be both entertained and informed.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK, THE HERITAGE COUNCIL AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.



PROJECT DEVELOPED BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND LOUGHREA MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL. FUNDED BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE HERITAGE COUNCIL.



MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

Galway County Council Heritage Office, Athenry Heritage Centre and Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee developed 2 full-Day TikTok Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council's administrative area only). This project was funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network, Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

Course Content:

- Style
- Knowing your message
- Composition
- Sound
- Lighting
- Grips
- Camera Tips
- TikTok Hashtags
- Marketing Strategies
- TikTok Analytics
- Best Practice
- Developing Ideas & Storyboarding for Festival
- Final 1hr Consultation for event



The South Tower and southern section of town wall are situated in an open field that is lined by Prospect Road, the land rising from east to west. To the other side of the road is Athenry Shopping Centre and a number of houses and commercial units. The interior face of the tower is contained within Kenny Park, the local GAA grounds with a viewing stand located close to the wall. Constructed during the fourteenth century, this structure remains prominent though in a ruinous state in a field on the southern approach to the town. This portion of the wall stretches approximately 400 metres in length between the sites of the former Loro and Spittle gates. It survives to a height of approximately two to four metres being quite uneven along the wall head. It is one of the most impressive and intact stretches of wall to have survived in Athenry.

It ranges in thickness from the base of approximately 800mm to 1500mm. The original facing stone to the town wall has survived along much of its length on both the interior and exterior, but has been rebuilt with inferior rubble stone or salvaged dressed stone in isolated sections and along its top. In 2014, the tower was conserved with assistance from an IWTN grant removing the risk to the historic fabric due to further damage and collapse. Further repairs were carried out in 2015 to a portion of the wall. At that time a portion of the wall which was

bulging considerably was temporarily supported with timber propping. It was not possible in 2015 to carry out wholesale repair to this wall. Following public procurement process a suitably qualified heritage contractor was appointed to carry out repair works to a section of the wall. Inspections were undertaken by the conservation architect and structural engineer. The works to the south wall of Athenry consisted of vegetation removal, cleaning, raking out of cement pointing, insertion of pinning stone, grouting of the wall and repointing of all joints with a lime mix. This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DEVELOP A WALKWAY AROUND ATHENRY MEDIEVAL TOWN WALLS

The overall aim of the feasibility study is to define a walkable wall circuit, with signage, lighting and on-site interpretation is underway for the medieval town walls of Athenry. The intention is to improve public and visitor understanding, allowing greater access and appreciation of the Town Walls and associated monuments. This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

ATHENRY VIRTUAL WALLED TOWNS DAY



Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day took place on 15 August 2021 with the theme 'Heritage is the Future'. Athenry Walled Towns Day has been in existence since 2006. It is a family focused heritage and educational fun day where all sectors of the community can gain a greater awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the medieval town walls and the town of Athenry. The events are programmed to suit all age groups and have a strong educational and awareness building theme. This year due to Covid19 Athenry Walled Town Day moved to a virtual platform. Athenry Virtual Walled Towns Day 2021 was designed to be inclusive,

accessible, fun and free for all to view on our websites and social media platforms. The programme reflected the medieval history of Athenry and is on an online platform to showcase craft, food, art weaponry music, the rich heritage assets of the town. <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/athenry-virtual-walled-town-day>

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2021

HERITAGE WEEK PROJECTS

There was no subject-specific theme for National Heritage Week 2021. Instead, project organisers were encouraged to consider how they could connect with ‘heritage newcomers’, who did not engaged with National Heritage Week before; groups or individuals who may not traditionally feel included in local heritage; and heritage enthusiasts of all ages, when planning their projects. Projects could involve developing something new, e.g. the development of research about a particular place in a locality, exploring an aspect of local biodiversity, or developing an oral history collection about a particular moment of history in a community.

Projects could also involve revisiting or building on a heritage project that a group or individual may already have worked on, for example showcasing research that was already done on a monument, a waterway, or a skill or tradition in the community, and finding new ways to grow awareness of it.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

It was recommended that the results of projects should be presented in a format that could be shared widely, for example an online talk or exhibition; a video; podcast or oral history recordings; a PowerPoint presentation, newsletter, dedicated website or blog; or via an interview with a local radio station or newspaper. A dedicated, moderated social media account could also be included as part of project outputs. As during previous National Heritage Weeks, there was a designated ‘Water Heritage Day’ and ‘Wild Child Day’.

Organisers were informed only to host in-person events if they were 100% compliant with prevailing Covid19 guidance.

The last day to submit a project to the National Heritage Week website was Monday, 30th August 2021.

HERITAGE WEEK, COUNTY OF GALWAY 2021

A total of 1,055 entries were received nationwide by The Heritage Council via the Heritage Week site; these were a mix of projects and events. Of the 1,055 entries received 95 entries were from the County of Galway (excluding Galway City). This was the highest number for any county or city.

Of the 95 entrees received from the County of Galway 33 were built heritage projects in nature; 50 cultural heritage and 12 natural heritage.

The listing of the 95 Galway County projects can be found here <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects?q=&where%5B%5D=galway-county#listings>

LOUGHREA VIRTUAL MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee and Galway County Council produced 15 videos in total. Topics covered included arts, crafts, food and heritage videos as well as videos which showcase medieval Hungary and it's medieval city of Győr. It was promoted on social media, using Galway County Council, PPN and community mailing lists as well as the local newspapers and local radio.

Live Streaming of Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival took place on Sunday 22nd August 2021 at 1pm on Galway Beo Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GalwayBeo>

There were 20,395 views of Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival Videos up to now. There are also available to view on YouTube and the Website: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/loughrea-virtual-medieval-festival> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x54ZAPiwTH4&list=PLJUAXHOguQkv_rbJcDuiR9cV35QgLenMC

INVASIVE SPECIES

The Invasive Species working group of Galway County Council has established a system to record details of invasive species that are submitted by members of the public and staff with regards to invasive species on Council property. Targeted Gunnera and Japanese Knotweed control measures took place in a number of places in the ownership of Galway County Council.

AUDIT OF WETLANDS IN NORTH EAST GALWAY

This project created a site database of known and potential wetland sites in North East County Galway. The wetland habitats recorded include lakes, ponds, watercourses, springs, swamps, wet grassland, marsh, bogs, fens, bog woodland, riparian woodland, wet woodland and coastal habitats. In all, 38 wetland habitat types were researched and mapped. The resulting data-set from the project provides a useful tool for future heritage conservation planning in the county, will assist in the development of sustainable planning programmes, and will allow for the design of future targeted wetland surveys and wetland research programmes in NE County Galway. Site information amalgamated on sites includes: site name and code, site provenance, size (area in ha), location, site conservation designations, habitat information on the specific wetland vegetation type(s) present (and extent where available), information on rare species of note, impacts and threats on sites, a list of published reports holding information on the site and the nature of same, and site description.



Pots for Pollinators



Our pollinating insects are in decline. One-third of our 98 wild bee species are at risk of extinction. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan aims to reverse those declines by helping to encourage more pollinator-friendly flowers in our landscapes.

You don't need a garden to help our struggling pollinators. By planting up a 'pot for pollinators' for your patio or balcony (or a window box), with pollen-rich flowers, you will provide much-needed food for our pollinating insects.



What you will need:

1. Large container, approx. 50 cm in diameter

You can buy a pot, or you might already have something you can recycle. Just remember to drill some drainage holes in the bottom of your pot to prevent it getting waterlogged.



2. Multi-purpose, peat-free compost

It's always best to choose a peat-free soil. (Peat bogs are an important habitat, including for many of our pollinators.)



3. Pollen & nectar-rich plants

For example, *Nepeta*, *Salvia*, *Agastache*, *Purple Liatris*, *Sedum Autumn Joy*, *Single-flowered Dahlia*.

These six plants were chosen because they grow well together in containers and can be sourced easily in garden centres. You can find details for other pollinator-friendly flowers, shrubs and trees at www.pollinators.ie

DID YOU KNOW?

Daffodils, Tulips and traditional bedding plants, such as Geraniums, Begonias, Busy Lizzy, Petunias, Polyanthus or Salvia splendens have virtually no pollen and nectar and are of little value to pollinators.

4. Watering can

Flowers in pots will dry out quicker and need more watering than those in a flowerbed. If you don't have a watering can, you can recycle an empty plastic bottle – just punch some holes in the plastic lid.



SALVIA

NEPETA



PURPLE LIATRIS



AGASTACHE



SINGLE-FLOWERED DAHLIA



SEDUM AUTUMN JOY



Galway County Council in partnership with a number of Tidy Towns Groups in the county of Galway and the National Biodiversity Centre launched a new initiative called Pots for Pollinators.

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes.

The Pots for Pollinators is an initiative where local communities working with a Tidy Towns Group can take a very simple action for bees and pollinators and generate a very positive impact for nature.

People are becoming more conscious of nature and biodiversity and taking a great interest in the birds, bees and bugs that are all around them. It is hoped that this simple project Pots for Pollinators which gives details of plants that can be bought in any garden centre in the county will see lots more people helping our pollinators.

Planting a 'pot for pollinators' is a wonderful project for patios in nursing homes or hospitals, apartment balconies, urban hotels and small gardens."

THE GALWAY BUZZ!

Celebrating National Biodiversity Week in the County of Galway from 16th to 23rd May 2021

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

National Biodiversity Week is all about connecting people with nature and inspiring them to learn more, see more and do more for biodiversity. It's also about communicating the importance of biodiversity and encouraging people to play their part in protecting it as well as enjoying it.

Our natural heritage connects us with our roots and our community. Galway County Council and its partners are celebrating National Biodiversity Week virtually this year, through the Galway Buzz.

This initiative has been developed by Galway County Council in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland, the Local Authorities Waters Programme, Attymon Development Group, The Ryan Institute, NUIG and The Vincent Wildlife Trust. It has been funded by Galway County Council, the Peatlands Community Engagement Fund and the National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

To find out more:
Listen in to Galway Bay Fm and please see our websites and social media channels:

<https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Service/Galway-Beo-102500174744778/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bWW4CrzofP-4HIMwjTMfg
<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

For further information please contact:
Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council | email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Marie Mannion image courtesy of the North West Galway Image Library on YouTube

Galway Bay Fm logo

Logos for various partner organizations including Galway County Council, BirdWatch Ireland, and others.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK TOOK PLACE FROM 16th to 23rd MAY 2021

National Biodiversity Week is all about connecting people with nature and inspiring them to learn more, see more and do more for biodiversity. It's also about communicating the

importance of biodiversity and encouraging people to play their part in protecting it as well as enjoying it.

Galway County Council and its partners celebrated National Biodiversity Week virtually this year, through the Galway Buzz.

The following is a listing of online events scheduled for each day of week to create a better awareness, knowledge and pride in the biodiversity of the county:

BIRD SONG ON THE BOG (DAWN CHORUS)

John Lusby of BirdWatch Ireland and Ruth Hanniffy held a virtual dawn chorus. They visited Attymon Bog and Carrownagappul Bog to listen to and record bird song when it is in full flow at sunrise. This initiative is supported by the Peatlands Community Engagement Fund with Attymon Development Group and in association with Galway County Council.

GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEE ART (FOR CHILDREN)

Aga Grandowicz, award-winning wildlife illustrator demonstrated how to make some great yellow bumblebee art.

CREATING A SENSORY GARDEN

This talk was delivered by horticulturist and environmentalist Aoife Munn covered everything a person would need to know to create a sensory garden. Participants were able to discover which plants can stay standing in a school sensory garden and which ones are best for creating a garden that changes with the seasons.

PAINTING A WILDFLOWER MEADOW

On this online video Aga Grandowicz taught participants how to paint a wildflower meadow.

THE WONDER OF WOODLAND

In this video people could discover the wonder of woodlands. The video dealt with the many flowers that carpet the woodland floor in spring-time, our native trees and shrubs, and why woodland has such enormous value for wildlife and the natural world.

PLANTING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A talk on planting for biodiversity and climate change was given by horticulturist and environmentalist Aoife Munn. The aim of this interactive talk was to help make informed planting choices to support local wildlife. It will also looked at the challenges presented by climate change and what plants can use to reduce the effects.

A WILD GALWAY GARDEN - GARDEN BIODIVERSITY FROM THE SOIL TO THE SKY

Galway County Council Community Warden, Rosina Joyce shows the public around her plot in East Galway and demonstrated some simple ideas that can bring life to your garden. This

online session also featured poetry from Christy Corcoran, and photography from Thomas O’Sullivan. This was a Galway County Council staff initiative.

POLLINATOR PLANTING

This talk discussed the best plants for attracting pollinators to your garden, how to ensure they are fed year round and how to create habitats in close proximity to the pollinator planting.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

This video looks at reducing waste, looking at use of chemical, eco friendly crafting projects such as making your own wax cloths.

MAKING YOUR GARDEN A HAVEN FOR HEDGEHOGS

Elaine O’Riordan from the Irish Hedgehog Survey met up with Bev Truss from the Hogprickle Wildlife Carers and got some tips on making your garden a haven for hedgehogs. Bev also advised on how to know when a hedgehog may need help and what to do if you find a sick or injured hedgehog or other wild animal.

MAMMALS OF THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY - THE LESSER HORSESHOE BAT

The Vincent Wildlife Trust presented a short film about the lesser horseshoe bat, which is Ireland’s most strictly protected bat species. The lesser horseshoe bat colonised Ireland 6,000 years ago and its distribution is currently limited to six western counties: Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and west Cork. Viewers can discover the world of one of Ireland’s smallest mammals and Vincent Wildlife Trust’s work to conserve it.

RIVER BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

For International Day of Biological Diversity Day, Galway Heritage Office and the Local Authorities Waters Programme produced a video showcasing river biological diversity.

BARN OWLS, BUILDINGS AND BIODIVERSITY

'Barn Owls, Buildings and Biodiversity' was a short visual presentation hosted by John Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland in association with Galway County Council, which celebrated one of our most iconic birds. Through footage, images and tales of personal experiences studying Barn Owls in Galway and beyond, John explored why the Barn Owl is so special in Irish culture and in the Irish countryside and what the future holds for Barn Owl populations in the county.

This Biodiversity Week initiative was funded by Galway County Council under Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017 - 2022 and the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 and supported by The Heritage Council and Galway County Heritage Forum. The initiative has received 5,372 views on Facebook and YouTube up to this point in time.

People and Nature: Galway County Biodiversity Project Website and Facebook Page
The website and Facebook page are used to disseminate biodiversity information to the public. Biodiversity information such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans, information on dealing with invasive species, advice, guidance can be found on the website. The Facebook page is used to promote various events and biodiversity initiatives.
<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

Barn Owl conservation and research in County Galway



The Barn Owl was once a much more common sight in the Irish countryside. Due to extensive declines in their breeding range they are categorised as a Red-listed Bird of Conservation Concern. As a top predator and sentinel species for the health of our countryside, these declines are worrying and indicative of wider biodiversity declines. There is a unique opportunity to harness the interest and goodwill towards the species to deliver widescale biodiversity benefits through conservation and education focused on Barn Owls. There is a long history of Barn Owl monitoring and conservation efforts in Galway. Work is currently ongoing to 1) implementing a citizen science and strategic survey to assess the status and breeding performance of Barn Owls and to identify their conservation requirements, 2) producing three high-quality videos to provide practical guidance on; nest boxes, managing and creating habitat, and rodenticide use.

GALWAY: YOURS TO DISCOVER

This was an initiative of the Heritage Office and Galway Bay FM radio station.



On Galway Talks Keith Finnegan had an in depth look at the wealth of culture and heritage around Galway County. He highlighted some of our niche artisan food producers and talks with local people who are passionate about their local community and environment. This initiative took place over 5 days. The following gives a flavour of the interviews:

On Monday Keith headed to Portumna, Woodford, Abbey and Sliabh Aughty. He spoke with Dr Christy Cuniffe, Noel Leahy & Teresa Roche about their food products, Maria Kennedy from Finnerty's Mills and finishing with David Broderick from the Irish Workhouse Centre.

On Tuesday, he went from Maigh Cuilinn to Clifden, stopping to speak with Hazel Morrisson in Maigh Cuilinn, Mary Kyne who takes us for a walk in Oughterard, Jim Deegan who is reviving the railway in Maam Cross and Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill who took them on a hidden tour in the centre of Clifden town.

On Wednesday they went to Ballygar, Mountbellew, Williamstown and Glenamaddy. They started out with Paul Conolly in Ballygar and then moved on to Jimmy Noone in Mountbellew. They then head to Williamstown to Noel Finnegan who took Keith on the bog walk and after recovering from that they went on to Patricia Scarry in Glenamaddy.

On Thursday they headed to Clarinbridge, Athenry and Loughrea. Here they started in Loughrea with Msgnr Cathal Geraghty, they made their way to Athenry Heritage Centre to Alan Burgees, and finish in the Reddington estate in Kilcornan Clarinbridge with Sean Conneally.

On Friday they went on the Lough Corrib Drive, starting in Annaghdown with Des Nolan, moving to Headford with Mags Sheehan to the community orchard and finishing up in Clonbur/Cornamona with Trish Walsh.

KYLEMORE ABBEY LAUNCHED NEW HERITAGE RESOUC E FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 2021

Free workbook and digital resource, Imagine a Castle, draws on the rich heritage of Kylemore Abbey and offers primary school students journey of discovery and creativity. links to the resource here – www.KylemoreAbbey.com and www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

Kylemore Abbey launched a FREE Schools history workbook, Imagine a Castle for primary schools in 2021. Available as a colourful bi-lingual (English and Irish) workbook or as an online flip-book with accompanying online resources, Imagine a Castle is a wonderful new history resource for 5th and 6th class primary school students launched by Kylemore ahead of re-opening this May.

Funded by Galway Co. Council, Creative Ireland and The Kylemore Trust, the workbook was distributed to all primary schools in Co. Galway through its Mobile Schools Library Service and through the Heritage Office, Galway county Council. Copies were also made available for visiting schs and families at Kylemore Abbey and available to all on www.KylemoreAbbey.com

The online version allows schools from all over the country – and beyond - to explore the Kylemore Estate from the comfort of their own classrooms. Teachers can access videos, a slideshow and pdf files with resources to be added on an ongoing basis.

As well being available on Kylemore’s newly launched website www.kylemoreabbey.com the Imagine A Castle flipbook and resources are also available through Galway County Council Heritage Office and Creative Ireland. <https://galwaycommunityheritage.org/google-search/?st=content> and from Creative Ireland at www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/imagine-a-castle/)

The Imagine a Castle workbook explores the history of Kylemore Estate, through its fascinating buildings, inside and out, through the lives of the people who lived and worked there from Abbesses to kitchen maids to gardeners in the glorious Victorian Walled Garden. Each of the five sections of the workbook (‘Castle, House or Abbey’, ‘A Room for Everything’, ‘Imagine A Great Estate’, ‘Stories Through Pictures’ and ‘A Garden of Wonder’) closes with a selection of fun and collaborative classroom projects.

Children are invited to design a castle, to create a new architectural style, to imagine an estate to place their castle in, to draw portraits and a coat of arms, to make a sensory garden in a shoebox and invent a machine inspired by Victorian innovations amongst other things! Teachers will have lots of inspiration with this colourful new resource.

The Kylemore Trust, working in partnership with Galway County Council Heritage Office and Creative Ireland, is committed to extending the rich heritage of the iconic Kylemore Abbey estate to schools and young people in this innovative new project.



'Quis Separabit? The Connaught Rangers through time and history' this online conference was funded by the Commemorations Unit, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the community strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme and Galway County Council. The conference went live on Saturday 25 September at 1pm and is also available on <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/connaught-rangers> and on the Galway Beo Facebook page and YouTube channel.

FÉILE NA GCLOCH, INIS OÍRR (VIRTUAL)

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/feile-na-gloch> There was a great selection of videos and podcasts that were produced relating to stone walling, stone work, carving and artwork made by the Naóinra, primary and secondary schools, Inis Oírr. We finish off with a tour of Inis Oírr with Kathleen.

We have received a lot of help from the Dry Stone Walling Association of Ireland members, Comhar Caomhain Teo, instructors who came to Féile na gCloch in previous years as well as the island community.

NAOÍNRA INIS OIRR 2021.ÚNA AGUS MÁIRE

Nasc le pobal Fhéile na gCloch. Thóg na páistí claí le bricí sa Naíonra agus dhéan siad garraí amach as clocha d'ainmhithe an Naíonra. Ansin, chuaigh muid go Port na Cille agus thóg siad claí eile thíos ar an trá. Bhi an-spraoi agus spóirt acu. Seo a leanas cuid de na pictiúirí. Míle buíochas leis na múinteoirí Úna agus Máire.

Connection with the community Féile na gCloch. The children built a brick fence in the Naionra and made a field out of stones for the animals of the Naionra. Then we went to the beach and they built another fence down on the beach. They had a lot of fun and really enjoyed it. Here are some of the pictures. Many thanks to Máire & Úna their teachers.

SCOIL CHAOMHÁIN 2021 OLIVE PRÍOMHOIDE SCOIL CHAOMHÁIN

Seo í an Ealaín álainn ó dhaltaí Scoil Chaomháin,phéinteáil siad radharcanna Inis Oírr ar na clocha. Buíochas don príomhoide Olive leis an am a chaith siad ag ullmhú an ealaíon dheas seo.

Here is the lovely artwork from students of Scoil Chaomháin, they painted scenery from around Inis Oírr on to stones. Thanks to principal Olive for the work and time she spent in preparing this beautiful artwork with the students.

CLAÍOCHA INIS OÍRR 2021 COLÁISTE GOBNAIT- TRISH CONNEELY ART TEACHER

Rinne scoláirí Choláiste Ghobnait staidéar ar bhallaí cloiche Inis Oírr. Chaitheamar trathnóna ag bailliú íomhanna, ag déanamh sceitseanna agus ag tógáil griangrafanna. Ansin phioc na scoláirí na híomhanna a thaitin leo agus rinne siad tarraingtí sa rang ealaíne. Bhain siad úsáid as meain meascaithe, idir peann luaidhe, dúch, uiscedhath agus peann luaidhe daite. Bhí muid ag breathnú ar structúr agus ar phatrún na mballaí, agus na tonnta álainne a bhíonn le feiceáil iontu.

The students of Coláiste Ghobnait made studies of the stone walls of Inis Oírr. We spent an afternoon collecting images through sketching and taking photographs. The students chose the images they liked best to develop into finished pieces in the art class. They used a variety of materials.....pencil, ink , watercolour and coloured pencil. We were focusing on the structure and pattern of the walls and the beautiful tonal qualities they hold.

Title: Eddie Farrelly in Conversation with Quarryman and Stone Cutter John McEvoy

Description - A conversation about traditional stone cutting in Ballyknockan, Co. Wicklow.

Title: Eddie Farrelly in Conversation with John McEvoy at Baltyboys Cemetery Description

- Two examples of locally crafted Memorial Headstones in Co. Wicklow.

Title: Ballyknockan Dry Stone Walls with Eddie Farrelly and John McEvoy

Description - A brief discussion on traditional dry stone walling practice in Ballyknockan, Co. Wicklow.

Title: as above except that Eddy is amended to Eddie - Community Walling by Eddie Farrelly

Description - Eddie Farrelly and Dom Keogh in a short conversation at a traditional dry stone field wall workshop in Kilmovee, Co. Mayo.

YELLOWHAMMER SURVEY IN SOUTH GALWAY

The Yellowhammer was formerly a widespread breeding species in Ireland but is now mainly restricted to the east and south. The breeding range of the Yellowhammer is strongly linked with the cultivation of cereals, so much so that their population has declined and disappeared from areas where cereals are no longer grown, to the extent that the species is included on the Red-list of the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland. A few isolated Yellowhammer populations are present in areas such as the Burren in County Clare and also small numbers of birds in Connemara in Galway.

In recent years, Yellowhammer have been recorded in an area of intensive agriculture in at Coldwood in south Galway, despite the fact that there is no cereal grown in this area. We undertook a survey to assess the size and status of the population and their habitat associations during the breeding and non-breeding season, with the objective of understanding whether this is a viable population and the conditions that allow Yellowhammer to remain here, which is well outside of their core range. We also collated records of Yellowhammer from throughout the county to identify other areas where Yellowhammer populations remain. Our survey showed that Yellowhammer occur in high densities at Coldwood but have an extremely limited breeding range, which is confined to a karst area surrounding a turlough with extensive pockets of Hawthorn and Hazel scrub which are used for nesting. Despite the small size, the population appears to be viable, with records indicating Yellowhammer have been present for over ten years.

We recorded a breeding density of 12 pairs per km², which is higher than recorded in most parts of the Yellowhammer range in Ireland. However, the limited breeding range of Yellowhammer is confined to the turlough, which is surrounded by improved pasture and there is little scope for population expansion. Outside of the breeding season, all Yellowhammer were recorded in the fields and farmyard of a stud farm which is located directly adjacent to the turlough. We recorded a maximum count of 22 birds in the stud farm during the winter months.

The turlough was avoided outside of the breeding season and no birds were recorded here outside of the period April to August. We also recorded and assessed Yellowhammer populations in three other locations in south and east Galway, all of which shared similarities in the geology and land use conditions to Coldwood, as are karst areas where horses are the main livestock. This survey shows that despite the low numbers and limited range, Yellowhammer can persist and seemingly thrive in confined areas where the conditions are suitable, even where there is no cereal present. This information should be used to target measures to benefit Yellowhammer in these important areas to ensure the populations remain viable and to explore the possibilities of population expansion through habitat creation and management. This initiative is being funded by National Biodiversity Action Plan and Galway County Council.

People and Nature: Galway County Biodiversity Project Website and Facebook Page
The website and Facebook page are used to disseminate biodiversity information to the public. Biodiversity information such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans, information on dealing with invasive species, advice, guidance can be found on the website. The Facebook page is used to promote various events and biodiversity initiatives.
<https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

The Heritage Office continued to work in partnership with the Museum of County Life Castlebar and various communities throughout the county to further develop this website. Both technical and heritage training has been provided to the groups throughout the year.

Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County – Continued to work with various groups and organisations on mapped and memorial inscriptions will be recorded and up loaded to www.galway.ie.

The Beo Schools Project with INSIGHT, NUIG and Galway Education Centre ongoing.

Participation on Committees/teams such as the Placenames Committee, Loughrea Heritage and Development Company, Creative Ireland.

Rolled out of the Heritage Grant Scheme as part of Galway County Council's Community Support Scheme Grants.

Townland Research

Working with Galway Community Heritage, GRD, Forum Connemara, Carna Emigration Centre and Cornamona on recording and documenting townland historical research.

The Golden Mile Calendar was produced in partnership with Galway Rural Development in 2021 and distributed throughout the county.

SIGNAGE FOR POLLINATORS

SIGNS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS AS WELL AS SOME COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SCHOOLS.



Arna bhainistiú ar
son an fhiadhúlra
Managed for Wildlife



National
Biodiversity
Data Centre
Forbairt na hÉireann, a hAontas
Reformáidíocht na hÉireann


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

www.pollinators.ie

Ná lom é (fós)



*Arna bhainistiú ar
son an fhiadhúlra*
Managed for Wildlife



www.pollinators.ie



GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

The Galway Community Archaeologist continues to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of our diverse archaeological resource among individuals and community groups in the county and promote heritage best practice in relation to researching and undertaking works relating to archaeological heritage.

An on-line presence has been promoted through the Galway Community Archaeology Website and social media. Community outreach projects include promotion of archaeological best practice for Community, Heritage and Tidy Towns Groups. Consultation is ongoing with the National Monuments Service and various heritage groups on numerous community projects. Working closely with Marie Mannion, Galway County Council Heritage Officer, Irish Walled Towns Network, National Monuments Service strengthened the role when consulting with the various groups and individuals requiring the assistance of the Community Archaeologist.

PROMOTION

A bi-lingual promotional flyer was produced which was distributed through the Heritage Office Mailing List and the PPN.

Facebook Page continues to gain popularity– [GalwayCommunityArchaeology](#) drives traffic from the social media page to the Galway Community Archaeology Website <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>.

Galway Community Archaeology Facebook has over 500 followers.

Galway Community Archaeology Instagram Account Set up May 2021

[GalwayHolyWellsAudit](#) co-ordinated by Zena Hctor has been affiliated with the website. Having contacted heritage groups via e-mail promoting the project a category under 'Community Archaeology' is dedicated to the project. The website category includes an interactive map.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Galway Community Archaeology Project promotes awareness, knowledge and understanding of our archaeological resources. We provide advice and guidance to individuals on a daily basis through telephone conversations, e-mails and on-line portals. Short videos produced targeted at Tidy Towns Groups and Community Groups to advise on the promotion of archaeology in the community through modern and sustainable techniques and the internet. We continue to forge partnerships between individuals, communities, academic

institutions, CHG, NGOs, farming organisations and the local authority. The following is an example of Community Outreach Projects 2021:

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/archaeology-climate-change-seandalaiocht-agus-an-tathru-aeaide>

It is also available through The Heritage Council's Heritage Week Website:

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/archaeology-and-climate-change>

The webinar is also accessible through Galway Community Archaeology Youtube Channel:

<https://youtu.be/DYIGybTM5gA>

SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

A presentation on ringforts via Zoom to 4th Class, Scoil Eanna, Bullaun was followed by a socially distanced site visit. A presentation was prepared for 5th Class, Scoil Eanna, Bullaun on the Plantations of Ulster and Munster, which was followed by a talk on The Battle of Aughrim.

A presentation on ringforts prepared for 6th Class Students of Bullaun N.S.2020 was made compatible with the See-Saw App. The school have archived the lessons for use again in the future as the need arises.

TY STUDENTS

Seamount Secondary School, Kinvara - Dungaigue Castle and Introduction to Local Archaeology.

Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew - Galway Forged Gates Project.

GMIT

A presentation with GMIT Heritage Students was arranged during Covid Restrictions. The on-line talk was arranged during Career Information Week. This was followed by an invitation to talk to interested students wanting to pursue a career in archaeology and community-based heritage work.

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND 2021

A total of twelve Galway Projects were forwarded for Community Monuments Funding in 2021 via The Heritage Office. The Community Archaeologist worked with the Heritage Officer in the administration of applications. Applications were prepared for Galway County Council and local community groups. This involved liaison with community groups, Galway County Council staff, National Monuments Service personnel and various heritage professionals.

Seven projects within the county received funding in 2021. We continue to advise and liaise with Community Groups, heritage professionals and National Monuments Service in implementing the works, administering funding and publicising all the work being carried out as required under the terms and conditions of grant scheme.

Link to County Galway CMF Projects 2021 <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/cmf21-galway-county>

PEOPLE AND PLACE

Working with The National Museum of Ireland, NUI Galway, ICAN and Woodlawn Heritage Group I arranged a visit from The National Museum of Ireland Representative to a gentleman in a nursing home. Maeve Sikora accompanied a Bronze Age Spearhead which was found by the gentleman some seventy-five years previously. A report is being prepared and photographs were printed on a local postcard. <https://woodlawn.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/people/doine-agus-ait>

STRAY FINDS

Reporting the discovery of stray archaeological objects in the county to the National Museum of Ireland

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & REPORTING

Galway County Council owned sites required Notifications prepared prior to works within the areas of constraint of archaeological monuments. Archaeological monitoring and reporting was carried out at an Sean Reilig, Maigh Cuilinn.

CREEDON'S ATLAS OF IRELAND

Participation in RTE Cork Creedon's Atlas of Ireland. John Creedon visited Knockma and local singer Sean Keane on the quest to find Queen Maedhbh's burial site. The Galway Community Archaeologist assisted with research for the programme and contributed to the film on two occasions. This shall be aired 2022.



John Creedon and Sean Keane being filmed at Knockma, County Galway

KINVARA COMMUNITY RADIO

Kinvara Community Radio invited the Community Archaeologist to introduce the on-line talk on Archaeology and Climate Change. The interview was aired on Saturday 19th June 2021 and is available to download here:

https://www.mixcloud.com/KinvaraFM/scattered-showers-on-kinvara-fm-19th-june-with-galway-community-archaeologist-bernie-doherty/?fbclid=IwAR2oOtCDN8Lk7fKC_EJGY_m7HNo7G4_mQRyuCe6OC3DfQWYadv6Xr0pEpO4

BEALTAINE EVENT

Farmstead or Fairy Fort – What do you call yours? <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/advice-for-community-groups/farmstead-or-fairy-fort>

CULTURE NIGHT

Promotion of a short film prepared by Atlantic Archaeology on archaeological finds during ongoing excavations in Ballinasloe. See <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/culture-night-film-preview>.

SIX ONE NEWS

Resulting from Culture Night Film on Ballinasloe Excavations we were invited to attend for an interview on national television during peak viewing. This highlighted the role of the Community Archaeologist in helping with communicating archaeological heritage throughout the wider community, not only within Galway, but nationally.

FARMING AND ARCHAEOLOGY

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO ON-LINE

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/galway-community-archaeology-project>

READING THE LANDSCAPE SEMINAR

Reading the Landscape on-line course during Covid Restrictions.

WESTERN FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

A presentation entitled 'Graveyards – More than old Headstones' was held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 was recorded and shared on their website to members. <http://wfha.info/>

HERITAGE WEEK 2021

The aim of having a Heritage Week Project is to promote at least one specific aspect of natural, cultural or built heritage, have an educational value and maximize community engagement. The Galway Community Archaeologist is available to community and heritage groups throughout the county to assist and help organise an event which can be promoted on-line. In 2021 The Galway Community Archaeologist contributed to eleven heritage week events, both on-line and in person.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/archaeology-climate-change-seandalaiocht-agus-an-tathru-aeaide>.

SALMON TO HOLY WELLS

The Local Authority Waters Programme invited Community Archaeologist to participate <https://vimeo.com/589881166>

AN OPEN DOOR TO HERITAGE

[Heritage Week Website Page](https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/an-open-door-to-archaeology-and-heritage) (<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/an-open-door-to-archaeology-and-heritage>) and Social Media Channels – using the hashtag #opendoor,

#heritageweek2021.

Instagram Link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CSytvHyN9uU/>

LEARNING FROM OUR HERITAGE SERIES

CRANNOGS:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/crannogs>

TOWER HOUSES:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/castles/tower-houses>

LOUGHREA CASTLE COMPETITION – INVOLVING CHILDREN IN HERITAGE WEEK

See Instagram Link: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CStmwvGLBvn/>

Galway COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY WEBSITE LINK:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/castles/loughrea-castle-competition-2>

VIRTUAL TOUR OF LOUGHREA

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/heritage-week/medieval-loughrea>

4.5.4 MEDIEVAL DEERPARK, LOUGHREA

This can be viewed via The Heritage Week Website of Galway Beo Facebook and Youtube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1gHbrQjk5c>



Screengrab from Film – Medieval Deerpark, Loughrea showing Dr. Fiona Beglane, B. Doherty and Dr. Christy Cunniffe in discussion.

GLENAMADDY BOYOUNAGH HERITAGE GROUP EVENT

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/heritage-week/glenamaddy-boyounagh-heritage-week>

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BALLYGLUNIN

In person Talk at Ballyglunin Station

Site Visits

Telephone queries and e-mails are often followed up with a site visit. The first part of 2021 was restricted due to Covid Restrictions, resulting in site visits being post-poned and re-scheduled. It was apparent that the general public had become more aware of and appreciative of their local heritage, wanting to know more, get guidance on how to access further information and assist in protecting it. Checking whether sites were previously recorded or newly discovered was an everyday occurrence during the pandemic, necessitating the need to be available to answer queries. Site visits were followed up with a Site Visit Report. Quite a number of visits resulted in follow -up Notification preparation for proposed works, advice and guidance for further works, and funding applications.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Community Groups continue to work in the protection and preservation of our monuments. A lot of this work is carried out voluntarily. It is sometimes necessary to curb the enthusiasm to ensure this work is carried out through best heritage practice and under correct legislative measures. Professional Archaeological input is very often required to ensure that works are carried out within best heritage practice. Preparation of method statements for notifications of proposed works within areas of constraints of recorded monuments is very often required prior to grant applications. Galway Community Archaeology Project works with many groups throughout the county in support of their work, encouraging their ongoing promotion of our archaeological heritage.

Advice on grant funding and the preparation of heritage plans or audits can often lead to grant funding success. Galway County Heritage Office promotes this route as best heritage practice and encourages groups to follow this model whenever possible. Assisting groups and individuals is paramount in the ongoing preservation and promotion of our heritage.

Announcements of grant funding are often prompt with a very short time-frame to have applications returned. Advice and guidance with applications is required as many groups do not have the resources to fund professional applications. Sometimes groups are not aware of funding and just need to be pointed in the right direction.

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUNDS – APPLICATIONS

Site visits, method statements and grant applications were prepared in support of Galway County Council's applications for Community Monuments Funds under National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Despite a very narrow window and tight schedule for submissions Galway County Council got a generous allocation of the funding, which contributes to seven projects within the county. See more [https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/community-monuments-fund-2021-](https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/community-monuments-fund-2021-2)

[2](https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/community-monuments-fund-2021-2)

HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

A number of heritage groups in the county received assistance and guidance with their applications for Heritage Council funding. This involved site visits, method statement preparations and advice on sourcing heritage professionals. Glinsk Church, Ballinakill was successful in securing funding for a conservation management plan 2021.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

Heritage professionals within various agencies requested guidance in their preparation of guides, signage, leaflets, programmes and handbooks. These include Peatlands and Communities, Irish Community Archive Network, Local Authorities Waters Programme and Tidy Towns Groups. The Community Archaeologist was also on the judging panel for the Cathaoirleach Awards 2021.

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND WORKS PROJECTS 2021:

Abbeygormacan Church and Graveyard (Abbeygormacan Cemetery Committee)

Abbeygormacan Cemetery Committee were successful in their funding application 2020 for conservation works to a collapsed medieval wall within the graveyard. This wall was part of the medieval abbey. Funding also incorporated a conservation plan which enabled further applications for funding and encouraged the local group in the future preservation and promotion of this Recorded Monument GA107:002 (Church and Graveyard). Works involved the trimming of ivy and stabilisation of a medieval wall. Mattieu and Mitchell, Moore Group Archaeological Services, John Britton Consulting Engineer and 7L Architects are worked together on the project under the project management of Abbeygormacan Cemetery Committee.

TRANSEPT CHAPEL

In 2021 works were concentrated within the transept chapel. An initial record of the church was prepared by Impact Archaeology, producing a 3D model of the chapel. The Hannon tomb proved more challenging than initially expected with the revelation of a supporting arch on removal of ivy. A buttress was also identified against the outer Northern wall. The deterioration of the stone itself added to the masons' challenge in making the structure safe. Method statements and the scope of works had to be updated throughout the project. Thanks to the ongoing support within the National Monuments Service and a dedicated team of heritage professionals works proceeded at a steady pace. The restoration of a double piscina, an architectural feature of the internal wall of the chancel was also completed.



Exposed arch of transept chapel, Abbeygormacan



The Hannon Tomb, Abbeygormacan

Further Information Available <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/abbeygormacan-2>

KILCLOONEY TOWER HOUSE (PRIVATELY OWNED)

A Conservation Management Plan was financed by Community Monuments Funding 2020. 2021 conservation works concentrated on stabilising the monument and making the structure waterproof. Works were monitored under license by Archaeologist Martin Fitzpatrick, supervised by Grade 1 Conservation Architect Fergal McNamara, 7L Architects and Conservation Engineer John Britton, Kinvara Konsult Ltd. Local stone masons Galway Stone based in Claregalway Castle were the contractors. A test excavation was also required on the roof of the building.

Kilclooney Tower House is a Recorded Monument (GA016:062001) in private ownership within a complex of archaeological monuments including a bawn, possible mill, souterrain, field systems of local and national importance. This is one of 129 castles or tower houses recorded for the County of Galway by the National Monuments Service. It is recorded as being in possession of Donell O Huiginn in 1574. A poem dated in the C16th refers to seventeen poets from Ulster being educated at Kilcooney.

Further background information is available on Milltown Heritage Group Website. <https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/townlands/milltowns-bardic-school>



Works 2021 at Kilclooney involved excavating material from the walls and roof to allow conservation works to proceed

ST. KERRILS, CLOONKEENKERRIL, GURTEEN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Gurteen Community Council)

St. Kerrill's Heritage Group, a sub-committee of Gurteen Community Council procured the services of 7L Architects to prepare a conservation management plan of St. Kerrills Abbey and graveyard through Community Monuments Funding 2021. Located in East Galway, this abbey has many fine medieval features. The Abbey, which is in ruins, is situated in a publicly owned (Galway County Council) graveyard that is the main cemetery within the parish of Gurteen. The surviving ruins of Saint Kerrill's Abbey consist of the 'much-repaired rectangular church with a south transept' (NMS Files). Interesting monuments include St. Kerrill's Bed, with a re-used carved headed corbel, the carved effigy of Bishop Edmond

Kelly (1658-1732), and various memorials and architectural features throughout the site.

See <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/cmf21-galway-county/st-kerrills-abbey-cloonkeenkerrill>



St. Kerrills Franciscan Abbey, Cloonkeenkerrill

KILBOGHT CHURCH & GRAVEYARD – CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recorded Monument (GA098-111). (Kilboght Restoration Group)

Kilboght Restoration Group secured funding under the Community Monuments Fund 2021 to prepare a Conservation Management plan for Kiboght Church and Graveyard. The group liaised with The Heritage Officer and Galway Community Archaeologist throughout the process from querying funding streams and advice on what works to apply for. A multidisciplinary team including a Conservation Architect, Structural Engineer, Archaeologist and Ecologist contributed to the plan in consultation with the graveyard committee, locals and Galway County Council. Peggy Doherty was instrumental in preparing the application, contributing local knowledge and expertise in the history of the site. A drone survey of the site was also carried out to assist in identifying associated sites in the area as well as assessing

the structure from above. <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/cmf21-galway-county/kilboght-church-and-graveyard>



Consultant Archaeologist and Conservation Architect on site at Kilboght, Kilreekil 2021

DOLPHIN TOMB, BULLAUN

Galway County Council procured the services of Howley Hayes Architects to manage conservation works at the Dolphin Tomb, Bullaun, Loughrea. Funding was approved from the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, local Government and Heritage under the Community Monuments Fund 2021. The chest tomb is located within Bullaun Graveyard, which is a Recorded Monument GA097:029.

Local stone masons Stankard Stone Structural Engineer Kerrill Lyndsy of Kinvara Consult and Consultant Archaeologist Dominic Delaney were engaged to prepare a method statement, scope of works and strategy in conserving and restoring the monument. Carra Plant Hire and MKO Ltd also provided their services which incorporated an initial ecological assessment, removal of ivy, disassembling the tomb, re-aligning the base structure and inserting supports. Archaeological monitoring and consultation was carried out throughout the process. The structure was re-assembled using the same masonry and traditional methods.



Dolphin Chest Tomb, Before and After works.



-Killora Church and graveyard



Arched Doorway, Killora

Galway County Council were successful in their application for funding a Conservation Management Plan for Killora Church and graveyard, Craughwell. The Conservation Management plan comprises input from a Conservation Architect, Ecologist, Archaeologist and Structural Engineer. The plan will inform Galway County Council and The National Monuments Service of the best heritage practice and proposals for a scope of works to conserve the Medieval Church. Killora Church and Graveyard is a Recorded Monument GA104-151, in the care of Galway County Council. Killora Church is a multi-period stone church, the earliest phase of which appears to date from the late 12th – early 13th

century. The graveyard that surrounds the church contains five grave slabs that are designated Recorded Monuments (GA104-151005-009), dating to the 16th/17th century. There is a souterrain (GA104-151002-) c. 30m to the W and a house (GA104-151004-) is also associated. See more

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/churches/killora-church-and-graveyard-craughwell>

KILTARTAN CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

Community Monuments Fund 2021 – Conservation Management Plan



KILTARTAN CHURCH

Galway County Council were successful in their application for funding a Conservation Management Plan for Kiltartan Church and graveyard. Funding was approved under the Community Monuments Fund 2021 by The National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Conservation Management plan comprises input from a Conservation Architect, Ecologist, Archaeologist and Structural Engineer. The plan will inform Galway County Council and The National Monuments Service of the best heritage practice and proposals for a scope of works to conserve the Medieval Church.

Kiltartan Church and Graveyard is a Recorded Monument GA122:104 in the ownership of Galway County Council. It is also a Protected Structure (RPS 413). It is a working graveyard. The remaining ruins date from the twelfth century. This medieval church was dedicated to St Attracta. Essential repairs were carried out during the Summer of 2021 when masonry had fallen onto graves from the gable. These works were carried out with the permission of the National Monuments Service, Galway County Council and monitored by an Archaeologist.

See More:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/churches/kiltartan-church-and-graveyard>



Local Area Heritage Audit training course 'Reading Your Local Landscape' and the production the 'Reading Your Local Landscape'

The aim of the Local Area Heritage Audit training course 'Reading Your Local Landscape' and the production the 'Reading Your Local Landscape' is to create a greater awareness, knowledge, understanding of and pride in the rich heritage assets of the County and demonstrate how they contribute to the character, culture and economy of a local area. This 3rd edition of the 'Reading the Landscape' bi-lingual publication is very important as it takes cognizance of new sources that have become available since the 2015 publication. In addition to this the Reading Your Local Landscape Applications Mentoring Course Dunmore 2021 was extremely important in feeding into the development of this new publication as it took cognizance of issues on the ground and also gave great insights into what people need in order delivery heritage projects and initiatives at the local level.

The benefits of the Reading Your Local Landscape Applications Mentoring Course Dunmore and the bi-lingual publication is that community groups and students are provided with information re. adhering to heritage best practice and listings of the most up to date available sources. This leads to them having a better awareness and knowledge of their local heritage assets and are increasing their understanding of this precious resource among their own local community, thereby safeguarding it for future generations. It allows them to undertake projects to best practice and also to write up their own local histories etc. In addition to this The 'Reading Your Local Landscape Applications' mentoring programme enabled the recently formed Dunmore Heritage Group to complete three heritage projects which highlight the unique heritage resources of their area. In doing so, they have heightened their profile amongst the local and wider community of County Galway. The resulting content of the projects provides a basis for further development. As the book is also available online it can be used by people anywhere not just the County of Galway. See: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/reading-your-local-landscape>



Then and Now Sound Map Phase 1 – 2021 Galway County Heritage’s Sound Map Sound maps are digital geographical maps that put emphasis on the sonic representation of a specific location they will be a legacy project with content being made available to all on the website www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org Sound maps are the most effective auditory archive of an environment. A key element of the map is including modern ambient sounds and archival recordings, the map presents both the past and present in its inclusion of a wide spectrum of sounds. Not only does this showcase the diversity of sound, it also encourages reflection about what makes up our sound heritage. The aim of the sound map was to generate greater awareness and understanding of the county’s towns and villages for both residents and tourists through the use of online technology. It is also decided to place a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling active community participation with regards to their heritage using archival type material and digital technologies. An output of the project is to create digital heritage content on <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/> In this phase of the project 6 towns and villages were chosen to be part of the first phase of this initiative. <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/sound-map-of-galway>

HISTORIAN IN RESIDENCE

Dr Conor McNamara was the Historian in Residence. The project started on 24th May 2021 ending on Friday 15th October 2021. The project was delivered remotely and online due to Covid19 restrictions.

The aim of this residency was to encourage Galway people at home and abroad to remember our shared history and to reflect on the events which shaped us. It aimed to allow us to uncover and explore the many other stories of the period, that reveal the intertwining of our history and our lives, as we remember those times. In addition to this the residency placed a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling active community participation and engagement in our Decade of Commemorations.

Galway County Council North Galway 1921 – 1923 Events that defined our history and impacted on our people Tuam Herald newspaper insert.

This was a collaborative project between Galway County Council, The Tuam Herald newspaper and various heritage groups and people interested in this time period.

The insert included various articles written in the newspaper in the 1921- 1923-time period. It also looked at these aspects of our heritage through our 'eyes today'. Topics covered include:

1. Local connections with the significant events that occurred in 1921.
2. Civic leaders and local personalities in the North Galway 1921 – 1923.
3. Emigration and the Diaspora 1921 – 1923.
4. Economic conditions in North Galway 1921 – 1923 including agriculture, industry, shops etc
5. The lives of women and families
6. Work, sport, entertainment in 1921-23
7. The Big House and Breaking up of the estates (Land Commission)

It covered a wide area of north and east Galway, including of course Tuam but also Headford, Milltown, Dunmore, Mountbellew, Ballygar, Corofin and smaller places in terms of military engagements and Black and Tan terror. The article on the Sack of Tuam presents that pivotal event from a new angle.

Equally if not more valuable are the many sociological articles. The role of women is highlighted, particularly that of Senator Eileen Costello, one of the four female members of the first Seanad Éireann, and the story of the bold women of Kilconly who were to the forefront in the cattle and sheep drives there, not to mention the article on the neighbour widows from different sides of the social divide, Agnes Shawe-Tawlor and Margaret Egan.

The article on the boycott of Belfast goods by the Tuam Traders is also noteworthy, and that on the destruction of the Big Houses.

All sides are covered, from the RIC casualties to the hated D Company of the Auxiliaries and their notorious commanding officers.

The list of the Galway casualties by Dr Conor McNamara is to the best of my knowledge the first to be published in total, including as it does Volunteers, civilians, RIC and Crown Forces — 54 in all.

This supplement was published as part of Tuam Herald issue of Wednesday November 3 and would have had a readership of about 25,000 throughout north and east Galway.

GALWAY FORGED GATES PROJECT

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape in county Galway. These field gates were for the most part forged in the local blacksmith's forge.

They are practical and functional while at the same time are an artistic expression of the blacksmith who made them. During the twentieth century cast-iron, tubular steel and other mass-produced gates became more common while at the same time the forged wrought iron gates went into decline as did the blacksmiths forge. In addition to this changing farming practices has led to many of these gates being abandoned in hedges and fields throughout the county, as the older forged wrought iron field gates became too small to accommodate new big machines entering fields. However, to the careful observer there are still many beautifully crafted wrought iron field gates to be found around the county.

According to ICMOS "The built vernacular heritage is important; it is the fundamental expression of the culture of a community, of its relationship with its territory and, at the same time, the expression of the world's cultural diversity."

Therefore, the aim of this project is to identify, record, raise awareness and knowledge of the wealth of wrought iron field gates that are to be found in the county of Galway. It will also seek to identify the names of the local blacksmiths and their forges.

GALWAY 2021 FORGED GATES PROJECT

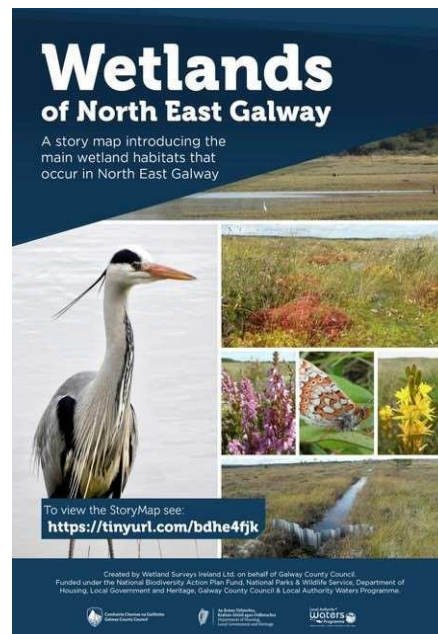
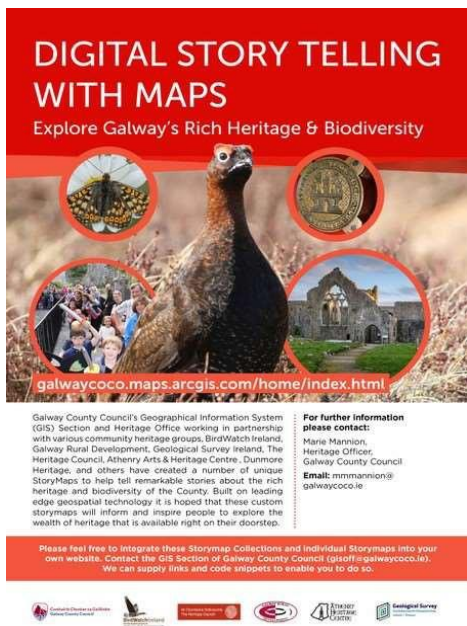


In this first phase of the project Galway County Council’s Heritage Office worked with Skehana Heritage Group and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew. Over 200 hundred locally forged gates have been recorded and in addition to this photographs of the remaining local forges were taken and interviews, podcasts and recordings were undertaken with members of the local community including farmers, blacksmiths, descendants of blacksmiths and others who have knowledge of the work of the blacksmith and the forged gates of the area.

FUNDING

This project was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council with voluntary contributions from Skehana Heritage and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew

See <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-forged-gates-project>



Digital story telling with Maps: Explore Galway’s rich heritage and biodiversity

Galway County Council’s Geographical Information System (GIS) Section and Heritage Office working in partnership with Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, The Heritage Council, and others have created a number of unique StoryMaps to help tell remarkable stories about the rich heritage of medieval Athenry.

Built on leading edge geospatial technology it is hoped that these custom storymaps will inform and inspire people to explore the wealth of heritage that is available right on their doorstep.

These StoryMaps bring together the latest mapping technology with text, images and multimedia content to tell powerful location based stories accessible from any internet enabled device with a Web Browser including Tablets and Phones. They are therefore an ideal tool to communicate the story of our rich heritage of the medieval town of Athenry.

StoryMaps are a simple yet powerful way to share information and enlighten, engage, and inspire people with stories that relate to locations of interest around us. They incorporate location and mapping into the context of a story.

Using this multimedia approach has very strong potential for public engagement. Essentially anything that can be shown on a map can be the subject of a story map!

The following are links to the heritage and biodiversity StoryMaps:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/0969f37a469f4ee8aa67a11e12d95421>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb4b36234999120>

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

Galway County Council continued to work to implement the statutory legislation set out in Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which provides for the protection of the architectural heritage, which is a unique resource for County Galway. This included the provision of advice to the statutory agencies, local communities and to owners and occupiers of buildings and places of special architectural merit.

The Conservation Unit continued in 2021 to promote awareness of historic buildings and places and the traditional skills and materials necessary to secure their survival into the future. Best practice in conservation and traditional skills was promoted through various conservation projects, and in cooperation with national bodies and community groups in securing the conservation of traditional buildings of special interest.

A collaborative approach was adopted to promote place making with local communities to make our towns and villages better places to live, visit and work.

The following are the core activities undertaken in 2021:

- Identified, evaluated and provided advice on structures, groups of structures, areas and other features of architectural heritage significance and provided advice to owners and occupiers of historic structures on good practice and on the availability of assistance, including financial assistance, for such conservation.
- Preplanning consultations and advice given on architectural conservation within the local authority and to the statutory and non-statutory bodies.
- Assessed structures on Record of Protected Structures (RPS) with a view to issuing Declarations as to works that require planning permission and provide pre planning advice to owners /occupiers. Reported and advised on planning applications where architectural heritage issues arise.
- Monitored the state of repair of structures on RPS, and as necessary, made recommendations on the need, if any, for the planning authority to take enforcement action.
- Inspected and assessed structures for inclusion on RPS, including a Section 55 review of proposed additions and deletions. The Elected Members considered and decided on these proposals at the January 2020 County Council Meeting, adding 4 structures and deleting one, leaving a total of 1524 structures on the Record of Protected Structures.
- Carried out Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) assessments, including of historic demesnes.
- Maintained the Architectural Inventory System (AIS) database of protected structures in liaison with GIS section.

- Input into relevant chapters of County Development Plan review.
- Liaison with community groups and statutory bodies regarding the conservation of graveyards.
- Liaised with local communities and tourism development bodies regarding Tidy Towns.
- Liaison with ICOMOS Ireland
- Participant in Creative Ireland Team.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2021

The **Historic Structures Fund** invests essential capital in our valuable built heritage and helps the owners and custodians of historic structures to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

The core aims of this fund are to:

☑ **enable** larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;

☑ **encourage** the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets;

☑ **support** the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use.

The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in the project.

The Historic Structures Fund provides capital funding for works to qualifying structures which include the following:

(i) Protected Structures: Structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each Local Authority;

(ii) Structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS but not yet formally approved for inclusion. Such structures must meet the criteria for inclusion in the RPS by the Local Authority, i.e. must be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view;

(iii) Structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances apply.

The Scheme was advertised, and recommendations made from 14 applications received.

Funding of €50,000 was received for repairs to Cill Einde, An Spideal and a further €50,000 for Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Colmcille Church, Leitirimoir



Cill Einde An Spideal, repairs to masonry and roof



Leitirmoir ; Repairs to roof to prevent water ingress

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2021

The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme** seeks to encourage the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The scheme is designed to assist the owners/occupiers of protected structures.

Galway was allocated €94,000 which was fully allocated to 18 projects, including thatching roofs, repair of slate roofs, repair of sash windows and stain glass, throughout the county providing 355 days of employment to skilled tradesmen and women, and professional advisors in building conservation.

TABLE OF FUNDING UNDER THE BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2021

Ref. Number	Structure	Works	Paid
BHIS 21/01	Church, Society Street , Ballinasloe	Repair windows	€5,440
BHIS 21/02	Park House , Eyrecourt	Roof windows	€3888
BHIS 21/05	The Bay, Woodford	Repair roof	€10,000
BHIS 21/07	Main Street Loughrea	Repairs to staircase	€5000
BHIS 21/09	Esker Monastery	Repairs to roof	€10,000
BHIS 21/10	Cottage, Cluiderevagh	Repair lime render	€2960
BHIS 21/11	Moorfield House	Repair windows	€5000
BHIS 21/13	St Patricks Church Derrybrien	Repairs to stain glass window	€5000
BHIS 21/15	House Oranmore	Repairs & restoration of railings	€2,800
BHIS 20/22	House 7/7A Dunlo St, Ballinasloe	Repair Roof and chimney	€7,000
BHIS 20/30	Kylemore House, Connemara	Repairs to render	€5000
BHIS 21/16	Ffrench mausoleum, Monivea	Repair roof and windows	€7413
BHIS 21/19	Clareville Oughterard	Repair to timber sash windows	€10,000
BHIS 21/20	Cartron House, Aghrim	Repair to entrance	€3000
BHIS 21/21	Kilcummin Parish Church	Repair to roof	€5404
BHIS 21/25	Forge Gort	Repair to roof	€2500
BHIS 21/27	Rockmore House	Repair to roof	€7568
BHIS 21/28	Lissbeg House	Repair to sash windows	€6627



Repair to lime render, Cluidrevagh



Repairs underway to roof of French Mausoleum, Monivea protecting the magnificent mausoleum and carved marble below



Repairs to roof of The Bay, Woodford



19th Century timber sash windows repaired at Lissbeg House.



Stained glass window repair St Patrick's Church, Derrybrien.

HISTORIC ASSETS

The Historic Assets group works in a cross departmental manner within Galway County Council to manage strategically buildings in the ownership of the local authority which are on the Record of Protected Structures or landmark buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area. In 2021 the Architectural Conservation office liaised with the regeneration team on the refurbishment of the former courthouse in Portumna, the Town Halls in Loughrea and Tuam and on town centre refurbishment and regeneration .

RAISING AWARENESS

Galway Architectural Conservation unit supported **Architecture at the Edge** which is a weekend celebration of architecture in the West of Ireland.

Featuring a series of online talks, tours, workshops and exhibitions, the festival invited people of all ages to explore the built environment of their city and county. Architecture at the Edge encourages debate on standards of urban design, planning and sustainability through public engagement in a variety of events in 2021.

A short film was commissioned by the Architectural Conservation Office on guttering and repairs carried out to Oughterard Parish church with the cooperation of the parish council

GORT

With Galway County Council **Creative Ireland** funding The Conservation Unit supported ICOMOS *Baile* Small town and Village group and Burren Lowland Development group in engaging with owners of houses in the town centre to promote energy efficiency in traditionally built structures in the historic town centre.



Gort - a more sustainable place to live and work



CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Unit offers trusted and consistent excellence in administrative services to the Elected Members, Plenary Council, Senior Management and the general public. The Unit aims to continually develop a positive Corporate image of the Council, through the provision of efficient professional support services in the form of Corporate Secretariat to the Council and its sub-structure as well as a wide variety of services including the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, Promotion of the Irish Language, Recreation & Amenity Policies, Customer Services, Casual Trading, Corporate Policies, Management and Servicing of the Council Office Network, Archives and Records Management, Library Services, Internal Audit and Legal Services.

Progress and achievements of the Unit for 2021 are presented below appropriate to the relevant strategic priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

CORPORATE PLANNING & SUPPORT

Galway County Council's Plenary Council of 39 members met for eleven monthly meetings in 2021, to carry out their Reserved functions and consider the social, economic and cultural issues critical to the sustainable development of the County in line with the Strategic Priorities and Objectives of the Corporate Plan.

To comply with Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, the February, March, April and December Plenary Meetings were held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

In compliance with Government Covid -19 guidelines and to ensure social distancing requirements the Plenary Meetings went on circuit for the remaining months. Meetings were held at the following locations during this time:

- Corandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway
- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Dublin Road, Galway

The Annual Meeting of the Plenary Council was held on 18th June 2021 in Glenamaddy Community School, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. Cllr. Peter Keaveney was elected to replace Cllr. James Charity as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Jim Cuddy was elected to replace Cllr. Peter Roche as Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The Council held its Annual Statutory Budget Meeting on 29th November 2021 in Corrandulla Sports Hall, Cor an Dola, Co. Galway to consider and adopt the 2022 Revenue Budget and Three-Year Capital Programme.



Cllr. Peter Keaveney was elected as Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway on the 18th June 2021.



Cllr. Jim Cuddy was elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway on the 18th June 2021.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Monthly Meetings of the Council	Meetings
Ordinary Monthly Meetings	11
Special Meeting	2
Annual Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group is organised and administered by Corporate Services and is supported by the Chief Executive.

Corporate Policy Group	Meetings
Corporate Policy Group	10

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

In accordance with Section 35(4) and 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 Galway County Council operates a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in conjunction with local Garda Síochána management and in accordance with Revised JPC Guidelines issued in 2014. The function of a Joint Policing Committee is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: “The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”. The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, the Local Authority, Community Representatives, and the Elected Local Representatives. During 2021, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work, in addressing local issues collectively and strategically.

The JPC held its regular JPC Meetings on 8 February, 17 May, 13 September and 8 November 2021. The Annual Public Meeting did not take place due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The continuing work of two sub-committees afforded the JPC the opportunity to progress strategic objectives of the 6-Year Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JPC

The following table shows the numbers applicable for each category of membership for the County Galway Joint Policing Committee.

Local Authority Elected Members	Oireachtas Members	Local Authority Officials	An Garda Síochána	Community/Voluntary Representatives
15	3	2	8	7

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for County Galway (excluding Galway City area). The Register of Electors for 2021/2022 was published on the 1st February 2021. The total number of Electors on the 2021/2022 Register of Electors was 141,050.

The Draft Register of Electors was prepared in line with statutory deadlines in November 2021. A Revision Court was held by the County Registrar for the purpose of hearing any claims, objections for the revision and amendment of the Lists of Voters at Áras an Chontae on Tuesday 7th December 2021.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT/DATA PROTECTION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A total of 137 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2021 under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Decision	Number*
Requests Granted	52
Requests Part-granted	43
Requests Refused	36
Requests Transferred	0
Requests Withdrawn	5
Withdrawn and handled outside of FOI	5

*7 cases were carried forward from 2020 and as of year-end 2021, 3 cases were carried forward to 2022

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of 25 requests were received by Galway County Council during 2021 under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018.

Decision	Number*
Requests Granted	10
Requests Part-granted	4
Requests Refused	7
Requests Transferred	0
Requests Withdrawn	1
Requests Withdrawn and handled under FOI	1

*0 cases were carried forward from 2020 and as of year-end 2021, 2 cases were carried forward to 2022

DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

In performing its functions, Galway County Council is required to process significant amounts of "Personal Data" within the meaning of the Data Protection Acts and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Galway County Council respects the privacy rights of those whose personal data we process, and we are conscious of our obligations under Data Protection Law.

Galway County Council's commitment is that the personal data individuals may be required to supply to us is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Obtained for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes

- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and securely and where necessary kept up to date
- Kept only for as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was obtained
- Kept in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed only in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing.

During 2021, a Data Protection Management System was implemented across the organisation to assist with the continued compliance of Galway County Council with GDPR and Data Protection Law.

Staff Training 2021

Staff training in relation to Data Protection & Cyber Security was provided online. A Staff Newsletter was published quarterly to promote awareness in relation to Data Protection.

Data Subject Access Requests 2021

19 Subject Access Requests were received and responded to.

The Council's Data Protection Officer is part of the Corporate Services Team and can be contacted by email at: dpo@galwaycoco.ie or by phone at: (091) 509319.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The Facilities Section completed energy saving and energy efficiency projects to buildings occupied by Galway County Council. These included the installation of new LED lighting project at Westside library and the replacement of existing office light with new LED appliances.
- Improvement works to the heating system at Tuam MD office and Ballinasloe Library & Gallery buildings were also undertaken.
- Fire safety and energy efficiency works, and new office layout works commenced in the Clifden Library and Office.
- The Facilities Section continued to provide caretaking and facilities management services for the Council's building network of offices and libraries, of which 26 no. are directly owned by Galway County Council. There are presently 38 different types of planned preventative maintenance contracts in place which give rise to over 1,500 different inspections across this network of buildings.
- The Facilities Unit continued to undertake procurement processes for a range of facilities management related contracts to ensure value for money and quality of services are maintained.
- A CCTV register was established for all Offices & Libraries to comply with the requirements of GDPR.
- The Facilities Section also delivered a wide range of works in accordance with the Covid 19 Action Plan to ensure that buildings and facilities met public health requirements in accordance with national and sectoral guidance.

- The facilities Section carried out Office refurbishment upgrade and fire safety improvement works to the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub.
- Facilities carried out works to the roof drainage system at the Ballinasloe Gallery building in resolving a long-standing water ingress issue.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT & ENERGY REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- New energy efficiency solar control windows were fitted to Westside Library. Improvements works to interior fabric of the building were also completed.
- Energy efficiency monitoring and management continued to be a priority focus for the facilities unit.
- County Hall continued to improve its operational Building Energy Rating (BER).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The Corporate Services Unit continued to deliver on its requirements under the Safety Management Programme in areas such as PAT testing, legionella testing, periodic testing of electrical installations, VDU assessments for all Offices and Libraries, fire alarm and emergency light testing & maintenance programme, statutory inspection and maintenance of passenger lifts, roof access systems and heating system operating on Gas.
- Health & Safety Inspections continued to be carried out on a regular basis in line with implementation of the Council's Health & Safety Management Plan.
- Rinvile Park landscaping maintenance was undertaken while continuing to work in conjunction with the local Community & Employment Scheme. Upgrade works were completed to the public seating areas and waste collection facilities.
- Facilities in collaboration with our Human Resources section, undertake the role out of Fire Warden training.

COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE/CORONERS SERVICE

The Community Wardens are a uniformed service of the Local Authority with several roles across a range of Local Authority functions including:

- Enforcement - statutory traffic offences, litter offences, abandoned vehicles, waste disposal/illegal dumping, dog licenses and casual trading.
- Monitoring - housing estates, public amenities such as recycling centres, bring banks, parks, beaches and playgrounds.
- Assistance – to tourists, elderly, schools, neighborhood communities, An Garda Síochana and other state agencies.



- Litter pollution/Derelict Sites Surveys were carried out, whilst regular inspections of playgrounds, parks Local Authority estates, Halting Sites, pier, ring buoys and bottle banks continued to be undertaken by the Community Wardens during 2021 and the assistance with Community Clean ups continued during the year.
- 1340 investigations under Air Pollution, Waste Management and Water Pollution legislation were carried out.
- 240 surveys were carried out by the Community Wardens Service in relation to litter pollution in accordance with National Service indicators.
- Environmental Enforcement including the issuing of litter fines and notices under the Waste Management and Water Pollution Acts continued to be undertaken by the Community wardens. A total of 67 litter fines were issued in 2021.
- Community Wardens continued to assist with the operation of pay and display parking and the implementation of traffic management plans in several towns across the County.
- The Housing Department request the services of the Community Wardens in implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996.
- Dog licensing inspection campaigns also continued throughout the year.
- Community Wardens under the Roads Act 1993 assisted in the removal of abandoned vehicles throughout the year.

CORONERS SERVICE

The Council continued to provide administrative support for the processing of all payments of fees for the City and County Coroners Service. The full cost of the Coroners Service is borne by the Council through its revenue budget, with no mechanism for recoupment.

INTERNAL AUDIT/LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE

The 2021 Internal Audit Plan which forms the Internal Audit annual programme of work was drawn up in conjunction with the Chief Executive, Audit Committee and the Head of the Internal Audit Team.

The plan contained 8 areas for audit examination as listed below:

- I.A.21.01 – Pay & Display Parking
- I.A.21.02 – Litter Fines
- I.A.21.03 – Housing Rent Collection & Arrears Management
- I.A.21.04 – Public Spending Code
- I.A.21.05 – Comparison of 2019 – v – 2020 Travel & Subsistence
- I.A.21.06 – Review of 2020 Fire Service Charge
- I.A.21.07 – Vacant Homes Action Plan Strategy 2018-2021
- I.A.21.08 – Community Warden Service

Six of the audits above were completed and presented to the Audit Committee, two audits Ref IA21.07 and IA21.08 were not completed during the year. One of the proposed audits has been removed and excluded from review due to proposed changes in the provision of the service (I.A.21.08), with the remaining audit being carried forward for completion in Audit Plan 2022.

The following audits from the 2020 Internal Audit Programme of work were presented to the Audit Committee at various meetings held throughout 2021

I.A.20.05 Compliance with GDPR Regulations

I.A.20.07 – Review of the Risk Management Arrangements

There were four Audit Committee meetings held in 2021, with a strong participation from all members at each meeting.

Audit Committee Members	Meeting Dates			
	14/12/2021	23/11/2021	07/09/2021	15/06/2021
Mr. Des Mahon, Cathaoirleach	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Seamus Duffy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms. Sarah Roarty	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. James Charity	✓	✓		
Cllr. Liam Carrol	✓	✓	✓	✓

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Department continued to provide legal and advisory services for all programme areas and Directorates during the 2nd year of the Covid 19 Pandemic which also necessitated taking particular measures to ensure continued service to the council whilst protecting the staff within the unit. These services included the acquisition and sale of properties, an area of practice which returned to usual levels in the latter half of 2021, the conduct of litigation to include District Court enforcement prosecutions, Circuit and High Court, including Judicial Review, all of which resumed to normal levels as the year progressed. The completion of land acquisitions, CPOs on inter-urban routes and road widening schemes, were also substantial areas of work for the Law Agent Unit despite the continued restrictions represented by Covid 19 in the initial months of 2021.

The Case Management System, which facilitates the use of templates to create workflows for the efficient and cost-effective delivery of legal services, continues to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Work has continued on the council Register of Lands, in co-operation with our partners in other units such as IT, Finance and Housing. Significant progress has been achieved in terms of the Register, and indeed on the Archiving of old files, through the use of Remote Working helping to ensure high staff productivity during this challenging period.

OPERATION OF MARKETS. CASUAL TRADING & FILM LICENCES

The Casual Trading License year runs from the 1st April until the 31st March. Licenses are issued annually on payment of a fee for a number of towns and villages throughout the County in line with the Casual Trading Byelaws.

The locations of the towns and villages are as follows:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Dunmore
- Gort
- Headford
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Tuam
- Portumna

CASUAL TRADING BAYS

Annual Licenses	
Area	No. of Licenses issued
Athenry	5
Ballinasloe (St. Mary's Square)	3
Clifden	9
Dunmore	1
Gort	8
Headford	1
Loughrea	2
Mountbellew	7
Portumna	3
Tuam	6

Special Event Licences	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Tuam	1
Ballinasloe	2
Permits for Ice Cream Vendors at Designated Beaches/Park	
Area	No. of Licences Issued
Tracht, Kinvara	1
An Spidéal	1
Tra na bhForbacha	1
An Trá Mhór	1
Dogs Bay Beach, Roundstone	1

FILM LICENCES

During the course of 2021 Corporate Services received 24 requests from film production companies for use of public property to film. Some of the requests were for a day whilst others would extend to a few days.

RECREATION, AMENITY, PARKS & OPEN SPACES

Playgrounds

Galway County Council continues to invest in play facilities in the County by providing public liability insurance to a number of community managed playgrounds as part of formal maintenance agreements with local groups, as well as the direct maintenance of playgrounds in our main towns. In accordance with previous commitments under the Council's Play Policy, assistance has been provided to playgrounds through direct funding and provision of insurance. To-date, a total of 75 playgrounds have been developed in the County, under this policy which provides one of the most extensive networks of playgrounds in any County available free of charge to residents of all main settlement centres and in key tourist locations.

Galway County Council facilitated the installation of 3 communication boards for our playgrounds, Palace Grounds, Tuam, Gort Road, Loughrea and St Michaels, Ballinasloe during 2021.



The boards are primarily a communications support, with particular benefit to children or adults who are either pre-verbal or non-verbal and/or have communication difficulties. Communication Boards, which include picture representations of day-to-day core words, as well as images that are specifically tailored for its environment and the location for which it is proposed, help bridge this communication gap for everyone. The boards represent and offer a unique opportunity for the community to communicate and connect with each other in a new way. The communications board are bilingual (Irish and English).

The on-line inspection 'app' continued to work well in 2021 as it assists Community Wardens carry out inspections using their smartphones and submit reports automatically. Reports are automatically filed providing a record of weekly inspections required for maintenance and insurance purposes.

THE WATER SAFETY PROGRAMME

The Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of 55 trained lifeguards to provide services to Sixteen locations in the County (including six Blue flag beaches) and at six locations under the jurisdiction of Galway City Council as part of the Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council, with two lifeguards at a minimum at all beaches in compliance with international Lifeguarding Federation of Europe (ILSE).

Preparation for the lifeguard season starts in late February where a recruitment process is advertised. Pool tests and interviews took place in April. Services commenced on the beaches on the 29th May 2021 and continued until the 12th September 2021.

The upgrading of equipment and a review of procedures is an ongoing process as well as hut preparation and repairs/maintenance schedule agreed and delivered.

A Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) continues to be appointed on a part-time basis. The role includes supervision of the Water Safety Lifeguard Programme, development of the service as well as commenting on the water safety aspects of applications to both Galway County and city in relation to events involving the use of water.

RINVILLE PARK, MAREE, ORANMORE

Rinville Park is one of the County's largest parks, with a network of walkways, a playground, and an outdoor gym. Rinville Park is managed by Galway County Council is owned jointly by Galway County Council and Galway City Council. It is a designated location on the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. It is used extensively by local residents, visitors, and local organisations such as Scouting Groups.

A seasonal Caretaker was employed by the Council from March to October 2021. A Concession for the provision to sell light refreshments at Rinville Park from March to September was continued.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, a one-way system was put into operation at Rinville Park and guidance signage was erected in line with restrictions that were in place at the time.



Picnic seating at Rinville Park Oranmore

PALACE GROUNDS, TUAM

Support was provided for Palace Grounds Park area in Tuam, and a maintenance programme was implemented by the Tuam Municipal District Office in association with a Council sponsored Community Employment (CE) Scheme. Tuam Tennis Court located within the Palace Grounds is managed by Galway County Council.



In 2021, Palace Grounds were awarded the Green Flag status by An Taisce acknowledging Ireland's best public parks and gardens

The Palace Grounds is a vital part of the town's living history, a place where the people of Tuam connect with nature. The park is a safe home for nature, a climate-proofed place enabling healthy living, and the sharing of memories and stories. The Palace Grounds is an oasis for well-being and is enjoyed by a very broad spectrum of visitors from a regional spread. It is often used as physical activity and recreational hub to encourage the participation of people in sport, physical activity and active living.

The Green Flag was raised by Cathaoirleach Peter Keaveney on the 24th November 2021.



DUNLO ATHLETIC TRACK, BALLINASLOE

Dunlo Athletic Track is a valuable amenity for the community of Ballinasloe and East Galway region in the ownership of Galway County Council. The operation and availability of the facility was impacted by the Covid-19 related restrictions for periods during 2021.

Galway County Council acknowledges the support of the TUS programme in the provision of services at the facility. The support services provided under the Scheme supports the

operation of the facility and ensures that the facilities can be made available for the enjoyment and benefit of the local community and clubs.



LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Strategic Priority: to enhance the well-being of the county, its communities and people, developing sustainable communities, maximizing social inclusion and supporting active citizenship.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME

Galway Public Libraries continued to provide an invaluable service to communities and individuals, in 2021, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Libraries continue to be an important resource for children, adults and families in Galway city and county.

Galway Public Libraries provide a diverse range of services:

- 29 Branch Libraries
- Mobile library service
- Schools service for primary and post-primary schools
- Archives Department
- Local History service
- Audio-Book Service for persons with a visual impairment
- Online resources including e-books & e-audio books

The active library membership for Galway Public Libraries was 22,508

In 2021, 504,912 items were issued (this figure includes ebooks and eaudio books) and there were 180,257* visits to our libraries (* this figure reflects the fact that branch libraries were closed for a few months in early 2021 due to the pandemic)

INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES IN 2021:

- Libraries remained one of the most visited public spaces in County Galway. Our libraries are established civic and cultural centres in their communities, a free amenity with a welcome for all.
- The National Distribution service continues to be popular. Public reaction to this service has been hugely positive due to the availability of out-of-print titles, access to new fiction and non-fiction and course textbooks
- Public internet access was upgraded in branch libraries throughout the city and county
- Staff training on the use of online resources and active promotion of same contributed to a significant rise in usage.
- ISO45001 accreditation was achieved for the library service as part of Galway County Council's accreditation process.
- A successful funding application was made to the Dormant Accounts Fund to enable programming for marginalized, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities Funding was also received to provide digital equity and social inclusion programmes and to facilitate the purchase of literacy, numeracy and digital skills licenses and apps.
- Essential maintenance of selected library branches was funded via Small Scale Capital Works grants.
- A new Sensory Room was completed in Westside Library.
- Galway Public library HQ went through a major refurbishment project. It was started in 2020 but was put on hold due to the various lockdowns and was finished in 2021.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES:

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Galway Public Libraries participates in the national Healthy Ireland at Your Library Initiative which aims to establish public libraries as a valuable source of health information for communities. The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme addresses six key areas- Healthy Childhood, Healthy Eating and Active Living, Wellbeing and Mental Health, Positive Ageing, Alcohol and Tobacco.

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme enhances current health information in Galway Public Libraries by providing a comprehensive collection of new books, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and online courses on health and well-being. The Healthy Ireland book stock and online resources are complemented by a series of online and in-branch talks and workshops with a focus on physical and mental health and health literacy.

In 2021, Galway Public Libraries Healthy Ireland programme featured 25 online talks and workshops on topics including healthy nutrition, getting fit and staying active, understanding menopause, parenting anxious children, sleep hygiene, preventing and recovering from burnout, work wellness

and managing allergies. A selection of Irish language talks on various health topics were shared via Galway Public Libraries' social media and YouTube channel.



RIGHT TO READ

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages. Launched as part of the *Opportunities for All: the public library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development 2013-2017* (Public Libraries' strategy), it currently includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy. The four programmes are as follows:

- Spring into Storytime
- Summer Stars
- Children's Book Festival
- Family Time at Your Library

During the months of April and May, Galway Public Libraries hosted numerous online story-time and craft workshops to celebrate **Spring into Storytime**.



The **Summer Stars** reading challenge took place throughout the county with 2,444 children registering to take part.



Family Time at Your Library was a great success with events hosted at family friendly times. Galway Public Libraries was awarded a Right to Read Champion's Award from Libraries Ireland in recognition of our advocacy and promotion of literacy. The library service chairs the local Right to Read Network, which includes representatives of agencies working in the area of literacy development and support

Children's Book Festival 'Book It!' was held in October with several online and in branch events including visits by authors and storytellers



The Little Library Book Bag initiative is a new collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Galway Public Libraries distributed over 1,200 Little Library Book Bags to over 300 Early Learning Centres in county Galway.



WORK MATTERS:

Work matters is a service to support small businesses and people seeking employment or up-skilling. Galway Public Libraries offers the following services to individuals and businesses:

- Dedicated Work Matters space in library branches, with computers, broadband and wi-fi, printing and scanning facilities
- Book-stock and online resources to support employment and businesses
- Expertise of library staff
- Events and programming on business and employment
- Work Matters and online resources brochures

Work Matters hubs are located in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City Centre Library.



CREATIVE IRELAND PROJECTS

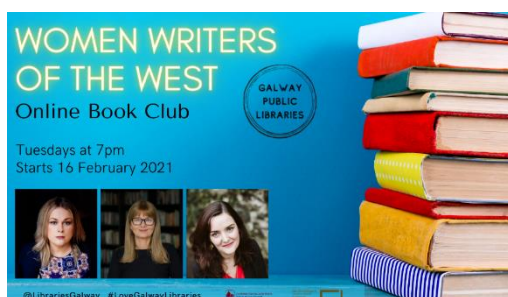
- ***Galway's Great Read 2021***, under the title "Westward Ho! A Ramble Through Galway 1840-1950" centred around travel writers and travel literature from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s and examined some of the wonderful travel literature held in Galway Public libraries' extensive book collection.



The project included: A series of online talks on travel writers and travel; A collection of essays published under the title *Westward Ho! A Ramble through Galway 1840-1950* and a travel documentary film titled *Westward Ho! Travel Writers Remembered*. Access to all talks and the documentary are available on Galway Public Libraries YouTube Channel



“Women Writers of the West” - an online reading groups and series of online workshops celebrated three award-winning local authors, Nuala O’Connor, Mary Costello and Elaine Feeney



Emily Cullen getting ready to host “Women Writers of the West”, part of Galway’s Great Read Programme

Cruinniú na nÓg was celebrated on June 15th, supported by Creative Ireland and celebrated in several library branches throughout the municipal districts.

The project, WALL OF WORDS: Imagine Create Evoke a Climate of Hope organised by Galway Public Libraries and funded by Creative Ireland for Cruinniú na nÓg 2021 was a collaboration between Galway Public Libraries, primary schools, and five poets Luke Morgan, Emily Cullen, Gerry Hanberry, Geraldine Mills & Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha



Europe Direct:

Galway Public Libraries' Europe Direct Centre is located at Ballinasloe Library.

Each Europe Direct Centre provides:

- Information on the European Union
- Access to publications and brochures from EU institutions
- Access to PCs to search for EU material
- A freephone link to the Europe Direct Helpdesk
- Events, including talks, exhibitions and competitions





LIBRARY HQ REFURBISHMENT 2020-2021

The Library HQ went through a major overhaul starting in 2020 but due to Covid lockdowns was not completed until 2021. The interior of the building was changed and re-configured to highlight and provide adequate space to the various sections that are housed there especially to the public spaces such as Local History, Archives and Schools Resources Section.



EVENTS FOR ADULTS:

- Galway Public Libraries hosted events to celebrate Culture Night in September
- Age Friendly and “walkability” audits of selected branch libraries took place as part of Galway Age Friendly City and County Programme
- Legacy projects in collaboration with Galway 2020 were completed
- Westside Public Library in conjunction with community partners delivered the Westside Arts Festival

- “Lockdown Diaries Galway”, a collection of reflections by older people on life during the pandemic, was published in July. Galway Public Libraries had invited submissions as part of a creative writing initiative with a view to publishing an anthology
- Three online book clubs were established in early 2021. The “Read Together” initiative aimed to combat the risk of social isolation during the months of “lockdown”, as library book clubs were unable to meet in person
- Collaboration and support for local festivals including Cúirt, Shorelines Arts Festival in Portumna, Clifden Arts Festival and East Galway Art Trail
- Bealtaine Festival in May was celebrated in a number of libraries
- Art exhibitions, book launches, and readings were held once pandemic restrictions were lifted



ARCHIVES & MANAGEMENT OF RECORDS

The collective memory of the people of Galway is of vital importance in preserving cultural identities, in bridging the past and the present and in shaping the future. The documentary heritage residing in Galway County Council Archives constitutes a major part of that memory and reflects the diversity of the people, history and culture of the county. The Archives strives on a continual basis to preserve, manage and make accessible that memory. It undertakes to provide *bona fide* users access to the archives consistent with preservation requirements and within the limitations of available resources. The Section also provides policy advice to the Council on the care and management of its records.

- Continued to provide access to information on Galway County Council’s archival holdings through its descriptive lists and its fully searchable on-line catalogue, and through various archival portals, and social media posts.

- Continued processing archive collections¹.

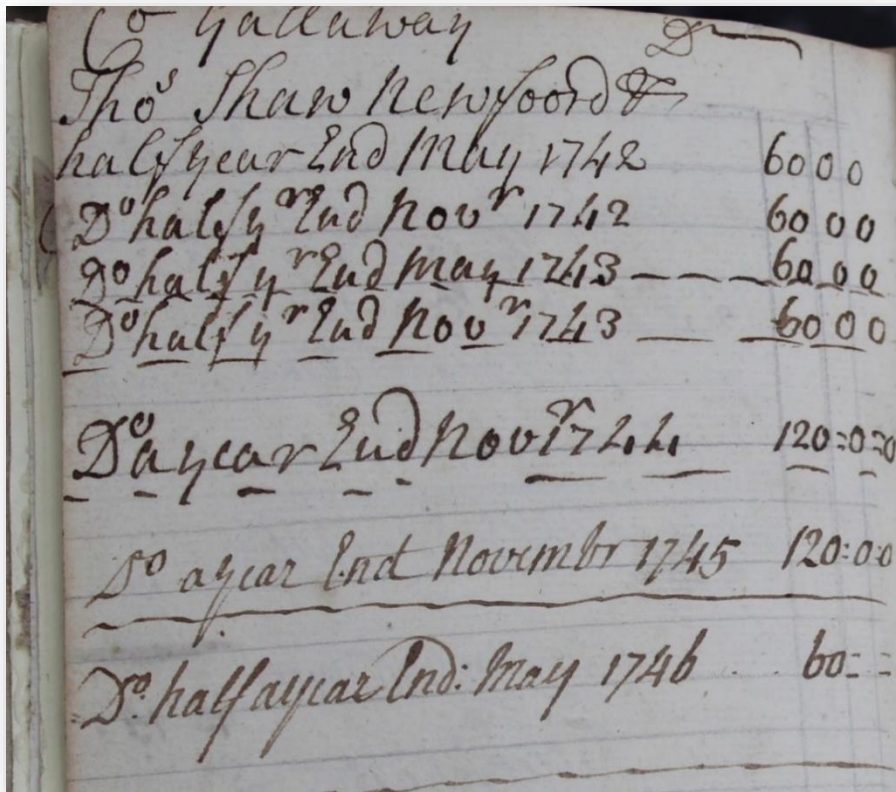


Sepia photograph depicting 6 roads workers with picks, sledgehammers and shovels, and a Ganger (Supervisor) on the left-hand side, c. 1925 [Ballygar district], GS21/01.

Continued the programme of providing security backup and reference surrogates to collections, though the digitisation programme. Items included in the 2021 programme include additional volumes from the Ballinasloe Town Commissioners (BTC/1/) collection and additional volumes from the Loughrea (GPL2/22-34) and Galway (GPL6/1-40) Poor Law Union collections.

- While on-site access to collections for research purposes was suspended for most of 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions, assistance with research queries, and the provision of research advice and guidance continued virtually.
- Monitored the environmental conditions of the archives and endeavoured to ensure their continued protection, preservation and management.

¹ Collections / items processed and added to the online catalogue include volumes from the Loughrea PLU (GPL2/) and Galway PLU (GPL4/) collections, and various Galway County Council accruals, such as Manager's Orders and Registers of Electors (GC/CSO4/2020).



Entry for Thomas Shaw, Newford (outside Athenry, Co. Galway) indicating amounts due to the Whaley estate, for each half year from 1742-1743 and 1746, with £120.00.00 due at the end of November 1744 and 1745

Whaley Rent Account, 1740-1768 (GS19/05)

- ❖ Outreach activities were curtailed throughout the year, but did include
 - Joint co-ordinator on the Galway's Great Read '[Westward Ho!](#) Travel Writers Remembered /A Journey Through Galway, 1840-1950 project. In mid-December the on-line talks and documentaries had approx. 2,000 views.
 - Issued numerous social media posts highlighting the archive collection.
 - Article in *History Ireland* September 2021 on the Whaley Rent Account (GS19/05).
 - As a member of the Local Government Archivist and Records Managers (LGARM) group assisted Beyond 2022 with the production of [People, Power and Place. The Grand Jury System in Ireland](#)
- ❖ Conducted a survey and produced a detailed condition report on several outside OS barony maps (1841) and facilitated the conservation of several of the items².

² Longford Barony map c. 1800; Co. of Galway Map, c 1898; Tables of Fees 1836; OS 1841 outside barony maps for Ballymoe, Maigh Cuilinn, Tiaquin and Killian, Kilconnell & Clonmacowen; and 1992 Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore Proclamation

- ❖ Provided advice on records management best practice and assistance to Sections within Galway County Council, as required.
- ❖ Continued the management of non-current record transfers to storage (approx. 7,112 boxes of managed material currently in commercial storage); 686 recall requests processed in 2021. At the end of 2021 there were *circa* 132,000 entries on ArLink, the records management database.



Extract from the OS Map for Barony of Ballynahinch, 1841



*Barony of Longford, c. 1800, prior to conservation
commissioned by Galway County Council Archives.*



Barony of Longford, c. 1800, following conservation, stabilised and repaired.

PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Strategic Goal

Protection of Environment & Heritage

To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.

Galway County Council is committed to improving services through Irish and to continue to meet the relevant obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003 together with the implementation of an Scéim Teanga. The Council also looks to support and promote the Irish language throughout the County. Some of the activities undertaken in 2021 were:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Irish language was specifically included as a category in the Community Support Schemes in 2021. Small scale grants totalling €4,890.00 were approved for projects by Community & Voluntary Organisations to support the promotion and increased use of the Irish language.

PROMOTION OF GAEILGE

In early March, a series of online videos were organised during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 March 2021) for the promotion of Gaeilge across our Social Media channels. These videos included storytime as Gaeilge with a number of local and national authors, crafts as Gaeilge and traditional music and dance with narration as Gaeilge by a local County Galway group.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe continued its support of the promotion of Irish in communities throughout the County through sponsorship of a Glór na nGael Award, which was presented to Comharchumann Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe, in February 2021.

The email address gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie continues to be promoted to customers as part of enhanced service delivery.

Irish language classes (beginner and intermediate levels) were available for staff of the local authority and classes were also available for Councillors who expressed an interest in same.

Information and consultation continues to be provided to staff of Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe regarding language duties, obligations and legislation, including ensuring bilingualism on www.galway.ie / www.gaillimh.ie, in line with our language scheme.

Mobile Simultaneous translation equipment continued to be available for Council meetings or other meetings at which translation may have been required.

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Phiarais / Pádraig Pearse Scholarships unfortunately could not be provided by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in 2021 in collaboration with Summer Colleges in Conamara, as the courses themselves could not be run due to Covid19 restrictions.

OIFIG AN CHOIMISINÉARA TEANGA

The Council continued to co-operate with Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, in dealing with issues raised by members of the public, regarding Irish language services and legislation.

DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS 2013 – 2023



Our series of talks for the Decade of Commemoration 2021 titled ‘The times that were in it!’ sought to look past the hard politics of the era to reflect more on social, cultural and intellectual life in Ireland in the 1920s. The decade is too often viewed as simply the interlude between two world wars, or in Ireland, as a period of reaction, economic challenge and social stagnation. Our speakers: **Steve Dolan**, **Mícheál Ó hAodha**, and **Dr. Angus Mitchell** in the course of their talks covered the period concerned, by focusing on sports life, Visual Art, local entertainments and intellectual discourse.



CUSTOMER SERVICES

The email address, customerservices@galwaycoco.ie and gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie remains a central point of access to information for Staff and Customers alike. Staff are asked to submit information on projects, campaigns, events, works etc. so that the Customer Services Team are aware what events are taking place across the Council and are better informed to handle queries. The general public can also email these addresses with general queries, which are acknowledged and directed to the relevant sections as required for their attention and direct reply.

The Customer Services Officers Group (CSOG) is comprised of staff representatives from all the main service areas.

Customer Services continued to moderate and process Fix Your Street cases and follow up on outstanding cases with relevant sections. Fix Your Street is a national programme and is an on-line public forum where issues can be submitted by location to the relevant local authority.

The centralised system for Public Notices continued in 2021 to enhance our Corporate Image in the Print Media, to generate savings through shared advertising space and meet our requirements under National Procurement Framework. Advance copies of public notices prior to notices appearing in the various newspapers appear on social media and are sent to Elected Members with relevant contact details included.

Customer Services is the central point of contact on behalf of Galway County Council for the government portal for Public Consultations.

Customer Services continues to maintain the system of re-formatting new application forms and updating existing forms when requested. We now have 295 forms and memorandums in total on our register/coding system, available via our website.

Door access system cards and car park fobs continue to be issued and maintained by Customer Services.

CUSTOMER SERVICES DESK AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

The Customer Services Desk continues to be operated to provide efficient referral/query handling for customers as they enter Áras an Chontae. The phone service continues to be operated from the Customer Services Communications Centre on the second floor of Áras an Chontae.

Corporate Services staff based in Customer Services are assigned to support the Mobile Phone Policy of the organisation and day to day administration of the account.

COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Further increased use of Social Media (Twitter, FB) with 13,222 followers on Facebook and 15,805 followers on Twitter as of end of December 2021 and this is continuing to grow daily.

Social Media has been integrated with Advertising and other Promotional Campaigns of the Council and specific attention given to the use of Social Media during severe weather events. There has been an increase in the posting of events on behalf of staff with a focus on Road Works, Water Disruptions and any other day to day events happening throughout the County.

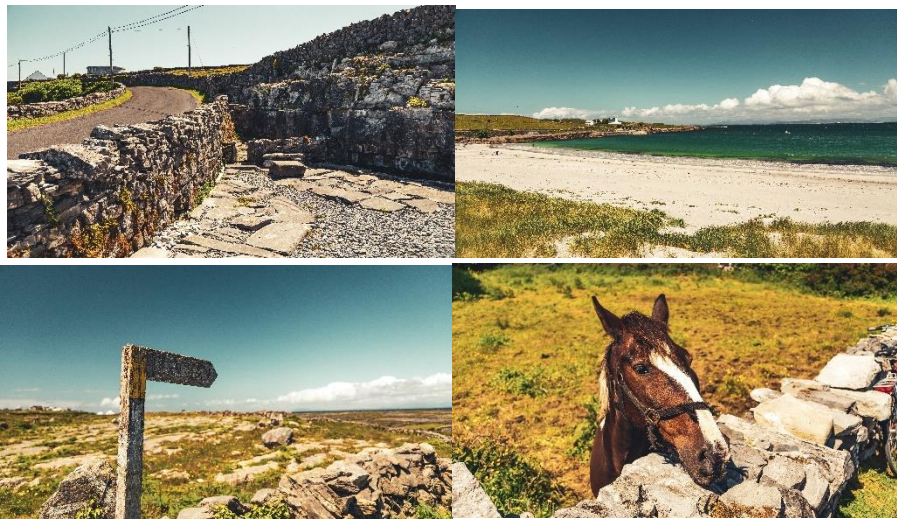
The Customer Services team participated in 'Your Council Day' twitter campaign nationally as coordinated by the LGMA on the 1st July 2021.



Galway County Council #YourCouncilDay



From the mountains to the sea keep Galway, LITTER FREE! [#YourCouncilDay](#) [#DoLáSaChomhairle](#) [@LASIreland](#)



Who wouldn't want a Staycation in beautiful County [#Galway](#). Photo of one of our islands, Inis Mór [#Gaillimh](#) [#DoLáSaChomhairle](#) [#YourCouncilDay](#) [@LAsIreland](#)

HOUSING, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

REBUILDING IRELAND

Rebuilding Ireland – The Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness was launched in July 2016, the strategy is in place for the period 2017 to 2021. It sets out a road map for Local Authorities, Approved Housing Bodies and the private sector regarding Social Housing provision through a number of concrete actions, timelines and importantly, financial resources for the delivery of new social housing units.

The plan is comprehensive and aims to address all aspects of the housing system under five pillars which are as follows:

Pillar 1: Addressing Homelessness

Pillar 2: Accelerate Social Housing

Pillar 3: Build More Homes

Pillar 4: Improve the Rental Sector

Pillar 5: Utilise Existing Housing



The Housing Unit of Galway County Council has delivered a significant number of houses through various programmes in 2021.

128 new homes were brought into active social housing stock through build, acquisition and leasing programmes in 2021. The number comprise as follows:

- 117 build
- 9 acquisitions
- 2 leasing (long term leases)

Despite a continued highly challenging Covid-19 environment, Galway County Council renovated 52 dwellings under its void programme in 2021.

Rebuilding Ireland is succeeded by the Housing for All plan which will be in place for the period 2022 to 2026. The document was published in September 2021 It will improve Irelands housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs. The focus of this plan is for home ownership with a move away from leasing.

PART V ACTIVITY

A total of 7 units were completed and acquired under Part V Agreements in 2021 at the following locations throughout Galway County:

- Carrig Linn, Loughrea (2 Units)
- Bóthar na Mias, Kinvara (1 Unit)
- An Garraí Gabhainn, Maigh Cuilinn (2 Units)

- Páirc an Triantáin, Tullahill, Loughrea (1 Unit)
- Gáirdín an Tobair, Maigh Cuilinn (1 Unit)

A further 4 No. Part V Agreements were completed with combined total of 21 Part V Units at the following locations:

- Corrán Eiscir Riada, Dunlo, Ballinalsoe
- Coill Clocha, Oranmore
- Coill Ard / Bun Na Coille, Maigh Cuilinn
- Gáirdín an Tobair, Maigh Cuilinn

A total of 20 pre-planning “Letters of Understanding” were issued in 2021 with a combined potential total of 111 units subject to planning.

Under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 provision for Part V compliance increased in September 2021 from 10% to 20% under certain criteria included within the Act. A quarter of all “Letters of Understanding” provided in 2021 include the provision of 20% which if granted will see a substantial increase in both social and affordable housing delivery via this process in the years ahead.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

The most stable and consistent delivery of social housing is the Local Authority Build Programme which provides the best value for money approach and caters for the most vulnerable persons in society and the community. In house expertise has grown greatly and the acquisition of suitable residential lands in key locations throughout the county allows for sustainable and well-designed housing schemes.

49 Units at Fana Bhuí, Tuam: Works commenced on this scheme towards the end of 2020 and delivery has been impacted due to Covid closures on the site. The scheme is due to completed in full in 2022.



Fana Bhuí Photo – Taken February 2022

26 Units at Gort Na gCloch, Hospital Road, Clifden: Construction works commenced in Q3 2020 and similar to Fana Bhui delivery has been impacted due to the Covid pandemic. 18 of the 26 units are due to be completed in July 2022 and the balance before year end.



Gort Na gCloch Photo – Taken June 2021

5 units at Plás an Iarla, Barrack Street, Loughrea: Substantial completion of these units were completed in May 2021. This development was runner up in the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) awards in 2021 in the category of “Housing for Families”.



Plás An Iarla Photo – taken April 2021

10 Units at Garraí Ghuairé, Cartron, Kinvara: Construction works commenced in in Q3 on this development and substantial completion is forecasted for Q3 2022.



Garrai Ghuairé Photo – taken January 2022

In addition to the Local Authority build Programme projects, several turnkey acquisition developments conclude in 2021 that include:

49 Units at Garraí Gabhainn, Klybroughlan, Maigh Cuilinn:



Garrai Gabhainn Photo – February 2021

27 Units at Garrai Mac Aodha, Tubber Road, Gort:



Garrai Mac Aodha Photo – July 2021

DESIGN & PLANNING ACTIVITY

One of the main challenges for the Housing team entering 2021, was that Galway County Council had to incorporate new Housing frameworks to ensure continuation of our Social & Affordable housing delivery in accordance to central government vision for Rebuilding Ireland and most recently, the new challenges arising from “Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland’ as the government’s housing plan to 2030.

During February 2021, Galway County Council in-house, capital engineering team successfully procured and established two Multi-Party Framework Agreements for:

An Architect-Led Full Integrated Design Team Services and

An Engineer or Architect-Led Full Integrated Design Team Services

providing consultancy services in connection with a variety of Housing development projects in excess of €3million and for projects below €3million in value throughout Galway County Council’s functional area.

These specialist frameworks were critical in order to provide the foundation and the spring board for ensuring future Galway County Council Housing delivery from 2021 - 2025. Whilst the remit of both frameworks was to relate to the day to day activities of the Housing Unit needs under both Capitals; New construction and Maintenance Sections.

Without these essential framework structures in place, Galway County Council Capital Housing Department would not have been in a position to appoint the volume of specialist and professional services appointed to date. Furthermore, without this critical process, the successful stage delivery on current housing projects progression from conceptual design through project involvement to the statutory planning process, through construction of essential Housing to Handover to our tenants whilst seeking essential Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government funding would have effectively stalled.

Compliance of the public procurement process was a critical albeit a timely process identified early doors by the Executive capital housing team in order to be compliant to Galway County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan 2020 – 2022 whilst ensuring that the organisation's procurement function operates in accordance with best practice and aims to strengthen the professionalism of the procurement function in order to efficiently meet the corporate governance requirements and continue to deliver value for money.

The broad objective of the Frameworks was to adhere to the Corporate plan and support, effective value for money purchasing, while ensuring the main principles of procurement apply (Openness, Transparency, Accountability and Mutual Recognition).

The frameworks have provided a shortlist of Design teams that include Architect's, Engineer's and Quantity Surveyor's for housing projects for the next 2 years with the option to extend a further 2 single years. As per their title, the consulting Architect / Engineer will act as team lead and client liaison in relation to the building contractor tender process and project delivery. Furthermore, to incentivise small to medium enterprises, tenderers were advised they could be a member of one design team.

Since the establishment of the Housing Framework in Q1 of 2021, Galway County Council housing team services have procured, administered and operated six mini competitions. Thus, sanctioning the appointments for six different specialist design team consultants, project managed and administered by our capital team to operate a range of multi-million housing developments funded by Department of Housing, Planning and local Government throughout the Municipal districts of Galway.

Some of the projects progressing under this Framework include:

Bridge Court, Ahascragh (18 units): Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála in May 2021 for the project comprising demolition of 10 existing units, refurbishment of 6 existing units and construction of 12 new units. Detailed design, construction tender completed in 2021 and constructions commenced in April 2022.



Artist impression of completed project Bridge Court, Ahascragh

Gort Ui Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn (31 units): The planning application was lodged in June 2021. However, at a meeting of the Conemara MD in September the Chief Executive Report was not accepted by the members under a vote. The reasons for not accepting the Chief Executives Report have been relayed to the design team and fresh planning application is to be lodged in Q3 2022.



Artist impression of proposed development at Gort Ui Lochlainn, Maigh Cuilinn

Cluain na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir (90 units): Design Team appointed in June 2021 and initial preliminary design completed in 2021 which was subsequently approved by the Department of Housing. Housing scheme includes for the provision of both social and affordable homes and playground. Specialist reports and site investigations were completed in 2021 and planning stage drawings have progressed. It is envisaged planning permission will be submitted in July 2022.

Cosmona, Loughrea (95 units): Design Team appointed in October 2021 and preliminary designs underway. Scheme proposals include for both social and affordable homes. Planning permission is due to sought in August 2022.

Single Rural Developments (7 Sites): Planning permission was granted under Part VIII for 7 single rural developments in 2021 and following construction works procurement, these projects will commence construction in mid 2022. These units are located in the following townlands:

- Corralough, Williamstown
- Woodpark, Portumna
- Clontusker, Ballinasloe
- Ballyglass, Ardrahan
- Woodfield, Dunmore
- Creggatlough, Craughwell
- Knockaloura West, Browns Grove, Tuam

HOUSE PURCHASES

Galway Council purchased 9 properties under the Social Housing Investment Programme in 2021.

HAP

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support that has been in operation in Galway County Council since November 2015. HAP is available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need. The introduction of HAP means that housing authorities can now provide housing assistance to many more households with a long-term housing need, including many long-term rent supplement recipients.

HAP will provide for the transfer of responsibility for recipients of Rent Supplement with a long-term housing need from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to housing authorities and provides a new approach in responding to households with a social need.

However, unlike Rent Supplement recipients, HAP recipients can work full-time and retain their HAP support - thus removing a barrier to employment. HAP recipients will source their own accommodation in the private rented market and will enter into a tenancy agreement with the landlord of the property.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support;
- Any current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service is also available in Galway County Council. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

The Council supported an additional 267 households to meet their housing need by means of the Housing Assistance Payment in 2021 enabling individuals to work and also have autonomy in choosing the location and type of accommodation, depending on their own particular preference. Over 2,126 recipients have now signed up to the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to date.

Strategic Goal

To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision marking and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.

RECORD OF QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS (HOUSING WAITING LIST)

Galway County Council completed an assessment of housing need in 2021. The applications of 200 households, which had not been reviewed since the previous Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment in 2020, were reviewed and assessed to ascertain if they still qualified for social housing supports. The assessment of housing need was completed under the following headings:

1. Provision of Housing Accommodation in its functional area for persons who require accommodation from Galway County Council and who, in the opinion of the County Council are in need of such accommodation and unable to provide it from their own resources.

2. Provision of residential caravan parks for members of the Traveller Community in the functional area of the County Council for persons who are likely to require sites from the County Council are in need of such sites and unable to provide them from their own resources.

Applications from persons who are eligible for and in need of social housing support are qualified for such support under the following headings:

1. Income;
2. Residency Status;
3. Availability of accommodation;
4. Rent Arrears.

The total number of valid housing applicants received during 2021 was 411

New Applications	
Area of Choice	Qty
Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District	116
Tuam	50
Ballinasloe South	41
Loughrea and Environs	37
Connemara Central	28
Gort and Environs	26
Ballinasloe North	26
Connemara North-West	19
Headford	17
Galway North-East	17
Portumna and Environs	10
Galway North	9
Connemara South-West	8
Connemara South-East	7
Total	411

Total number of Social housing offers were 713

OFFER STATUS					
House Type	Offered	Accepted	Unreasonable Refusal	Reasonable Refusal	
AHB	208	175	29	6	
LA	284	174	77	12	
Leasing	71	59	7	3	
MTR	16	16			
RAS	122	113	5	4	
Traveller Accom	12	10			
Grand Total	713	547	118	25	

The total number of Housing Applicants on the Housing List at 31st December 2021 was 3,760

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

The Government has allocated funding for local authorities and approved housing bodies to lease or rent private residential properties for applicants on the housing list. Traditionally RAS is aimed at persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for a period in excess of 18 months. Since the 1st April 2011, any housing applicants that are in RAS type accommodation are deemed to have their housing need met.

The (RAS) / Leasing is operated on a tenancy by tenancy basis and Galway County Council has been entering into such arrangements, with private landlords, since 2007.

In 2021 45 additional households were supported in meeting their housing need by means of the Rental Accommodation Scheme, 7 in privately owned properties and 38 in Approved Housing Bodies properties.

The following table outlines the current RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private Landlords.

Description	Galway County End of Q4 2021:
Number of Applicants accommodated in private rented accommodation through contracts agreed with private landlords	149
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through contracts agreed with voluntary organisations	215
Number of Applicants accommodated currently through short-term leasing contracts	23

Table 1: RAS and Leasing agreements that Galway County Council has entered into with private landlords

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RENTED ACCOMMODATION

Galway County Council undertook 626 Inspections regarding *Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation* in 2021.

Breakdown of Inspections as follows:

HAP Accommodation: 532
Complaints: 25
Other: 50.

Inspection Outcomes:

First Inspection – Non-Compliant: 471

First inspection Compliant:	0
Compliant:	20
Improvement Letter Issued:	614
Improvement Notice Issued:	0
Prohibition Notice Issued:	0
Legal Proceedings Issued:	0

The Inspectorate Unit is tasked with Inspection of Private Rented Dwellings for compliance with the *Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation* in the jurisdiction of Galway County and it's Islands. In 2021 Private Rented Dwellings Inspections were adversely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions.

REPAIR & LEASING SCHEME

The scheme is aimed at better utilisation of existing housing stock and assist with the re-generation of Town Centres it assists owners of vacant properties who cannot afford the repairs needed to bring their property up to the standard required to rent it out. The houses to be targeted under RLS are in areas of social need in town centres, urban and rural areas all around the country. Properties must be vacant for at least 1 year, and property owners and contractors engaged under the scheme must demonstrate that they are tax compliant through the provision of tax clearance certificates on request.

The ideal units targeted under the RLS will require a low level of investment to bring them to the required standard for renting. Capital repairs cost on a single unit must not exceed €60,000 (inc VAT).

All direct leases must be for duration of between 5-20 years. No shorter terms will be eligible. The cost of the repairs shall be offset against the agreed rental payment until the value of the works is repaid.

The benefits of the RLS in conjunction with the long-term lease arrangement to the property owner include -

- Guaranteed rent on a property that has not been generating income
- Upgrade of property that might otherwise become derelict;
- No loss of rent during vacant periods;
- No dealing with tenants and day-to-day maintenance;
- No need to collect rent or find a new tenant;
- Avoid advertising costs;
- The property will be returned to the property owner at the end of the term in good repair order and condition, save for fair wear and tear.

In 2021, Galway County Council received a number of expressions of interest. One property was completed with Galway County Council.

BUY AND RENEW

The Buy & Renew scheme complements the Repair & Leasing Scheme, in this scheme an owner of a vacant property that is in need of repair/remediation have an option of selling this property to the Local Authority. Galway County Council received a number of expressions of interest in this scheme.

MORTGAGE TO RENT SCHEME

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme is a government scheme which was introduced in 2012 to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears. It lets homeowners in mortgage difficulty switch from owning their home to renting their home as social housing tenants.

The MTR scheme is a social housing option only available if one is eligible for social housing support and the mortgage is unsustainable. To qualify for the scheme the property owner must have participated in their lender's Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), a process which the lender and the owner must take in order to try and resolve their financial difficulties.

Approved applicants will voluntarily surrender possession of their home to their mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it back to the family. The proceeds from the sale of property to the housing association will go towards the mortgage debt and the applicant makes an arrangement with their lender for any remaining payments owed, if any. There is potential to buy back the home after a period of 5 years if the household's financial situation improves.

5 applications were received in 2021 with 13 applications receiving approval.

REBUILDING IRELAND HOME LOAN

A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It has been available since 1st February 2018.

The scheme is available to first time buyers to purchase a new or second-hand property or build a home. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest-bearing mortgage which is repaid by direct debit on a monthly basis.

- Maximum market values of the property are €320,000
- Applicants may borrow up to 90% of market value of property (or a maximum of €288,000)

73 applications were received in 2021 with 20 loans approved. The average loan approved was €132,425.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

The (Capital Advance Leasing Facility) CALF is a facility available to Approved Housing Bodies to assist them in accessing Private or Housing Finance Agency finance for the purchase or construction of units. The units are made available exclusively for social housing purposes under a leasing agreement for a set period of time, typically **25** years.

A further **28 units** were also delivered under the CALF scheme, two **units** were delivered in **2021** under the Capital Assistance Scheme (Buy and Renew).

Several potential units have been identified and agreements are under active consideration for inclusion under both schemes in the future.

There are **44 units** in progress under the CAS scheme and **98 units** in progress under the CALF Scheme.

Long Term Leases were completed for 11 units by Approved Housing Bodies in 2021.

TENANT PURCHASE

The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme came into effect in 2016 and replaced the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme. Under this scheme, eligible local authority tenants can apply to buy their local authority home, at a discounted rate based on the applicant's income.

Throughout 2021, Galway County Council received 14 valid applications from local authority tenants to purchase their house and issued 22 house purchase offers, of which 14 were completed.

A new Tenant Purchase Scheme is due to come into effect on the 1st February 2022. This new scheme, the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, will give effect to amendments which include changes to (a) minimum income criteria for applicants and (b) the period of time applicants must have been receiving social housing support to be eligible under the scheme.

HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE, MOBILITY AID GRANT & HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The Housing Aid for Older People grant continues to provide funding for persons aged over 66 years of age to carry out essential repairs so that they can continue to live in their own home.

In 2021 341 valid Housing Aid for Older People grants were received and 231 applications were paid to a total €1,254,964 under the scheme.

The Mobility Aid grant continues to provide funding for older persons or with a disability to address mobility issues in their own home.

In 2021 171 valid Mobility Aid grant application were received and 103 valid applications were paid to a total value of €430,443.

The Housing Adaptation grant continues to provide funding for people with a physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disability to meet their current and future needs in their own home.

In 2021 82 valid Housing Adaptation grant applications were received and 52 applications were paid up to a value of €605,395.

HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability living in Local Authority Houses is made available to assist in carrying out works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person who has enduring physical,

sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. Galway County Council continues to assess applications under this scheme and prioritise those in most need.

A total of 85 local authority homes had housing adaptation works and 2 housing extensions were completed during 2021. There was expenditure totalling €674,786 on housing adaptation works on Galway County Council housing stock in 2021.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The Council has a housing stock of 2,624 properties at the 31st December 2021. A significant programme of planned maintenance works is ongoing in these properties.

3318 repair requests were received in 2021, with 952 of these repair requests having been deemed to be valid requests by the technical team.

The Online Logging Repair Request system, in operation since December 2020, which allows tenants to log their housing repair requests online, has proved to be extremely beneficial for council tenants. These requests may be logged through the Report It of www.galway.ie or through the link at <https://gccapps.galwaycoco.ie/RepairRequest/>. There has been a large level of take-up by our tenants who have found it to be a very easy to use system. The advantage of the new system is that tenants may log repair requests at any time and are updated as their repair request is progressed by the maintenance team.

Net expenditure of € 1,647,142 was spent from Galway County Council's own resources on the maintenance of Galway County Council housing stock in 2021.

Major refurbishment works were completed in 52 vacant properties which facilitated the enabling of new tenancies.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RETROFIT PROGRAMME (EERP)

In County Galway, deep energy retrofit works were completed in 2021 on 58 properties, including 21 in Portumna, 16 in Eyrecourt and 19 in Ballinasloe under the Midlands Retrofit Programme (MRP) a further 2 in Killimor, 3 in Eyrecourt and 11 in Tynagh were at contract stage and due to be completed in Q2 2022.

In addition, 56 properties were at tender stage under the Energy Retrofit Programme(ERP) in 2021, including 28 in Athenry, 4 in Loughrea, 2 in Ballinasloe 10 in Clifden and 12 in Tuam. These are also due to be completed in Q2 2021.

Funding of €1,439,658 was allocated under the Midlands Energy Retrofit and Energy Retrofit Programme to Galway County Council in 2021 with an additional €1,010,137 directly funded by Galway County Council.

HOMELESSNESS

Galway County Council is part of the Western Region for Homeless Services together with Galway City Council, Mayo and Roscommon County Councils. Galway City Council is the lead agency and all funding is channelled through it. The Director of Services in Housing from the four Authorities form the Western Region Homeless Management Group and have the responsibility to assign funding.

Tackling homelessness is a key priority for Galway County Council. A further increase in the demand for homeless services was noted in 2021 due to the decrease in supply of properties available to rent privately through the HAP scheme.

The aim is to identify pathways out of homelessness for individuals and families in emergency accommodation as quickly as possible.

A Homeless Unit was established in late 2020 with a Tenancy Sustainment Officer and a Homeless Outreach Worker appointed. The posts are funded under Section 10 Homeless Funding by the Department. The Tenancy Sustainment Officer has regular contact with vulnerable tenants who face additional challenges and provides support and encourages ongoing engagement with the Housing Section. The additional resources in the Housing Section has reduced the escalation of anti-social behavioural issues.

The Housing First model which focuses on ending homelessness for people with complex needs who have experienced long-term chronic homelessness was introduced in County Galway in 2021.

A Homeless Action Team that brings together the relevant agencies involved in working with homeless single individuals who are needs are considered to require the intensive supports provided through the Housing First model was established in February 2021.

The Council was successful in providing appropriate housing in an Area of Choice for 6 individuals in 2021 with the necessary wrap-around supports provided by Galway Simon. All 6 individuals have successfully sustained their tenancies after many years of rough-sleeping.

There was an average of 14 new applicants per week presenting as homeless in 2021. An average of 12 families per week were accommodated by Galway County Council in Emergency Temporary Accommodation for 2021. Single people accommodated in homeless accommodation averaged at 27 at any time in 2021. A total of 33 applicants deemed homeless were offered a permanent tenancy by Galway County Council during 2021.

Homeless Place Finder Service

The appointment of the Homeless HAP Place Finder in November 2018 has played a significant role in reducing homeless numbers in County Galway. In 2021, 16 families and 41 single people were assisted in securing HAP properties, including people who had resided previously in emergency accommodation, people who have been served with Notices-to-Quit from their accommodation, people leaving hospital or other institutions after long-term care and those from Direct Provision.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme, adopted in September 2019, outlines the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community over a five-year period from 2019 – 2024.

County Galway has the highest number of Travellers in the country with a total of 2,647 Travellers living in the County.

In developing this Programme, a strong emphasis was placed on consultation with all interested parties including adjoining local authorities, the Health Service Executive, local Traveller organisations, individual Travellers, the Local Traveller Consultative Committee (LTACC) and the public in general. This extensive consultation was to ensure that the interests of all concerned with or affected by proposals for Traveller accommodation were considered and to facilitate a planned and comprehensive response to the accommodation needs of Travellers.



Development of Traveller Specific Accommodation at Cluain Órtha, Craughwell

In the preparation of this Programme, the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group and the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee developed an equality and human rights statement to reflect our commitment to equality and human rights.

Our commitment to equality and human rights is motivated by a particular set of values, that have been established as shared values in motivating the work of the Galway County Traveller Interagency Group.

These values are **Dignity, Diversity and Participation.**



Major renovation works completed at traveller specific accommodation at Canal Drive, Ballinasloe

In accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended, and Section 6 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Galway County Council assessed and identified the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families to be met during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019–2024. The Programme identified a requirement of 111 accommodation units to meet the then current and projected need, comprised of a current need of 71 and a projected need estimated at 40 units.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2019 – 2024 TARGETS

The revised Projected Need, following a mid-term review in 2020 over the 5-year period of this Accommodation Programme is for a total estimated need of 229 housing units.

In accordance with a review and verification exercise undertaken by independent experts in 2019, in relation to the preferences identified by Travellers in their application for social housing support, it was established that the expressed accommodation preference of the majority of Traveller housing applicants is for standard local authority housing or private rented accommodation. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the overall housing need will be met over the period of this Accommodation Programme predominantly through the provision of standard Local.

AUTHORITY HOUSING

Galway County Council has continued to prioritise the installation and replacement of fire safety equipment, signage in its halting sites during 2021.

This prioritisation reflects the responsibilities of the Council and those of the residents of Traveller accommodation to enhance and maintain appropriate and necessary fire safety standards.

In 2021, Galway County Council completed extensive works through a series of projects in Traveller accommodation. This involved the development and upgrade of traveller specific accommodation at various locations, including:

Accommodation Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Group Housing – Existing	1	1	3	2	2	3	12
New Group Housing	0	6	0	0	8	4	12
Permanent Halting Site Service Block = Existing	1	3	1	1	1	1	8
LA Standard Housing	7	9	11	11	11	11	60
RAS/Long term leasing	1	0	3	1	0	1	5
Voluntary Housing	2	2	3	2	2	3	14
Purchase by Travellers	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
HAP/Private Rented Accommodation with/out Rent supplement	5	24	21	20	21	22	113
Totals	17	46	42	38	46	46	229

- Completion of the refurbishment of 4 properties on traveller specific group housing scheme at Canal Drive and the return of families to their permanent homes;
- Extensive refurbishment of 3 properties on traveller specific group housing scheme at Sandymount, Killimor and the return of families to their permanent homes;
- Construction of 6 detached bungalows and 2 halting site bays at Cluain Órtha, Craughwell, the allocation of the properties to people who previously resided at the Craughwell Halting Site.
- The demolition of the temporary halting site at Craughwell and its return to a greenfield site.
- Progression of the extension and refurbishment of a property for the needs of a particular Traveller family.
- Successful submission for funding to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for the adaptation of a Traveller families home to provide for the needs of a particular family member.

A survey was carried out and a submission prepared and submitted to the Traveller Accommodation Unit for consideration for funding of the extensive renovation and upgrade of the Clontuskert Traveller Specific Group Scheme.

Standard housing, including HAP, RAS and Private Rented Accommodation, provides for the inclusion of Travellers in mainstream housing programmes and aids the integration of Travellers into the community.

49 Traveller families were accommodated in 2021 in standard Local Authority housing, Traveller Specific Group Scheme Housing and under the HAP Programmes. In the absence of an ethnic identifier there is a reliance on local and historical knowledge of staff in relation to the identification of individuals as travellers.

DISABILITY STRATEGY

The updated *Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026* was finalised in November 2021. The final document is available on the website <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/socialhousinganddisability/>. The purpose of the *Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2021-2026* is to facilitate access for people with disabilities to an appropriate range of housing supports, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.

The Strategic Plan has been developed by Galway County Council in partnership with stakeholders such as the HSE, Disability Service Providers and Housing service providers. The purpose of the *Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026* is for Galway County Council to work towards meeting the identified housing needs of housing applicants with a disability in the region who:

- are linked to a disability service provider / HSE and living in the community (with their families, carers)
- are not linked to a disability service provider / HSE and have a disability
- are transitioning from a congregated or service setting

The Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) has been re-established in 2021 in partnership with external stakeholders and will have responsibility for the implementation of the strategic plan. The strategy is informed by the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability. The purpose of Galway County Council's strategic plan is to work towards a rights-based approach to housing, universal access and community inclusion for people with disabilities living in County Galway. Galway County Council will endeavour to achieve this within the mainstream housing environment.

The four categories of disability referred to in the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability are:

- 1) Sensory disability
- 2) Mental health disability
- 3) Physical disability
- 4) Intellectual disability

2021 has seen the introduction of the Disability and/or Medical Information Form (**HMD - Form 1**) which can be completed to support housing applications for people with a disability. An application for prioritisation under the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 is open to any housing applicant who has a disability. The decision to grant that prioritisation is subject to the outcome of assessment based on the information and evidence provided on the Disability and/or Medical Information Form (HMD - Form 1). The form states the information provided will be used to assess if priority status should be awarded to an application.

Forms will be collated by the Applications team in Galway County Council. Some applications will be straight forward and decisions will be made within Galway County Council. Others may require discussion and recommendations from a sub-committee of the Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG). The HMD – Form 1 form states:

“When we give a person priority status on disability or medical grounds, this means they go nearer to the top of the waiting list, as set out in the Local Authority’s Allocation Scheme”;

Priority status may be awarded if the following three criteria apply to a household:

- you or someone in your household has a disability or a medical condition and
- the current accommodation is not suitable to meet the needs of the person with a disability or medical condition and
- a change in housing will improve or stabilise the circumstances of the person with a disability or medical condition.

The Strategic plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026 sets out a comprehensive list of goals noted on **Page 26** of the plan, **Section 12: Action Plan**. Specialist subgroups have been set up and are being further established with disability and mental health service providers in order to prioritise applicants with a disability for housing. Galway County Council Housing will continue engagement with stakeholders to ensure support plans and packages of support are in place for vulnerable clients / applicants with a disability in order to progress housing options for qualifying applicants who have a disability.

TENANCY & ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Tenancy & Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 within the Housing Unit of Galway County Council to clearly show the Council's commitment to provide secure and lasting homes and the care and support to develop stable and sustainable communities, prevent tenancy breakdown and possible homelessness.

The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County outlines the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contributes positively to their neighbourhood and community.

An inter-departmental and inter-agency approach is adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our housing estates with staff regularly meeting with relevant staff from the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Galway/Roscommon Education Training Board and other agencies as necessary.

Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy recognises that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy acknowledges the importance of a multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing incidences of anti-social behaviour. 176 complaints were received by the Tenancy and Estate Management Unit in 2021.

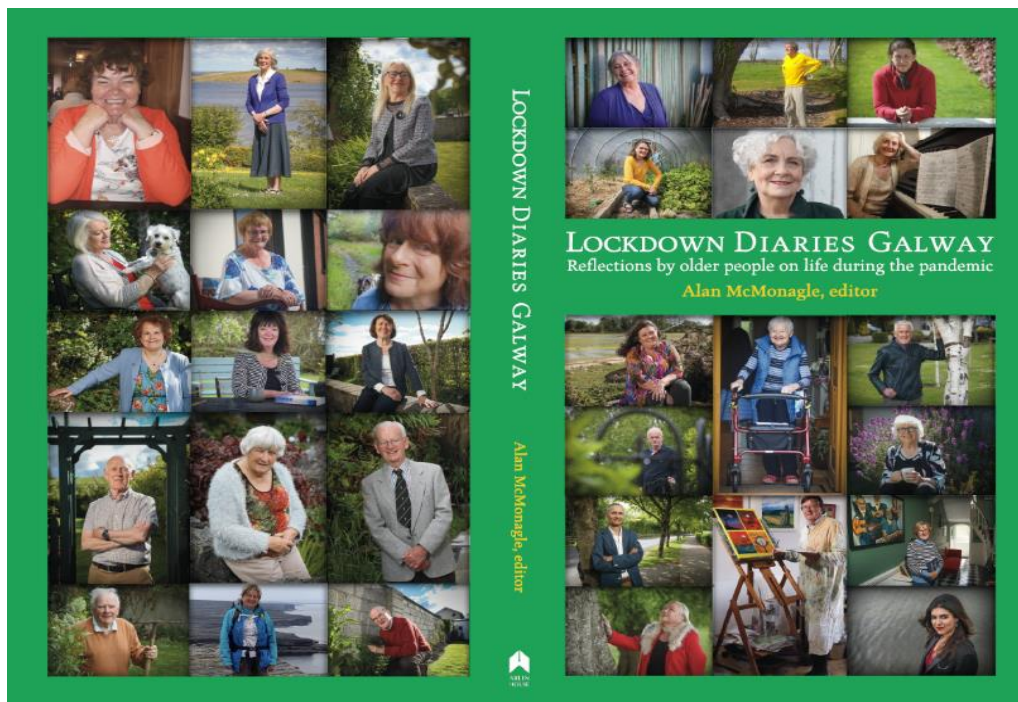
This Strategy outlines the responsibilities and contributions of both the Council and the tenants to the development of sustainable communities. It also lays out the process for investigating and dealing with complaints including setting out the actions that may be taken by the Council in relation to same. This can include the use of CCTV systems, in accordance with Galway County Council's CCTV and Data Protection Policies. CCTV systems have been installed in 8 locations in Cullairbaun, Athenry; Gortbride, Loughrea; Bridgecourt, Ahascragh; Crowe Street, Gort; Gilmartin Road Tuam; Tuam Halting Site; Tirboy, Tuam and Parkmore, Tuam.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Galway County LCDC held 5 meetings throughout 2021 and the LCDC's funding schemes continued to be re-aligned to respond to the needs emerging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the LCDC were central to the process of identifying local needs and tailoring expenditure and programmes to meet these needs. Some of the ways in which the LCDC responded to emerging needs were:

- The allocation of €54,080 in a second round of funding received under the Covid-19 Emergency Fund in February 2021. This was made up of €19,250 towards PPE and other equipment required by frontline services, €5,730 towards a small number of initiatives to complement the activities under the Keep Well Campaign, and €29,100 towards the running/operating costs of local community groups to sustain them through a period when they were unable to raise any income through activities or fundraising to maintain their facilities.
- The submission of a breakdown of applications received under the Covid-19 Emergency Fund to the Department of Rural and Community Development demonstrating that the scheme was heavily over-subscribed in relation to running/operating costs and while the funding was very welcome, the LCDC wished to highlight that Groups were in severe difficulty in terms of covering operating/running costs for the foreseeable future.
- Based on similar feedback from around the country, the Department subsequently announced that the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 would facilitate grants towards re-opening and/or ensuring the sustainability of community facilities by providing funding towards operating/running costs and 72 applications were funded with grants ranging from €250 - €10,000 under the total allocation of €143,401.
- Based on recognition of the ongoing difficulties faced by community facilities, the Department announced a once-off scheme, the Community Activities Fund, to continue to support community groups and 60% of this total allocation of €286,802 was to be ringfenced for running/operating costs, with 40% for capital grants based on priority areas in the LCEP determined by the LCDC. The LCDC agreed that any capital projects should contribute towards social inclusion and community wellbeing and advertised the scheme with these priorities at end 2021.
- In light of a Ministerial announcement of a 1-year extension to SICAP up to end 2023, each LCDC was requested to carry out a Mid-Programme Review to develop a Statement of Priorities for the remainder of the programme. The SICAP Sub-Committee met with Pobal to discuss local priorities arising from Covid-19, which were agreed as follows:
 - People with Mental Health Issues (including Youth)
 - Older People (social isolation)
 - New Communities (migrants, asylum seekers, refugees)
- The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme under Dormant Accounts Funding which required LCDC's to administer applications and submit recommendations for approval to the Department as the Minister retained rights of approval for funding under Dormant Accounts. The LCDC submitted recommendations up to a value of €41,350 and 8 applications were approved up to a value of €32,462 towards equipment which would enable the Social Enterprises to improve their service delivery and supports to disadvantaged communities.
- The Community Resilience Fund was funded under the Government's Plan for Living with Covid-19 and 22 initiatives were carried out across the County under this funding. Some of the initiatives funded under the allocation of €67,225 were:

- A collaboration with HSE Community Services to support older people to mind their physical and mental health and wellbeing by producing a 20-page booklet giving tips from HSE professionals on how to keep well during Covid-19 with accompanying videos on the HSE Community Healthcare West YouTube Channel. Over 8,000 booklets were distributed to older people utilising all available networks.
-
- Age Friendly Acorn Tablets were purchased to be allocated to older people without any digital skills on a pilot project, whereby they would be assigned a mentor who would assist them on a day-to-day basis in addition to formal training to be delivered on a collaborative basis with Galway Rural Development CLG and GRET.B.
- Keep Well Christmas Grants: this was a collaborative project with Galway County PPN to reach out to communities to bring some positivity and ensure everyone stayed connected at Christmas – 24 communities engaged with their most vulnerable individuals through initiatives such as Care Packs, Christmas Lighting, Personalised Christmas Decorations and Crafts, and other heart-warming activities that enabled people to show togetherness while staying apart.
- Galway Libraries reached out to older people to create a collection of creative writing submissions of their lived experiences during Covid-19 which was developed into an anthology of stories, poems and reflections entitled “Lockdown Diaries”.



SICAP (SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME) 2018 – 2022

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion and supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups. The following is the situation regarding the achievement of KPI's under the programme:



- 130 Local Community Groups were supported versus the KPI of 115
- 1,200 Individuals were supported versus the KPI of 900
- 34% of individuals supported were from disadvantaged areas versus the KPI of 27%

Some of the specific initiatives implemented during the 2021 programme were:

- €61,000 was provided in grants to Community Groups to build capacity in areas such as GDPR, Getting your Community Group Online, Graphic Design, Data Security, Charity Code Compliance, etc. Over 60 individuals from Community Groups participated in First Aid Training, Manual Handling and Fire Safety Training was also offered, and 7 Keeping Children Safe Training Sessions were organised with a total of 65 participants. Training courses were provided through a combination of Zoom, face-to-face offerings, and self-taught online modules throughout the year.
- Digital poverty was addressed through loaning SICAP-owned IT Equipment such as laptops and ipads to individuals, groups, and older people who were undertaking training in digital skills or carrying out intergenerational activities or initiatives in their area. A pilot community equipment loan project was also commenced with €23,000 allocated towards the purchase of equipment such as lawnmowers which could be loaned through RSS & Tus schemes to assist communities in maintaining their green spaces.
- Staff from SICAP collaborated with Gort Family Resource Centre at a Migrant Information Event in November 2021 which was held in Gort and included information on essential supports in areas such as mental health, housing and social welfare entitlements.
- €12,000 was awarded in small-scale grants to 8 Social Enterprises towards the cost of equipment and addressing specific training needs.
- SICAP staff continued to collaborate closely with GRETB to deliver a range of courses to 275 individuals in the area of lifelong learning, including health & fitness, cookery, sewing, Irish, Photography, Gardening and Art. Online courses included Driver Theory, website building and social media skills. Over 45 clients over the age of 25 accessed individual grants to support their participation in a range of educational and training programmes such as forklift training, barista training, floristry, payroll and accountancy technician courses. Grants also afforded a number of clients the opportunity to return to 3rd level education on a part-time basis to study for either a Degree or Masters. Two 10-week online cookery programmes were coordinated with North Galway Family Services with direct referrals from the Traveller Community and families from Direct Provision who had been rehoused in the County.
- 163 disadvantaged young people were engaged in SICAP during the year with supports provided to gain employment, return to education or participate in lifelong learning courses, and in addition 33 children and 45 adults were supported through Tuam and Gort targeted Homework Clubs. 70 hours of one-to-one Play Therapy Sessions were provided to vulnerable children, and collaborations with Jump a Grade resulted in online grinds for a number of disadvantaged students and a School Garden developed in Ballinasloe. Funding was provided to translate

Planet Youth Parenting Power booklet into Portuguese, Slovakian, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and Arabic to broaden the reach of this resource.

- Following the success of Personal Development Courses in 2020, 4 Personal Development Courses and 3 follow-on courses were arranged with a total of 126 participants – these courses became the focus of the SICAP Case Study in 2021 to measure both the quantitative and qualitative benefits of these courses.

The New Communities Women’s Group continued to be supported by SICAP and digital equipment was loaned to enable them to continue to participate in group activities

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland is a Government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society. Some of the Healthy Ireland projects progressed during 2021 were:

- “Independent Living Skills for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities” was a collaborative project between Disability Organisations, GRETB and Galway Rural Development, to create an Independent Living Skills course with cookery skills, shopping, budgeting and nutrition advice for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities who were moving into independent living.



Minister Feighan with representatives from the “Independent Living Skills” initiative at a visit by Minister Frank Feighan T.D. on Friday 10th September 2021

- “Healthy Food Made Easy” Courses were adapted to an online format and 49 individuals participated in programmes. In addition, 8 grants were awarded to community venues to upgrade their kitchen facilities so that users of these facilities could carry out in-person courses in future.



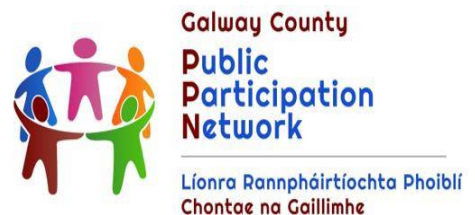
Members of Loughrea Men's Shed making bread in their new kitchen facility!

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a 6-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development, and the local and community development, of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. Guidelines were published by the Department of Rural and Community Development at the end of 2021 based on learnings from the inaugural editions of LECP's in each local authority area, which will guide the final reviews of these Plans and the development of new plans. As part of the revisions made through the guidelines there will be an overall high level strategic plan in place for the 6 years with action plans covering a two-year period. The initial two-year action plan will be developed alongside the high-level plan.

GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) is open to all community & voluntary groups based in the County and its membership continues to grow year-on-year with 1,078 member groups registered with the PPN at the end of 2021. Despite restrictions, the PPN Secretariat and Plenary continued to meet online during the year, to monitor implementation of the Work Plan and activities for the year. The following is a summary of the PPN activities for the year under its 3 main categories of activity:



Information Sharing and Communication: A key function of the PPN is to act as a link through which the Council connects with groups active throughout the County. In this regard, Webinars were organised throughout the year to provide information on funding schemes as they were launched, and the PPN issued comprehensive Newsletters which include a broad range of information across national and local funding programmes and initiatives which are very well received across communities. The PPN also sends a Weekly Digest containing relevant information on funding, events, and workshops to its members.

Build capacity of PPN Member Groups: the PPN carries out regular consultations with its member groups to identify training courses which will build their capacity to contribute to their local areas. Some of the training programmes which were delivered during 2021 were:

- A 5-week “Sustainable Gardening Course” was delivered to Tidy Towns and other interested community stakeholders encompassing practical advice on reducing and eliminating pesticide use; planting of native wildflowers, bulbs and trees; composting and incorporating weekly feedback by participants.
- A 6-week “Land Use Management & Biodiversity” series of talks which covered the following topics; Introduction to Rewilding, Farming and Food, Edible Landscaping in Urban Spaces, Watershed Management, Forestry and Trees, Overview of the Habitats of Co. Galway, Zero Waste Living.
- A Workshop on “Focusing on the Environment in your Community Work” was delivered with the Environmental Pillar of the PPN
- ‘Fiveways to Wellbeing’ promoting positive mental health in community groups, delivered in conjunction with GRETB
- Training to build capacity of groups in administration and governance including Bookkeeping Training, Annual Report workshop, Developing a Fundraising Plan Workshop, GDPR, The Charities Governance Code, Board Roles & Responsibilities, Managing your Community Groups finances with remote tools, Facilitation Skills for Chairing Meetings, Instagram for Community Groups, Canva for Presentation Design and Report Creation.

Facilitate participation in Decision-Making and Representation: during the year 1 Secretariat vacancy was filled and in addition, 5 PPN representative posts were filled on the LCDC and induction training was provided for the new representatives. A further representative post was filled on the Housing SPC while 2 vacancies were filled on the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC, and 2 representatives were elected to the newly established Interagency Group for the Refugee Resettlement Programme & Integration Strategy. Also, during the year, the following Linkage Groups were established and strengthened: The Galway County Intercultural Forum, Galway County Disability Forum, the Housing Linkage Group and the Green Recovery Working Group. These groups help the PPN address issues and concerns of member groups through a range of local campaigns and projects.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Local Authority and Public Participation Network (PPN) both have a role in ensuring representation of socially excluded or minority groups and ensuring their voices are heard in the development and implementation of policies and programmes. Some of the Committees and Fora which met for these purposes during 2021 are:

- The Age Friendly Alliance met 4 times during the year and coordinated the delivery of initiatives and activities under a Work Plan. Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm Training was held for staff and the first public realm Walkability Audit was carried out under the Healthy Ireland Fund, which identified improvements to accessibility and connectivity.
- Comhairle na nÓg met virtually and in person throughout 2021 and took part in a successful promotional campaign on mental health which aired on local radio and social media during

Mental Health Week. Members of the County Committee also presented to the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) and CYPSC (Children and Young Persons Services Committee) during the year and secured additional funding for youth mental health services. At the 2021 AGM, the topic which was selected for young people to work on during 2022 was “LGBTI+ Awareness and Education”.

- The Traveller Interagency Group meet quarterly to discuss implementation of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy through a local Work Plan. The Interagency Group launched a ‘Framework for Public Bodies responding to Traveller Ethnicity in County Galway’ as part of Traveller Pride Week 2021 and in conjunction with this launch, a workshop called Participation in Action - Planning for minorities” was delivered by Galway Traveller Movement to support staff in public bodies to implement the local Framework as well as the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.
- The Galway LGBTIQ+ Interagency Group continued to meet in 2021 with work commencing on the development of a Public Recognition Marker and associated Resource Pack for Service Providers, Community Groups, Businesses, Sports Clubs, etc., which will provide simple and practical actions to make things easier for LGBTIQ+ people in their local community. The need for this was identified through CSO (Central Statistics Office) statistics in 2019 which found that the highest rates of discrimination in Ireland were reported by people who identify as LGBTIQ+, therefore, the Marker and Resource Pack are aimed at increasing visible supports, and reducing discrimination, at community level.
- Galway County Council applied to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for funding under the newly launched “Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021”. The purpose of this Fund is to support the participation of People with Disabilities in local activities, to remove barriers to their community involvement, and to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in communities. The Council received an allocation of €100,000 which will be allocated on a cross-departmental basis towards Disability Awareness Training, funding of capital projects and community-based projects. The Council is liaising with the PPN’s Disability Forum in the development of priorities for the Fund and will conduct a Survey of People with Disabilities in partnership with the PPN during 2022.

The Community Development Staff also deliver social inclusion supports through small-scale funding programmes across a Calendar of Events including:

- The Bealtaine Festival is a month-long opportunity to inspire and celebrate creativity as we age and the Community Department coordinated the delivery of several events including digital skills training, online exercise and chair yoga, online evening of traditional singing, online herb basket demonstration, online introduction to Sean Nós dancing, online introduction to tracing your genealogy, and a fun caption competition.
- National Play Day and Recreation Week took place over the week of the 3rd July – 10th July 2021, with 20 events supported across the County highlighting the importance of bringing play and leisure opportunities back into community life.
- Positive Ageing Week took place during the week of September 27th to October 1st supported by the Galway Age Friendly Programme saw 13 community-based events taking

place across the county and a Local Heroes exhibition comprising of 27 people from all over Galway highlighting the positive aspects of healthy and active ageing.

- Social Inclusion Week was held from 18th to 24th October and small-scale funding was provided for 23 events which took place online and in person to celebrate participation, equality and inclusion.

SPORTS

Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) is a joint City and County Council Service with most staff based in the ERCD Section of Galway County Council. The GSP plays a lead role in the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities for the communities of Galway, and key activities throughout 2021 included:



- Sourced and secured sufficient funding from available sources – Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts, Local Authorities, HSE and Government Departments to fund the Operations of Galway Sports Partnership in 2021. Funding from Sport Ireland, HSE Dormant Accounts Funds and Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport secured to run all programmes in 2021.
- Organised virtual groups as part of Operation Transformation in association with local communities across Galway. – 12 virtual groups created, 1020 people took part altogether across Galway including disability services. This included taster sessions of various activities which were delivered virtually.
- Delivered a continuation of Operation Transformation as a programme called March for March – this included the 12 virtual groups competing to complete the most km's each week.
- Increased participation in sport and physical activities, through GSP Programme Funding. Activity programmes – Mountaineering Skills course, Self-Defence classes, Women on the Move, Water-sport Taster sessions.
- Delivered the Race Around Galway program where over 200 participants from Galway and with Galway roots but based around the world took part. Participants completed 573km (equal to the distance of the circumference of Galway County) in a 6-month period at their own pace.
- Delivered Training Programmes – Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3, First Aid, Activator Walking Training, Learn to Cycle Training, Autism in Sport.
- Most training and education programmes are run online due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Delivered Disability specific programmes – Autism Yoga, Virtual Walking Programs such as Walking into Summer, Equestrian Programs. Yoga in Lakeview Special School was also piloted in 2021.
- Delivered walking programmes, swimming programmes, Men on the Move programmes and Couch 2 5K programmes across Galway which were funded by HSE.
- Delivered Older Adults virtual programs as part of Bealtaine Festival and Mobility Week. These included the provision of pedometers to increase step-counts and online exercise classes and yoga classes.
- Delivered the Marathon Kids programme – an 8-week programme where schools participate and complete the distance of a Marathon with a resource booklet to guide students through the distance.

- Arranged and facilitated meetings of GSP Steering group and relevant workgroups throughout 2021.
- Applied to and secured funding from the DTT&S towards the delivery of events and programmes for Bike Week 2021. Supported 4 main locations to deliver events and 10 schools receiving dedicated Bike Week engagements. Events took place in Ballinderreen, Gort, Athenry and Kylebrack involving over 800 persons, adults and children.



Strategic Goal

“To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.”

The Economic, Rural & Community Development Department (ERCD) supports the revitalisation of towns and villages to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. It also supports a number of key sectors including Tourism, Hospitality, Food, Creative and Cultural sectors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) and Connected Hubs:

A number of individual hubs submitted applications to the Connected Hubs initiative. Galway County Council continue to work with hubs around the county to determine collaborative options including developing some hubs through the Regeneration programme of the Local Authority. The Irish tech network convened over two half days to raise awareness. The national hubs campaign is ongoing and the timeline for registration to the Connected Hubs platform will close at some point in 2022. The unit fed into the development of a Hubs Feasibility Study report is being put together with an accompanying toolkit. On the Digital Growth Hubs these need to align with the digital strategy of County Galway.

A number of Galway County Hubs were onboarded to the AEC booking system.

The Hub Outreach Programme update was delivered in 2021. This scheme was initiated to allow hubs to prepare for reopening and meet Covid-19 health and safety requirements, also to aid hubs in ensuring remote facilities were available e.g., video conferencing equipment. 8 hubs in Co. Galway were supported.

TOURISM

2021 was complex year for the Tourism industry, with restrictions implemented in the first half of the year and continuing restrictions for many sectors into Q3. Lockdowns resumed by December 2021 with a short window for recovery for the evening economy. There was a significant reduction in international travel with reticence too from Irish tourists regarding bookings and planning holidays. Consumer sentiment surveys cited restrictions being the reason- the restrictions meant complications in travel; social distancing guidelines and lack of hospitality options as well as public health concerns with most people awaiting vaccine rollout. Staff shortages coupled with this level of uncertainty made operations challenging for the industry.

In light of this, the work of the Tourism function in Galway County Council included responding to and supporting rollout of Government supports as well as delivering on strategic objectives of the Tourism service and the Economic, Rural and Community Development Unit. Work with strategic partners in networks and with agencies continued with a shared focus for tourism recovery as well as to continue with shared objectives identified through VEDPs. Information and supports were provided to businesses and there was significant energy put into marketing campaigns; for the 'Discover Galway' platforms; as well as for Discover Lough Derg and for 'Conamara agus na h'Oileain which included development and implementation of a new brand. The Tourism Officer continued to implement the Community Support Scheme grants and supported festivals and events pivot where necessary or create online events. A new strand of festival animation came with the Local Live Performance Scheme; from the Dept. of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport. The Tourism Office partnered with the Arts Office to devise, project manage and promote Ceol an t'Samhraidh.

By the end of 2021; the focus was once again on ensuring that Tourism would be supported in the short; medium and long term through the delivery of the County Tourism Strategy (2022-2030) and

Galway Council invested in procuring a consortium with a range of skills to support the delivery of a Tourism Strategy document and associated environmental reports through 2022 for the 8-year period thereafter.

BUSINESS SUPPORTS:

The following businesses supports were promoted to tourism and hospitality businesses in Q1 2021 through the Tourism Office;

- *The Covid Restrictions Support Scheme*
- *The Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID*
- *The Strategic Tourism Transport Continuity Scheme*
- *Outdoor Seating and Accessories Scheme*

From Q2, 2021; The ERCD Unit administered the Outdoor Seating and Furniture scheme to support tourism and hospitality businesses; this scheme was administered in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. The focus of this scheme was to provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, in our town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. Funding under the scheme was available to existing businesses. The scheme was open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses and other hospitality business establishments where food was sold for consumption on the premises.

Galway County Council granted 260 applicants in total funding a total of €803,788 to applicants; one of the largest fund administrations in the Country.





DISCOVER GALWAY FOOD EXPERIENCES:

Ongoing mentoring supports were offered to food producers to support development of visitor experiences. Out of 12 business that sought and were provided with targeted supports; six eventually took up mentoring appointments that were funded by the Tourism function. All suppliers were based in the eastern portion of the County.

TOURISM NETWORKS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM PLANS:

In H2 of 2021 and following contribution by Tourism Officer to Tourism and Landscape Chapter of the Galway County Development Plan in H1; work recommenced on the development of tender documents for the County Galway Tourism Strategy. A consortium was appointed to work on the Tourism Strategy; CHL Tourism Consultants in association with Minogue and Associates Environmental Consultants commenced a programme of work that incorporates public and industry engagement; environmental scoping and screening reports; developing a strategic tourism framework and a smart action plan to create a roadmap for delivery from 2022-2030.



SHANNON TOURISM MASTERPLAN



The Shannon Tourism Masterplan; which had been in progress since 2019; was launched in March 2021. Galway County Council contributed to the development of this plan, alongside all other local authorities along the Shannon Erne navigation system; with Kevin Kelly sitting on the steering committee of the plan along with colleagues from neighbouring local authorities. The Shannon Tourism Masterplan was delivered by Waterways Ireland and Fáilte Ireland to create a strategic framework for Tourism development along the waterways in Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands.

Galway County Council also supported the following product development areas within Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands:

- Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Road signage strategy
- Shannon on the Shannon; TV programme featuring Sharon Shannon aired in 2021
- 50 things to do for Kids in Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands published in 2021
- Development of Ireland’s Hidden Heartland ‘The Real Hidden Gems’ Flipbook.

CONNEMARA

The Tourism Officer attended six regular meetings with the Connemara and Tourism Network as well as additional meetings around project managing implementation of the Town and Village Accelerated Measure grant (this grant was awarded to Tourism in GCC, H2, 2020). This funding supported development of the GCC owned and community run www.connemara.ie; which became the landing page for the broadband network in the region and involved close collaboration with The Connemara and Islands Tourism Network and Costa Gaelach Conamara Árann. The T&V fund was also used to build brand Conamara agus na h'Óileáin -incorporating the islands proposition. A bank of images was captured for use on digital platforms and a PR campaign ensured coverage on TG4 Nuacht; The Irish Independent and the Irish Times as well as the Connacht Tribune and The Galway Advertiser. Minister Humphreys officially launched the project in August 2021.

Digital Metrics

The statistics below show the digital metrics for the campaign to date.



Another important programme of work including in- person workshops in Conamara with Fáilte Ireland and CAITN co-Chairpersons; and Galway County Council and Údarás na Gaeltacht contributed to the participating developing an interim report of the Connemara and Aran Islands Visitor Experience Development Plan for launch in 2022.



The Lough Derg Marketing Group functioned a ‘destination recovery taskforce’ with seven meetings of the steering committee and continual engagement outside meetings on the programme of work.

The Lough Derg Marketing Group, with the local authorities of Galway, Tipperary, and Clare; in association with Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland launched the Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan on Tuesday 20th April.

This project was initiated in late 2018 following the success of the earlier Lough Derg Roadmap, with the aim to establish a set of tourism priorities for the region. A series of public engagement workshops took place in Portumna and Killaloe/ Ballina in late 2018. Much of the content was drafted throughout 2019 with ongoing engagement of stakeholders sitting on the Lough Derg Marketing Group. The plan underwent environmental assessments, and a series of reports were issued for public consultation across the three local authorities in Q3 2020. The plan comprises product development, experience development and marketing objectives and uses the VICE model to consider the needs of the visitor, the industry, the community and the economy. The Lough Derg Marketing Group- now names Destination Lough Derg; will use the plan as a framework for ongoing collaboration and monitor progress of actions through future meetings.



ADVENTURE LOUGH DERG APP: A flagship project for the Lough Derg Marketing Group in 2021 was 'Adventure Lough Derg' funded by Fáilte Ireland; this new visitor experience which ran throughout the summer and autumn of 2021 -gave visitors the opportunity to explore Lough Derg. The Tourism Officers from the three local authorities; Clare, Galway and Tipperary; worked in consultation with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and Elite Event Management to support development of the app and content and Galway County Council rolled out the marketing campaign on our Discover Galway platforms.

BLUE; GREEN AND TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE:

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland were appointed to deliver a feasibility study for the '**Great Western Blueway**' on behalf of Galway City, County and Mayo Tourism officers. The project commenced in Q 4 2021 with a report due for Q3 2022. This collaborative project is supported Galway City, Galway County and Mayo and the study is valued at 30k.

The Tourism Officers of Galway, Clare and Tipperary worked in partnership with Waterways Ireland to gain accreditation of the Lough Derg Blueway.



Lough Derg Discovery sites feasibility was also carried out in 2021 with Portumna identified and Gurteeny/ Coose North as the two Galway based sites for a report valued 25k and funded by local LEADER companies. Cunnane Stratten Reynolds were appointed to carry out the report. The Tourism Officer engaged with the Roads team and RPS to support the **Dublin to Galway Greenway**; including provision of image bank; engaging with and promoting the public engagement process. The Tourism Office was also supportive of the ongoing development and promotion of the **Connemara Greenway** featuring the outdoor infrastructure on social media.



Burren Discovery Trail:

This Fáilte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way led project was supported by Galway County Council.

TOURISM PROMOTION:

A busy campaign of Tourism promotion planning was underway by Q2 with delivery poised for the reopening of hospitality in summer. The focus of the campaign was about promoting tourism attractions, and visitor experiences by highlighting all areas around the County, including traditional tourism destination as well as highlighting all the things visitors can do in Galway to enjoy a summer outdoors.

‘Discover Galway’ is platformed on Instagram and Facebook, with campaigns continuing throughout 2021 and until December when restrictions came into place again.



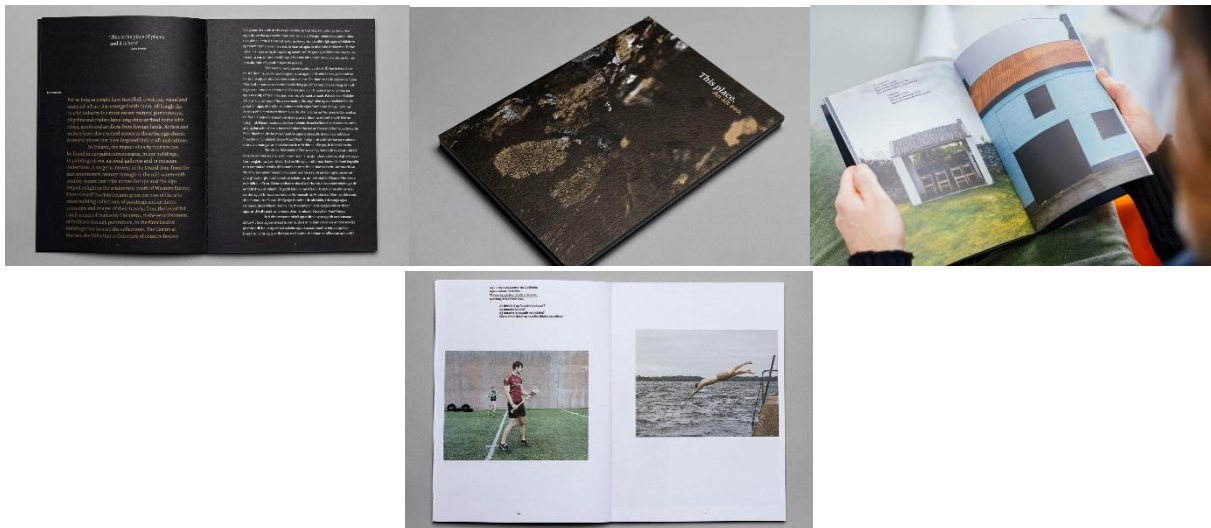
Tourism invested in advertising in the Connacht Tribune supplement 'Where in the West' launched in July; with the focus on the variety of things to see and do outdoors.

DIASPORA:

The Tourism Officer arranged for the Alcock and Brown monument and Marconi site to be illuminated for Canada Day, on July 1st. Following on from EPIC Ireland and Titanic Belfast buildings illuminating red for Canada Day previously, Tourism Ireland invited Galway to explore the opportunity to expand this initiative. Similar to Tourism Ireland's Global Greening campaign for St Patrick's Day, they wished to illuminate landmarks in Ireland, especially those with Canadian heritage connections.



CREATIVE IRELAND TOURISM PROJECT



The Tourism project was a poetry and photography book that journeyed from East to West Galway aimed at capturing texture, landscape, nature and relaxed energy. Told through stunning imagery and beautiful poetry, An Áit Seo/ This Place was made as a gift to the people of Galway. Irish and English poems connect people and places and pace of the photographic journey.

We wanted to shine a light on as many areas of Galway as possible and weave poetry in both of our languages through carefully selected images. Chance and serendipity became as much part of the

project process as planning, in a time where being responsive and adaptive determined the success of any project. A film was commissioned to be produced by Matthew Thompson; and included performances by actors Ann Marie Horan and James Riordan. The promotion was led out on Discover Galway platforms and included a radio interview on Keith Finnegan. The book as made widely available through Galway County Council Library service and in Kenny’s Galway and Charlie Byrnes.

CLIFDEN DESTINATION TOWN

An audit of the existing wayfinding and orientation strategy and reworking of public realm plans in context of Town Centre Enhancement Plans- with project to commence in 2022; with preliminary project scoping ongoing and tenders need to be agreed in alignment with Clifden Regeneration project. Galway County Council were awarded €500,000 in March 2020 for this project; and the match funding agreed by Galway County Council was €166,000; with 0% spend by Q4 2021 due to the extension required to align with the Clifden Regeneration programme of design and planning awarded through the RRDF.

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

The ERCD Section is co-ordinating and delivering on funding approvals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the following locations: Athenry, Tuam, Kinvara, Portumna, Loughrea, Gort and Clifden. Over 6m euro in funding has been secured by the Rural Regeneration Team.

LIVE PROGRAMME – RRDF TEAM 2021	AMOUNT OF RRDF GRANT FUNDING SECURED.
Athenry	€2,927,310
Tuam	€175,000
Kinvara	€122,790
Loughrea	€1,628,879
Clifden	€792,029
Portumna Vision	€1,192,855
Portumna Courthouse	€2,552,309
	€6,046,834

ATHENRY:

An allocation of €3,554,000 has been made to Athenry Town and the BIA Innovator Campus. This project supports regeneration in Athenry Town with a number of improvements to be made in the Town Centre and provides a significant level of funding to enable the delivery of the BIA Innovator Campus which is co-located at the Teagasc Campus on the outskirts of Athenry.

Galway County Council including the Local Enterprise Office, founding partners of the BIA project, remain key drivers along with Teagasc, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, SCCUL Enterprises, the Western Development Commission and Athenry Community Council as part of the BIA Innovator Campus CLG Company.

The Campus will provide Production, innovation and knowledge facilities offering immersion in the food sector and a flagship Hub for the West Region combined with a mix of supports - mentoring, training, peer support and networking to assist clients to innovate and scale up their enterprises. Construction has progressed significantly in 2021 and engagement with the Food Sector and Partners to secure clients for the Campus and additional funding and grow networks on an All-Ireland and European basis has progressed at pace. The Campus has three buildings of food specific resources to support food related businesses.



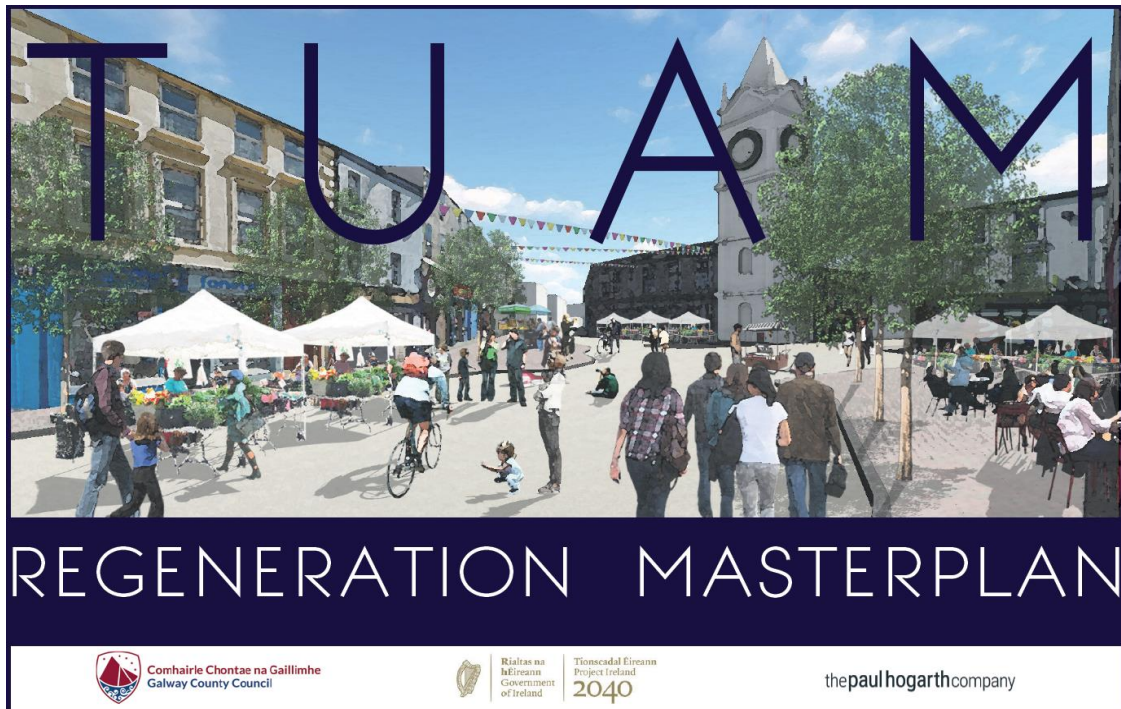
Images: Source: BIA Innovator Campus CLG

The works in Athenry Town Centre under RRDF will see physical improvements and enhanced public realm, improvement to shop fronts and development of the Athenry Town Park. The works are being

delivered collaboratively by a range of partners including the local area office, Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, Athenry Heritage Centre, the business community and a local social enterprise group.

TUAM MASTERPLAN

The Tuam Regeneration Masterplan was Environmentally assessed in Q1 2021 before being presented and formally endorsed by the elected members of the Municipal District of Tuam on 12th April 2021. The Plan emerged from extensive consultation and provided a launch pad for future funding applications for the town and routes to delivery outlined.



KINVARA BAY BOARDWALK

The aim of the project is to improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between Dunguaire Castle and Kinvara village to include a dedicated cycleway, separate from the road carriageway. A number of design proposals were investigated in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders. A draft construction management plan was prepared for the preferred option including Environmental



assessments.

PORTUMNA – COURTHOUSE REFURBISHMENT

The intention of the project is to bring this prominent historic local building back into community use.

A tender for design consultants was advanced and procured in Q4 2021.





Source Image: RRDF Team, Galway County Council, Design Consultants

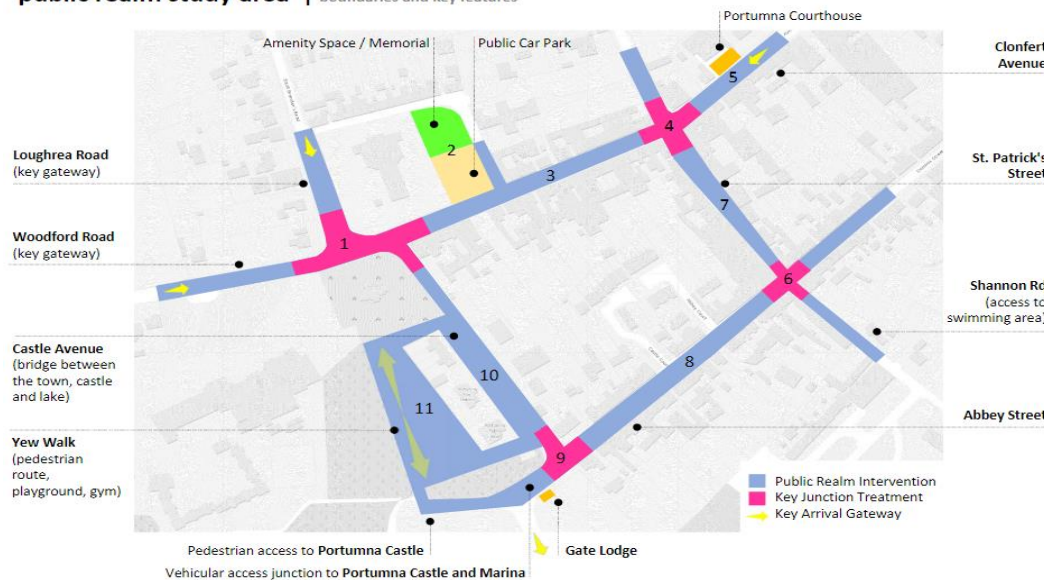


PORTUMNA – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT

The project consists of the design of an attractive inclusive public realm focused on Portumna key streets and linkages to its recreation and amenity attractions with the inclusion of an integrated wayfinding strategy. The project is in partnership with a number of groups and agencies and linked and arose out of local consultations with as part of the Portumna Vision process.

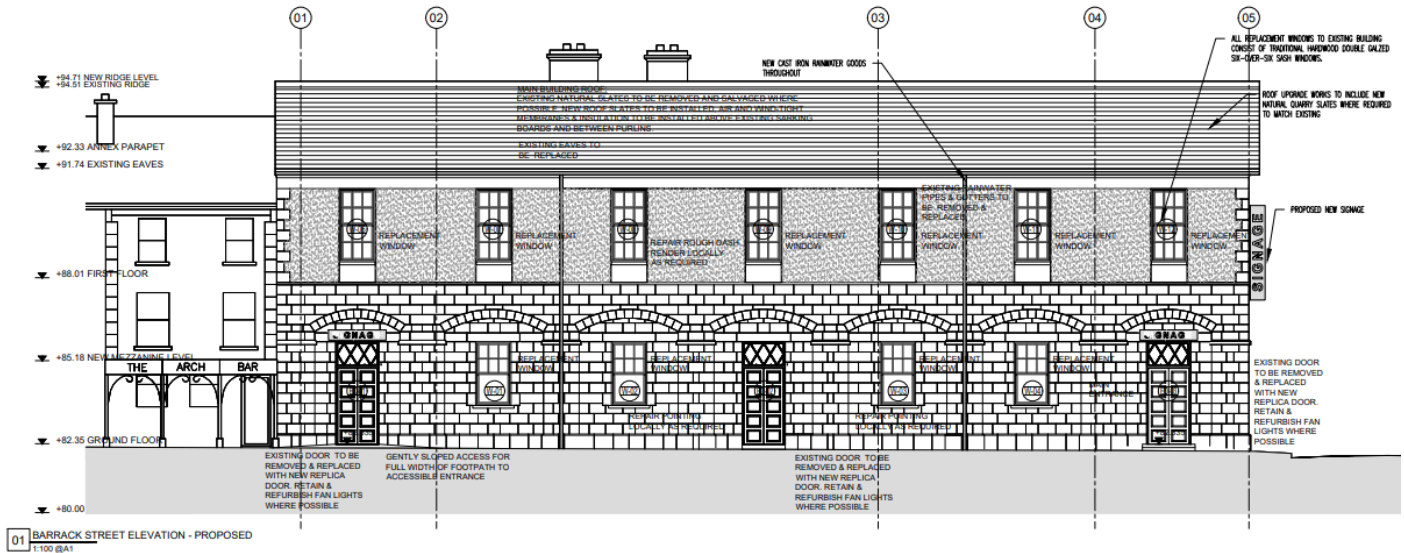
A tender for design consultants was advanced and procured in Q4 2021.

public realm study area | boundaries and key features



LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

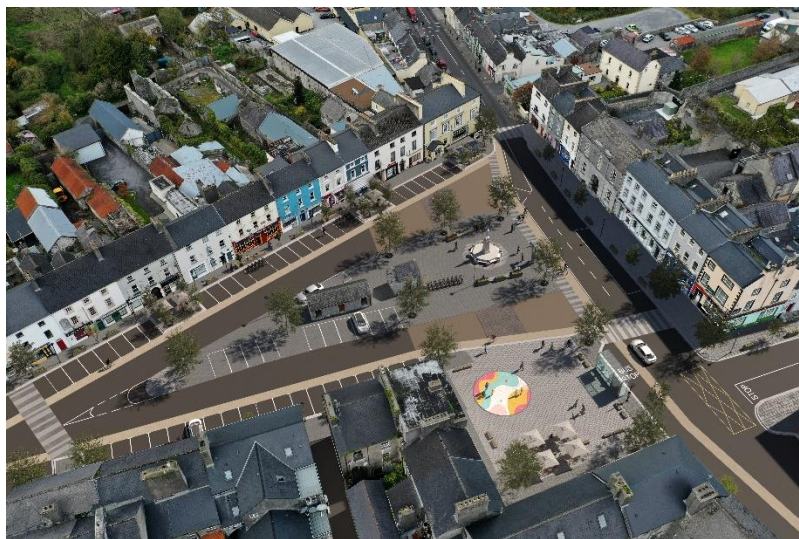
This project will involve the renovation of the main building and the demolition of the existing rear annex building to make way for the construction of a new, universally accessible, and code compliant building.



The design was developed through to Tender Stage to include a detailed cost analysis with a view to securing additional funding. Prequalification of suitable contractors was undertaken in Q4 of 2021.

GORT – PUBLIC REALM

An application was submitted by the Regeneration Team in Q3 2021 under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration Fund in respect of a number of Gort Town Centre projects.





CLIFDEN – TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

The aim of the project is to deliver a cohesive design approach for Clifden focusing on three main areas:

- Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement
- Harbour Park
- Beach Road Quay

LUC were appointed as design consultants for the project in Q4. Tenders for site investigation and survey works was procured in Q4 2021. Public engagements commenced in December 2021 with an anticipated launch of a consultation website in early 2022.



TUAM – TOWNHALL REFURBISHMENT

The project aim is to redevelop the former Town Hall in Tuam for use as a multi-functional space to include a creative and enterprise hub and co-working space, offices, meeting rooms and supporting spaces.

Site investigation works were undertaken in Q4 2021 to inform any subsequent planning and funding applications.



Image Source: RRDF Team, Masterplan commissioned for Tuam.

OTHER RURAL FUNDING SCHEMES

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

The Department developed two Pilot Streetscape Enhancement Schemes for Athenry and Ballinasloe as part its regenerative drive in these locations aligned to the Rural Regeneration Programmes. Works on these pilots continued in 2021.

Our Rural Future, the Government's five-year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland launched in 2021, made a commitment to upgrade and enhance shopfronts and street facades in rural towns and villages. As result, in August 2021, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) introduced a new and additional Measure as part of its Town and Village Renewal Scheme called the Streetscape Enhancement Measure.

The Guidelines facilitated grant funding of up to 80% for adjacent properties with maximum limits per category and 4k in total per applicant towards Painting, Shopfront Enhancement, Appropriate Lighting and Decluttering. The maximum number of locations (6) under the Scheme was put forward as follows; Ballygar; Glenamaddy; Headford; Loughrea; Oranmore and Oughterard.

The Council identified suitable zones in each location and engaged support from a local architectural firm to advise on opportunity sites and provide initial guidance to Tidy Towns Groups and Local Development Group, who lead on local promotion and engagement along with Elected Members. Five On-Line Advisory Workshops were held in late August 2021, where Tidy Towns Groups were informed by Street and Building Audits which had been carried out by the Architectural Service and were presented with ideas on key sites, issues and a Building Checklist. The Scheme was welcomed was oversubscribed and by the end of September 236 Applications were received and 174 in the Priority Town-Village Centre Zones were offered total funding of **€349,111.00**.

Consultation Advice utilised in the Pilot Scheme was put in place and delivered via local workshops. A change in the initial Departmental deadline to have works completed by November was secured by the Local Authority sector in October and the programme was extended to April 2022 for existing applicants. Colour



Sample Output: Streetscape Enhancement Scheme Town and Village Renewal, Headford. Photo Helena McElmeel

THE TOWN AND VILLAGE CAPITAL RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Is funded by the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRCD), with matching funding provided either by the Community as a Lead Partner or the Council as a Lead Partner continued in 2021. Projects in this programme are invited via an Expression of Interest process in May-June annually, shortlisted and submitted in July with Departmental decisions issued in November. Projects have an approximate 18–24 month implementation period.



During 2021, 30 Projects across 27 different communities were active under the Town and Village Renewal Programme. Services involved stakeholder engagement, advice to community groups on project delivery, monitoring, site visits, administration and recoupment of funding.

The Unit also dealt with over 20 Expression of Interest for the 2021 Programme with 8 projects shortlisted for funding and submitted to DRCD in July 2021 seeking 1.2m in funding. The Town and Village 2021 Programme reflected new priorities as expressed in Our Rural Future Strategy published in 2021 and placed particular emphasis on projects supporting remote working and enhancing town centre living and for the first time introduced Priority Projects and a Project Development Measure.

Due to the significant changes, communications on the 2021 Scheme required additional focus and took place mainly via Webinars in partnership with Public Participation Networks and On-Line Meetings with interested applicants and media updates both on social media and print.

In August 2021, the Department introduced a new Streetscape Enhancement Measure under the Town and Village Renewal Programme which was rolled out in six towns.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL PROGRAMME – SUMMARY OF ACTIVE PROGRAMME IN 2021

			
Scheme Year	Number of Approved Projects	No. of Projects Active in 2021	No. of Projects Completed in 2021
2019	7	7	3
2020	6	6	0
2020 Accelerated Measures	15	11	9
Streetscape Measure	6 (Towns)	6	0
Total		30	12**

***Town and Village Renewal Projects can run over a period of 12-18 months and Scheme approvals are not given until year end.*

Of the 2019 Town and Village Programme, 4 out of 7 projects were completed during 2021, while three, Oranmore, Ballyglunin and An Cheathrú were ongoing at year end.

Town /Village	Municipal District / Electoral Area	Scheme	Scheme Year	Project Reference Number	Grant Amount Approved	Project Name
Oranmore	Athenry-Oranmore	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY01	€200,000.00	Oranmore Village Enhancement and Connectivity
Craughwell	Loughrea	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY02	€100,000.00	Craughwell Pedestrian Access to Sports-Amenity Facilities.
An Cheathrú Rua	Conamara South	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY04	€80,000.00	An Cheathrú Rua - Improved Village Links and Lighting Project
Corofin	Tuam	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY07	€100,000.00	Corofin Enhanced Pedestrian and Access Projects
Killimor	Loughrea	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY08	€100,000.00	Killimor Village Improved Accesibility and Pederstrian Access.
Leitir Móir - Tir an Fhia	Conamara South	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY09	€72,000.00	Leitir Móir Safety and Pedestrian Access Improvements
Ballygluinin	Tuam	Town and Village Renewal	2019	TV19GY12	€100,000.00	Ballygluinin Railway Station - Attraction and Hub Enhancements
					€752,000.00	

Six projects approved in under the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Programme continued in 2021.

Town /Village	Municipal District / Electoral Area	Scheme	Scheme Year	Project Reference Number	Grant Amount Approved	Project Name
Baile Chláir	Athenry-Oranmore	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY01	€200,000.00	Baile Chláir Leisure Centre Upgrade and Co-Work Space.
Leitir Móir	Connemara (South)	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY02	€100,000.00	Leitir Móir Community Park
Creggs	Ballinasloe	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY03	€90,000.00	Creggs Heritage Centre Upgrades and Outdoor Amenity Space
Belclare	Tuam	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY04	€100,000.00	Belclare Village Safety and Amenity Enhancements
Portumna	Loughrea	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY05	€100,000.00	Linking Portumna Forest Park
Castleblakney	Ballinasloe	Town and Village Renewal	2020	TV20GY06	€100,000.00	Castleblakney Community Playground
					€690,000.00	

Town and Village Accelerated Measure – this was a new measure introduced in 2020 in response to the COVID -19 Pandemic, with 15 projects approved adding value across the County and in the on-line space to promote businesses and retail. Ballinasloe, An Fháirce-Clonbur, Clifden, Milltown and Killimor were completed at end of 2020 with final recoupments taking place in 2021, while 9 others were completed in 2021. Two projects were ongoing at end of 2021, Mountbellow and Glenamaddy.

Town / Village	Scheme Year	Accelerated Measure (e.g. Round 1, 2, 3 or Large Towns)	Project Ref No	Grant Approved	Project Name
Ballinasloe	2020	Round 1	TVAC20G Y01	€40,000.00	Ballinasloe Shop Local
Gort	2020	Round 1	TVAC20G Y02	€24,750.00	Gort Market Square Enhancements
Clonbur	2020	Round 1	TVAC20G Y03	€19,800.00	Clonbur Outdoor Market Space at All Saints Heritage Centre
Athenry	2020	Round 1	TVAC20G Y04	€24,887.00	Athenry Community Park Seating Enhancements
County-wide Initiative	2020	Round 1	TVAC20G Y05	€24,750.00	Made in Galway On-Line Directory and Shop Local Campaign.
Connemara	2020	Round 2	TVAC20G Y06	€36,000.00	Further development of & promotion of www.Connemara.ie
Mountbellew	2020	Round 2	TVAC20G Y07	€21,618.00	Mountbellew - Christmas Lights Upgrade
Clifden	2020	Round 2	TVAC20G Y08	€25,000.00	Clifden Christmas Campaign and Outdoor Seating Pilot
Milltown	2020	Round 2	TVAC20G Y09	€25,000.00	Establishment of Milltown-Co-Workspace
Killimor	2020	Round 2	TVAC20G Y10	€25,000.00	Killimor Enterprise Centre Co-Workspace
Broadband Connection Points	2020	Round 3	TVAC20G Y12	€39,118.00	New Broadband Connection Points in Co. Galway & Islands.
Tuam	2020	Round 3	TVAC20G Y13	€39,600.00	Tuam Street Enhancements for Improved Accessibility

Glenamaddy	2020	Round 3	TVAC20G Y14	€25,000.00	Glenamaddy Town Square - Seating and Planter Improvements
Loughrea	2020	Round 3	TVAC20G Y16	€25,000.00	Loughrea Town Centre - Footpath Accessibility Improvements
Mullagh	2020	Round 3	TVAC20G Y17	€19,800.00	Mullagh Outdoor Community Greenspace Enhancement.
				€415,323.00	



Gort Market Square, Town and Village Renewal Scheme Accelerated Measure led by Burren Lowlands with Gort Office.

RURAL SCHEMES – CLÁR PROGRAMME FOR SMALL- SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE

CLÁR PROGRAMME 2021

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in designated rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. A significant number of communities in rural areas of county Galway have benefited from CLÁR funding since the programme re-launch several years ago.

Under the initial 2021 programme, Galway County Council made a submission for funding for a total of 11 projects across the county under 3 measures.

- Measure 1 – Safety Measures at Schools or Community Facilities

- Measure 2 – Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities
- Measure 3A – Community Gardens, Allotments & Sensory Gardens

In September the Department of Rural & Community Development confirmed funding for 7 projects. Details of each are outlined in the table below. This investment in our rural communities aligns with Government’s plan to enhance facilities and infrastructure in areas that have the greatest need. Feedback and follow up advisory meetings were facilitated with groups who were unsuccessful on this occasion with a view to enhancing future applications for funding.

An Innovation Measure was announced under separate cover by the Department of Rural & Community Development which led to a further project to the value of € 30,825 being funded under this new CLÁR Measure.

CLÁR Measure	Applicants	Project Outline	Funding Awarded
1	Clonberne NS	Pedestrian Crossing & School parking upgrades	€50,000
2	Lurga NS	Development of a Community MUGA	€50,000
2	Skehana Community Development Committee (SCD)	Development of a community accessible playground.	€49,513.13
1	Galway County Council & Woodford Parish Development	Extension of footpaths from Woodford to Derrycrag Nature Reserve	€50,000
2	Glinsk Community Development Association	Development of a community Playground	€50,000
2	Abbey Community Development Association	Final phase of Community MUGA, Lighting, Access to adjacent sensory play area, gym.	€27,000
3(a)	Comharcumann Forbartha Arann	Development of a community garden at Garrai na gCrann.	€8,100

Innovation	Galway County Council	Community Playground Project – Enhancement, Promotion, Inspection Training targeting 59 Community Playgrounds in CLÁR Areas in Galway County.	€ 30,825
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RURAL SCHEMES - OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. (Adventure Tourism type projects, Blueways, Walking Trails, Boardwalks, etc). In 2021 Galway County Council were approved over €1 million for 10 projects around the County.

Measure:	Project Name:	Funding approved:
1	Connemara Greenway Maintenance	17,000
1	The Wheels of Athenry Cycle Trail	19,800
1	Cill Mhuirbhígh Beach Maintenance	19,800
1	Sandybanks Lane Walkway	17,910
1	Annaghdown Pier	20,000
1	Luibín Gharumna Trail	19,637.64
2	Atlantic Waterfall Walk	183,465
2	Woodford Millennium Oak Forest	200,000
3	Portumna Blueway, Wayfinding Park	499,585
PD4	The Long Point	50,000

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES



Image Community Support Scheme project at Annaghkeen Pier, Headford - Cycle Racks and Accessible Picnic Table

The Galway County Council Community Support Schemes encourage community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities by providing small-scale funding for projects which are of benefit to their local community and improve the economic, community and cultural aspects of their surrounding areas. In 2021 a total of €237,933 was awarded towards 217 projects throughout the County. The grants were diverse and ranged from supporting improvements to local amenities, facilities and services, to promoting and increasing the knowledge and awareness of the arts, heritage and Irish Language, to collaborative business promotional initiatives, festivals and participative events.

LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE SCHEME 2021

LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE SCHEME ARTS & TOURISM OFFICE PROGRAMME.

Galway County Council was invited to make an application to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for up to €143,000 under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme. In March 2021, the Minister announced a €50m suite of COVID-19 measures to support the commercial live performance sector to assist producers, promoters and venues to provide support for people in the industry. Galway County Council were granted the initial sum of €143,000 in May and were granted an additional sum of €50,000 in September for a programme of live performances to be delivered by October 2021.

Galway County events took place between August 13th and October 22nd, 2021, with 14 events taking place in 7 locations across the county over a series of weekends. The Arts and Tourism Office worked with local promoters and festivals on the ground under the banner of Ceol an t-Samhraidh. Gigs included performance by The Raines, FUSE Collective, Darragh O’Dea, Jack Lee, The Whileaways, Kelly Fitzhenry, Back West, Back the Valley, Cousin Tablet, Pauline Scanlon, Mathew Berrill, Dave Clancy, David Kitt, Eleanor Shanley, Mick Hanrahan, Rachel Grace, Ultan Conlon and The Stunning.



Image: Eleanor Shanley, Mike Hanrahan and Rachel Grace – Portumna

The funding was used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by engaging the services of professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances.



GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICE

ARTS OFFICE

The Arts Office continued to promote all elements of the arts, supporting an ethos of participation, access and inclusion in the arts throughout 2021 despite the many challenges during the many lockdowns and restrictions. Many programmes adapted to hybrid models with artists throughout the county eager to create work and develop their skills during the more challenging periods. Involvement and interest in the arts in the County is very strong; the demand for cultural services and supports is growing with many artists living and working in the county and many more relocating to rural areas.

Our key supports included:

- Arts Grants: Arts Office administered, adjudicated and supported €48,000 of arts grants for voluntary groups and organisation to pursue the development of the Arts in the County through the Community Support Scheme (Culture) 2021.
- Advice and Advocacy: Provided ongoing professional arts information and advice to community groups, artists and organisations in the county. Provided continued professional development opportunities are planned in collaboration with ITI, VAI, Tulca, ISACS and Create.
- Public Art Programme: Set up a Public Art Management group to oversee Public Art programme as per the Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024.
- Artists Support Scheme: In 2021 we supported 23 artists and offered ongoing producer support to artists applying for Arts Council funding. Included peer artists on the assessments panels to ensure excellence and rigour.
- Supported Branar's successful **Theatre Resource Sharing** Application for Galway to ensure that theatre artists have access to equipment, physical supports, producing, direction and production support. Supported 3 Galway County artists through the Bru Theatre Remote Control capacity building programme.
- Artists Residencies: Increased artists residency opportunities to four in 2021 for Galway County Artists to include: Culture Irlandais, Aras Éanna and Interface.
- Prioritised audio and visual training support for artists in creating and presenting work online, offering access to professionals from the audio and visual sector in Galway through the Galway Film Centre.
- Health and Wellbeing supports: We invested in a joint wellbeing support programme with Galway City Arts Office in partnership with the *Trailblazery Hedge School*, curating a number of sessions offering professional facilitated sessions on the theme of collaboration and support with care packages for each artist.
- Supported a new artist collective - A curious Co-Op; five professional artists local to Tuam to take time and space to investigate, experiment and play to evolve into a collaborative Arts Group - this is a direct collective artistic response to Creative Places Tuam.
- Platform 31: -Galway County Arts Office supported one County Galway based artist on this nationwide artist development scheme led by the 31 Local individual artists, festivals in the county and advisory service to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions. Alannah Robbins was selected as Galway County Artist by a national panel and received an €8,000 bursary to invest in her practice, combined with participation in an advisory and developmental framework and a national peer network.



Our Youth Arts programme for 2021 proved very challenging due to Covid restrictions. Schools and youth services were mainly online, and artists were unable to work in schools directly. From September 2021 we begun an intense period of programming which will continue into early 2022. One of our main objectives for 2021 is to ensure young people have an opportunity to engage with high-quality arts activities and offer a wide range of diverse experiences and ensure we encourage new young audiences and artists of the future.



Image: Artists in Schools Project; Carrabane National School with Artists Jojo Hynes and Orla McGovern

- Children’s Book Festival Book It: Supported a hybrid version of the Children’s Book festival in collaboration with the library service featuring writers and artists during October.
- Artists in Schools: this continues to be a much sought after programme and was delivered in partnership with Creative Schools and GRETB school programme.
- Youth Creative Programme with Nova Productions in November 2021. Moviemember was a film project for teenagers where they learned how to devise, produce, film, and edit their own short film in the Athenry Area.
- Worked in partnership with *Music Generation Galway County* to support Music Education Programme in collaboration with GRETB.
- Other Youth Arts Programmes: continue to offer other programme supports for children and young people in partnership with our professional partners: Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Branar T  atre do Ph  ist  , Tulca, Galway Music Residency, Galway Junior Film Fleadh and Galway Film Centre who present and tour in the county.
- Supported St.Brendan’s National School, Portumna with their participation in designing lighting for the Light Ballet by Cultureworks on the Shannon.

For 2021 we have taken a targeted approach to supporting our communities. One of the largest challenges we face during this time is the lack of formal cultural infrastructure in the county. With reference to the government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19, we delivered a capacity building programme to increase creative activity, enhance professionalism and the sustainability of festivals and events, provide employment opportunities and encourage county wide collaboration and skills exchange.

Our programme for 2021 included:

- Agents of Change: Continued to work with this network of festivals and producers to build capacity and resource sharing.
- Directly supported the creation and co-production of the pilot East Galway Fit Up Festival 2021 (Theatre) in collaboration with the Three Rings Festival, securing funding from the Arts Council which was held in halls in East Galway in November 2021.
- Festival Support: Offered Producer support to our key festivals in advance of Arts Council applications 2021. Supported Shorelines Festival and Three Rings Festival by presenting additional high quality live music events to their festivals through the Local Live Performance Scheme.
- Other community Arts Engagement Programmes included directly supporting Poetry Ireland's National Initiative Poetry Town. Athenry was chosen to be Galway County's Poetrytown with Poet Laureate Elaine Feeney writing a poem for its launch. Arts Office also supported the Irish National Opera Company's outdoor screening of *The Lighthouse* in Connemara.
- Arts in Disability: Working with our partners, Blue Teapot Theatre Company on a theatre and film project in the County with several their ID members. Began a consultation process facilitated by Blue Teapot in the county to look at arts provisions and opportunities for artists with disabilities and those living outside of care and supported sectors.
- Creative Places Tuam: Arts Office continued to support this project and develop programmes in conjunction with Create in Tuam.
- Cultural Diversity Programme: Worked in partnership with the newly formed Galway County Intercultural Forum and Cúirt Festival of Literature to engage with audiences from diverse ethnic backgrounds including traveller communities through a targeted strategic year-round outreach programme.
- Culture Night 2021: Delivered a successful Culture Night 2021 with 45 events taking place all over the county to include many new commissions and events took place both online and offline.



Image: Skylark Group – Culture Night 2021 Exhibition



Image: Clonbur le Cheile – Culture Night 2021

- Supported Screen Commission West, UNESCO City of Film and Wrap Fund.
- Supported Aras Éanna Arts Centre on Inis Oírr).
- Galway County Council's Creative Ireland Programme. Arts Office led, managed and administered the Creative Ireland Programme 2021 and directly curated and programmed Cruinniú na nÓg 2021(national creative day for children) in Galway County.
- Local Live Performance Scheme: Designed, produced and delivered Ceol an tSamhraidh; a series of live music events to support the live entertainment sector in county Galway from August- October 2021 in collaboration with the Tourism Officer.
- Supported the installation of Galway International Arts Festival's Galway 2020 Project Mirror Pavillion by John Gerrard on Derrigmlagh Bog in Connemara as part of the Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture 2020.



Image S O'Grady: Mirrored Pavillion

- Erasmus+: Galway County Council Arts Office took part in Erasmus + project Culture UP programme. The first visit took place in October 2021 to Ringkobing, Denmark. This capacity building programme with Cultural Institutions and Local Authorities in non-urban and peripheral areas set out to share and exchange knowledge and practices of cultural development across the public, private and civil sector in five European non-urban and peripheral areas. The goal is to facilitate learning opportunities to upskill, inspire and motivate cultural institutions and local authorities in rural areas to strengthen their capacity development to the benefit of their local communities. This will continue into 2022.
- Specialist Staffing Scheme: Successfully secured funding under the Arts Council's Specialist Staffing Scheme to recruit an Assistant Arts Officer on a three-year contract. This post will support the Arts Officer in the delivery of youth arts, festivals and community arts programmes. The recruitment process began in late 2021.



CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME

County Galway has long been associated with the arts and culture, with our unique quality of life and natural landscape offering artists the type of environment for creativity to thrive. Underpinning the support of our creative community is a responsibility to ensure we preserve our landscape, our built and natural heritage to attract further development and ensure that the factors which are so conducive to creativity are preserved.



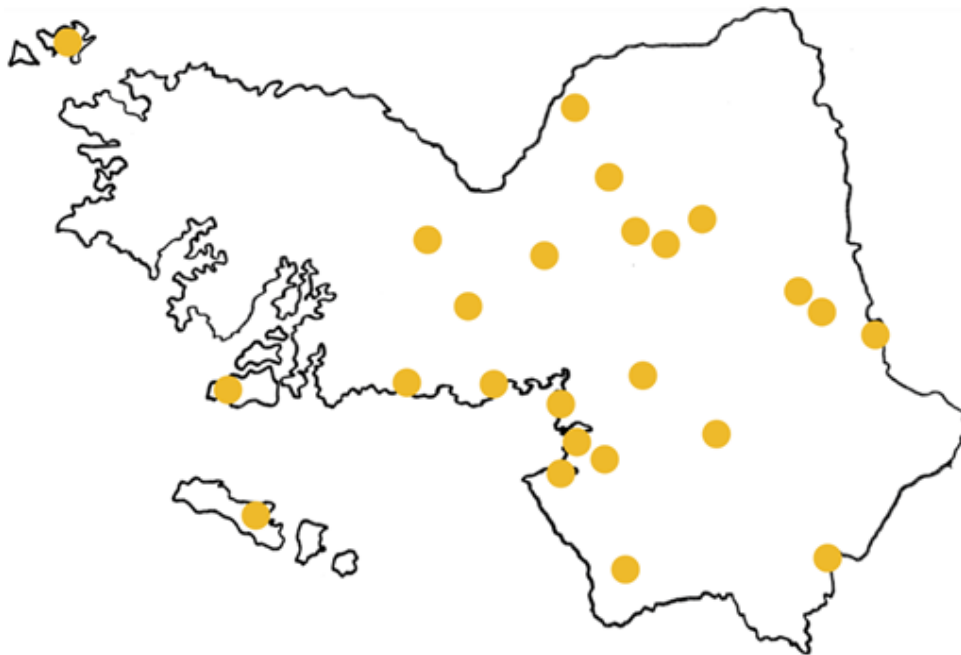
Image: Wandering Kite Festival 2021, Oughterard, Co. Galway

The Creative Ireland Programme is led by the Arts Office in collaboration with the Galway County Culture team which includes the following services: Archives, Arts, Conservation, Community, Enterprise, Heritage, Libraries and Tourism. The Galway County Creative Ireland programme is funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Communities strand which aims to:

1. Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally. 2. Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development. 3. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places. 4. Investing in culture and creativity to support delivery of wider local authority agendas. 5. Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams to deliver targeted collaborative programmes.

In 2021, with an allocation of €177, 811; Galway County Council Creative Ireland Team supported a total of 41 projects to include:

- Creative Ireland Bursaries: 8
- Culture Team Projects: 5
- One-off projects: 3
- Cruinniú na nÓg: 20
- Creativity in Older Age: 2
- Rollover Projects: 3



The 2021 projects spoke to the **8 strategic priorities** of Galway County Council Creative Ireland Strategic Plan 2017-2022 and Featured projects in the **Irish language** e.g., *Lá Amuigh Faoin Spéir, Oileánra*. They involved **collaboration** within the Culture Team e.g., *Galway Wandering Kite Festival* and *Comicon Ballinasloe* supported **cross-sectoral** collaboration (Arts & Libraries). The projects also **added value** to initiatives e.g. *The Mighty Ocean* performance on TG4 and supported innovative programmes to **create positive social & economic impacts**.



Image: Comicon Ballinasloe 2021

The Culture Team projects included: An áit seo/ This place Book (Tourism), Comicon Ballinasloe (Libraries), Wandering Kite Festival (Tourism/Community), Galway Gates- the Vernacular Gates of County Galway (Heritage), “Westward Ho” a ramble through Galway, 1840-1950 (Libraries/Archives), Heart of Gort (Conservation), The Nursing Home Project (Healthy Ireland/Community).

The Bursary projects awarded included Aran Census 1821; Knitting Inishbofin, If Walls Could Talk, Frank- the Man with the Camera, Bouncing off the Walls, Fuse at the Musicals, Salt and The Animals of Rinville,

Details of all the Galway County Creative Ireland projects are listed on the <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-communities/> national website.

ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE
& MAJOR EMERGENCY
SERVICES, HUMAN
RESOURCES &
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENT

The role of the Environment Section is to protect and enhance the Environment in the County of Galway in the interests of quality of life, economic development, and regulatory compliance. This is to be achieved through the implementation of numerous plans, measures, and programmes to be delivered throughout the Unit.

Strategic Goal

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- The awareness team continued to engage with the domestic and commercial sectors in promoting environmental awareness.
- Information was provided on awareness and environmental activities through local media, social media, schools, voluntary groups etc.
- There was ongoing involvement with Tidy Towns groups.
- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of the schools in the County involved.
- There were a few Anti-Litter initiatives rolled out and funded by Galway County Council. A dog fouling campaign, “If They Poop, You Scoop” was launched, The Picker Pals Anti-Litter programme was delivered in 56 classes, an Anti-Litter Poster Competition was run in National Schools, and a bilingual cinema advert was produced to run post -Covid.
- Anti-Litter audio programme was continued at four bring bank centres, in Rinville Park and Portumna Bathing area. Anti-Litter radio adverts were aired on local radio stations.
- Grants were given to communities to maintain bring banks and burial grounds.
- Delivery of National Spring Clean, Community Clean Up Initiatives, and Christmas Tree Collections.



PLANNING

149 planning applications with a significant environmental risk were reviewed by the Environment Section. Staff attend pre-planning meetings, review planning applications and plans and make recommendations in relation to conditions/further information/grant/refusal. The available staff resource is assigned to the highest risk activities.

VETERINARY SERVICES

- The Council provides a Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service in both Galway City and County. This service fulfils the terms of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. There are two fulltime veterinarians in the service.
- The LGMA has recently announced plans to transfer vets from all local authority veterinary services to the Department of Agriculture. This matter is currently under discussion while the Food Safety Authority of Ireland contract has been rolled over.
- There are 11 low throughput abattoirs in the county which slaughter cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry, and process wild game. The Council also supervises 14 approved and three registered meat processing premises in both the city and county. While the Covid situation impacted on-site visits, 143 inspections and audits were carried out in 2021. 194 samples were taken for microbiological and chemical safety of food and for the presence of antibiotic, heavy metal and anthelmintic residues, as part of an EC monitoring program. Galway County Council's Veterinary Service has an advisory role for existing and prospective meat food business operators at start-up phase and is involved at steering level in the development of the BIA Innovator campus Athenry.

DOG CONTROL

- Dog control and the promotion of responsible dog ownership in the County continues to be monitored by our dog warden service. It was a particularly challenging year for the service with one dog warden covering the county following the retirement of the dog warden covering the east of Galway County in August 2021. This shortfall in resources had a detrimental effect on the service's ability to maintain licencing levels with that of previous years. A recruitment process commenced in late 2021 for a replacement dog warden with an appointment made in early 2022. All complaints received by the warden service continued to be logged and responded to during 2021. 19 fines for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act were issued during 2021. Approx. 95% of dogs which came through the LA pound system were rehomed in 2021.
- In September 2021, Galway County Council closed its dog shelter facility in Loughrea, Co. Galway. An expression of interest for the provision of a dog shelter facility with or without the additional service of shelter keeper service covering primarily the east of Galway County was advertised in November 2021. 9 Expressions of Interest were received and subsequently evaluated and shortlisted by Galway County Council veterinary services with one applicant meeting the criteria in terms of facilities, experience and services available to facilitate the

need of Galway County Council's dog warden service. The Council have now entered into an agreement with this contractor for the provision of a Dog Shelter facility and related services to cover the east and south of the county until 2023.

- The Council also provides a large Animal Pound facility at Ballinasloe. The Council veterinary service provides advice and assistance to the Housing Section in the implementation of the Control of Horses Act.
- Nine Dog Breeding Establishments are registered with Galway County Council, and these are inspected, and risk assessed as per the Dog Breeding Establishment legislation.
- Galway County Council's Veterinary Service continues to participate in the cross agency Western Zoonosis Committee with the HSE and Department Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Animal Welfare/Marine Mammal cases were logged and where relevant, investigated in conjunction with the competent authorities, providing advice and assistance where necessary.

Strategic Goal

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life

WASTE SERVICES

Three Civic Amenity Sites are provided in the county at Tuam, Ballinasloe & Clifden which are operated on behalf of the Council by Barna Recycling. Following a tendering process, a new operations contract was awarded to the incumbent for three years until 2024. In conjunction with the contract the facilities at the sites were upgraded and the range of acceptable waste types extended. Planning permission for an additional Civic Amenity Site in Gort was granted by An Bord Pleanála in December and the Environment Section will progress the project next year.

Historic Landfills

Environmental Risk Assessment works supported by DECC were progressed at seven Historic landfills during the year. Assessments were prepared by an Environmental Consultant in accordance with EPA Code of Practice. Certificate of Authorisation applications with supporting assessment/reports for Gort, Tuam and New Inn Historic Landfills were submitted this year to the EPA.

Following completion of landfill capping works at the East Galway Landfill in 2020, the site transitioned into the aftercare phase. With support of the DECC the site is being operated and maintained per the conditions of its waste license. Upgrade works to the leachate management and gas collection system were carried out at the Pollboy landfill this year. Environmental monitoring continues to be performed to license schedule at both landfill sites and there were no non-compliances raised and no compliance investigations opened relating to license activities.

Strategic Goal

To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage, and language in the interests of present and future generations

The Environment Section manages 380 permits, certificates, and registrations in relation to waste and water activities.

Water Protection

101 inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems were carried out under the national inspection plan. 16 inspections were carried out under the farm inspection programme. 130 inspections of sites with discharge licences were carried out. Enforcement related to the inspections detailed above was carried out where necessary. This is a significant issue in our functional area and consumes much of the resources available for water protection.

The following monitoring programmes were fully completed, including investigative monitoring where required: rivers, lakes, bathing waters, drinking water private supplies, drinking water public supplies and public wastewater facilities. Public health was protected through the implementation of the non-compliance protocols where required.

226 water, air and noise investigations were carried out in 2021.

A multi-agency oil pollution exercise was carried out with other local authorities and the Shannon Estuary Anti – Pollution Team (SEA-PT). This exercise outlined a scenario where a large oil pollution incident occurred in Galway Bay and what actions would be taken by whom and when if this happened.



WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Investigations were carried out in response to complaints received from the National Illegal Dumping line, general public, council staff and EPA referral in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy where possible.

Waste enforcement inspections were carried out in relation to permitted and certified waste facilities, commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites. 1306 investigations were carried out in relation to waste and litter complaints. During 2021, 334 inspections were carried out under the Waste Presentation Byelaws. The areas were chosen as they had been the subject of numerous complaints. All non-compliant households were given verbal Section 14 Directions in relation to waste segregation and where required they were directed to obtain a brown bin. Non-compliant households will be reinspected.

In 2021 the Environment Section carried out 11 projects under the ADI scheme, including a number in conjunction with Galway City Council. We ran a few short-term schemes to provide an outlet for items that are commonly found to be dumped illegally. Bulky goods collections were carried out at 3 locations in the county and a total of 118 tonnes of bulky goods were collected. We also ran a Bike for Africa project whereby we secured funding for the collection of 400 old bikes. Major clean-ups were carried out at illegal dumping sites as detailed in the ADI report. Barriers and fencing were installed at 3 locations to prevent access to areas that had become illegal dumping blackspots. Galway County Council hired electronic billboards for a few weeks displaying an Anti-Dumping message. These were installed at known dumping blackspots and on the approach roads to the major towns in the county. In addition, magnetic signs for our Community Warden vans with an Anti-Dumping message have also been procured.

Awareness campaigns were run on social media using the assets developed by mywaste.ie and WEE Ireland. 236 groups registered with the National Spring Clean were assisted through the provision of pickers, bags, gloves, and collection services.

Significant work was carried out on sites of interest in 2021. A major site of interest was one at which approx. 8,000 tonnes of tyres was identified. This was a former authorised facility. The council revoked the permit and initiated legal proceedings in 2021. Galway County Council, with the assistance of WERLA, have secured funding from the relevant Department to facilitate the clean-up of the site. The management of this project will require significant staff resources in 2022.

Full details in relation to inspections and enforcement activities in the areas of waste, water, air and noise are set out in the RMCEI returns for 2021.

BEACHES

The following 6 beaches achieved Blue Flag status in 2021:

- Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua
- Traught, Kinvara (Trácht, Cinn Mhara)
- Loughrea Lake
- An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán
- Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór
- Bathing Place at Portumna

The following 7 beaches achieved Green Coast Award status in 2021:

- Trá Inis Oirr (Main Beach)
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- East End, Inishbofin
- Duamch, Inishbofin
- Renvyle Beach (Whitestrand Beach)
- Poll na gCaorach, Formna, Inis Oirr
- Goirtín, Cloch na Rón

Actions were taken to protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality and implement non-compliance protocols at 26 beaches during the bathing water season.

There were algal blooms in several locations on Lough Corrib at which people bathe but which are not included in our bathing water monitoring programme. Signs were put in place warning people of the risk to human and animal health.

Strategic Goal

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

BURIAL GROUNDS

There are 233 burial grounds listed on the Council's burial ground register. Extension Projects were delivered at Killimordaly and Quansboro Burial Grounds in 2021 and the Environment Section commenced planning for the delivery of a number of new Extension Projects in 2022. With support from local burial ground committees, several minor works / projects were also undertaken to improve and maintain our existing burial grounds throughout the County.

An annual grant of between €300 - €600 was provided to committees who maintain burial grounds in their area and 145 committees were awarded a grant.

Strategic Goal

To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environment Section indicated support for a number of funding applications in relation to Climate Change in 2021 including:

- NUIG funding application for POBAL's Community Climate Action Program: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2).

- The Aran Islands Energy CoOp and Údarás na Gaeltachta application for the LEAP Proposal (Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral regions).
- GCC confirmed their support for an application by NUIG to the Shared Green Deal, Social Sciences & Humanities for Achieving a Responsible, Equitable and Desirable GREEN DEAL Program. The goal of the Program is to stimulate shared actions on Green Deal initiatives across Europe, by providing Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) tools to support the implementation of 8 EU Green Deal policy areas, at the local and regional level. NUIG's application was successful and a project to assess the feasibility and social acceptability of different options to increase renewable energy in case study locations within the County will commence in 2022.
- GCC confirmed their support for an application by Dr. Liz Coleman (NUIG) to the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Funding Program. The application aims to convene a network of organisations and individuals to promote and strengthen education and public engagement with science within the Galway region (city and county).
- On behalf of Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann Teoranta (CFOAT), GCC submitted an application to the European City Facility (EUCF) Fund for €60K to develop an Investment Concept for the delivery of the undermentioned project elements:
 - 2 X 900kW turbines to be erected on the old turbine site on Inis Meain
 - Rooftop Solar Project
 - Building Retrofit Project
 - EV Charge Infrastructure Project.

This application was unsuccessful.

Under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program, the Environment Section engaged with a number of SECs to support them develop their own Energy Master Plans (EMPs). Galway County Council appointed consultants to deliver EMPs for Headford SEC, Milltown SEC, Dunmore SEC, Athenry and Ballinasloe SECs. Work is ongoing in this area. We are supporting the development of a County Level EMP by Galway's Green Recovery Working Group, who are a group of PPN members and individuals aiming to address environmental concerns in County Galway.

The Environment Section is supporting actions by the public through the Climate Action Opportunity Fund 2021. Results were communicated to applicants in late 2021 and project delivery is expected in 2022.

GREEN INITIATIVES

- The Local Authority Prevention Network and Galway County Council Part-funded 14 secondary schools to install water fonts to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles in schools.

- The Green Schools programme continues with over 90% of county schools involved.
- In conjunction with the Housing section, local area office, and Estate Management Committee the Environment section ran a pilot scheme in 2 local authority estates, concentrating on litter, waste management, waste prevention and biodiversity.
- Expansion of services at the Civic Amenity sites to include bulky goods allows for more material to be recycled and reduces the possibility of these items being dumped illegally.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Galway Fire & Rescue service (GFRS) has the following responsibilities in that it:

- Responds to emergencies other than just fires, such as road traffic collisions, hazardous materials incidents, water rescues, flooding and major accidental hazards;
- Aspires to prevent emergencies happening in the first place through a range of fire prevention and technical fire safety work carried out within the County and City and various community fire safety initiatives.
- Is the Local Authority Principal Emergency Service (PES) in Galway City and County Councils, who as Local Authorities are Principal Response Agencies (PRA) in accordance with the National Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006.

There are currently 11 stations serving Galway County with a population of 179,048 people and Galway city with a population of 79,504 (CSO statistics 2016) as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: GFRS Fire Station Locations

Fire Stations are located at:

- Athenry
- Ballinasloe
- Clifden
- Galway City (Headquarters)
- Gort
- Inis Mór
- Loughrea
- Mountbellew
- Portumna
- Tuam
- An Cheathrú Rua

An Cheathrú Rua Fire station went operational in February 2016 as the 11th Fire station in the county. The Council now employs 167 fire-fighting personnel in Galway Fire and Rescue Service including full time and retained fire-fighters in the City and County, senior fire officers, a brigade mechanic and a Civil Defence Officer. In addition, Galway FRS has 4 civilian administrative support staff as Headquarters staff who are based in Galway City Fire station.

In October 2018 the new fire station and training centre in Tuam (see Figure 2) became operational. Constructed at a cost of €2.4 million including site and design team costs, the station significantly enhances crew safety, training delivery and the services provided in North Galway.



Figure 2 : New Fire Station in Tuam Operational October 2018

COVID 19

As with all Irish society, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact of the service provision of the Fire Service. The fire services are considered an essential service and are obliged to maintain its services throughout the pandemic. Galway Fire and Rescue Service developed a comprehensive and robust Business Continuity Plan specific to the pandemic to ensure business continuity. Throughout this portion of the annual report, COVID-19 will be referred to where it had an impact on the provision of service by Galway Fire and Rescue Services.

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE – A FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE SAFETY IN IRELAND

“Keeping Communities Safe”, which is the outcome of a review of Fire Services and Fire Safety in Ireland was published in February 2013 by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM). “Keeping Communities Safe” (KCS) is an integrated blue-print for the development of the critical public safety roles performed by Fire Services, to be implemented in the period of 2013-2015, that manages risk, by addressing public safety improvement, incident reduction, response standards and service delivery structures for the decade ahead.

The draft area risk categorisation (ARC) for all Fire Station grounds in Galway had been completed and was submitted to NDFEM in summer of 2015 to form part of the 1st National External Validation Group (EVG) report, as requested by NDFEM Circular 05/2015. A national EVG 1 Report was issued by NDFEM in 2016. A second round of EVG visits was due to take place in 2020 which because of the pandemic, did not occur.

Because of the pandemic, it was not possible for the NDFEM to conduct the planned EVG II visit in 2020. In its stead the NDFEM conducted a “Capacity Review” of all fire services to ascertain how those services planned and conducted its business during the pandemic. The “capacity review board” issued its report in October 2020. Galway Fire and Rescue Service fared very well in the report and was held up as an example of the use of ArcGIS for operational intelligence and management in the area of Community Fire Safety and Severe Weather Emergency Management. As a result of the Capacity Review, a senior fire officer from GFRS assisted, and is continuing to assist the NDFEM to develop our ArcGIS based operational intelligence platform to roll it out nationally to all fire authorities.

CAMP WEST (WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL)

Galway FRS continued to run and pilot the CAMP Next Generation mobilisation trial at Galway City fire station as part of roll-out of new out-station equipment in Fire Stations in West region as part of Camp C_{Trí} project. Technical preparatory work has been carried out in 2018 and 2019 in all Fire stations to enable the transfer over to the National digital radio system (TETRA) in all vehicles and HQ Fire Station which has now been completed. This system replaced the existing VHF network. In 2021 the command-and-control system and computer aided dispatch system common to all regional fire communication centres was upgraded in 2021 and should go live in Q3 2022. The C_{Trí} project board also plan to issue a tender for the procurement of digital radios to replace all UHF (incident ground) radios in service nationally thereby improving incident ground communications and creating resilience in the service.

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Galway FRS Health and Safety policy is contained in Galway County Council’s Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement. The Council Safety manual as customised for Galway FRS addresses the working environments encountered by the Fire Service, where combining need, risk and resources in a wide range of situations has long been a feature of service management. Galway County Council’s Local Authority Safety Management System Manual / Safety Statement sets out the approach, which this Fire Authority adopts in relation to managing safety and in particular meeting its statutory obligations under Section 20 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

ISO 45001: Occupational Health & Safety Management System

Having achieved accreditation to the OHSAS 18001 safety management system in December 2016 the retention of this accreditation and the H&S management programme have been major drivers of much of the fire service's H&S related activities in 2020. and are briefly summarised as follows: -

- **ISO 45001:** In October 2018 Galway FRS successfully achieved accreditation to the new Internationally Recognised Standard ISO 45001 Surveillance audits conducted by the accreditation body (NSAI in this case) play a key role of the ISO 45001 system to ensure that safety management systems are constantly maintained and consistently improved as per the requirements of the code of practice. In this regard Galway FRS successfully passed two surveillance audits that that were conducted in June and November of 2021 and the next audits are scheduled for June 2022. In the period between NSAI surveillance audits, Galway FRS underwent 2 internal audits to ensure the maintenance of, and compliance with NSAI standards



Figure 3: OHSAS 18001 Presentation 2018

- **Fire Station Safety Checks:** A new initiative of carrying out regular safety checks in fire stations was commenced in 2017. The purpose of these checks, which are conducted on a six-monthly basis for county retained fire stations and on a quarterly basis for Galway City fire station, is to augment the existing suite of static risk assessments of our fire stations (which are reviewed on a three yearly basis). They also allow for the early identification of potential hazards in the fire stations thus expediting the implementation of appropriate control measures and corrective actions. A total of 17 such checks were carried out in 2021 across all GFRS fire stations.
- **Meetings / Consultations:** Galway FRS H&S Steering Group continued to meet on a regular basis in 2020. All such meeting were held via the MS Teams platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The conduction of H&S Operational Group meetings for the City & City Retained personnel and separately for County Retained personnel was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the feasibility to hold on site meetings was very much restricted. Nonetheless a reduced amount of such meetings

took place in 2020. It is planned that through the introduction of new tablets / devices to fire stations in early 2021 that these meeting will be able to be held on a more regular frequency of every two months.

- **Audits:** As mentioned above the last ISO 45001 surveillance audit was conducted in June and November 2021 by the NSAI. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the audits were conducted over MS Teams with the fire stations of Athenry and Tuam (June) and Galway City and Clifden (November) were selected as the locations of the audits. Fire service personnel at both locations made significant efforts to ensure that their fire stations were well presented. The NSAI found that there was no area of concern to warrant the withdrawal of certification and the ISO 45001 certification was successfully retained. The next audits are scheduled for June 2022.
- **Legionella Control:** Following the legionella risk assessments of the fire stations that took place in 2016 a Legionella Control programme was developed and instigated in 2017. The programme involves the monthly monitoring of water services infrastructure in all fire stations by a specialist contractor. In parallel to this particular programme a separate programme of carrying out remedial works to water services infrastructure in all fire stations was initiated to address issues identified in the legionella risk assessments. These works were predominantly concluded in December 2017. Legionella monitoring continued in 2021 in order to continue to lower the legionella risk rating in fire stations.
- **Hygiene Sub Group:** Following international research into the potential health consequences of exposure to the products of combustion to fire fighters, and in response to discussions held during the Health and Safety Operational Group meetings, a Hygiene Sub Group was established consisting of representatives of fire service management and retained and full-time fire fighters. This group is looking at national and international research and has produced a draft report containing possible control measures to be considered to reduce any potential risks.
- **H&S Documentation:** A number of documents relating to the safety management system were reviewed & updated in 2021 and copies of same issued to fire stations. We have continued to upload documentation relating to the safety management system onto the library function of the Incident Control Room software system and appliance tablets. It is planned to keep all such H&S documentation in this manner thus ensuring that the most up to date documentation will always be available to all fire crews. All operational guidance is circulated in the same manner.
- **Covid-19:** the onset of the Covid-19 brought about the introduction of additional H&S related oversight / roles, new procedures, practices and administrative functions across all areas of the fire service. It is envisaged that same will continue throughout 2021.

FIRE OPERATIONS (RESPONSE)

The total number of emergency responses by Galway Fire Rescue Service (GFRS) in Galway City and County respectively, in 2021 was 1412 (1388 incidents) with 567 in Galway City Fire

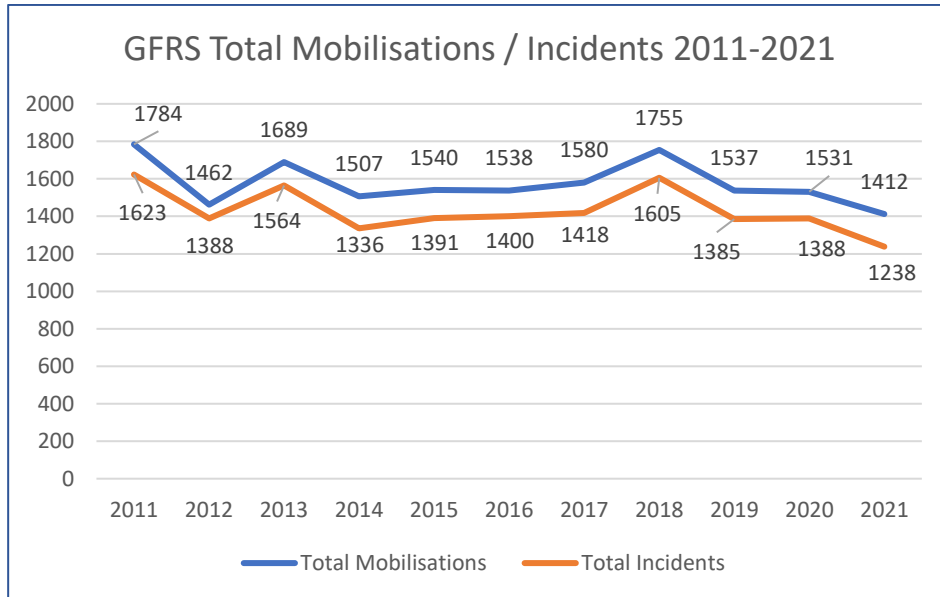


Figure 4: Incident Trends for Galway City and County 2011 – 2021

Ground and 845 emergency responses in remainder of Galway County. The overall call rate decreased from 2020 with an increase of 150 calls in the City and a decrease of approximately 120 calls in the County. Figure 4 shows the trend of incidents /responses from 2011 – 2021 for Galway City and County. Following in increase in the trend of the number of incidents / responses attended in 2017 and 2018 there was a significant drop in the number of incidents attended in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Figure 5 shows trends of incidents / responses in the City and County Fire ground areas respectively from 2011 -2021.

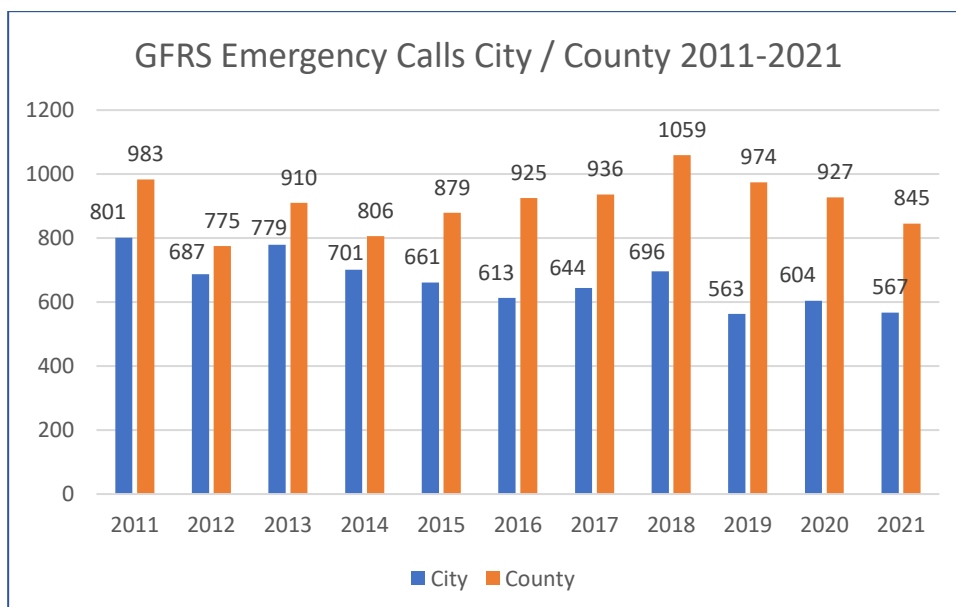


Figure 5: Incident Trends for City & County Fire Ground Areas 2011-2021

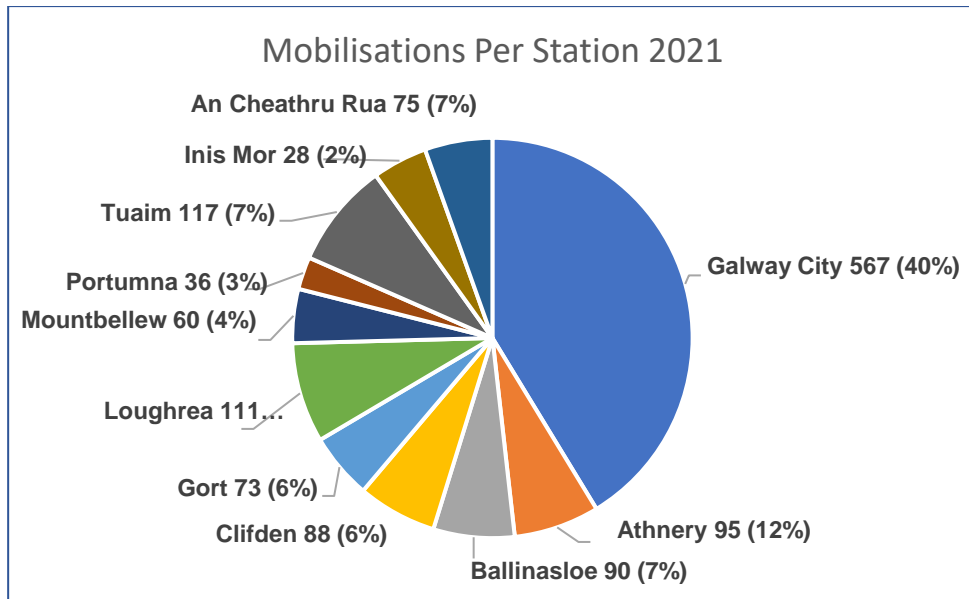


Figure 6: Breakdown of Mobilisations per Station in 2021

Figures 6 & 7 give a breakdown of mobilisations per station and incidents by Station ground for 2021. Overall activity levels have decreased from 2020 levels with the percentage activity per station remaining relatively steady.

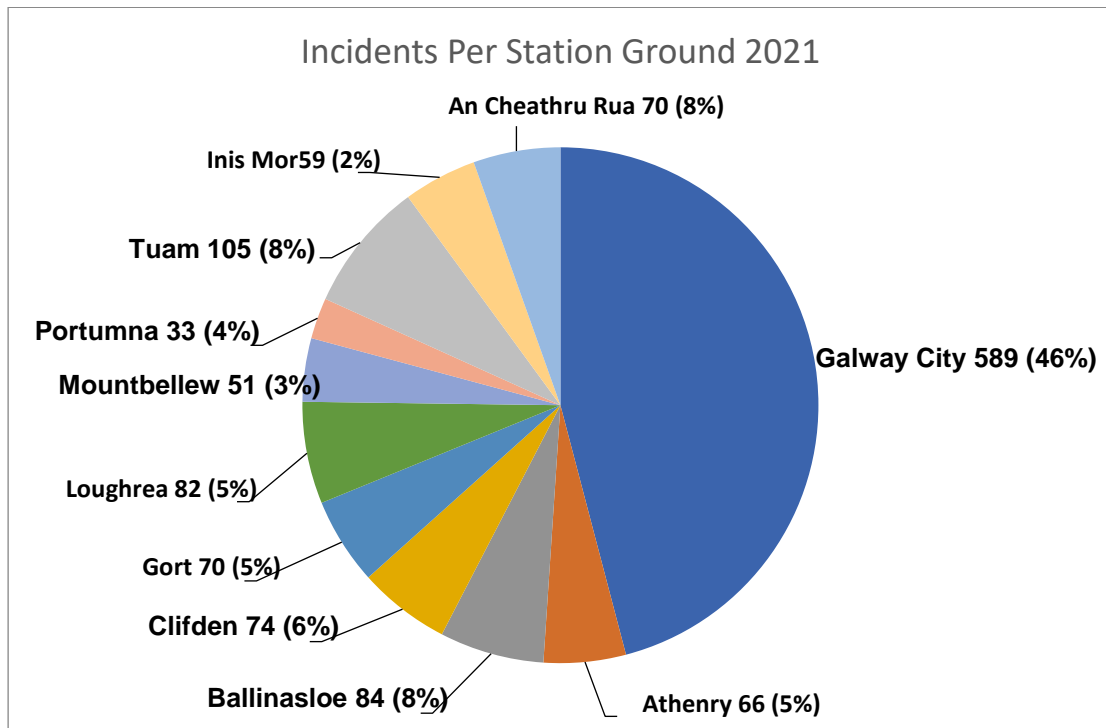


Figure 7: Breakdown Incidents per Station Ground in 2021

FIRE FATALITIES

Regrettably, there was one fatality due to accidental fires in 2021 in Galway city and county.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MEM)

The Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) which was established by the Council as part of New National Framework for Major Emergency Management (MEM) continued its work. The GCC Major Emergency Plan was submitted to the Executive Team for sign off along with the GCC Severe Weather and Flood Response Sub-plans.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic a Mortality Management Plan was prepared by Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) and the plan was exercised during an inter-agency exercise conducted in July 2020. A software system GEMMS (Galway Emergency Mortality Management System) (*Figure 8*) was created by the GCC GIS Officer and GFRS to manage excess mortality. The system was adapted from the SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System) within a very short time period. The system was also tested during the exercise and can be used as an inter-agency tool to track all fatalities. To add resilience and to increase GCCs body holding capacity, 2 No. rigid refrigerated vehicles (*Figures 9 & 10*) were purchased by GFRS. Each vehicle was shelved and has a capacity of 24 No. bodies.

As part of Severe Weather planning, Galway County Council continued the development of a Severe Weather Incident Mapping System (SWEMS) as shown in *Figure 11*. The system can be used for reporting and recording on an ARC GIS live map, the locations and incidences of all flooding events in the Galway County Council functional area. The system is linked automatically to the GCC Weather Related Road Closure Map on the GCC Website, to MapAlerter and to the GCC Twitter page, which all allow for automatic updates to be provided to the public during a weather event.

Locally, the MEM committee continued their work on the revision of External Emergency Plans (EEP) for Upper Tier Seveso Site (under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances Regulations 2015). Under these regulations the relevant Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), termed Local Competent Authorities (LCA's), must review EEPs every three years including the running of exercises. The agencies (LCA's) involved include Galway County Council (including Galway Fire and Rescue Service as it's PES), Galway Garda Division, HSE West (including the National Ambulance Service (NAS)) and the site operator and other agencies including the Port Authority, if applicable. Work commenced on the Colas (Upper Tier COMAH Site) EEP in December 2020. The Plan was reviewed, went to public consultation and a test mobilisation of Principle Response Agencies (PRA's) completed and signed off in 2021.

The following major emergency exercises were held in 2021:

- COLAS Oranmore EEP Tabletop Exercise on 12th March 2021;
- River Inter-agency Live Exercise (Blind) on 18th October 2021
- Island Response Exercise (online) on 2nd December 2021
- Colas Blind Mobilisation Live (Test) Night Exercise (OSCC & LCC) on 2nd December 2021.

As part of these exercises, GFRS continued to embed the Mobile On-Site Co-Ordination Unit (based in Gort fire station) as shown in *Figure 14* and the Local Co-Ordination Centre. Both use the new electronic information management system (eIMS).

Galway County Council personnel also continued their participation in both the MEM West Regional Steering and the MEM West Regional Working Groups involving members of the Principal Emergency Services (PES) in the West Region (Local Authority Fire Services, Local Garda Divisions and HSE West Ambulance Service).

Galway County Council Headquarters continues as the main location of the Local Co-Ordination Centre (LCC) for the three Principal Response Agencies (PRA's), Galway County Council, HSE West and Galway Garda Division, for Major Emergencies in the Galway City and County area. In mid-2018 a case was submitted to the NDFEM for funding to provide a back-up generator for the LCC as part of GCC's business continuity plan. The generator has been procured and was delivered in early 2020. GFRS submitted a claim and recouped the cost of the generator from the NDFEM in mid-2020.

Galway County Council also managed the annual regional claim on behalf of the 8 PRA's in the West Region in 2020 as in previous years.

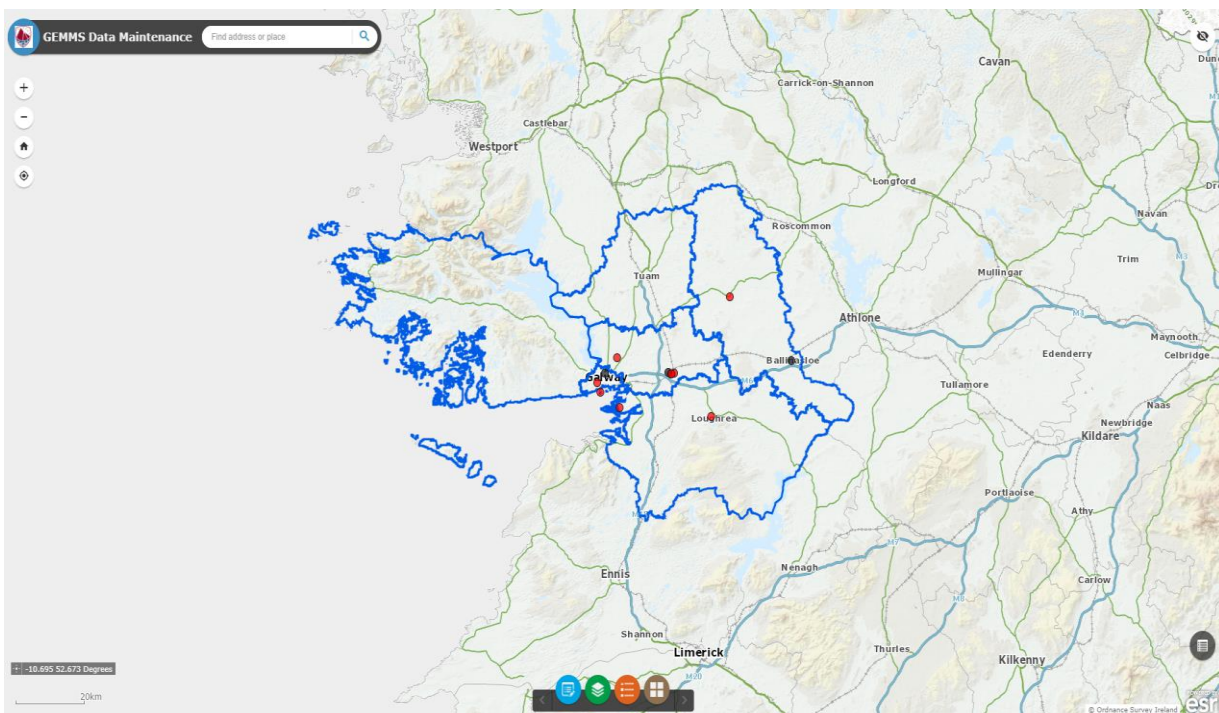


Figure 8: GEMMS Mapping System



Figure 9: Covid 19 Mortality Management Exercise 2020



Figure 10: GFRS MFU-01 Refrigerated Body Holding Truck

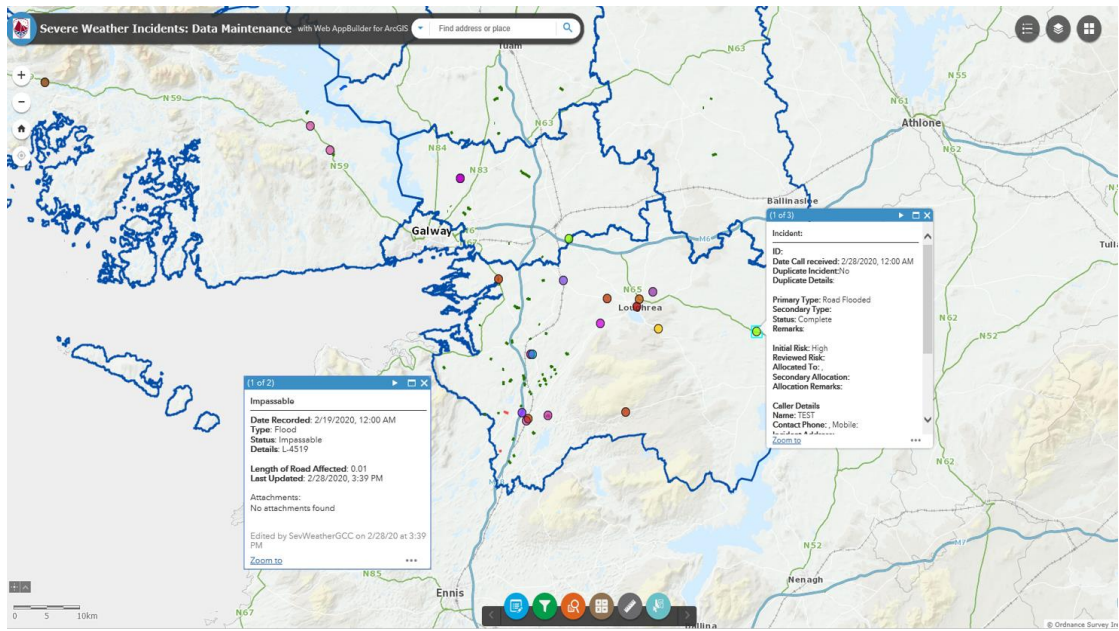


Figure 11: Severe Weather Event Management System



Figure 12: Fleximort Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Unit



Figure 13: Refrigerated Multiple Fatality Storage Container Unit



Figure 14: Galway Regional MEM On-Site Co-Ordination Centre (OSCC) Unit

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

Galway County Council as contracting authority for the local authority Fire Services in the CAMP West region continues to manage a contract by Inspire Ltd for the provision of CISM services to Fire Services in the West region from October 2017 to September 2020. The option to extend the contract for another year was availed of to September 2021 and in 2021 Galway County Council retendered for the supplier of CISM services on behalf of the fire services in the CAMP west region. Inspire Ltd were the successful tenderers and have entered into a contract with GCC from Oct 2021 to Sept 2024.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION

Strategic Goal

“To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.”

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

Work was ongoing in the Fire Prevention & Fire Safety Section throughout 2021 despite COVID 19 restrictions.

INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Section carried out 194 inspections of premises in 2021 as part of its Fire Prevention Function, under the Fire Services Act 1981, Building Control Act 1990 and 2014, Licensing Acts, Planning Acts, and the Dangerous Substances Act. This figure represents an increase in inspections of 90%% over the 2020 inspections but is still less that the 2019 inspections. This reduction can be attributed to the closure of pubs, restaurants and other places of assembly because of COVID 19 restrictions. The increase on 2020 inspections is attributable to the reopening of society towards the middle to end of 2021. The restriction on movement and requirement to minimise personal contacts during the course of the pandemic meant that Fire Officers were not in a position to conduct as many inspections as would normally have been the case.

PUBLIC LICENCE APPLICATIONS

The Fire Prevention Section received 143 public licence applications in 2021. Public license activity from 2011 to 2021 is shown in Figure 15.

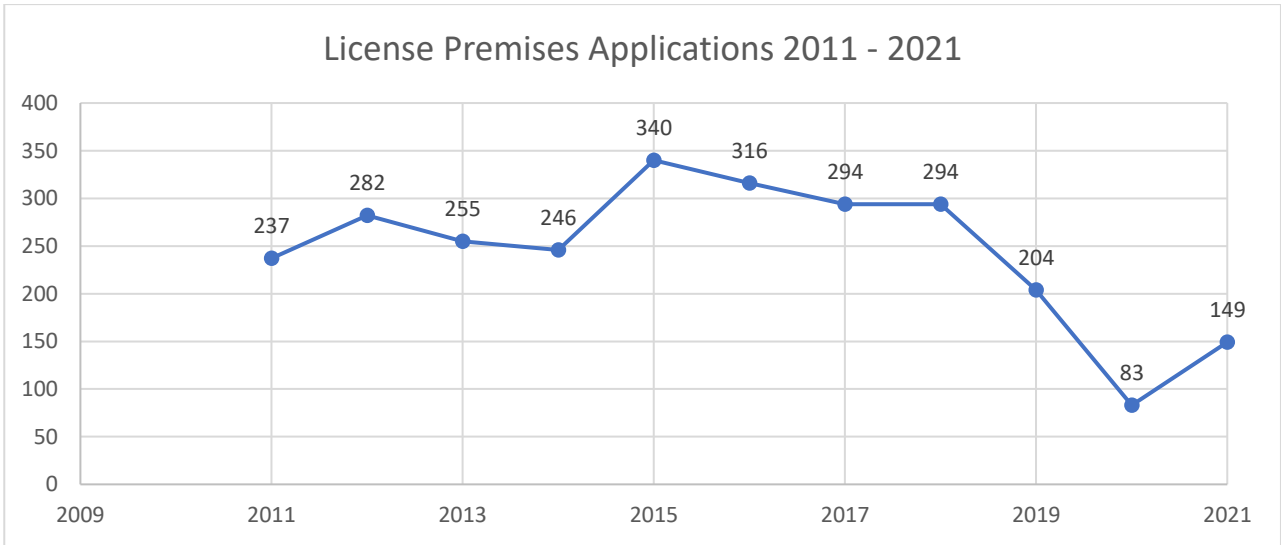


Figure 15: Public License Applications 2011- 2021

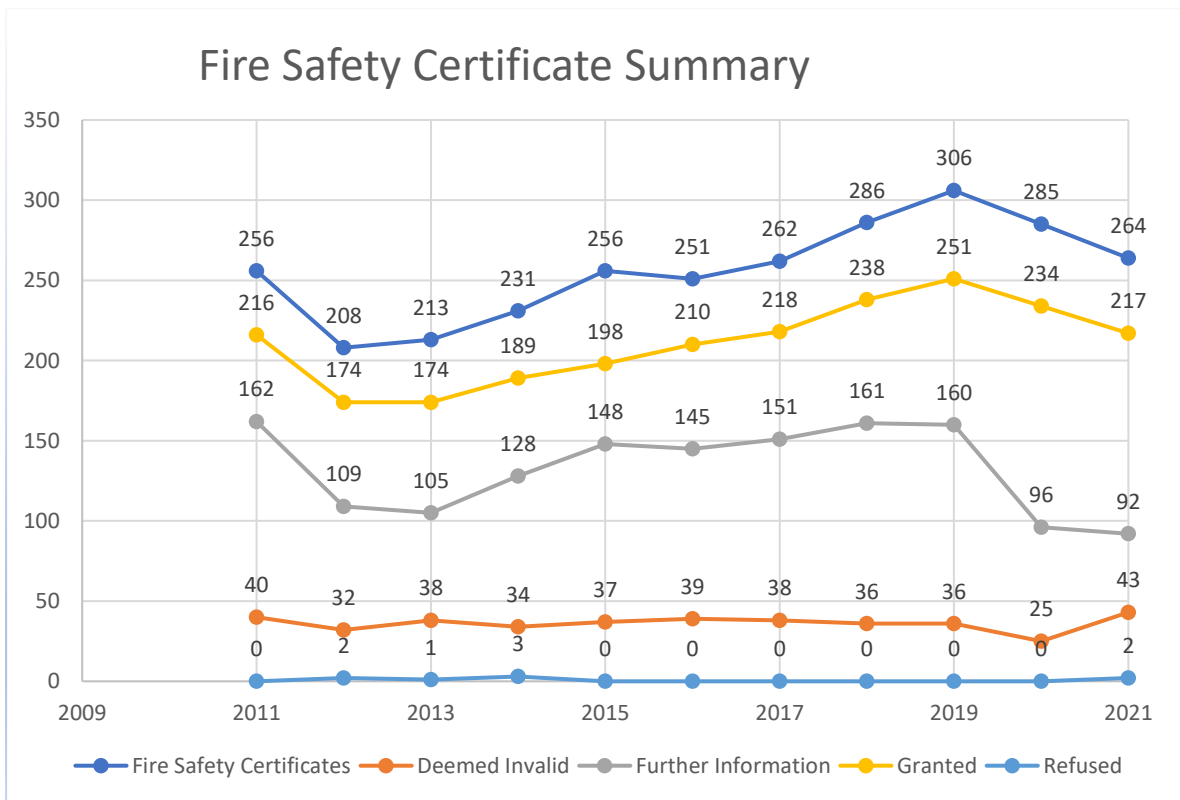


Figure 16: Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) Activity 2011- 2021

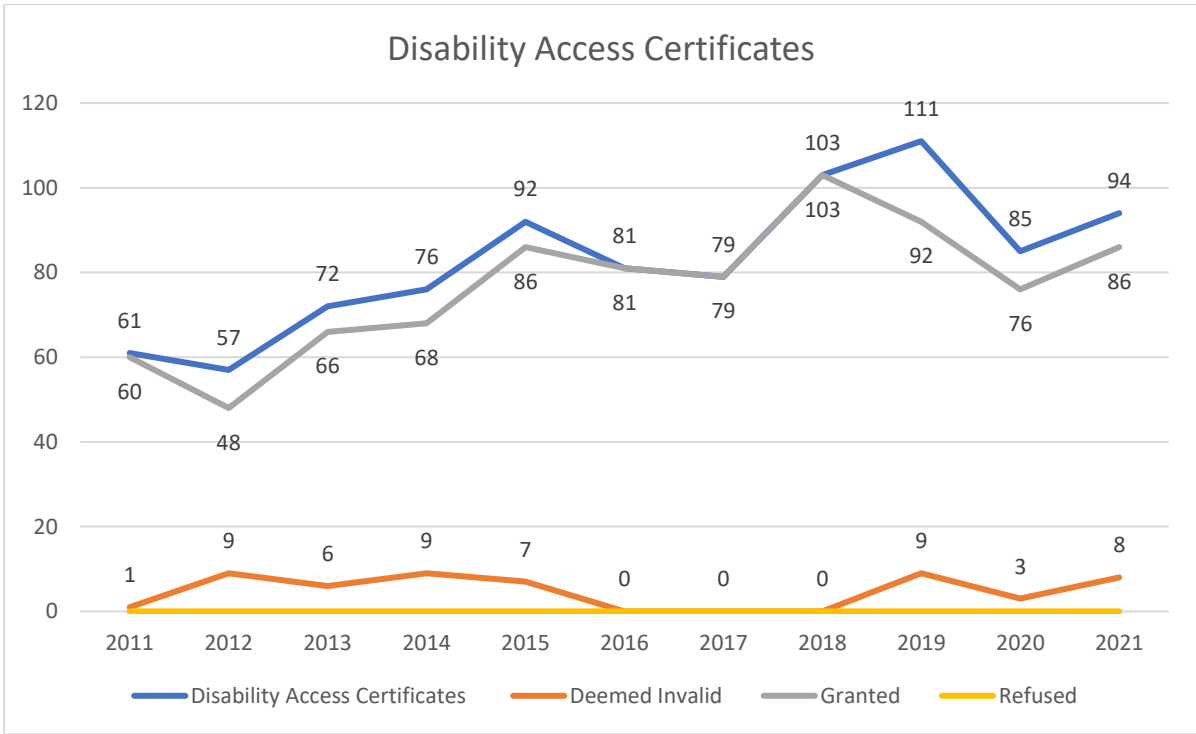


Figure 17: Disability Access Certificate Activity 2010-2020

FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS

The Fire Prevention Section dealt with 264 Fire Safety Certificate Applications of all types under the Building Control Regulations, 151 in the County Council area and 113 in the City Council area. The overall number of Fire Safety Certificate applications represents a decrease of 7.4% from 2020. Fire Safety Certificate activity from 2011 to 2021 is shown in Figure 16.

These figures reflect a small decline in planned commercial construction activity in the Galway area in 2020. However, a higher number of applications were for complex developments which we have not seen in a number of years. Given the COVID 19 restrictions and the closure of sites for a prolonged period the fire service would have expected a greater decline in Fire Safety Certificate applications for 2020 and 2021.

DISABILITY ACCESS CERTIFICATES

The total number of Disability Access Certificates dealt with in 2020 was 94 and an increase of 9.3% from 2020. Disability Access Certificate activity from 2011 to 2021 is shown in Figure 17.

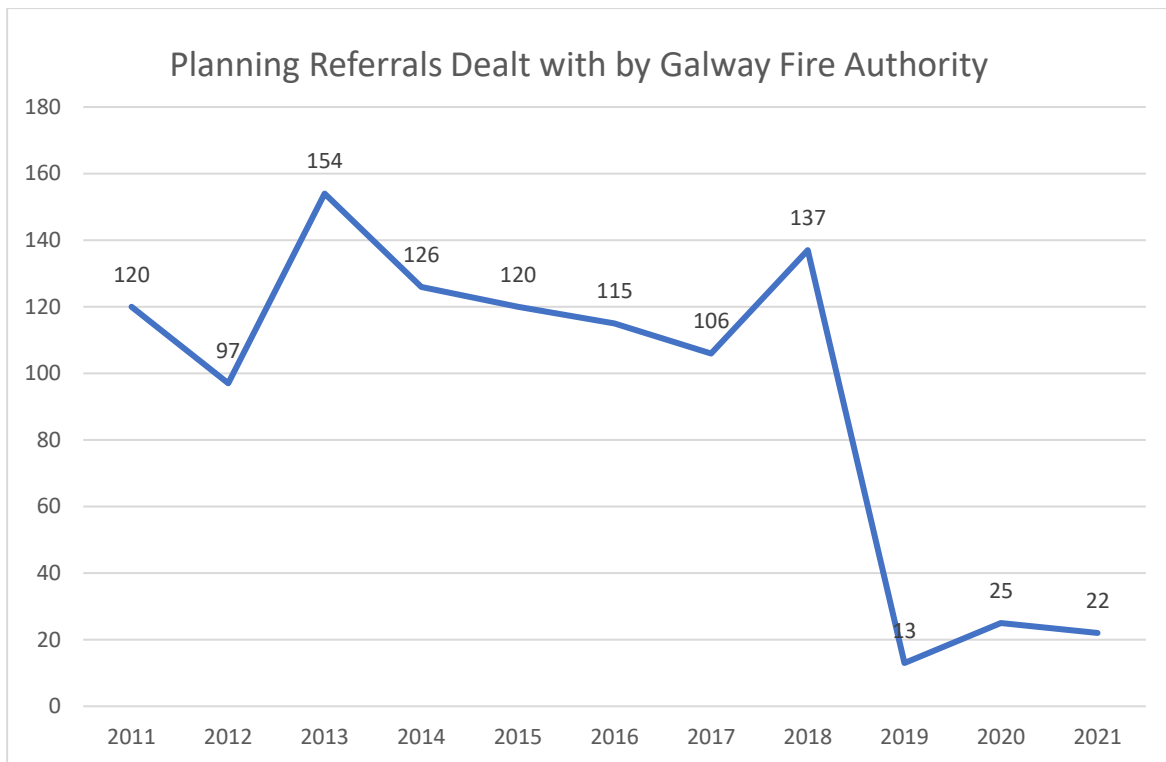


Figure 18: Planning Referrals 2008-2020

PLANNING REFERRALS

There was a slight decrease in planning referrals in 2021 with the total number of planning referrals in 2021 for the City and County was 22. The planning referral activity from 2011 to 2021 are shown in Figure 18.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

During 2021 Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) installed 63 No. self-contained smoke alarms with long life batteries into 32 properties. These smoke alarms were installed in households primarily in Galway city and county with West Galway being the main area of focus. A Home Fire Safety Check was also carried out for each dwelling at the time of the smoke alarm installation.

This number of installations is a fraction of the number installed in 2020 as the Department funded Alarms (700 No. optical alarms and hard of hearing alarms for 15 No. properties) were only received on the 22nd of Dec 2021. These will be installed in 2022.

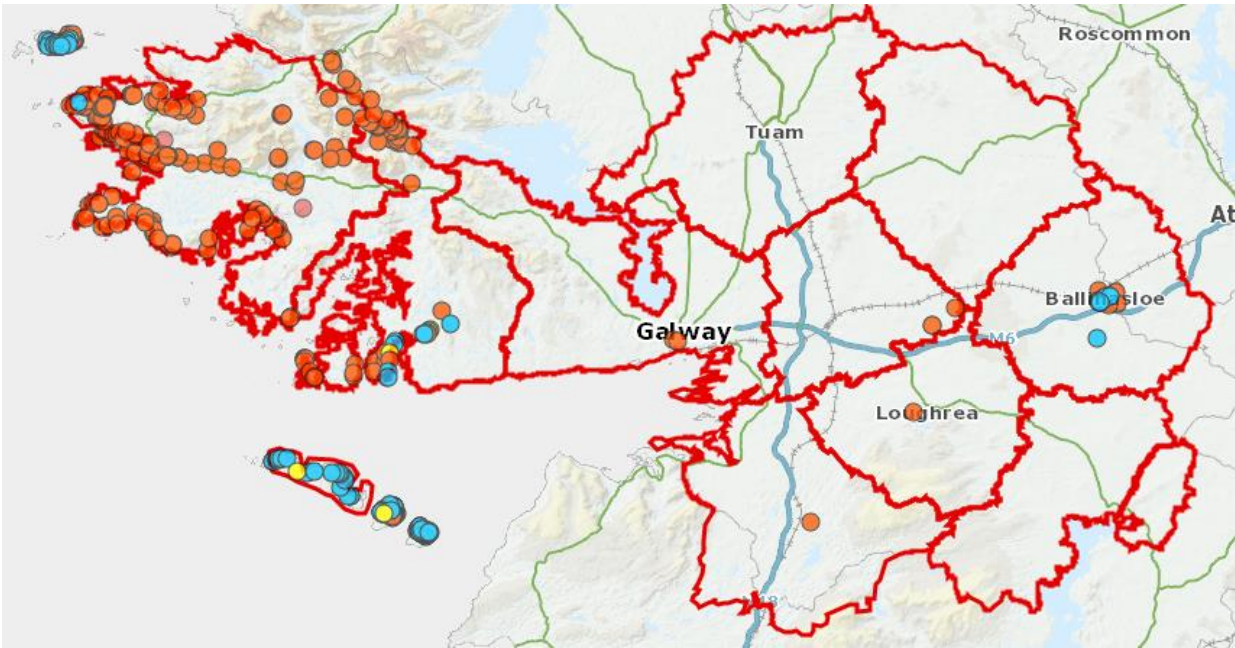




Figure 19: CRISP-P extract of Home Fire Safety Checks



Figure 20: GFRS Clifden receiving smoke alarms from Forum Connemara





Galway Fire & Rescue Service
Seirbhís Dóiteáin & Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



An Garda Síochána

Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners

- It is **illegal** to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28th and September 1st
- Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme)
- Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service

Wildfire Information for the Public

- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures
- Do not discard cigarette ends – make sure they are extinguished completely
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.

Figure 21: Wildfire Prevention Campaign Poster



Figure 22: Appliance Community Fire Safety Message

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, GFRS had to put on hold all non-emergency public contact such as fire safety talks, fire appliance visits to schools and the opening of fire stations to

members of the public. The Primary Schools Programme to 3rd class pupils was also paused during 2021.

GFRS ran a wildfire advertisement campaign (see Figure 21) in local newspapers and on social media to try to reduce the number of wildfires particularly in Connemara and the South of the County. The posters were also displayed in prominent business in the areas. GFRS continued community safety message on fire appliances reflecting the National STOP Fire campaign.

CAPITAL

Strategic Goal

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

CAPITAL

In 2021, Galway Fire and Rescue Service progressed the projects approved under the Fire Service Capital Programme 2012 – 2025 with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Planning, and Community & Local Government. This relates to the following.

- Procurement of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Galway City. The tender has been signed with the Supplier (Emergency One) in Scotland
- New Fire Station Athenry – The final design was completed, and Part 8 Planning approval received. The request for permission to go to tender for construction of the station was sent to the NDFEM in Sept 2021.
- New Fire Station Loughrea – A site was secured for the new station in Loughrea and approval in principle was received for the project. A preliminary design was drawn up and it is anticipated that the contract for the detailed design of the station will be signed in Q1 2022.

We acknowledge the receipt of this vital support to the Council, in supporting the provision of fire and emergency services by the Council in the city and county area.

TRAINING

By comparison to previous years the amount of training that was conducted by Galway FRS in 2021 diminished significantly as a result of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. By in large block training was suspended in the first half of the year with the bulk of training resumed in the latter part of the year.

- Drill night training at retained stations in the City and County
- Daily watch training in Galway City full-time station
- Centralised training courses both initial and refresher

DRILL NIGHT TRAINING PROGRAMME

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station.

DAILY WATCH TRAINING PROGRAMME

On-station training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station.

This training concentrates on core skills and is delivered by officers at each station. Skills maintenance for specialist roles was also carried out based on special appliances located at the station including the:

- Hazmat unit
- Foam unit
- Emergency tender
- Aerial ladder platform (ALP)

CENTRALISED TRAINING PROGRAMME

Initial training courses and refresher courses were organised centrally, as in previous years. Courses conducted included:

- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers
- Rope rescue
- Water Rescue
- Manual Handling Refresher
- Recruits Courses.

CENTRALISED NATIONAL TRAINING

The centralised national training programme was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the initial part of the year. However, Galway FRS did send students on centralised training courses conducted by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) and LASNTG at various training centres around the country. These included:

- Breathing apparatus Initial Wearers
- Module 1 for Junior Officers
- Module 2 for Junior Officers
- Effective Decision-Making Courses
- RTC Instructors courses
- Fire engineering and operational command seminars for senior officers (on-line)

FIRE STATION RE-DEVELOPMENT

A new 4 bay retained fire station became operational in Tuam in late October 2018 following a 10-month contract and was officially opened on the 15th April 2019. Additional capital appraisals were submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management for Athenry which

received approval for funding in October 2019 and Loughrea Fire Station, both of which are outlined in more detail above. Work was also progressed in relation to site procurement for Galway City.

NEW CLASS B FIRE APPLIANCE

Tenders for the delivery of a new class B Fire Appliance were completed on a regional basis as part of the National Procurement Process from 2018-2020 and the new appliance was delivered to Galway City fire station in 2019. Galway Fire Service is also on the list for a new Class B appliance in the 2021 – 2025 Capital Programme. There is a delay in the delivery of Chassis worldwide, however it is hoped that the new appliance will be received in early 2023.

PERSONNEL

Maintaining crew numbers is a constant issue in the retained service and difficulties in recruiting make it difficult to maintain required availability arrangements. Ongoing recruitment continues on an annual basis.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Galway Civil Defence, through their 5 training centres, Galway City, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Clonberne. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic meetings and training had to be suspended in line with public guidance. Only essential recertification has taken place. Central training at the Civil Defence College was also suspended. Recertification of essential instructors was facilitated both on-line and at the college.

Galway Civil Defence were tasked to the HSE to assist the at the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at Galway Racecourse. Tasking was commenced in April and continued through to the end of August 2021.

Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Service at their clinics held in the Galway city and county throughout 2021.

The new e-learning site was developed for volunteers. All modules and training materials can be accessed on this site and update during the year 2021.

Galway Civil Defence assisted the AGS with Missing Person Search's in 2021. Search drone and boat crews were tasked to 8 different searches throughout 2021. Searches involved land based and water-based searches. All searches were of long duration periods to the volunteers, who were extremely professional and dedicated to the requests!

A programme of training in Cardiac First Response, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Response was held via our new e-learning site through 2021 to keep our members up to date on these Responder levels. 3 Manual handling Instructors completed their Re-certification at through the Civil Defence College. 3 Floodwater Responder Instructors were recertified by Rescue-3 UK in January 2021 as a requirement via there on-line portal.

1 No. additional Ford Transit van was allocated in May 2021 to Galway by the Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence Branch with funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. To enhance the Search capability of Galway Civil Defence, the Dept. of Defence 100% grant aided the purchase of an additional drone to supplement the current craft and 50% grant aided a Sonar Side Scanner for the Civil Defence Boat crews. These purchases offer more scope and technology to our volunteers whilst conducting missing person searches.

Galway Civil Defence were also on standby for Storm Barra on 17th December 2021.

Units were tasked to assist Galway City Council with the management of road closures that morning.

All units will again be responding to their community's requests for assistance at local community events, providing first aid cover and other assistance that may be requested where possible.

The Civil Defence Officer participated in Galway County Council and Galway City Council Community Forum and Civil Defence members carried out tasks for vulnerable persons identified in the forum groups, which included transportation of vulnerable persons for vital medical appointments

Covid -19 Induction training for all members was conducted in accordance with County Council policy.

Civil Defence continued their use of the e-vetting system for new and current members in 2021. This system continues to prove more efficient and vetting status returns are received in a much shorter timeframe.



Figure 23: Civil Defence Search Control Point in Connemara.



Figure 24: Cardiac First Responder Advanced Training Course in Clonberne.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Strategic Goal

To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do.

Galway Fire and Rescue Service processed and addressed fire prevention complaints as received on a prioritised basis. A new Customer Service section has been included in the Draft Section 26 Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Having the right culture in our organisation is critical to realising our vision and all our staff play their part in creating a desirable culture for the Council. It is built by people who demonstrate behaviours and attitudes that are aligned with our values of integrity, accountability, respect and excellence.

The Human Resources Department engages with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Councils strategic and business objectives.

The Human Resources Department through the implementation of Council policies and procedures support good governance and provide transparency and clarity to all employees about the principles, rules and guidelines that apply to their work and conditions of employment; promote a positive working environment for our dedicated and highly skilled workforce; work to attract and retain the workforce we need to deliver on our commitments; provide training and development opportunities for staff within financial constraints; make provision for flexible work arrangements and deliver statutory and non-statutory leave variations and staff welfare policies which create a positive work environment to improve work life balance and maintain stable industrial relations.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT/RECRUITMENT

Workforce Management is a critical function carried out by the Human Resources Department as it facilitates the assignment of staff throughout the organisation to achieve balance between service areas in accordance with organisational priorities and recent national agreements. This balance, while maintaining service delivery and planning for further local government reform, is a significant challenge for the Council. The objective of the Workforce Plan is to enable effective and efficient service delivery with the staff level available within financial resources.

Galway County Council's Staff Headcount at the end of Quarter 4, 2021 is as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Headcount</i>
<i>Core Staff</i>	<i>845</i>
<i>Retained Fire Fighters</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Non DoHP&LG</i>	<i>74</i>

The Human Resources Department ran 48 recruitment competitions up to the end of Quarter 4, 2021.

Joiners 2021

Grade Description	Total
Administrative Officer	1
Assistant Engineer	4
Assistant Librarian	1
Assistant Planner	1
Assistant Staff Officer	4
Beach Lifeguard	55
Branch Librarian	4
CES Employee	17
Clerical Officer	24
COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	2
CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE	1
Executive Engineer	4
Executive Technician	2
Fire Fighter - Full Time	6
Fire Fighter (2) - Retained	2
Foreman (Craft)	1
General Operative	11
GRADUATE PLACEMENT	2
Graduate Planner	3
HEALTH & SAFETY ASSISTANT	1
Library Assistant	2
Light Equipment Operator	1
Resident Engineer	1
Senior Executive Engineer	1
Senior Executive Officer	1
Senior Library Assistant	1
Senior Staff Officer	4
Staff Officer	4
Technician Grade I	2
Technician Grade II	1
Traveller Liaison & Development Officer	1
WASTE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	2
Waterworks Caretaker (Grade 111)	3
Grand Total	170

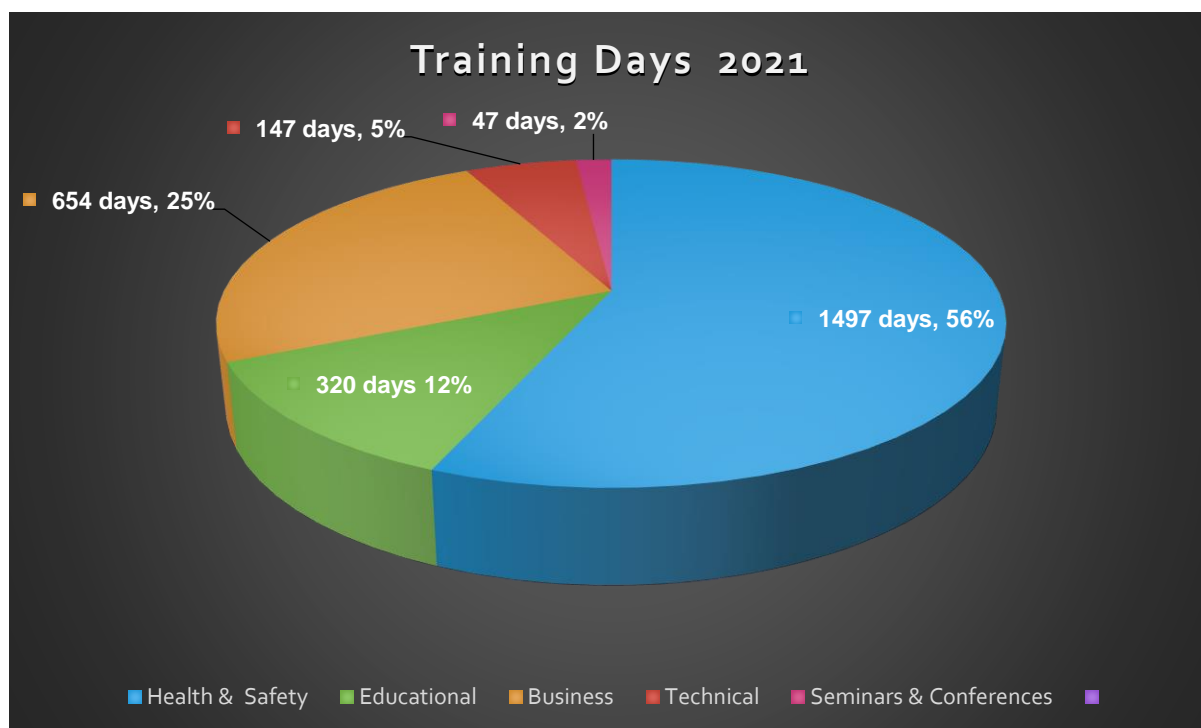
Galway County Council continues to facilitate Community Employment Scheme Placements and work experience placements from Third Level Institutions.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive training for staff was carried out in 2021 with the main focus on Statutory and Health & Safety Training. National Training Grants in the areas of Water Services, Environmental and Non-National Roads supported the Council in the provision of this training. Other essential training was determined in conjunction with the utilisation of the Performance Management

Development System. The Council continued to support further education, IPA Local Government Programmes and the attendance of staff at Seminars and Conferences in 2021.

The total number of Training Days in 2021 was 2665 as set out hereunder:



STAFF WELFARE

Galway County Council in recognising that work is just one part of employees' lives, the Human Resources Department makes available a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance.

In 2021 seven hundred and eighty-five staff availed of family friendly schemes, which were managed by the Human Resources Department and includes: The Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Exam leave and Travel Pass Schemes together with Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme. As part of the Government's Jobs Stimulus Plan, in August 2020, there was an increased allowable expenditure under the Cycle to Work Scheme where the tax-exempt benefit-in-kind may be provided to an individual employee once in a 4-year period. Prior to 1st August 2020 employees could avail of the scheme once in a 5-year period.

The Human Resources Department continues to implement the standardised provisions of the Public Service Management (Sick Leave) Regulations 2014 and facilitates the provision of an independent Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This EAP Programme is a free, confidential and independent counselling service and provides support in relation to, e.g. family issues, work issues, addiction, bereavement and financial matters.

PENSIONS

In 2021, thirty fulltime employees retired from the service of Galway County Council. Four employees of the Retained Fire Service also retired from their post with Galway County Council.

The Management and staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to record its thanks to all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Galway County Council.

2021 has another year of many challenges with the continuing response to the Covid-19 Pandemic for the continuity in the delivery of Council Services. In May the HSE was the subject to a devastating Cyber-attack and subsequent ransom demands to return data encryption keys. In addition, the continuing global electronics supply shortages coupled with the capacity of the Irish service providers to deliver is hindering progress. These conditions have resulted in a strategic focus of the Information Systems function to meet these challenges.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Move to a single unified Geographical Information Systems Software portal utilising on-premise and cloud services to delivery decision support information to Council Staff and Open data for public and government agency consumption.
- Complete delivery of a pilot online Portal for Social Housing Needs Assessment service with all communications and documentation requirements delivered in a digital format.
- Commencement and partial completion of additional cyber security capabilities for remote access and protection of council data and infrastructure.
- Replacement Project of compute capacity with design brief for improved Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery capability.
- Repurpose and distribution of surplus desktop systems due to laptop procurement for the purpose of update and replacement of units in Public Libraries, Retained Fire Service Locations, Water Treatment and Motor Tax.
- Planning for facilities to enable Hybrid Capability for Council Staff and Members meetings

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

ROAD & TRANSPORTATION UNIT

The Infrastructure & Operations Unit will ensure continued improvement on the roads network through delivery of both the National and Non- National Roads Programme. In collaboration with various government departments, i.e., Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Galway County Council will continue with its infrastructure development which will include an emphasis on sustainable transport options across the entire county.

The Unit is responsible for the design, maintenance, and improvement of the National, Regional and Local Road Network throughout the County and has responsibility for Road Safety, Marine and Arterial Drainage.

Strategic Goal: Community Participation & Social Inclusion

To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

The Council, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection and the local community, continue to promote and encourage the development of Community Employment.

In 2021, the Council continued to sponsor five schemes with 75 participants in the following locations: Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard, Laurencetown/Abbey, Gort & Environs, Tuam & Environs and Cloch na Ron/Clifden.



Project carried out by Gort & Environs Community Employment Scheme - Bike Stand at Renville Park, Oranmore

CLÁR

Galway County Council received an allocation of €284,613 from the Department of Rural and Community Development for 7 projects under the CLÁR Measure 1 projects – support for schools and community safety measures in rural areas. The projects approved includes funding for footpaths, public lighting, upgrade of road markings, zebra crossings and parking facilities in designated CLÁR areas.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ROADS SCHEMES

The Council continued to actively promote the Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme as a means of harnessing community support for road works on suitable local roads. A total of €953,050 was expended on 39 no. projects during 2021, funded by allocation under the Department of Transport Regional & Local Road.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY

Funding has been provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to complete phases 0 to 4 of TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG). Public Consultation Event 1 (Study Area) concluded in March 2022. Public Consultation Event 2 (Route Options) is scheduled for June 2022.

ATHENRY TO MILLTOWN GREENWAY

Funding has been provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to complete phases 0 to 1 of TII PMG. The strategic assessment report (SAR) and feasibility report are currently being drafted and will be complete in early Q3 of 2022.

DERRIGIMLAGH TO KYLEMORE ABBEY GREENWAY

Funding has been provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to complete phases 0 to 1 of TII PMG. A tender to procure a multi-disciplinary engineering consultant to deliver on phases 0-1 has been finalised with project deliverables to complete in Q1 2023.



Connemara Greenway at Derryvickrune & Gowlan



Connemara Greenway at Derryvickrune & Gowlan



Connemara Greenway site clearance at Recess & works at Munga & Athry

GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY PROJECT

A dedicated project office has been established in Ballinasloe, and work progressed with Route Corridor Public Consultations held on five route corridor options in January and February 2021. Over 10,500 submissions were received, and following further consultations with landowners and other

stakeholders, a preferred route corridor was selected, and further public consultations took place in December 2021 into January 2022. This corridor extends from Athlone to Shannonbridge, Portumna, Derrybrien, Gort, Kinvara, Kilcolgan, Oranmore to Galway City. A Code of Best Practice for Greenways, which includes procedures for acquisition of lands, was published in December 2021, and which is expected advance the development of greenways in Ireland. The current program is for an application to be made to An Bord Pleanála in the 4th quarter 2023.

Strategic Goal

Economic & Enterprise Development

To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county.

THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN.

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a government policy that aims to ensure that every home, school, and business in Ireland – regardless of how remote or rural – has access to high-speed broadband.

This is being achieved through a combination of Commercial investment across the country and a State Intervention in those areas where commercial operators acting alone are unlikely to invest.

NBP STATE INTERVENTION AREA

In November 2019, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications appointed NBI as the company to build, maintain and operate the State Intervention network for the next 25 years.

The National Broadband Plan is set to deliver high-speed fibre broadband to over 544,000 premises in the State, 39,434 of which are in Co. Galway and the projected investment in Co. Galway over the life of the project is €153 Million.

In 2021 over 6,800 premises were passed with a Fibre to the home (FTTH) service in Co. Galway by NBI, by the end of 2022 NBI project this figure to rise to 12,500.

NBI current published build plan indicates they will have completed their network roll out in Co. Galway by December 2026.

COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT DELIVERING FTTH SERVICES

A key principle of the NBP is to support and stimulate commercial investment through policy and regulatory measures. This has acted as a catalyst to commercial investment by the telecommunications sector

From 2018 to the end of 2021 over 40,000 additional Eircode's in Co. Galway were passed by commercial companies with Fibre to the home (FTTH) networks.

THE WiFi4EU INITIATIVE

The WiFi4EU initiative promotes free outdoor access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres and museums in

municipalities throughout Europe. By the end of 2021, 19 wi-fi access points were live across the county and it is anticipated by the end of 2022 this figure will be up to 40 access points, providing free Wi-Fi access to locals and visitors alike.

THE BCP (BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS) INITIATIVE

The BCP initiative is a pivotal part of the National Broadband Plan which will see high-speed connectivity brought to key public locations in areas which currently cannot access high-speed broadband. This is in advance of National Broadband Ireland rolling out fibre connectivity in these areas. BCPs will provide free Wi-Fi hotspots to the public, with some offering additional services to their communities, such as remote working spaces or locations for skills training. Currently there are 13 BCPs that are live and offering public Wi-Fi. The remaining 8 BCPs are expected to go live in 2022.

In 2021, Galway County Council secured funding (€239,000) for 8 BCP from Department of Rural & Community Development under the Connected Hubs call (2021) to create new or add additional Remote working spaces -this work is now complete, and returns have been made to DRCD.

REGION MAPPING OF DIGITAL RESOURCES.

The ArcGIS Map displays digital hubs, Libraries, buildings with public wi-fi and computers stock for public access, IFI4EU -public Wi-Fi points and BCP locations and their service offering, this map was updated in 2021

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

With financial support from the Department of Rural and Community Development, Galway County Council continued to support the revitalisation of towns and villages to increase their potential for their communities, both their living environment and improved economic development. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, completion for projects approved in late 2019 and 2020 was extended to 2021.

From the 2019 Town and Village Scheme, the Municipal Districts continued works in 2021 in Oranmore (€200,000 grant awarded) and final works in An Cheathrú Rua were progressed. These projects have a completion deadline in June 2022. From the 2020 Town & Village Scheme, works were substantially completed for St Joseph's Road Portumna and Belclare in partnership with Belclare Sylvan Community Group. Under the T&V Accelerated Measures, Street Improvement and Accessibility Measures in Loughrea (€25,000) and Tuam (€39,000) were delivered in 2021, while approval of €100,000 under the Town and Village 2021 Scheme was secured for works in Barnadearg in partnership with Killereerin Community Council.

Strategic Goal Infrastructural Capacity

To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life

A number of significant achievements were recorded by the Roads & Transportation Unit during 2021 include:

An Bord Pleanála approved the N6 Galway City Ring Road Proposed Road Development with conditions and the Motorway and the Protected Road Schemes with modifications on the 6th December 2021. An Bord Pleanála published Section 51 (Roads Act) notices on 15/16th December 2021 commencing the period for applications for a Judicial Review.

N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass - This is a single carriageway bypass of Maigh Cuilinn Village. The scheme is 4.6Km in length with two at grade roundabouts and 10 no. structures. The contract was awarded to Wills Bros in October 2021 and works commenced on the scheme in late 2021. The anticipated contract duration is 22 months with €23,000,000 being allocated by TII for 2022.

N59 Maam Coss – Bunnakill: - The contracted works have been completed. The contractor submitted a request for Certificate of substantial completion same issued on 27th August 2021. Retention's monies due for release Q3 2022.

N59 Bunnakill- Claremont: -Advanced site fencing contract completed in August 2021. 3 No. method statements submitted to NPWS in Dec 2021 in relation to Ground Investigation Works, Archaeology Works and Topographical Surveys. Currently awaiting on a response from NPWS with method statements.

N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara: - Construction works were completed on the 3.2 km Realignment Scheme with Substantial Completion being achieved in July 2021. Retention's monies will be due for release Q3 2022.

2021 ROADS PROGRAMME

The 2021 Roads Programme was prepared following allocations for National and Non-National Road construction, repairs and maintenance grants totalling **€64,050,179** from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and an allocation from Galway County Council:

National Roads - €28,535,371

Non-National Roads - €35,514,808

The Roads Programme was prepared in consultation with the elected members, reviewed and adopted by each Municipal District.

The grant allocated by Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the Motorway & National Roads for the year 2021 was **€28,535,371**

The 2021 allocation divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€ 26, 863,090
Maintenance Works	€ 1,072,281
PPP related costs	€ 300,000
Greenway	€ 300,000

Funding continued to be provided in 2021 to facilitate the continued advancement and delivery of the Major Inter Urban Routes. The following major/minor projects were managed by the Galway National Roads Project Office and the costs associated with this programme recouped in full, from Transport Infrastructure Ireland:

M6	Galway City Bypass	€ 1,000,000
N59	Clifden to Oughterard	€600,000
N59	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass	€ 8,000,000
N17	Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment (Minor 2016)	€ 100,000
N59	Maam Cross to Bunnakill	€4,000,000
N59	West of Letterfrack Widening (Minor 2016)	€ 100,000
N63	Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh (Part of Gort / Tuam Residual Network)	€ 500,000
N63	Liss to Abbey Realignment (Minor 2016)	€ 200,000
N65	Kilmeen Cross	€ 50,000
N67	Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Phase 2	€ 3,000,000
N84	Galway to Curraghmore	€50,000
N59	Bunnakill to Claremount	€200,000
N67	AT South of Ballinderreen Cycleway	€50,000
N83	AT Tuam Road Cycleway	€50,000

LAND ACQUISITIONS

- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass.
- Purchase of land continued to facilitate the N63 Abbeyknockmoy to Annagh Hill road projects
- Land acquisitions were ongoing for the N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara realignment Phase 2 road project.
- Land acquisitions are ongoing in relation to N59 Maam Cross to Oughterard scheme.
- Land acquisitions were ongoing to facilitate the N63 Carrowmunniagh Safety Scheme (Twenty Minute Hill)

Other milestones achieved relating to the National Primary & Secondary Road Network during 2021 included:

- A successful tender competition was run for N59 Maigh Cuilinn Bypass with contracts being signed with the successful tenderer Wills Brothers Limited in September 2021.
- With regard to the N59 Bunnakill to Claremont section, GCC/Jacobs are progressing with preparing draft contract documents for Ground Investigation Works, Archaeology Works and Topographical Surveys. These documents may be subject to change following any feedback from NPWS & IFI in relation to the method statements that have been submitted for a review National Parks and Wildlife Services in December 2021

- Works continued throughout 2021 on the delivery of phase 0 to 4 of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines (TII PMG) (up to and including the statutory planning process) for the N63 Liss to Abbey realignment scheme.
- Works continued on the delivery of phases 0 to 4 of TII PMG for the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad scheme.
- Works continued throughout 2021 and the delivery of phases 0 to 4 of TII PMG for the N65 Kilmeen Junction Prioritisation Scheme.
- Galway County Council project engineers recommenced the N59 Clifden to Maam Cross Scheme.
- Galway County Council project engineers are advancing the N84 Galway City Boundary to Clonboo Scheme.
- N59 Pavement works at Gowlan West, Addergoole and Moyard were completed to augment the works done in 2019.
- N67 Kilcolgan towards Ballinderreen (1.2Km) pavement works were completed.
- R380 formerly the N66 Kilchreest pavement works were complete.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS

The expenditure incurred by Galway County Council for Regional and Local Roads, as funded by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, in 2021 was €35,514,808 divided as follows:

Improvement Works	€30,395,308
Maintenance Works	€5,119,500

The expenditure can be classified under the following broad headings:

Grant Category	2021
Improvement Grant	€17,847,00
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€5,119,500
Discretionary Grant	€5,711,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,900,000
Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants	€400,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	€620,000
Speed Limits in Housing Estates	€13,125
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€1,000,000
Drainage Works	€1,397,683
Training	€128,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€953,000
Former National Roads	€373,500
PSCI – Survey Support	€52,000
Overall Total	€35,514,808

LOCAL ROADS MAINTENANCE:

The sum provided from the Council's own resources in 2021 was €6,357,772.

The Local Roads General Maintenance allocation of €2,779,586, which includes a provision of €1,206,950 for ongoing operational costs.

The sum of €1,572,636 was allocated amongst the Municipal District for Local Roads Maintenance as follows:

Local Road General Maintenance – Council Funds		
Municipal District	Length of Road Local Roads KM	Total Allocation
Athenry / Oranmore	555.40	€ 155,611
Ballinasloe	1350.98	€ 378,513
Conamara	1142.68	€ 320,153
Loughrea	1626.50	€ 455,709
Tuam	937.44	€ 262,650
Total	5,613.00	€ 1,572,636

This sum provides for all types of maintenance including Verge Trimming, Drainage, Renewal and Provision of Signage, Bridge, and General Maintenance.

An allocation of €265,000 was provided for Winter Maintenance in 2021, from the Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocated by the Department of Transport. This allocation funds the gritting of priority routes in the county in accordance with the Winter Service Plan 2021-2022.

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME 2021

Funding of €620,000 was allocated by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport towards the rehabilitation of 14 specific bridges in County Galway. An additional €395,000 was allocated from the Discretionary Grant towards the repair of bridges on Regional and local roads. The overall allocation towards the repairs of Non- National Road Bridges for 2021 was €1,015,000, which was an increase of 10% on the 2020 allocation.

Proposed Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2021				
Municipal District	Road Number	Bridge Name & Location	2021 Proposed Expenditure €	Total Municipal District
	L51251	Dooneen Rd., Clifden	€ 30,000	
Conamara	L5351	Aughanure, Oughterard	€ 20,000	€ 50,000

	R462	Knocklawrence, Gort	€ 25,000	
	L8510	Beagh, Gort	€ 50,000	
	R347	Aggard, Craughwell	€ 40,000	
L	L852652	Ballingarry, Kilchreest	€ 100,000	€ 310,000
Loughrea	L85232	Knockoura, Peterswell	€ 40,000	
	L51251	Ballycrossaun, Portumna	€ 25,000	
	L3114	Clogharevaun, Kiltullagh	€ 30,000	
	R328	Kilavoher, Clonbern	€ 30,000	
	L2115	Garra, Abbeyknockmoy	€50,000	
T	R328	Addergoole, Dunmore	€ 40,000	€ 260,000
Tuam	L6187	Culliagh North, Abbeyknockmoy	€ 100,000	
	L61603	Derreen, Abbeyknockmoy	€ 40,000	



Derreen, Abbeyknockmoy completed in 2021

Funding of €395,000 was allocated from the Discretionary grant for the repair of Regional and Local Roads Bridges in 2021.

Proposed Bridge Repairs Programme 2021				
Municipal District	Road Number	Bridge Name & Location	2021 Proposed Expenditure €	Total Municipal District
Athenry/Oranmore	L7171	Cloonsheecahill, New Inn	7,500	€ 17,500
	L3120	Barack Lane Design, Athenry	10,000	
Ballinasloe	R339	Moyure, Menlough	20,000	€ 55,000
	R364	Moylough	15,000	
	L7221	Pollnabrone, Menlough	20,000	
Conamara	L5328	New Leam Bridge – Feasibility	20,000	€ 70,000
	L51375	Athry, Recess	50,000	
Loughrea	R351	Looscaun, Woodford	15,000	€ 112,500
	R350	Bullaun, Loughrea	5,000	
	L85144	Derreen, Gort	15,000	
	L4304	Moaty, Kiltormer	50,000	
	L3114	Carrowbaun, Loughrea	5,000	
	L4322	Oxgrove, Killimor – Design	10,000	
	L45141	Tubber, Gort	7,500	
	L81915	Drought, Loughrea	5,000	
Tuam	L22211	Beagh, Dunmore	20,000	€ 57,500
	L2215	Sylane West, Dunmore	7,500	
	L2223	Mahanagh, Lavalley, Tuam	10,000	
	L6459	Ardnagall, Milltown	15,000	
	L6470	Addergoole, Dunmore	5,000	
All		De-vegetation	22,500	€ 82,500
		Design & Land Acq.	20,000	
		Completion of 2021 programme	40,000	

Strategic Goal

Infrastructural Capacity – to ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life.

TAKING IN CHARGE – UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

There are many different aspects to dealing with housing estates whether they are in the Taking in Charge or Unfinished Housing Estates category.

The Taking in Charge section continues to engage proactively with Residents, Developers/Owners, Agents, Bondholders, and other relevant Third Parties for the completion of Residential Estates to a standard for Taking in Charge and/or Bond Release.

The number of estates for Taking in Charge and/or for Bond Release in 2021 were:

No. of Estates Taken in Charge	–	8
No. of Estates – Bond Released	-	4

The Taking in Charge section is currently engaged with over 50 developments which are at various stages in the Taking in Charge process.

The financial resources available to the Taking in Charge Section is by way of Bonds, specifically assigned to developments and/or funding received through Site Resolution with Irish Water. For the past two years, the Council has allocated €100,000 in its budget for the Taking in Charge of Historical Residential Estates, enabling these estates to be completed and brought to required standard for taking in charge.

The progress of works on estates is governed by the funding available, engagement with third parties and the complexity of the work involved which may include wayleave agreements. While much progress has been made, there remains a significant amount of work to improve the living conditions of many house owners across the country.

ROAD SAFETY TOGETHER COMMITTEE

The Road Safety Together Committee met twice during 2021 – continuing its active role in the promotion of road safety in Co. Galway.

- Specific road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council during 2021 included:
- Promotion of the Drive for Life Programme for Post Primary Schools
- Support for the operation of the Junior School Warden Scheme
- Funding of Cycle Training to National Schools and funding of bike racks

Be Safe, Be Seen! - Campaign aimed at NUI Galway Students

Galway Co. Council, in conjunction with NUI Galway's Students Union, ran a road safety awareness campaign encouraging students who walk or cycle to college to arrive safely. High visibility vests were distributed to students attending the college during Road Safety Week, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority.



(Photo: NUIG SU VP/Welfare & Equality Officer Cora Clarke and the NUIG SU VP/Education Officer Clodagh McGivern)

Irish Road Safety Week took place from 4th to 10th October 2021 and the Council raised road safety awareness amongst the public by the distribution of leaflets such as speeding, drink and drug driving, driver tiredness, mobile phone use, correct use of roundabouts, etc., and free reflective materials were provided. Best Drive offered free 5-point safety check to the general public to ensure their vehicle's tyres; brakes; shocks; lights/ levels and wipers are in proper working order.

The Council teamed up with GMIT's Students Union and high visibility rucksack covers were distributed to students attending the college.



Galway Co. Council funded a Bike Rack at St. Mary's National School, Mountbellew. It will encourage pupils to cycle to school. High visibility vests and schoolbag covers, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, was distributed to the cyclists to ensure their visibility and safety.



Strategic Goal

Protection of Environment & Heritage

To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations.

MARINE MAINTENANCE

Galway County Council is reviewing the marine and maintenance programme prioritising works as the budget will allow. There are in excess of 180 coastal piers listed following the last review within the County. A priority list of 62 landing places had previously been identified in order to implement a programme of necessary works including repairs and replacements to ladders and railings, regular removal of algae growth on slipways, and safety improvements to piers. Marine Maintenance also includes maintenance of visitor yacht moorings and the navigation lights that are in the charge of Galway County Council.

In 2021 under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, improvements were carried out at Inishbofin pier, Cleggan pier, Derryinver pier, An tOilean Mór, Garafin, Aughrusmor, Ard Mór, Kilkieran, Aibhin, Maumeen, Caladh Fennish, Trawbaun, Rinville, Balckweir, Kileenaran, Tarrea, Kinvara and Newtownlynch pier.

As part of the ongoing navigation lights maintenance programme repairs were carried out in 2021 on Inisbofin and at Spiddal and Barna piers.

There are approximately 60 moorings spread over 8 separate locations. A replacement programme continued through 2021 with further such work programmed for 2022.

STRATEGIC HARBOURS

CALADH INIS OÍRR

The final business case for the proposed development of Inis Oírr pier was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development in March 2021. This case was assessed by the Department and approval was received in April 2021.

A pre-application for a Foreshore licence was then submitted to the Foreshore Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Subsequently, a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement was completed for the site. Engagement with the Foreshore Unit continues and submission of the formal application is projected in Q4 2022 or early 2023.

Draft Bye-Laws for the operation of Inis Oírr Pier were drawn up and these were made available for public consultation from 19th November 2021 to 20th December 2021.

CALADH MÓR INIS MEÁIN

Galway County Council commissioned the National Maritime College in Cork to carry out modelling of the pier at An Chaladh Mór in 2020 to analyse the problems encountered at the harbour. This included the creation of a digital model of the cargo boat vessel 'Saoirse na Mara', and simulation of entry into An Chaladh Mór harbour.

A visit to the National Maritime College to use this digital simulation was arranged by Galway County Council. This training day was undertaken at the National Maritime College in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork on the 8th of July 2021. Those that attended included Galway County Council representatives, Lasta Mara Teo 'Saoirse na Mara' vessel operators, Aran Ferries operators, Doolin Ferries operators, as well as two island representatives on behalf of *Coiste an Chaladh Mor*.

Following this training day and subsequent feedback from those attending, it was agreed that further modelling and depth surveys of the harbour are required in addition to the development of a digital model for one of the ferry vessels. The required information is being compiled and it is anticipated that a further training day will take place in August 2022.

CÉIBH AN CHÓRA INIS MEÁIN

Galway County Council were notified of problems encountered by the cargo ferry vessel servicing Céibh an Chóra Inis Meáin due to silting at the pier.

Galway County Council commissioned a bathymetric survey at the location to be carried out which highlighted the problem area. Consultants Malachy Walsh & Partners were appointed to undertake an analysis of the possible remedial solutions available. They produced a document on the dredging options and associated costs.

The EPA and the Marine Institute have been consulted in relation to requirements for the dredging and subsequent dumping at sea of the material deposited.

Funding approval is currently being sought for the works required to complete this project.

FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES

Galway County Council and the OPW work in partnership to deliver Flood Relief Schemes (substantial schemes) and Flood Mitigation works (local mitigation). The OPW funds all major flood relief schemes - schemes are carried out directly by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts or can be carried out by Galway County Council under the Planning & Development Acts. The OPW also provides 90% funding towards local flood mitigation works. A steering group meets regularly to ensure timely delivery of proposals that will reduce the risk of future flooding.

The OPW also provides advice and assistance to Galway County Council when flood events occur.

DUNKELLIN RIVER & AGGARD STREAM FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

All works have been completed and the OPW work force has vacated the site. The scheme is now fully operational. Compensation payments have issued to the majority of landowners effected by

the scheme with final payments scheduled for mid-2022. Post works ecological surveys will be undertaken in Rahasane turlough for the next four years, as per An Bord Pleanála planning conditions.

SOUTH GALWAY, GORT LOWLANDS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

The Feasibility Report was published in February 2021 and an extensive public consultation on the 'Emerging Preferred Scheme' was undertaken from February to June. The consultation period included extensive site meetings with individual landowners being affected by the preferred scheme.

Submissions from the consultation have been examined and several amendments to the preferred scheme are under consideration. An extensive Ground Investigation contract commenced in October 2021 and is scheduled to conclude in April 2022.

The results from the Ground Investigations, submissions from the public and ongoing environmental studies will inform decisions around the 'Preferred Scheme'. The Preferred Scheme will be subject to environmental reviews (EIAR and NIS). If the scheme remains environmentally acceptable and cost beneficial, a Public Exhibition will be scheduled for Q1 of 2023 before being submitted for Ministerial Confirmation.

BALLINASLOE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

A Public Consultation commenced in March 2020 with a collaborative workshop held in July 2020. The aim of these exercises was to inform all stakeholders of the Constraints Study and preliminary aspects of the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme and to obtain information about flooding, environmental issues and possible scheme opportunities that could inform the development of the scheme.

Stage 1 (Scheme Development and Options Assessment) continued throughout the period from July 2020 to December 2021 as follows:

- Project Website updated with relevant Newsletters.
- Topographical Surveys, Special Ecological Surveys and CCTV Surveys completed.
- Ground Investigation Surveys nearing completion.
- Draft Hydrology Report completed.
- Draft Natural Water Retention Feasibility Report completed.
- Draft Hydraulics Report completed.
- Draft Environmental Constraints Study completed.

The second Public Consultation Period (Emerging Options) is scheduled for Q1 2022 where interested persons are to be given the opportunity to view and comment on the Emerging Options within the Study Area. The public's views and opinions will be compiled into a report, which will be fully considered in terms of the ongoing design process.

The third Public Consultation Period (Emerging Preferred Option) is scheduled to take place in Q4 2022.

CLIFDEN FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME:

In 2019, the OPW has granted funding to Galway County Council for the implementation of a flood relief project in Clifden as part of the **“Flood Risk Management Plans – Small Project Funding Application”**.

Consulting Engineers were appointed by Galway County Council in October 2021 to carry out both the Engineering and Environmental design of the scheme.

Various engineering and ecological surveys, along with the first Public Information Day are scheduled for completion in Q2 2022.



Clifden Flood Relief Scheme – Flood Waters, Clifden September 2020

KINVARA INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Galway County Council applied to the OPW in December 2019 for funding under **“OPW – Coastal Flooding Minor Works Application”**. The OPW granted funding to Galway County Council of €40,500 in September 2020 to proceed with the full implementation of the scheme by Q2 of 2021.

FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS

The Council completed works at 9 locations in 2021, under the OPW funded Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme. Funding applications were made at 7 locations in 2021 with total funding received of €99,000, which cover 90% of the total cost with the balance funded by Galway County Council. Applications submitted for another 10 locations are currently under consideration by the OPW.

A funding application of €198,000 for flood defence works in Leenaun village was also approved in 2021 with works to progress in 2022.

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

The Council discharges its statutory responsibility for the maintenance of certain drainage works in the County through the Roads and Transportation Unit and the Council’s Municipal District Offices. The Council has charge of twelve Drainage Districts and continues to allocate funds towards

two former Joint Drainage Districts that were dissolved in 2014. The Council spent €174,505 on Drainage District works in 2021.

In 2021 maintenance works were carried out in the following Drainage Districts: - Oranhill, Kellysgrove, Suck, Dunkellin, Ahascragh, Mountbellew, Meelick.

Strategic Goal Organisational Capacity

To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members

MACHINERY YARD

The supply and maintenance of Plant and Machinery for the Council's use is managed by the Machinery Yard. 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING & ACTIVE TRAVEL

ACTIVE TRAVEL 2021

The initial allocation under the July Stimulus programme in 2020 developed into a comprehensive Active Travel project delivery programme for 2021. It is a rolling, multi-annual programme of works which will evolve and develop as required.

In 2021 €6.1Million was allocated to GCC for various Active Travel Projects, including Transportation Studies. Projects to the value of €3.9M were successfully delivered by year-end by the Municipal District teams. Multiple towns and villages across the county benefitted from works. A diverse range of projects was completed with an over-arching objective of connecting infrastructure elements such as housing, schools, shops, sports facilities, churches, business, car parks, graveyards. Many more planned works will continue into 2022. All works are completed within speed limits and on non-national roads.

The works completed in 2021 include:

- **Footpath Improvement Packages in 50 Towns and Villages throughout the County**
 - Installation of new footpaths and public lighting
 - Remediation of existing paths and completion of missing links
- **Safe To School Infrastructure measures**
 - Projects included electronic signage, road signage and road markings and upgrades on or near direct school routes
 - Galway County Council worked directly with An Taisce Green Schools Teams to maximise project benefits

- **Pedestrian Crossings**
 - 5 new Pedestrian Crossings commenced
- **Speeding Intervention measures**
 - Driver Feedback Signs (DFS) were installed at approx. 40 locations throughout the county
- **Accessible Public Transport**
 - Design works continue for Bus Stops

Projects that were not fully completed in 2021 as Phase 1 (design projects, statutory approvals required, land acquisition required) are being rolled over and fully funded into 2022.

Strategic Goal Quality Customer Service

To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- The Unit continued to operate an Online Payment Facility to allow for the payment of Fixed Charge Notices (Parking Fines).
- The Unit continued to avail of www.galway.ie throughout 2021 to provide a Traffic Information Service, providing information on traffic disruptions arising as a result of road works, temporary road closures, roadworks speed limits etc.
- The Unit communicated with the public through the use of various media, such as local radio, website, twitter, local newspapers, e-mails, texts, through the usage of the on-line customer comments system and the national on-line system Fix Your Street.ie.
- The Roads and Transportation Unit successfully and efficiently delivered an extensive programme of works in 2021, which included works in addition to those included in the Roads Programmes, funded by other Government Departments such as Department of Rural and Community Development, An Roinn Cultúir, Oidreachta agus Gaeltachta.

WATER SERVICES

WATER CONSERVATION

In 2021 works continued to reduce leakage in the water distribution network through planned and reactive intervention works in conjunction with the Water Network Programme (WNP). Works were undertaken by a combination of local authority direct labour crews and contractor supplied works crews across different activities in the WNP. In 2022, the reduction of leakage from the distribution network across the county will once again be a priority, with campaigns targeting public and private side leakage in the network.

The key work streams which will again be running in tandem to bring about the reductions include:

- Capital Find & Fix utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across several District Metering Areas (DMA's) throughout the County
- Pressure Management utilising the resources of Galway County Council Operational and Find Fix crews and Contractors across all Water Service Divisions North, South & West
- Mains Rehabilitation are continuing via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews in the North Division, South and West Divisions
- First Fix activities are ongoing countywide via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews
- Metering (Non-Domestic) via the Contractor Mains Rehab Crews at locations throughout the County

To date significant water savings have been achieved and as work progresses on these work streams as part of the Leakage Reduction Programme in the coming years further savings will be achieved delivering tangible benefits to both customers and the wider community.

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The Programme provides support to group schemes through new group scheme grants, grants for scheme improvements, individual well grants and subsidy grants towards ongoing operation and maintenance. The issue of water quality and compliance with Drinking Water Regulation standards is central to investment decisions.

All the various Rural Water programmes are funded by the Department of the Environment with the level of grant support varying from 75% to 100% depending on the category of works.

In 2021, Capital Grants in the region of €0.6m were paid out and operational Subsidies of in the region of €4m were also paid out.

The Department also provides grant assistance towards specific source protection works undertaken by Group Water Schemes. The aim of the grant is to assist schemes in the provision of a Source Protection Plan. The Council works very closely with the National Federation of Group

Water Schemes in the implementation of the programme and the primary focus of the programme continues to be to improve the quality of water supplies to members of Group Water Schemes. The details of the funding measures under the programme are set out below.

Measure 1: Source Protection (GWS Sector) – Protection of raw water source of existing GWS (Was 2(e)). This is Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase 1 was the ZOC reports (€3,000 X 85% max grant).

Phase 2 is at 100% subject to max per house of 9,000 across all funding headings.

Measure 2: Public Health Compliance – Upgrading of Treatment Facilities

- a. Water Treatment Improvements (RAL) 100%
- b. Amalgamation/rationalisation 100%
- c. Capital replacement costs 85%

Measure 3: Enhancement of Existing Schemes Including Water Conservation (GWS Sector) Water conservation and network upgrades including storage.

- a. Water Conservation (85%)
- b. Network Upgrades (85%)

Measure 4: New Group Water Schemes

- a. Standalone Schemes
- b. Extensions

85% subject to normal limits or 90% in exceptional cases.

Measure 5: Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector – Existing schemes that wish to be taken in charge.

Measure 6: Community Connections (Water and Wastewater): Extensions off the public network.

Measure 7: Innovation and Research

- a. Proposals for use of new technology in the group water sector
- b. Projects in the rural water sector to support Water Framework Directives objectives, including raising awareness.

Measure 8: Individual Wells (75%) and on-site wastewater treatment systems (means tested).

The Multi Annual Rural Water programme 2019-2021 concluded in 2021 and the implementation of the programme was affected adversely by the Covid pandemic. Any projects not completed under the programme will be re-submitted for funding under the next programme.

All the funding measures have certain conditions and ceilings which will apply and be explained when applying.

Galway County Council continues to progress Water Services projects on Irish Water's Infrastructure and Capital Works Programmes, in accordance with the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. Projects are prioritised by Irish Water to provide, or improve existing, water services infrastructure that will facilitate compliance with the Urban Wastewater Directive and Water Framework Directive. Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan is prepared at least every five years and submitted to the Commission of Regulation of Utilities for approval of funding.

There has been significant advancement on a number of strategically important water services projects during 2021. Under the Infrastructure Programme, progress has advanced as scheduled on the Athenry Sewerage Scheme network, with the project being tendered in November 2021. This facilitates a possible construction start for the project in Q4 2022/Q1 2023. Along with the additional capacity provided by the upgrade to the Athenry wastewater treatment plant, which was completed in July 2019, the works proposed for the collection network will greatly enhance development potential within Athenry town.

All works were completed on the pumping stations at Derrydonnell and Seefin and the 1,000m³ capacity reservoir at Seefin for the extension of the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme to Loughrea. It is expected that the scheme will be fully commissioned and handed over in early 2022.



Tuam RWSS Extension to Loughrea - Completed reservoir and pumping station at Seefin

Ahascragh and Spiddal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) were bundled and tendered under a single contract. Completed tenders were received in March 2021 and a contract was signed with Coffey Water Ltd. In August 2021. The work at Ahascragh involves the upgrade of the existing terminal pumping station and an upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant to give a design capacity of 470 population equivalent (P.E.). For the Spiddal project, wastewater from the existing collection network will be diverted to a new terminal pumping station which will convey wastewater

to a new 1,000 P.E. WWTP and will discontinue discharge of untreated wastewater to Galway Bay. Construction commenced in Spiddal in October 2021 and construction commenced in Ahascragh in January 2022.

The Oral Hearing for the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Roundstone WWTP project was held on 15th March 2021. A decision had not been received by year end. Once the CPO is confirmed, and the necessary foreshore consents are in place, the planning application will be submitted.

The CPO for An Cheathru Rua WWTP is delayed pending the outcome of a judicial review of a planning application on the proposed treatment plant site.

Construction of a new reservoir at Gort was progressed during 2021. The reservoir is constructed adjacent to the water treatment plant at Gort and has a capacity of 1,500 m³. Completion of the project is expected in Q1, 2022. Its completion will help to provide continuity of supply of treated drinking water in Gort.

Both Mountbellew and Ballygar WWTPs have been moved to Priority 2 projects, which means both will not progress until the new Capital Investment Programme is approved by the CRU.

Planning approval for Mountbellew WWTP is currently appealed to An Bord Pleanala and the CPO has been completed.

The CPO was completed, and planning approval granted for Ballygar WWTP. Mid-2021, the project was approved to proceed under the Small Towns & Village Programme.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

****To be updated pending final publication from NOAC****

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the establishment of a National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC). A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

Local Authorities are asked to validate and submit information and data on 39 Performance Indicators. This data is collated by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and is made available to the NOAC for further analysis and publication as part of a National report on Local Authority Performance Indicators. In addition to information supplied from the Council, data is provided by external bodies (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (D/TTaS) Vehicle Registration Unit (VRU), the EPA, Road Management Office (RMO) which is based on other national reporting systems to which the Council must submit data. This information is saved and validated by the Council as part of the national returns using an on-line e-returns system.

The indicators attempt to deliver a common approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities. NOAC believes that, by learning from one another, there is scope to develop and enhance best practice in the performance by local government bodies of their functions.

Work on refining the indicators is an on-going process and NOAC recognises that a number of the indicators require modification or replacement with a more relevant data set.

For 2021, there were 39 local authority performance indicators, as outlined below.

Each Indicator is provided with a reference as follows:

- Housing (H1 to H6)
- Roads (R1 to R3)
- Water (W1 and W2)
- Waste/Environment (E1 to E5)
- Planning (P1 to P5)
- Fire Service (F1 to F3)
- Library/Recreation (L1 and L2)
- Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)
- Corporate (C1 to C5)
- Finance (M1 and M2)
- Economic Development (J1 to J4)

ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

STRATEGIC GOAL: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION			
<i>"To facilitate the broadest possible participation by citizens in local decision making and the sustainable development of their communities and their county"</i>			
SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.	Deliver the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 - 2021 as efficiently as possible within available resources. The Rural Water Programme includes the payment of group scheme grants for the construction and upgrading of rural group water schemes and the ongoing support of the schemes through group water scheme subsidy.	Dec-21	In total €4.6m paid out but construction on group schemes curtailed because of pandemic.
Continued management of Community Employment and Labour Activation Schemes.	<i>Facilitate and support community involvement and participation</i>	Maintain 100% capacity of CES employees throughout the year	Met Target by 80% - due to COVID-19 Pandemic, less candidates applied for employment on CE schemes
	Sponsorship of 5 Community Employment Schemes		
Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.	<i>Facilitate the Elected Member and Community Representative within our democratic structures in carrying out their representational role in response to the needs of the Community</i>		
	To facilitate the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committees in policy formation	4 meeting p.a.	Met Target

<p>To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.</p>	<p>To encourage library usage by children and young adults. To encourage staff to build on previous successful ideas that keep children visiting and engaging with our services. To ensure continued involvement in National Children's events e.g. Cruinniú na nÓg</p>	<p>Number of organised events for Children's Book Festival. Number of attendees at Children's Book Festival events. Number of other events organised for children and young adults.</p>	<p>2,444 children registered for Summer Stars reading challenge in 2021. Children's Book Festival 'Book It' was held in October along with several online and in branch events. 1,200 Little Library Book Bags issued to over 300 Early Learning Centres in County Galway.</p>
	<p>To ensure access to information through all online mediums and to continue to promote our Online Services. To continue to provide a comprehensive service to the visually impaired. To ensure Library services are available beyond the walls of the library, both online and via mobile library service.</p>	<p>Usage figures for ebooks, eaudiobooks, Transparent Languages Online, Press Reader, RBDigital and Universal Class. Develop the Postal Audio Service to the visually impaired.</p>	<p>504,912 items were issued in 2021 including ebooks and eaudiobooks.</p>
	<p>To deliver an effective library service. To ensure that all local communities are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer. To ensure where possible that all branch libraries of the Library system organise/host a range of activities including exhibitions, readings, book-clubs, lectures and music for their community.</p>	<p>Number of visits to each library Number of books issued Number of active memberships Number of events held Number of members on mobile library Number of items issued on mobile library</p>	<p>180,257 visits to our libraries in 2021. 221,645 books issued. 22,508 active memberships. 105 Online Events held. 690 members of mobile library. 9116 items issued on mobile library</p>

	<p>To continue to explore avenues to extend our Library services and facilities to meet community needs. Introduction of sensory equipment and facilities.</p> <p>To identify the needs of local communities and ensure that they are aware of their local library service and what each library has to offer.</p>	Ongoing	<p>29 Branch Libraries Mobile Library Service Schools service for primary and post-primary schools. Archives Department Local History Service Audio Books Service Online resources including e-books Facilitated Membership of 22,508 during 2021.</p>
	Target to have Ballinasloe Library operational In My Open Library Mode.	As soon as Covid restrictions allow.	Impacted by continuation of Covid 19 related restrictions.
	Target to have Oranmore Library operational In My Open Library Mode.	Q4 2021	Impacted by continuation of Covid 19 related restrictions.
Work with the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent integrated approach to local and community development.	<p>* Support the Community & Culture SPC & Economic Development & Enterprise SPC on the development of plans, strategies and policies.</p> <p>* Support the LCDC and its subcommittees to achieve a joined-up approach to service delivery and achieving the community actions in the LECP.</p>	<p>4 SPC Meetings. 6 LCDC Meetings. 2 Meetings per Sub-Committee.</p>	<p>3 Community & Culture SPC Meetings 5 LCDC Meetings 4 SICAP subcommittee Meetings</p>
Work in partnership with the key stakeholders including local community groups in the promotion of heritage, fire prevention, water safety, climate change and environmental enhancement/awareness.	* Promote fire safety and energy efficiency works in community facilities through all appropriate funding schemes, and in homes through the Smoke Alarm Scheme.	<p>No. of grants awarded for community facilities upgrades & tidy towns initiatives. No. in Smoke Alarm Scheme.</p>	87 projects supported through CSS to improve community facilities and tidy town initiatives

<p>Promote participation in sport and recreation in association with other agencies and the community, maximising the opportunities available through the Galway Sports Partnership and other appropriate schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the GSP to drive strategic direction of access to sports. * Promote and develop sports participation programmes for individuals and communities and maximise the number of programme and participants within available budgets. * Leverage other funding schemes to maximise participation of disadvantaged groups and communities in sporting programmes. 	<p>4 GSP Meetings. No. of programmes. No. of participants. Level of leveraging and participation of marginalised groups.</p>	<p>4 GSP Meetings (April, June, September, December) 50 programmes 1911 participants On leveraging and participation of marginalised groups 59 safeguarding course with 784 participants 4 first aid courses with 45 participants</p>
<p>Coordinate the implementation of relevant Community Development Programmes and funding schemes, including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), in association with the LCDC and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monitor SICAP to ensure effective and efficient delivery and conduct site visits to increase LCDC knowledge. * Implement and monitor projects funded under the Healthy Ireland and promote community engagement in the Programme. * Attend all LEADER Evaluation Meetings and comply with Section 48 requests. Allocate Community Enhancement Programme funding to enhance community facilities. *Develop and manage COVID-19 Community Response Helpline and well being initiatives 	<p>Compliance with annual monitoring schedule and attainment of SICAP KPI's. Compliance with HIF deadlines & purposes. Effectiveness of CEP prioritisation & alignment with HP Deprivation Index. Number of cases assessed.</p>	

<p>Maintain and develop an arts service in line with the Galway County Arts Plan to ensure that the arts contribute to the enrichment of people’s lives while supporting the celebration of County Galway’s unique traditions and culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Arts Plan 2020-2024 implementation to be commenced. * Progress new Galway County Council Public Art Policy 2020-2024 and oversee programme * Various Arts programmes and initiatives to be progressed * Creative Ireland programme to be programmed and delivered * Deliver Arts Act grants * Participate as Partner in Erasmus+ project * Support Creative Places Tuam Pilot * Support Music Generation, Aras Eanna, Unesco City of Film, Wrap Fund *Support Strategic Planning for Festivals in Agents of Change *Programme Culture Night 	<p>Arts Programme to be completed as per Programme application to Arts Council (4 Strategic Areas of focus with 8 specific programmes) Supporting Artists; Arts & Children, Arts in Context and Creative Communities to include Culture Night and Festivals Complete Partnership Funding appliciton to Arts Council Administer and Manage CreativeIreland Programme and Recoupment Manage Recoupment of LLPS programme</p>	<p>No. of initiatives and programmes supported through Arts Grants - 46 Annual Plan developed to implement Arts Plan. - 35 initiatives to include 4 strategic areas No. of initiatives supported under Creative Ireland and compliance with deadlines - 25 initiatives Culture Night - 35 events Public Art 1 tender awarded. LLPS 17 events took place 23 Artists supported with Bursaries & 4 Artists Residencies</p>
<p>Provide advice and financial resources to support communities and the sustainable development of the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Clear information provided for PPN Members. *Support communities to enter national competitions such as Pride of Place. 	<p>No. of national competition entrants and performance.</p>	
<p>Review and implement the community elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Complete a review of the community elements of the LECP in line with Guidelines from the DRCD. 	<p>Progress on actions updated. Initial desktop review of LECP followed by a new Plan in accordance with</p>	<p>LECP Guidelines issues in November 2021 on desktop review of LECP to be integrated with development of new LECP's for 6 year period</p>

community development and social inclusion.		Departmental Guidelines.	
Supporting the Age Friendly initiative ensuring that the fact of an ageing population informs our policies and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the Age Friendly Alliance and OPC to deliver activities and improvements in consultation with older people. * Implement Annual Workplan. 	Working structure in place and consultation completed to prepare Strategy by end year. No. of initiatives supported.	4 Meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance 20 events/projects supported
Support the development of the Public Participation Network (PPN) structures for community engagement and wellbeing, ensuring that these structures inform and are aligned with local government policy and activity.	* Support PPN Secretariat to manage PPN Membership, budget and to develop and implement an Annual Work Plan aimed at capacity building, information sharing and supporting effective representation on Committees.	No. of PPN Member Groups and % of these in SI college & no. of SI reps on LCDC (KPI Y2) No. of LA consultations with PPN. No. of Committees with PPN representation. No. of training days for LA staff and elected members on PPN as per the NOAC performance measures guide.	1,078 PPN Members 220 groups in SI College 2 SI reps on LCDC 12 committees with PPN representation
To promote social inclusion and reduction of social inequalities by engaging with communities and other agencies to improve the quality of life for marginalised groups, including youth, migrants, travellers, socially and financially disadvantaged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Manage Comhairle na nOg and support the delivery of key annual topics. * Collaborate with Galway Rural Development and Interagency Group to develop a Migrant Integration Strategy. * Support the Traveller Interagency Group to develop a programme of supports for the Traveller community in the County. 	% of schools participating in CNN (KPI - Y1). Progress on key CNN topics. Complete Migrant Integration Strategy by year end. No of meetings of TIG. No. of SI Events.	15 schools represented CNN presented to LCDC & CYSPC 4 TIG meetings held in 2021 43 SI Events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop a programme of social inclusion events to celebrate diversity and inclusion. 		
<p>To maximise the use of Council facilities, such as Municipal District offices and Libraries for the dissemination of information on services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Collaborate with Libraries on Healthy Ireland Programme and Age Friendly Programme to share and disseminate information and utilise their facilities for cultural and community events. * Collaborate with Libraries on Creative Ireland Programme and Arts Programme and utilise their facilities for cultural and community events in particular BOOK IT - Childrens Book Festival. 	<p>10 collaborations for Creative Ireland and Arts Office.</p>	<p>'BOOK IT' – Children's Book Festival held in October 2021 with several online and in branch events including visits by authors and storytellers.</p>
<p>Maximise the potential of the European Capital of Culture 2020 designation and its legacy to the local community and local economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support and engage with ECOC monitoring and evaluation. * Support programme ideas from communities that have taken part in the Small Towns Big Ideas Programme. * Seek opportunities to collaborate on European projects with other ECOC's * Work through a cross-departmental team to provide technical support and advice for programmed events in 2021 	<p>2 learning exchanges with Erasmus+ Culture Up programme with Arts Office</p>	<p>1 Visit took place to Denmark - October 2021 with partner Aras Eanna.</p>

STRATEGIC GOAL: ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT			
<i>"To maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our county"</i>			
SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space in a structured manner across the county.	Continue to liaise with the statutory agencies with the opening of the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry.	31/12/2021	GCC administered over €1m in RRDF Funding to BIA in 2021 to progress construction of BAA Campus and continued to play a lead role at Board and sub-committee level. Expressions of interest for the Campus has been strong.
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan.	Provide advice and guidance on EC regulations and challenges posed by Brexit	Ongoing	
Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages.	The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Irish Water is aligned with development plans.	Ongoing	Process is an ongoing one.
Enhance urban environments by the implementation of streetscape improvement projects and the elimination of dereliction.	<i>Collaboration with Economic & Rural Development unit and deliver on Local Authority led Rural Regeneration Projects</i>		
	Tuam Regeneration Master Plan - approval	Q1, 2021	The Tuam Masterplan was endorsed by Tuam MD on April 12 th 2021
Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-	<i>Maximise the continued and sustainable economic and enterprise development of our County</i>		Continued to support communities in the development of hubs across the county and progressed plans for economic and enterprise

working spaces at community level.			infrastructure under Regeneration projects
	Digital Strategy to full Council	Q1, 2021	Met Target
	Implantation of Digital Strategy	Q4, 2021	Ongoing task each year, with the current strategy in place until Q4 2023
Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives.	Facilitate roll-out of National Broadband Plan - implement Broadband connection points (19 no.)	Ongoing	Ongoing
Through our Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to be a primary driver of enterprise, development, support.	Providing a first stop shop service to the business community - delivering business advice, direction and signposting to relevant supports and agencies, business training and mentoring. Providing support to private sector to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects and providing comprehensive pre-and post-start-up supports to new and expanding micro-enterprises;	Achieve annual targets as stated in service level agreement and utilize 100% funding provided by Enterprise Ireland.	Achieved
Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.	Co-Ordinate Ballinasloe October Fair & Festival with Ballinasloe Municipal District Office and Fair & Festival Committee. Chair Meetings of Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Co-Ordinating Committee, comprising 2 Elected Members, Town Engineer, Reps of Local Businesses, An Garda Síochána,	4 Meetings of Co-Ordinating Committee to be held - Feb, May, August, Sept. 2021 and an After Event Meeting to be held in November	Event did not take place due to Covid-19

	ISPCA, Civil Defence, Dept. of Agriculture, Event Controller, Key Staff from Galway Co. Council		
	Process Casual Trading Licences/Special Event Licences	Within 15 working days	All applications dealt with within the timelines
	Respond to applications for permission for Filming/Use of Council Property	Within 1 week	All applications dealt with within the timelines
Guide the sustainable development and growth of the County in accordance with EU, National and Regional policy, including through the implementation of the County Development Plan.	Development Management is carried out within the statutory and regulatory framework including the County Development Plan and European Directives. Promote and guide high standards of development quality in urban and rural areas throughout the County in a manner that supports the sustainable development for all of the people within the County in a fair impartial and equitable manner	Within Statutory timeframe	2,086 decisions issued in 2021. A total of 1,293 applications were decided within 8 weeks. 82.4% of decisions were to grant permission.
	Monitor, control and enforce unauthorised development within the County Development Plan area under the Planning Acts, thus giving credibility to the planning system through effective enforcement.	Within Statutory timeframe	80 Warning Letters issued. 14 Enforcement Notices served 12 new cases referred to the Law Agents.
Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.	Process Special Event Licences. Engaging with community group via the Heritage office to support festivals and community activities	Within Statutory timeframe	The Heritage Office supported a wide ranging programme of festivals (including online) and community activities.
Enhance urban environments by the implementation of	* Examine potential for public realm improvements to be integrated as part	Delivery of identified projects.	

streetscape improvement projects and the elimination of dereliction.	of all regeneration / renewal programmes and strategy.		
Implement and review the economic elements within the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to promote a robust and diverse economy.	* Complete a review of the economic elements of the LECP in line with Guidelines from the DRCD. (when received).	Progress on actions updated. Initial desktop review of LECP followed by a new Plan in accordance with Departmental Guidelines.	LECP Guidelines issued in November 2021 and a desktop review of LECP to be integrated with development of the new LECP which has an implementation period of 6 years.
Through our Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to be a primary driver of enterprise, development, support.	*Work with Bia Innovator CLG to drive development and added value in food sector. *ERCD unit to work with LEO to support economic & enterprise development.	Delivery of planned program event through BIA campus in 2021. Mechanism for working with the LEO office to be defined by Q2 2021.	
Facilitate the provision of commercial and enterprise space in a structured manner across the county.	* Progress plans for enterprise hub network under AEC to facilitate spaces for co-working / small business start-ups. * Identify and progress enterprise spaces as part of regeneration.	Network active by Q4 2021. Progress actions in line with AEC Hubs Strategy. Progress identified projects.	AEC Hubs Strategy completed but waiting publication. Accompanying toolkit published. A number of hubs are registered on the Connected Hubs platform and have made an application to the Connected Hubs funding initiative. Some enterprise space is being looked at in the context of a number of wider regeneration proposals.

<p>Work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Údáras na Gaeltachta and other agencies in identifying and attracting opportunities for investment and job creation.</p>	<p>* Liaise with other agencies to maximise use of existing commercial and enterprise spaces for investment and job creation.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing piece of work with the Galway Airport site an example of where discussions and collaboration may happen. Separately the potential for an enterprise forum as per the new LECF process will be looked at and such a forum may assist collaboration with the key enterprise agencies. There has been a number of meetings with the development agencies and successful applications for funding from EI have been made through the BIA Innovator Campus with approximately €1.6m secured under the RETS funding scheme</p>
<p>Develop and implement a Tourism Strategy and facilitate the continued expansion of the tourism sector by developing key branding, promotional and funding initiatives.</p>	<p>*Advance work on development of a tourism strategy. *Continue to work with Fáilte Ireland with Wild Atlantic Way and the Hidden Heartlands brands and participate with destination working groups/taskforces. *Network support/ Tourism taskforces; Lough Derg; Upper Shannon; Connemara. *County Tourism Brand development. *County Tourism Marketing Strategy.</p>	<p>*No. of funding initiatives. *Tourism strategy completed. *Networks and initiatives ongoing.</p>	<p>Tourism Strategy project initiated for completion in Q3 2022 with an overall project budget of €75000. Destination Galway Brand project initiated progressing in collaboration with City Council and FI IHH/ WAW teams and contribution of €10,000 from GCC. Marketing including digital strategy €25,000. Town and Village marketing project delivered for Conamara agus na h'Oilean-€45,000; collaboration with City and Mayo on Blueway Feasibility project. €10,000 from each local authority.</p>
<p>Promote and support festivals, fairs and events throughout the County.</p>	<p>Support tourism and economic development initiatives through the Community Support Schemes (CSS) and capacity building events.</p>	<p>No. of events supported</p>	<p>CSS Scheme: 26 festivals and participative events (and economic grants) supported in 2021 through CSS Scheme, to the value of €39,951.79 and 2 supported with Fáilte Ireland funding of €4500; festivals promoted on online platforms. The Local Live Performance Scheme run by the Arts and Tourism Offices developed and programmed 14 gigs across 7 locations,</p>

			supported by a budget from Dept of €181,000
Implement the Digital Strategy and identify opportunities for hubs / co-working spaces at community level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Input to progression of actions as per Digital Strategy for Galway County. * Onboard hubs to AEC booking system. * Assist hubs via AEC initiatives. * Assist existing hubs and facilitate where possible development of new sites. 	<p>No. of hubs on AEC booking system.</p> <p>No. of hubs assisted.</p>	<p>18 hubs on AEC booking system.</p> <p>20 hubs assisted in one manner or another.</p> <p>Colaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta is happening where relevant.</p>
Lead the development of funding applications for urban and rural regeneration programmes and other funding programmes to revitalize our towns and villages.	* Funding secured for a number of applications.	Progress delivery of ongoing projects and develop new initiatives in line with funding calls.	<p>Funding secured under RRDF, T&V, ORIS and CLAR for a number of Towns & Villages with an ongoing programme of work being reported on to Council.</p> <p>Successful URDF application for Garraun/Oranmore.</p>
Review and further develop Business Incentive and Support Schemes where feasible and necessary.	* Review the Scheme with the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.	Scheme reviewed according to identified needs.	

<p>To develop a multi-faceted approach to tackling vacant and under-utilised properties in our town and village centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consider a part of URDF/RRDF strategies/proposals. *Develop schemes such as Streetscape/shopfront to improve the aesthetics and encourage use of vacant properties. *Proactively incorporate community owned vacant or underused properties as part of Town and Village Renewal programme to maximise their value as community assets for social and economic benefit. 	<p>Number of applications submitted including proposals for vacant/under utilised sites.</p> <p>Number of applications submitted under the streetscape/shopfront scheme.</p>	<p>Pilot Streetscape Scheme completed in Athenry and ongoing in Ballinasloe. In 2021 an allocation of 346k made by DRCD New Streetscape Enhancement Measure as part of Town and Village Renewal Scheme. GCC offered grants to 174 properties for painting and shopfront declutter in six locations; Loughrea, Glenamaddy, Ballygar, Oranmore, Headford and Oughterard. * Seven Projects under 2021 Town and Village Scheme submitted, including new Project Development Measure seeking funding to address derelict Courthouse in Woodford Co. Galway. * In 2021, 24 Capital Projects were active under Town and Village Renewal Scheme across 21 different communities.</p>
<p>Develop master plans for key strategic sites to ensure that they deliver on their potential in a planned and sustainable way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Set up a cross-departmental team to identify key strategic sites. 	<p>Commence process with Galway Airport and St. Brigids Hospital sites.</p>	
<p>Maximise the potential of Broadband connectivity throughout the county in co-operation with Government initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Leverage funding where possible to develop Broadband Connection Points. *Assist hubs with marketing and development to ensure occupancy. 	<p>No. of BCPs assisted.</p>	

STRATEGIC GOAL: INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITY

"To ensure that our physical and social infrastructure is sufficiently developed to support economic development, and to enhance our quality of life"

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
<p>To deliver early inter-agency supports and provide stable and supported housing options to homeless individuals and families to reduce the reliance on emergency accommodation.</p>	<p>Delivery and management of homeless services in accordance with the Regional Action Plan</p>	<p>No. of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that are Long-Term Homeless as % of the Total No. of Homeless Adults in Emergency Accommodation at the End of Q 4 2021 (KPI H6A) (Annual Indicator)</p>	<p>59 59.26%</p>
	<p>Develop internal and inter-agency protocols to guide the delivery of homeless services, addressing presentation, assessment, placement, referrals, transition and support housing to achieve a reduction in the level of long term homelessness</p>	<p>Number of Families in Emergency Accommodation for greater than 6 months during 2021 - Target (0)</p>	<p>8 families</p>
	<p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p>	<p>Number & % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation during 2021 with a Personal Support/Transition Plan.</p>	<p>54 weekly 100% support plan</p>

		<p>Number & % of Adults in Emergency Accommodation that transfer to (a) Social Housing (b) Social Housing Supports including HAP & (c) Homeless HAP</p> <p>Number of transition houses and emergency support housing available/provided during 2021.</p> <p>Number of allocations to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support in 2021 GCC Social Housing (b) AHB's (c) Transition Housing Support (d) Leasing properties</p> <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the operation of the Housing Allocation Scheme to homeless households who have qualified for social housing support.</p>	<p>(a) 32 (b) 32 (c) 11</p> <p>6</p> <p>(a) 22 – GCC (b) 4 – AHB (c) 4 – Transitional housing (d) 2 - Leasing</p> <p>Persons with a category of homelessness as a basis of need are prioritized under the Housing Priority Scheme</p>
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<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p>Housing Supply-Advance the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2017-2021, delivering units under the construction, acquisition, turnkey, Part V, CAS, CALF, Buy & Renew, Repair & Leasing and Voids</p>	<p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.</p> <p>Work to deliver 620 build units under Rebuilding Ireland by end 2021, subject to Covid19 restrictions and lockdowns.</p> <p>Advertise for expressions of interest for turnkeys in Q1 2021.</p> <p>Complete ongoing land acquisitions in Loughrea and Ballinasloe and identify new landbanks to facilitate delivery into the future.</p> <p>Scheduled meetings held of the LA & AHB Housing Delivery Forum</p>	<p>Galway County Council continue to work in close partnership with AHBs for the delivery of housing units</p> <p>Galway County Council are currently in discussions with AHBs as part of our Housing Delivery programme</p> <p>2 Advertisement campaigns completed, closing dates for applications was March and September 2021</p> <p>Land acquired at 6 locations in 2021</p> <p>Meetings took places throughout 2021</p>
<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family</p>	<p>Delivery of Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Look at HAP to Long Term Leasing options.</p>	<p>No. of Units Provided Under the RAS in 2021 (KPI 1C)</p>	<p>45 tenancies</p>

composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.		No. of Units Provided Under HAP in 2021 (KPI 1D)	267 tenancies
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Delivery of Repair & Lease/Leasing/Enhanced leasing and/or Buy & Renew Schemes as resources allow	No. of Units Provided Under Leasing/Repair & Leasing/Enhanced Leasing in 2021 if resources allow. No. of Units Provided Under Buy & Renew in 2021	Repair and Leasing – 1 Buy and Renew – 0
To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.	Tenancy Sustainment Strategy- Implementation of the Tenancy Sustainment & Estate Management Strategy & ASB Policy	No of Tenancy Sustainment Home Visits carried out by 31/12/2021 Complete Tenancy Sustainment Visits for all dwellings by the 31.12.2021. Roll out of LGMA revised tenant and Council responsibilities document as directed. Review and revise tenancy agreement No of support plans in place for LA tenancies.	Tenancy Sustainment visits were suspended due to Covid – 19 restrictions. Quarter 3 2022 In progress Ongoing review of support plans

<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p>Adopt and implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.</p>	<p>Total No. of Traveller families accommodated as a % of overall targets set in the Programme.</p> <p>Completion of works and tenancies in place for 6 houses and 2 service bays at Cluain Ortha Traveller Specific Group Housing in Craughwell.</p> <p>Progress Design, Planning & Tendering of Refurbishment works at Cloonlyon Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme in Ballygar & Tuam Halting Site.</p> <p>Apply for funding for the refurbishment of Ballydavid Cottages Traveller Specific Group Housing. Subject to funding approval, proceed with tender and works.</p>	<p>21.5% - 49 of 229 TAP 2019-2024 target</p> <p>Works completed and houses and bays tenanted</p> <p>Work Progressed</p> <p>Project to be progressed in 2022</p>
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		<p>Apply for funding for the refurbishment of Clontuskert Traveller Specific Group Housing. Subject to funding approval, proceed with tender and works.</p> <p>Apply for funding for capital schemes to deliver improved housing for traveller communities. Works to be completed within the same year.</p> <p>Apply for Funding for the acquisition of standard housing for Traveller Families</p>	<p>Application for refurbishments submitted – awaiting Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government consideration</p> <p>Applications submitted for works on 3 properties</p> <p>GCC keep under active review potential acquisitions.</p>
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<p>To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.</p>	<p>Implement the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability for County Galway, Rollout of new form & Disability design.</p>	<p>Targets as detailed in the Housing Strategy for People with a Disability.</p> <p>Disability Steering Group to agree details of allocations procedures & nominations to Voluntary bodies as well as information sharing re care plans and risk assessments.</p> <p>To ensure that priority is afforded in the maintenance and upgrade of Council stock for disabled persons.</p> <p>To Support roll out of Disability & Mobility Grants as funding permits</p>	<p>Throughout 2021 work was undertaken on completing the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2026. This plan is now in place and will be worked through during the time period 2021-2026.</p> <p>GCC ensured the provision of DPGs for 85 Local Authority Units.</p> <p>271 valid Mobility Aid grants applications were received, and 103 applications were paid to a value of €430,443.00</p> <p>82 valid Housing Adaption grants were received, and 52 applications were paid up to a value of €605,395.00</p>
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<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximising the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p>Increase Housing Supply</p>	<p>Progress the Housing Capital Programme in accordance with the targets and funding as per the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness.</p> <p>Work in close partnership with Approved Housing bodies (AHBs) to assist in progressing their Capital & SHCEP projects.</p> <p>Continue to acquire additional lands for housing construction that will provide housing supply into the medium and longer term, beyond Rebuilding Ireland. Consider the acquisition of derelict properties with the prospect of bringing urban regeneration to locations. Coordinate with the Planning Section in respect of zoning, flooding,</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout 2021 and during the period of the Rebuilding Ireland programme.</p> <p>Galway County Council continue to work in close partnership with AHBs as part of our delivery programme</p> <p>Galway County Council continue acquiring lands in areas of housing demand eg Cosmona, Loughrea. Galway County Council continue to consider its acquisition of derelict properties in our towns and villages to assist in the regeneration of the areas St. Joseph's Portumna</p>
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		<p>preparation of the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>Continue to deliver turnkey developments in line with national policy.</p> <p>Work to incorporate specific requirements into the design of new social housing estates to reflect disabilities, age-friendly housing guidance etc.</p> <p>Provide schemes of Affordable Housing for the county via the Serviced Site Fund or other funding available.</p>	<p>Galway County Council continue to acquire turnkey developments to assist in meeting our building targets eg Tubber Gort, Co. Galway.</p> <p>As part of our build programme the specific requirements applicants on the housing list are considered and facilitated.</p>
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<p>To accelerate the delivery of well managed and maintained social housing in sustainable communities for people to live while maximizing the contribution to a climate friendly built environment.</p>	<p>Preventative Maintenance Programme for Housing Stock</p>	<p>Finalize the programme of prioritised PMP works for 2021 by end Q1.</p> <p>Progress contracts for further priority works (as identified above for delivery in 2021. Complete all electrical and fire safety works across the county by end 2021.</p>	<p>Programme of works completed in Q1 for 2021 programme.</p> <p>Electrical works were ongoing throughout the year. Additional contracts tendered and contracts awarded at end of year.</p>
<p>To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.</p>	<p>Complete Housing Repairs</p>	<p>Number of repairs completed as a % of valid repair requests received by end Q4.</p>	<p>86% of all valid repair requests completed by end of Q4</p>
<p>To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.</p>	<p>(1) Progress a scheme of works to improve energy efficiency in the Council's stock and to contribute to efforts against climate change. (2) Improve the Energy Efficiency of existing Housing stock while reducing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuel as a heat source and thereby reducing the risk of fuel poverty for occupants.</p>	<p>(1) Submit a proposal to the DoHLGH in Q1 (if the scheme opens) for Phase 1 works across the county under the proposed Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. (2) Complete works on the Midlands Energy Reftofit Pilot Programme Lots 1 Portumna and complete tendering and</p>	<p>Proposal submitted and approved</p> <p>Lot 1 completed Q3 2021 Lot 2 & Lot 3 tendered and works commenced with completion date Q2 2022</p>

		works on Lots 2 & 3 in Ballinasloe, Killimor, Eyrecourt and Tynagh.	
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	Effectively Manage Housing Vacancies	To achieve a reduction in the % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2021 versus % of housing vacancies @ end Q4 2020 (KPI H2A)	Vacancy rate for 2021 – 7.10% Vacancy rate for 2020 – 7.07%
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.	Effectively Manage Housing Applications, Vacancies, Rents, Purchases and Loans	Review procedures for processing housing applications and engaging with housing applicants. To manage rents and rent review processes. To manage Rebuilding Ireland Home loan and Housing Tenant Purchases To develop online IT solutions - online application process and Housing List Dashboard stats	Ongoing Current differential Rents Scheme will be reviewed in late 2022/2023 with a full review of all tenancies commence following this. 73 Rebuilding Ireland loan applications received in 2021 13 properties sold through tenant purchase, 14 valid tenant purchase applications received in 2021 Online IT solutions being developed with ICT Department.
To help individuals and families meet their housing needs in communities of	Roll-out of the Irish Refugee Programme for County Galway	Preparation of the funding submission for onward submission to	Refugee funding agreed with Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth for 150 refugees in 2022

persons of varied ages, family composition, ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic status.		Dept of Justice by end of January 2021.																					
To ensure that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible to improve the quality of housing stock and to contribute to the renewal of the built environment.	<p>Proceed with the inspections of private rented properties (RTB, HAP, RAS). Inspections of private rented properties will contribute to the improvement of living standards Co. Galway tenants, including those in the HAP and RAS schemes.</p> <p>Complete inspections related to requests for grants to assist with disability and ageing; to facilitate improvements to existing housing and quality of life of occupants.</p>	<p>No of Inspections carried out in 2021 (KPI H5B). Aim to achieve annual Target of private rental by end Q4, subject to Covid restrictions and lockdowns.</p> <p>Complete inspections in a timely manner for persons seeking grant aid to assist with disabilities and ageing.</p> <p>Issue legal NOTICES when required and in line with government guidance re Covid19 protocols and restrictions.</p>	<p>Rental Standards Inspections Galway County Council undertook 626 Inspections regarding <i>Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation</i> in 2021.</p> <p>Breakdown of Inspections:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>HAP Accommodation:</td> <td>532</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Complaints:</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other:</td> <td>50.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Inspection Outcomes:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>First Inspection – Non-Compliant:</td> <td>471</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First inspection Compliant:</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compliant:</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improvement Letter Issued:</td> <td>614</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improvement Notice Issued:</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prohibition Notice Issued:</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Proceedings Issued:</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Inspectorate Unit is tasked with Inspection of Private Rented Dwellings for compliance with the <i>Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation</i> in the jurisdiction of Galway County and it’s Islands. In 2021 Private Rented Dwellings Inspections were adversely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions.</p> <p>Grants M.A.G.’S. / H.A.G.’S. / H.A.O.P.’S. – 539 Grant Inspections Completed in 2021.</p>	HAP Accommodation:	532	Complaints:	25	Other:	50.	First Inspection – Non-Compliant:	471	First inspection Compliant:	0	Compliant:	20	Improvement Letter Issued:	614	Improvement Notice Issued:	0	Prohibition Notice Issued:	0	Legal Proceedings Issued:	0
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First Inspection – Non-Compliant:	471																						
First inspection Compliant:	0																						
Compliant:	20																						
Improvement Letter Issued:	614																						
Improvement Notice Issued:	0																						
Prohibition Notice Issued:	0																						
Legal Proceedings Issued:	0																						

To revitalise town, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.	The Capital Team in Water Services assist and input to Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan along with colleagues in Planning to ensure that infrastructure investment by Irish Water is aligned with development plans.	Ongoing	Ongoing
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Advance Major Schemes on the National Primary & National Secondary routes		
	GCRR - Galway City Ring Roads - Decision from A.B.P.	Q3, 2021	
	N59 Clifden to Oughterard - Review feasibility	Q2, 2021	ABP approval received. 3 no Judicial Reviews lodged against approval currently being considered.
	Maigh Cuilinn Bypass - Advance to Tender stage	Q1, 2021	Strategic Assessment Report submitted to DoT
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Advance minor scheme on the National Primary & National Secondary routes		Construction underway 2022 -24
	N17 Milltown to Gortagunnad Realignment - submit to A.B.P	Q2, 2021	
	N59 Maam Cross to Bunnakill - completion	Q4,2021	CPO objection withdrawn - Approval resting with GCC. NIS remains with ABP and approval awaited
	N83 - Baile Chláir Traffic Calming scheme - Advance to Tender Stage	Q2, 2021	Advance fencing complete method statements for archaeology, topography and GI to be agreed with NPWS
	N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment - submit to ABP	Q3, 2021	Difficult negotiations for drainage pond ongoing
	N67 Ballinderreen to Kinvara Realignment Phase 2 - completion	Q3,2021	Deadline met. ABP decision expected Q2 2022

	Athenry Ring Road - Advance to Tender Stage	Q4,2021	Deadline met - works complete
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Maintain & Improve the roads Networks of 6941KM throughout the County		Design underway – EIAR required
	Prepare a road maintenance programme for non-national roads and Annual Roads Programme to be adopted by Elected Members	Q1, 2021	
	Undertake and complete a maintenance and resurfacing programme for regional and local routes, incorporating ordinary maintenance (verge trimming, drainage and signage provision/renewal), bridge maintenance, winter maintenance and route lighting maintenance within the limits of available funding and as agreed with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland/Department of Transport Tourism & Sport	Completion of Annual Roads Programme by Q4, 2021 Road Grant funding fully recouped by deadline set by TII/DTTAS	Completed Feb 2021
	Number of Local Tertiary Roads repaired	45	Completed 30.11.21
	Number of kilometers of Regional Road improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	28Km	44
	Number of kilometers of Local Roads improved, as funded by Restoration Improvement Grant	150Km	25Km
	Number of bridges improved - Rehabilitation Works	9	190Km

	Number of kilometers of Regional Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	36KM	9
	Number of kilometers of Local Road surface dressed, as funded by Restoration Maintenance Grant	142KM	33Km
	Pothole Repairs – response time – number of working days, dependent on resources available: National Roads Regional Roads Local Primary & Secondary Roads Local Tertiary Roads	2 5 10 20	147Km
	Winter Service Programme – monitor weather conditions, and implement gritting programme on identified priority routes as required	Ongoing Winter Service	2 5 10 20
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Promote scheme for the improvement of private roads within the County		Ongoing Winter Service
	Promote the Local Improvement Scheme to facilitate improvements on private roads	# of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DRCD Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DRCD	

To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.	Improvement of Safety of Road Network		49 22/10/2021 & 12/11/2021
	Number of Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes in place by year end. – locations to be advised by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	10	
	Develop programme for identification, recording and monitoring of invasive species	Ongoing	14
	Treatment of invasive species at priority locations	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Facilitate applications for road improvement works under the Community Involvement Scheme and complete relevant works with Community support - complete works at various location subject to approved funding	# of scheme completed subject to allocated funding from DTTAS Fully recoup funding by Deadline set by DTTAS	Ongoing
To provide a safe and efficient road network for all road users including the development of N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR), N59 including the Maigh Cuilinn	Continue to Develop Road Safety Initiative		39 30/11/2021

Bypass, the Conamara Greenway and the Dublin-Galway Greenway.			
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Cycling Training Programme	25	
	Number of schools for which support will be provided for Drive for Life Programme	10	26
	Successful operation of Junior School Warden scheme in County Galway	JSW scheme operations in 4 schools	12
Promote and support the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county.	Support the Development of a National Cycle Networks/Greenways throughout the County		JSW scheme operations in 4 schools
	Conamara Greenway		
	i) Progress Land Acquisition - Ongoing	Ongoing	
	ii) Clifden to Recess - completion Q3, 2021	Q3, 2021 Q4, 2021	
	Galway to Athlone Cycleway - route selection Q2, 2021	Q2, 2021	i) Extension sought & approved, Complete & recouped by 11.09.20. (ii) WIP - focus on Clifden - Recess. (iii) Significant progress made in 2020, all exp fully recouped

	Support the Development of Walking routes throughout the County		Route Corridor Options consultation Q1 2021 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor selected Q4 2021
	Submit application for Active Travel Funding	Q1, 2021	
Prepare Traffic Management Plans for towns to enhance the quality of life in our communities.	Traffic Management		Met Target
	# of parking permits issued annually	210	Project ongoing
	# of parking tickets issued annually	1200	112
	Parking Byelaws for Gurrane Car Park	Q3, 2021	299 Parking enforcement was suspended while new parking system was being installed during summer months and for the Christmas period.
	Review of pay parking system	Q1, 2021	Delayed until Q3, 2022
To revitalize town, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.	Collaboration with other Directorates/Government Departments/Community groups to maximise funding opportunities to deliver necessary infrastructure		Commenced Q4, 2021
	Town & Village renewal Scheme (DRCD) - L.A. led projects		
	TV19GY01 - Oranmore provision of foot & cycle path & refurbish green space in village centre	Deadline set by DRCD	
	TV19GY02 - Craughwell provision of footpath from community centre to sport & recreation facilities	Deadline set by DRCD	Extension granted by DRCD for works to be completed by Q2 2022.
	TV19GY07 - Corofin provision of pedestrian crossing, footpath, paving & public realm works	Deadline set by DRCD	Project Complete
	TV19GY08 - Upgrade and extend footpaths in four areas of the village	Deadline set by DRCD	Works Completed Q2 2021

	TV20GY03 - Portumna St. Josephs Road GCC & Community	Deadline set by DRCD	Works completed Q4 2021. Project to be reviewed and snagged.
	TV20GY04 - Tuam, Belclare GCC & Community	Deadline set by DRCD	Footpath project currently out to tender. Q4, 2021
	CLÁR Measure 1 - L.A. led projects		Extension granted for works to be completed by end Q2 2022.
	C120G01 - Attymon	Deadline set by DRCD	
	C120G03 - Chorr na Móna	Deadline set by DRCD	Works Completed Q2 2021
Continue collaboration with OPW on Flood Risk Management and maintenance.	Drainage Maintenance		Works Completed Q2 2021
	Number of kilometers of drainage maintenance completed by year end	3km by Q4 2021	
	Minor Works Scheme		Target Met
	Continue to identify and submit projects for funding for minor flood relief works	20 submissions by Q4 2021	
	Complete minor flood relief works	20 schemes by Q4, 2021	50% Target Met
	Identify and submit projects for funding to OPW	3 schemes to be submitted by Q4, 2021	50% Target Met
	Work with OPW in relation to flood risk management		Target Met
	Dunkellin FRS - complete scheme	Q1, 2021	
	South Galway FRS - Public Feasibility Report	Q1, 2021	Target Met
	Ballinasloe FRS - Development & Design	Q1, 2022	Target Met
	Clifden FRS - complete design	Q3, 2021	Emerging Options Public Information completed in Mar '22. Stage 1 targeted Completion in Q1 2023
	To deliver a programme of minor flood mitigation works to minimize and in so far as it is possible prevent flooding within the limits of available resources	Ongoing	Consultants appointed in Q4 '21. Public Information Event No.1 completed in April '22. Target completion of Stage 1 in Q4 '22

To continue to develop our Piers and Harbours.	<i>Advance the Maritime Infrastructure Development & Coastal Protection Programme</i>		Ongoing
	Inis Oirr Pier - complete tender documents (subject to funding approval)	Q3, 2021	
	Prepare and deliver routine maintenance & minor improvements programme for Piers, Harbours and yacht moorings - subject to available funding	# of piers maintained # of Harbours maintained # of Yacht moorings maintained	2021: Preliminary Foreshore license submitted to <i>Department of Housing</i> in July 2021. Draft Bye-Laws displayed for Public Consultation in December 2021.
Develop a strategy for the delivery and improvement of Recreational and Amenity facilities including inland Blue Economy and Sport across the county.	Manage and maintain Playgrounds owned by Galway County Council	Ongoing programme	6 – Piers 2 – Harbours Yes: Inishbofin & Cleggan 16 - of the 60 no. Yacht Moorings had chains checked /replaced in 2021
	Number of free Community hours available per week at Tuam All-Weather Pitch when open and operating.	40 hours	Restrictions due to Covid-19
	Number of Public Hours per week available at Dunlo Recreational Park, Ballinasloe when open and operating.	48 hours	Restrictions due to Covid-19
	Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre - Management of the Centre and implementation of Actions to increase visitor numbers via tours, publications	Increase in visitor numbers subject to opening in 2021 and operating in accordance	Closed due to Covid-19 - 48 public hours were available when open and operating

	and the holding of Workshops at the Centre	with Covid-19 related restrictions and public health advice.	
	Rinville Park, Oranmore - Deliver Maintenance Programme for the Park. Recoup 50% of cost from Galway City Council.	Ongoing Maintenance Programme	2021 Maintenance Programme completed including upgrades e.g. bicycle parking.
	Concession Permits - Manage Concession Permits for the provision of ice-cream and soft drinks at Rinville Park and at designated beaches	During the Summer Season	Concession awarded for Rinville Park for 2021.
	Manage Water Safety/Beach Lifeguard Service in County & City (Shared Service)	During the Summer Season	Service delivered including additional 2 hours at each county location during 2021.
	Manage safe, accessible Corporate Facilities	Sustain ISO 45001 Accreditation Health & Safety Management System	Completed
	Implement Frameworks for the various Maintenance and Repair Service Contracts	Ongoing Programme of works	Continue to implement the Health & Safety Management System – ISO45001

<p>Develop and promote a Library Service to enable lifelong learning, information provision, literacy development, community engagement, health and wellbeing, cultural identity and creativity.</p>	<p>To plan and provide for the provision of new infrastructure to enable improved access for patrons across all the platforms such as online services, desktop PC's and continuing to connect our branch libraries to the National Library Management system.</p>	<p>Online target services usage Number of internet sessions (PC and WIFI) Usage of new ICT equipment e.g. Tovertafel, interactive screens, laptop dispensers, tablet dispensers. Number of branches newly connected to National LMS My Open Library Implementation</p>	<p>Service delivery impacted by Covid 19 and associated closures.</p>
	<p>To support those seeking employment or engaging in new business ventures.</p>	<p>To promote dedicated Work Matters spaces in each municipal district. To promote and develop relevant book stock in each municipal district. To provide access to PC's and printing to all. To liaise with LEO, INTREO, ETB and Citizen Information Centre</p>	<p>Work Matters hubs supported in Clifden, Portumna, Oranmore, Loughrea, Tuam, Ballinasloe and Galway City Centres Libraries during operational hours in 2021. Services included dedicated space, computers, broadband, wifi, printing and scanning facilities.</p>

Support the provision of tourism infrastructure and services including greenway, amenity and water based tourism infrastructure throughout the county.	* Development of key tourism initiatives and other strategic infrastructure and policies to guide investment.	No. of initiatives progressed.	Continued the development of Blueway for Lough Derg and worked with Galway City Council and Mayo County on the feasibility for a blueway for Lough Derg. Progressed a number of projects under ORIS that support tourism and outdoor activities
Promote and support the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county.	* Promote existing walking and cycling routes through local and national websites.	Level of promotion of existing routes.	
To revitalize town, villages and islands of County Galway and to improve the connectivity of communities, the built environment and public spaces.	* Implement community-led planning to prepare town & village applications encompassing assessment of the built environment, vacant buildings, open and green spaces.	Comprehensive applications based on consultation. No. of audits completed.	15 Expression of Interest progressed as part of Town and Village Renewal Programme 2021 and 7 projects submitted for funding with 3 Community Led Proposals.
Continue collaboration with OPW on Flood Risk Management and maintenance.	* Incorporate flood risk assessment into regeneration schemes where appropriate.	No. of assessments.	
To support Tidy Towns Groups to deliver improvements in all of our towns and villages.	* Coordinate initiatives for supporting Tidy Towns Groups.	No. of Workshops. Performance of Groups in National Competition.	First Gold Medal for County Galway achieved by Milltown. Over 40 groups entered National Competition supported by local Workshop to assist online entry process.
Develop a strategy for the delivery and improvement of Recreational and Amenity facilities including inland Blue Economy and Sport across	* Agree strategy and associated programme of work	No. of facilities provided.	

the county.			
To utilize Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) and other funding to bring appropriate unused Council buildings into use for enterprise, culture and community facilities.	* Identify Council-owned buildings in all areas where renewal or regeneration plans are being developed or progressed to facilitate re-use.	No. of buildings brought back into use. This work is ongoing.	Work progressed on the bringing back into use of the Courthouse in Portumna, Town Hall in Loughrea and the Town Hall in Tuam. Woodford Courthouse secured Project Development Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme to examine its potential re-use.

STRATEGIC GOAL: ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

"To maximise organisational capacity through the continuous review of operational efficiency, financial and risk management and the development of our Staff and Elected Members"

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
Work with the Elected Members to ensure that the Municipal Districts operate to their maximum potential.	Co-Ordinate Municipal District Schedules of Work	Feb-21	Completed
Continued implementation and review of corporate governance structures and systems including risk management, procurement, audit and statutory obligations under FOI, GDPR, Protected Disclosures and Official Languages Act.	Facilitate compliance with Local Government Ethical Frameworks Standards and associated Regulations in relation to Annual Declarations, Lobbying, Donations and Protected Disclosures.	100% compliance with Regulations and Legislation	Completed
	Co-ordinate public right of access to records in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and Access to Information on the Environment Regulations.	100% compliance with FOI Act 2014 and the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations	100% compliance. Ongoing
	Publish Disclosure Log of Freedom of Information Requests Received	Annually	Disclosure Log 2021 available on www.galway.ie .
	Management of Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group and SPC's to facilitate input of Members into Policy and to undertake their Reserved Functions in line with Statutory Requirements.	Consistent compliance with statutory requirements relating to Plenary Council Meetings and associated Committees.	Fulfilled statutory obligations and full compliance with regulations

	Facilitate the County Joint Policing Committee, support public awareness of the JPC and co-ordinate monitoring of its Annual Workplan.	Consistent compliance with Statutory Regulations for the JPC	100% Compliance. Ongoing
	Publish the Annual Report 2020	In accordance with statutory requirements	Draft Annual Report presented at May Plenary Meeting 2021
	Administer Authorisation of Members attendance at Training and Conferences in line with Local Government Act 2014 and associated Regulations.	Consistent compliance with legislation and regulations	100% compliance. Ongoing
	Maintain and publish the Electoral Register 2021/2022 in accordance with Statutory Requirements.	1st February 2021	Fulfilled statutory obligations
	Maintain and publish the Draft Electoral Register 2022/2023 in accordance with Statutory Requirements.	1st November 2021	Fulfilled statutory obligations
	Prepare Supplementary Electoral Register for any Elections or Referenda called during 2021.	Consistent compliance with legislation	Not Applicable for 2021
	Implement the Electoral Modernisation Registration Project (General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill published Jan 2021).	Ongoing liaison with the Franchise Section Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	Compliance with training - DHLGH have moved project to 2022

	<p>Ensure that the processing of personal data in relation to all Data Subjects is in compliance with Data Protection Acts & the GDPR, including demonstration of compliance around the 7 principles of GDPR and the rights of the Data Subject.</p>	<p>Ensure that data subjects are informed about their data protection rights, obligations and responsibilities and raise awareness about them; Management of mandatory logs, including Data Subject Access requests, Record of Processing Activities & Breach Incident and Notifications.</p>	<p>A suite of documents are available on Galway County Councils website for the information of the public in relation to Data Protection. This includes A Guide to Your Rights and How to Request Personal Information. Also the Council's Privacy Statement, Data Protection Policy and CCTV Policy are available on the website together with the contact details of the Council's Data Protection Officer. Online Data Protection Awareness Courses were provided for Staff in 2021 and a Staff Newsletter was produced quarterly to raise awareness of Data Protection issues and staff responsibilities. Mandatory Logs: A Data Protection Management System was set up in 2021 for use across the organisation to manage Data Protection including, but not limited to, maintaining the following mandatory logs; Data Subject Access Requests (100% compliance), Data Breach incidents and Notifications (100% compliance).</p>
	<p>Ensure compliance with the Council's Scéim Teanga in line with Ministerial Requirements and Official</p>	<p>Daily. 100% compliance with Scéim</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	Languages Act (2003)		
	Co-ordinate replies to Oifig Choimisinéir na d'Teangacha Oifigiúla in line with Statutory requirements and Comhairle Chontae na Gaillime Policies. (Scéim Teanga)	100% Compliance with an Scéim Teanga	100% compliance. Ongoing
	To lead on, co-ordinating and sustaining compliance on Bi-Lingual Web-site.	Daily. 100% compliance with Bi-lingual only publication on the web.	100% compliance. Ongoing
Ensure the property and assets of the Council are managed in a manner which maximises their present and future potential.	Continue programme of upgrading of Council fleet subject to availability of financial resources	Q3, 2021	Ongoing yearly
	Monitor and oversee the Operation, Management and Maintenance of Tuam & Ballinasloe Leisure Centres under Licence Agreement with private Operator.	Operation in accordance with Covid-19 related restrictions and public health advice. Arrange and attend Meetings of Leisure Centre Liaison Committee on a Quarterly basis	Covid-19 Restrictions - Leisure centres closed for part of 2021

STRATEGIC GOAL: PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

"To improve, protect and promote our environment, culture, heritage and language in the interests of present and future generations"

SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan.	Review all Planning Applications with a significant environmental risk.	Ongoing	149 planning files assessed
Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.	Complete national inspection plan for septic tanks(101 tanks).	31/12/2021	101 inspections completed under NIP, 16 farm inspections completed. Monitoring programmes for rivers, lakes, discharge licences, and drinking water private supplies completed as per monitoring programme
	Complete farm inspection programme (25 Farms)	31/12/2021	
	Carry out monitoring of rivers, lakes, discharge licences, bathing waters and drinking water private supplies on a priority basis in accordance with legal requirements and monitoring programmes.	Ongoing	
	Enforcement of Discharge License legislation prioritizing high risk sites	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Highlight beaches with excellent water quality and facilities by achieving either Blue Flag or Green Coast status (6 with each award).	06/01/2021	6 blue flags and 6 green coasts
	Protect public health by continuing to monitor bathing water quality at our beaches and implementing	31/09/2021	Completed in line with programme.

	non-compliance protocols (26 bathing waters).		
	Implement the Irish Water SLA for drinking water and wastewater facilities by completing the monitoring programme and incident response.	Ongoing	Completed in line with programme.
Monitoring and enforcement of illegal dumping and litter.	Investigate all environmental complaints in line with national priorities and within the timelines set out in the Enforcement Policy.	Q4	1532 litter and waste complaints investigated.
Implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan.	Carry out inspections of high risk waste facility permits and certs, household and commercial premises, permitted and bogus waste collectors, illegal dumping and C&D sites - 100% of identified high risk sites/collectors.	Q4	Completed in line with programme.
	To continue to provide recycling facilities for members of the public and extend where possible	Q4	Delivered
	Enhance Civic Amenity Sites through retendering operation contract	Q4	Delivered
	Investigate and report on all complaints received regarding derelict sites and	Ongoing	Ongoing

	enter on Derelict Sites register where appropriate		
	Promote Green Programme with primary and secondary schools and other educational establishments and encourage more participation	Ongoing - 31/12/2021	Continue working with An Taisce Green schools programme. 2 schools got Green flag for 1st time, with 31 renewals. LAPN water font in schools project. Anti litter poster competition. National Tree week.
	Support and encourage community cleanups	Number of groups registered with An Taisce National Spring Clean. Number of groups supported outside NSC	236 groups registered in National Spring Clean campaign.
	Promote the use of social media platforms in highlighting illegal dumping	Ongoing	Ongoing
Implementation of County Litter Management Plan.	Deliver an efficient and coordinated approach to the enforcement of litter poll	Work in partnership with Community/Voluntary/Education Sector in educating and raising awareness of the effects of litter on our Environment. No. of meetings, campaigns and initiatives.	15 campaigns with associated meetings as required. ADI initiative on awareness carried out during 2021
	Work in partnership with the Connacht Regional Waste Management office in disseminating awareness and information of waste management practices and campaigns in all sectors.	No. of campaigns - 31/12/2021	7 campaigns
	Provide financial support and advice to Community/voluntary/ social	No. of projects/funding - 31/12/2021	4 projects

	enterprise sectors in relation to environmental projects		
	Deliver an efficient and coordinated approach to the enforcement of litter pollution through completion of the NLPMS Surveys	Q4	192 Litter Pollution Surveys and 48 Litter Quantification Surveys completed by our Community Warden service in 2021
	<i>Provide Burial Grounds in association with the Community</i>		
	Acquire new sites for the provision of burial ground facilities - complete Part 8	3 by 31/12/2021	1
	Complete works on new extensions	3 by 31/12/2021	2

<p>Implement statutory and contractual obligations in local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing plants in fulfilment of service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.</p>	<p>Comply with Annual Service Plan in line with SLA with the FSAI. Priorities inspections of high risk premises. Carry out risk assessments on all approved premises with audits completed as per national auditing schedule. Carry out agreed sampling program in accordance with Service Plan. Welfare audit program and to be carried out in abattoirs.</p>	<p>31/12/2021</p>	<p>It should be emphasised the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to have on food premises and official controls over the past 12 months. The veterinary service, as essential workers, continued to work throughout the pandemic, maintaining welfare standards in abattoirs, maintaining food safety standards in approved premises, continuing inspections both onsite when possible, and in a distanced manner. Delivery of the sampling plan was completed in so far as laboratory availability and resources allowed. Food safety incidents were managed as they arose. Food businesses were supported and advised in regards to COVID19 and maintaining food safety standards as businesses changed and adapted. 143 inspections and audits were carried out in 2021. 194 samples were taken for microbiological and chemical safety of food and for the presence of antibiotic, heavy metal and anthelmintic residues, as part of an EC monitoring program. The veterinary service carried out much additional work in national meetings and working groups to create and engage with protocols for the delivery of official controls during the pandemic. The CCMA and the LGMA commenced discussion with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the proposed transfer of the Local Authority veterinary service to the department. This remains ongoing.</p>
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	Participate in FSAI and LAVS working groups. Attend and participate in Western Regional Zoonosis Working Group Meetings as well as outbreak control training with other regulatory authorities.	Ongoing	Working group engagement and demands increased dramatically in 2021 owing to many factors ; COVID19 pandemic, ongoing employment and FSAI service contract difficulties, major changes in EU food legislation, BREXIT preparation and a rapidly changing landscape for small food businesses in County Galway being some of those factors.
	Supervise and organize training for TVI's on implementation of SOP's.	Ongoing	Review of SOP's and provision of additional PPE to TVI's due to Covid 19 pandemic
	Accurate returns completed and returned to FSAI within criteria set.	Ongoing	All returns completed and returned to FSAI via OAPI as per criteria laid down in the service contract
	Provide training and advisory services to Start Ups and existing Food Business Operators. Liaise with the Councils' Economic, Rural and Community Development Section in regards to food sector development in the region.	Ongoing	During 2021 our veterinary officers have continued to impart advice , issue certificates, approve changes to business processes for our existing local Food Businesses to ensure continued local food production, in line with public health requirements, as these small to medium businesses strive to adapt and survive amidst the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic. GCC Veterinary Services liaised with HSA COVID19 officers regarding inspection on meat facilities in the county and city. GCC Veterinary Service have inputted considerably to the BIA Innovator Hub due to open in Athenry regarding structure, layout and equipment needs in units, FSAI liaison and other supervisory agency needs.

<p>Implement regulatory framework in respect of animal welfare including dog and horse control.</p>	<p>Increase level of dog licensing and microchipping in the county and continue to promote responsible dog ownership</p>	<p>31/12/2021</p>	<p>No door to door licensing campaigns by dog wardens were possible due to Covid restrictions and resourcing issues. The dog warden covering the east of Galway county retired in August 2021. These factors resulted in a reduction of licensing numbers in comparison to 2019. Total number of licenses sold in 2021 was 8627. However the dog warden service remained active during the year promoting responsible dog ownership and all complaints received by the service was followed up on and investigated. 19 fines for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act were issued during 2021. Approx. 95% of dogs which came through the LA pound system were rehomed in 2021. GCC Veterinary service were consulted and attended as necessary.</p>
	<p>Ongoing training for dog wardens/community wardens and review of current SOPs. Protocol in interaction with Housing Section and An Garda Síochána to be reviewed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Review of SOP's carried out for dog wardens following the Covid 19 pandemic and additional PPE provided to them.</p>
	<p>Implement national An Garda Síochána / Local Authority Dog Warden Protocol and continue local liaison with nominated Garda inspectorate</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	Implement the DBE Act through inspections and risk analysis of registered DBE premises. All complaints of DBE's to be followed up.	31/12/2021	All registered DBE's in the County were inspected by the dog wardens/veterinary officers in 2021. All issues arising from inspections followed up on by wardens/veterinary officers. All complaints involved unregistered DBE's followed up and a closure notice was issued to one unregistered DBE establishment in November 2021. DAFM have agreed to take over the implementation of this function as part of the proposed transfer of the local authority veterinary service to the department.
	Provide advice and assistance to GCC Housing Section regarding the implementation of Control of Horses Act	Ongoing	GCC Veterinary Services continued to liaise and assist the Housing Section with their implementation of the Control of Horses Act. DAFM have agreed to take over the implementation of this function as part of the proposed transfer of the local authority veterinary service to the department
	Re-organisation of the Dog Control Service.	31/12/2021	2021 was a particularly challenging year for the dog warden service with the closure of our dog shelter facility in Loughrea in September 2021 and the retirement of the dog warden covering the east of Galway County in August 2021. Following the closure of the shelter, it was agreed that GCC would seek expressions of interest from experienced and competent persons and/or organizations to supply a secure shelter facility to Galway County Council with or without the services of a shelter keeper. The expression of interest was advertised on November 25th, 2021, with a

			closing date for receipt of applications of the 7th of January 2022. 9 expressions of interest were received. The position of dog warden was advertised in Dec 2021.
	Provide advice and assistance in regards to Animal Welfare/Horse Control/Marine Mammals. Liaise with other agencies as required. Ensure all complaints received are logged and actioned.	Ongoing	Continued co-operation and liaison with DAFM as the central competent authority for animal welfare in regard to the welfare of farmed animals and horse welfare issues. Complaints logged on the Environment database and cross reported as appropriate. 7 marine stranding's dealt with in 2021
Implement the action plan in Galway County Council's adopted Climate Adaptation Strategy to deliver improved resilience to the impacts of climate change at a local level.	The Adaptation Strategy is completed and has been adopted. At this point in time, we are awaiting guidance from the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) on the matter.	Ongoing 31/12/2021	Ongoing
Implement a Climate Mitigation Strategy focusing on service areas including; Transportation, Energy Efficiency and Natural Restoration.	Work to commence on Mitigation Strategy	Ongoing 31/12/2021	Awaiting guidance and direction from the minister.

Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations.	Energy Team Established in GCC. Actions and Projects to be agreed upon for 2021 (list compiled)	Ongoing 31/12/2021	Results inputted into SEAI system. Targets met for 2020. New targets set for 2030. Work ongoing.
Cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise, community, voluntary sectors, third level institutions and the research community to deliver on initiatives that reduce climate impact.	Explore and develop opportunities to build and strengthen partnerships with Third Level Institutes promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation in the pursuit and implementation of appropriate Energy / Emission Projects	31/12/2021	We supported a number of funding applications by 3rd Level Institutions with one successful application to date.
	Explore and develop opportunities to build and strengthen partnerships with Communities / Community Groups promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation in the pursuit and implementation of appropriate Energy / Emission Projects	31/12/2021	We supported the development of energy master plans for 3 communities and have initiated tender process for a further two applications. We received 41 applications under the Climate Action Opportunity Fund from communities County Galway. The assessment process has resulted in 17 applications been approved for funding.
Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	Project and Actions to be agreed upon for 2021 (list compiled)	31/12/2021	512 street lights were replaced with low energy efficient lights by the Roads Department. Electric Charging Points - ongoing.

Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions.	Implementation of GCC Climate Adaption Strategy Action Plan and also participation in the development of the Energy Bureau under the remit of the CARO model.	Ongoing 31/12/2021	Energy Bureau Process ongoing. GCC Climate Adaption Strategy Action Plan - ongoing
Implement with stakeholders the Climate Adaptation Strategy and develop the Climate Mitigation Strategy within the supports offered by the National Climate Action Plan, National Adaptation Framework and Mitigation Plans, and EU funding in Europe 2020.	All GCC Departments currently working towards developing Action Implementation Plans for their assigned actions. Implementation of Action Plans to commence thereafter. Steering Group overseeing process.	Ongoing 31/12/2021	Ongoing
Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions.	All of these supporting strategies are supported by the work of the Councils operations teams in conjunction with Irish Water under the Annual Service Plan	Compliance with relevant KPIs set out by Irish Water	This is an ongoing process under the Service Level Agreement between the Council and Irish Water
Continue to implement an Energy Efficiency Strategy to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International obligations.			
Support Irish Water in leak detection and promotion of water conservation to minimise wastage.			
Protection and Improvement of Water Quality and Catchment Management.			

Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	Energy Efficiency		
	Public Lighting Replacement programme - tender for P.L. retrofit - facilitate Mayo CoCo as Lead Authority	Q3, 2021	Met Target / Ongoing project with Mayo as Lead Authority
Minimise impact on the environment from Galway County Council activities including energy efficiency measures and reduced carbon emissions.	Incorporate energy efficiency measures into future maintenance of facilities. Eg. Heating, lighting, insulation, fuel efficiencies, refurbishment of building fabrics	In line with Maintenance Programmes	Fulfilled statutory obligations and full compliance with regulations
Secure the sustainable development of the county through the review and implementation of the County Development Plan.	Adopt and Implement the development plan consistent with national and regional policies, including supporting Strategies, within the statutory timeframes. Further including applications for funding and submissions to National Frameworks	Commenced Q2 2020 on going work in 2021 with envisaged final adoption Q2/Q3 2022. Funding applications in line with the associated closing dates	Draft CDP adopted for public display in May 2021 subject to a number of amendments. Draft CDP 2022 – 2028 was on public display from 20/05/21 to the 30/07/21 with a total of 2,877 submissions received. CE Report circulated to Members in October 2021 and Council Meetings commenced in December 2021.
Protect and maintain the natural environment of the county and implement the actions of our Biodiversity Plan, supported by the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and subsequent plans.	Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and support the measures detailed in the plan	Events and training seminars/workshops throughout 2021	
Protect and enhance the natural and built environment by implementation of our Heritage Plan.	Promote and advise on the Built Heritage in the County of Galway	Review projects for funding and recoupment of the same within the allocated timeframes	Funding for a range of projects secured during 2021, projects successful and funding recouped during 2021.
	Protect and advise on the Built Heritage in the county	Review projects for funding and recoupment of the same within	Advice and guidance provided via Development Management function and

	of Galway	the allocated timeframes.	community outreach and related projects.
Ensure provision of safe and sustainable buildings within the county through effective implementation and monitoring of Building Control Regulations.	To ensure safe and sustainable buildings in the urban and rural areas in the county of Galway	To meet the minimum target for inspections within statutory timeframes. 15% inspection rate	Minimum target of 15% inspection rate exceeded in 2021.
Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	Building Lighting Replacement programme. Maintenance programme to Building Management Systems (BMS)	On going programme	
To promote and support use of the Irish language and recognise its unique contribution to the cultural diversity of our county.	To ensure that Galway Library Service preserves and develops its rich Irish language collection	To acquire, catalogue and collate local history material to ensure its accessibility for all citizens. Ongoing.	Galway Library Service spent €6,300 on acquisitions in Irish during 2021.
Continue to pursue reductions in energy use through initiatives such as street lighting replacement, flood management and electric charging point provision.	*Incorporate energy reduction initiatives within regeneration projects.	Implement initiatives in all projects.	
To provide a fire and rescue service focused on protecting its personnel, the public, property and the environment.	Ensure effective response to all emergencies meeting KPI's in terms of "mobilization" times and "in attendance"	Ongoing	
To ensure that Major Emergencies can be safely and effectively dealt with in collaboration with our partner Principle Response Agencies (PRA).	Review County Council MEP, train key response personnel and review external emergency plans in accordance with the Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous	Rolling cycle	

	Substances) Regulations 2015		
Review and implement Fire and Emergency Operations Plan.	Develop new Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2021 - 2025	Q2	

STRATEGIC GOAL: QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE			
<i>"To ensure that quality customer service is at the centre of everything we do"</i>			
SUPPORTING STRATEGY	BUSINESS PLAN ACTION	TARGET DATE	OUTCOME
Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan.	Implement Customer Services Strategy/Action Plan based on best service delivery including: Website Development, Social Media, Fix Your Street	Daily	Ongoing
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5	Noted
Provide efficient services to our customers both internal and external in an equitable and courteous manner.	Sustain a consistent incoming call answer rate on our Main Phone Number (091) 509000 throughout the working day	Minimum 90% call answer of less than 25 seconds	Achieved
	Acknowledge all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 5 working days	Ongoing
	Endeavour to reply to all correspondence (letter and email)	Within 15 working days	Ongoing
	Number of complaints upheld by the Office of the Ombudsman	Less than 5	To be confirmed by Ombudsman National Report - not yet published
	Number of followers on Twitter @GalwayCoCo	15,100	15,976 followers at 31.12.21
	Number of followers on Facebook (Galway County)	12,784	14,267 followers at 31.12.21
	Number of Website Page Views	1500000	1,504,744 views in 2021

Optimise service delivery and customer care through the review and implementation of our Customer Charter and Code of Conduct.	Implement Customer Charter and Code of Conduct	Daily	Ongoing
Provide an effective and transparent Customer Complaints System.	Review the Web Comments on-line facility to ensure it is meeting the Standards set out in the Customer Services Charter	Q2	To be reviewed in 2022
	Respond to queries/complaints received through the Web Comments on-line Facility	Within 15 working days	Completed
	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days	Completed
Review and implement our Customer Services Action Plan.	Response to Customer Complaints		
	Responding to Fix Your Street Complaints, subject to relevant information being available	2 days	Over 90% acknowledged within 2 days
	Economic Development		
	Number of responses issued annually to Roads and Services queries	600	956
	Number of responses issued to Roads and Services queries within 15 days	480	666
	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued annually	150	87

	Number of Abnormal Loads Permits issued within 5 days	150	87
	Number of Road Opening Licences issued annually	260	738
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued annually	30	21
	Number of Scaffolding Licences issued within 5 days	30	11
	Emergency Response		
	Provide necessary response to serious flooding incidents	As required	As required
	Provide necessary response to severe weather events	As required	As required
Enhance and promote online transactional and information services including use of social media.	Promotion of online library registration and promotion of Online Resources e.g. e-books, e-audio, e-magazines. Staff support available through telephone or email.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Optimise service delivery and customer care through the review and implementation of our Customer Charter and Code of Conduct.	Customer Charter and Code of Conduct adhered to in all libraries. Customer Care training undertaken.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide efficient services to our customers both internal and external in an equitable and courteous manner.	*Deliver Funding Workshops annually (through the PPN process or equivalent) all MD's to improve knowledge of our funding schemes.	5 workshops.	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SPC

Membership

Name	Chair	Economic Development & Enterprise
Cllr. Karey McHugh	3	3
Cllr. David Collins		3
Cllr. Declan Geraghty		4
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty		1
Cllr. Mary Hoade		4
Cllr. Thomas Welby	1	3
Cllr. Tim Broderick (replaced Cllr Thomas Welby on the SPC in December 2021)		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd)		4
Trade Union		
Ms Marian Spellman		0
Development & Construction Sector		
Mr. Paul Carey		3
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. David Hickey		4

Four Meetings of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC took place in 2021.

The SPC undertook significant work on a number of areas and heard several presentations and updates on these areas of work. These included the following:

- The Local Economic & Community Plan
- Update on the Development of a Tourism Strategy for Galway
- The rollout of Hubs in County Galway
- The Outdoor Seating & Accessories Scheme
- The 2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Western Region Audio-visual Producers Fund (WRAP) presentation
- Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark Project presentation
- Regeneration of County Galway towns
- Galway Airport
- Tourism Capital & Infrastructure Fund
- Local Enterprise Office update/overview
- Bia Food Innovation Hub in Athenry

Much of the work undertaken in 2021 will contribute to the ongoing economic and enterprise development of Galway and will continue to be priority actions over the coming years as per the agreed LECP.

HOUSING SPC**Membership**

Name	Chair	Housing
Cllr. Joe Byrne	1	1
Cllr. Tim Broderick		1
Cllr. Eileen Mannion		1
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn		1
Cllr. Colm Keaveney		1
Cllr. James Charity		1
Cllr. Seamus Walsh		1
Community/Voluntary		
Ms Marcella Conneely		1
Social Inclusion		
Ms. Nora Corcoran		1
Business		
Mr Enda McGuane		1
Construction Sector		
Ms. Tara Flynn		1

The Housing SPC met on five occasions in 2021. The dates the meetings were held are as follows:

3rd February, 2021

7th April, 2021

2nd June, 2021

15th September, 2021

3rd November, 2021

The following are the main policy issues discussed and considered by the Housing SPC in 2021:

- Rebuilding Ireland
- Galway County Council Work Programme
- Voluntary Housing
- Galway City and County Taskforce – updates from Taskforce meetings
- Vacant Homes Strategy
- Housing Grants
- Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan
- Social Housing Applications and Allocations
- Homelessness
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Refugee Programme
- Housing Disability Strategy
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Local Authority Housing Stock
- Building Inspectorate
- Presentations from outside bodies.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC

Membership

Name	Chair	Roads, Transportation & Marine
Cllr. Peter Roche	1	1
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue		1
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin		1
Cllr. Declan Kelly		1
Cllr. Jim Cuddy		1
Cllr. Gerry King		1
Cllr. Albert Dolan		1
Agriculture/Farming		
Mr. Martin Gibbons		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
Mr. Kenny Deery		
Chamber of Commerce		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mr. Tom Madden, Ballinasloe Training for Employment Ltd., Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre		1
Development and Construction Sector		
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly,		
Cuan (Beo) (PPN)		1

The Roads Strategic Policy Committee convened four times in 2021.

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

1. Gort Lowlands & South Galway Flood Relief Scheme.
2. Renville Pier
3. Draft Byelaws for Inis Oirr Pier
4. Love 30 Campaign for Lower Speed Limits
5. Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials.

In March 2021 updates of the Conamara Greenway and Gort Lowlands & South Galway Flood Relief Scheme was presented to the members of the SPC.

An overview update of National Road Schemes was presented to the members of the SPC by the NRPO in relation to N67 Ballinderreen Kinvara Phase 2 and N59 Maam to Bunnakill.

Fiona Holland, SEE Galway County Council gave a presentation on the Draft Bye Laws for Inis Oirr. She outlined to the members of the SPC the background and need for the Draft Byelaws.

The Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials was referred to the SPC for further consideration. The SPC Committee agreed that the Elected Members would be invited to make submissions/observations on the Policy. It is expected to present an amended Draft Policy at a Plenary Meeting in early 2022 for consideration and adoption.

Membership

Name	Chair	Planning & Community
Cllr. Michael Connolly	1	1
Cllr. Donagh Killillea		1
Cllr. Michael Maher		1
Cllr. Daithí Ó Cualáin		1
Cllr. Shane Curley		1
Cllr. Dermot Connolly		1
Cllr. PJ Murphy		1
PPN		
Mark Green An Taisce (PPN)		1
Aodán Mac Donnacha Comhlacht Forbartha An Spidéil Teoranta (PNN)		1
Construction Industry Federation		
Colm Ryan		1
Irish Farmers Association		
Anne Mitchell		1

Three Meetings of the Planning and Community SPC took place in 2021. The main policy issues discussed during the year included:

- Review of County Development Plan
- Ballinasloe Local Area Plan
- Anti-dumping Initiatives
- Vacant sites and derelict sites register
- Provision of burial grounds

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SPC

Membership

Name	Chair	Community & Cultural Development
Cllr. Ivan Canning	1	1
Cllr. Shelly Herterich-Quinn took over as chair from Cllr. Ivan Canning in September 2021	1	1
Cllr. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire		1
Cllr. Peter Keaveney		1
Cllr. Andrew Reddington		1
Cllr. Liam Carroll		1
Community Voluntary Sector		
Ms. Megan Flynn		1
Business Sector		
Ms. Helena McElmeel (RIAI)		1
Social Inclusion Sector		
Mr. Máirtín Davy		1

The Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee met on 3 occasions in 2021, on the 27th April 2021, 26th November 2021, 14th December 2021.

The following are the main policy issues relating to Community & Culture discussed and considered by the Community and Culture SPC in 2021.

1. Creative Ireland Programme
2. L.C.D.C Healthy Galway County Plan.
3. Galway Public Libraries Interim Development Plan 2022-2023

4. Community Activities Fund and Community Support Schemes.

5. P.P.N Intercultural Forum.

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY SPC

Membership

Name	Chair	Climate Change & Biodiversity
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	1	1
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly		1
Cllr. Noel Thomas		1
Cllr. Joe Sheridan		1
Cllr. Evelyn Parsons		1
Cllr. Martina Kinane		1
Community/Voluntary		
Mairsil Claffey Plastic Free Kinvara		1
Pat O’Hora Tuam Men’s Shed		1
Business/Commercial Sector		
John Hynes		1
Agriculture / Farming		
Henry Walsh		1

4 No Meetings of the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC took place in 2021

The following topics were discussed and progressed at these meetings:

- Climate Adaption Strategy
- Decarbonisation Zones
- Climate Action Opportunity Fund

- EV Charging Infrastructure
- Active Travel
- Hedgerows and verges
- National Biodiversity Week and Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Barn Owl Survey and Awareness
- Presentation from Galway Fire Service on National Unified Risk Operating Platform (Severe Weather Management System)
- Energy Master Plan for Galway County Council
- Invasive Species
- Active Travel Plan
- Galway Living Bog
- Light Pollution
- Presentation on Wetlands
- Meeting with Minister Patrick O Donovan re costal erosion in March

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Under the provisions of Section 221, Subsection (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) “an annual report prepared by a county council, or a city council shall include information in relation to the performance of functions by the municipal district members in respect of each municipal district situated within its county or city and county, as the case may be.” Under subsection 3(b) “the approval of information to be included in an annual report in relation to the performance of functions by municipal district members is a reserved function.”

The following is submitted for the approval of the members for the annual report. It contains all of the statutory functions carried out (**in bold**) along with a flavour of other items discussed.

The Municipal District of Ballinasloe met ten times in 2021 with the start of the year disrupted by Covid but despite this the Municipal District continued to carry out its statutory functions throughout the year. Meetings were held every month except January, February and August.

The March meeting held in County Hall saw the adoption of the annual programme of works including the roads programme along with updated standing orders.

The April meeting held on Microsoft Teams saw the following:

1. Approval of the information to be included in the Council’s Annual Report 2020
2. Approval of a Part 8 application under the Planning Act for the demolition and construction of a single rural house in Clontuskert.
3. Appointment of Cllr. Parsons to the October Fair Co-ordinating Committee
4. Appointment of Cllr. M. Connolly to BACD Ltd.
5. Presentation of update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme by Brendan McDonagh.

At the May meeting held on Microsoft Teams the members agreed to provide a list of projects which they wished to benefit from the €20,000 funds allocated to each member from the grant provided by the Minister.

The June meeting held on Microsoft Teams agreed the final list of projects for the €20,000 funds allocated to each member. The practicalities of holding the Ballinasloe Fair were further discussed with liaison to be held with the Fair and Festival Committee. An update on the development at Dunlo Hill was given along with proposals for works to be funded from an extra allocation under Climate Action and Resilience. Confirmation was also provided that the Part 8 for the new bus stop was progressing.

The July meeting held on Microsoft Teams saw an update given on Local Improvement Schemes which was welcomed while the need for extra funds for these schemes was pointed out. An update on the Galway Athlone cycleway was also given along with the position regarding the Ballyforan

Cycleway. Approval was also given at the meeting to a Part 8 Application under the Planning Act for the provision of two bus stops at either side of the R446.

The September meeting was held in County Hall and confirmation was provided that the Ballinasloe Fair could not be held due to the Covid situation. An initial briefing was given in relation to the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan, which was expiring, and a new plan was required. Confirmation that a contract to clean the canal in the town was awarded was provided. The issue of cleaning the Glenamaddy Turlough was also discussed in detail.

The October meeting held on Microsoft Teams saw the Municipal District adopt a proposal under the Roads Act to declare a number of roads at Glentaun to be public roads. The members also approved the Multi Annual Roads Programme 2022 – 2024 but regretted that more funds were not available. A further update was given by Brendan McDonagh on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. The issue of staffing levels and particularly outdoor workers was raised and discussed.

In November, two meetings were held in County Hall with the members rejecting the Draft Budgetary Plan presented unanimously with the lack of a General Municipal Allocation particularly regretted. The monthly November meeting which was held after the budget meeting saw staffing levels again being raised along with preparations for the 2022 October Fair which would be its 300-year anniversary. Concern was expressed at the high-water levels in rivers currently and the importance of progressing with a Part 8 application for the extension of Creagh Cemetery was also emphasized.

The December meeting held on Microsoft Teams saw favorable feedback for the Council technical and outdoor staff for their response to Storm Barra was felt most severely in the north of the county. A update on the Part 8 application Dunlo Hill was provided with Q1 2022 the current target for it to come before the MD. While all the members were disappointed the Athlone Galway, cycleway did not go through Ballinasloe they welcomed the spur to Ballinasloe and hoped it would link up well with other amenities. A further update was given by Brendan McDonagh on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme.

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

The members of the Municipal District of Tuam held seven meetings during 2021, including a budget meeting and the Annual General Meeting. Due to Covid19 and public health measures introduced because of the pandemic, the majority of the meetings were held in the Council Chamber in County Hall during 2021, which covered the provision of services for the district, community issues and concerns, and matters appertaining to their representational role.

The Schedule of Works for the Municipal District was approved by the Members on the 1st March 2021 which amounted to €595,484 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Members also considered and approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for the Municipal District of Tuam for 2021 including a specific allocation for Non-National roads in the Municipal District of Tuam totalling €7,481,498.

The elected members considered and endorsed the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan as the response to objective ED5 of the Tuam Plan 2018-2024, which will inform the future sustainable redevelopment and growth of the town of Tuam. The members agreed a Multi-Annual Roads Programme 2022-2024 in accordance with Circular RW 11/2021 prioritising restoration improvements within the period with an annual allocation for Tuam of €2,826,676 for 2021.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 14th June 2021, Cllr. Donagh Killilea was elected as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Colm Keaveney was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tuam for a period of 12 months.

Members received presentations on the following:

- Part 8 Planning for development of 2-bedroom development at Knockaloura West, Brownsgrrove, LA 03/21.
- Part 8 Planning for development of 2-bedroom development at Woodfield, Dunmore, Tuam. LA 04/21.
- Creative Places Tuam – Update by Carolann Courtney, Co-Ordinator and Sharon O’Grady, Arts Officer.
- Outdoor Dining updates by Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co-Ordinator.
- Housing Update on operations and Services, Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services

A number of roads in the Municipal District were declared to be public roads, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

The members unanimously rejected the draft Budgetary Plan on the 1st November 2021 in advance of the 2022 Annual Budget meeting in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Due to Covid19 pandemic, no deputations were held during 2021.

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Municipal District of Loughrea includes the towns of Loughrea, Portumna, Gort and environs. The Municipal District held 10 monthly meetings, 1 Annual Meeting, 1 Special Meeting and 1 Budget Meeting during 2021.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- The adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District
- Schedule of Works for 2021
- Roads Programme 2021
- Flooding
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Illegal dumping / bring banks / CCTV/Greenway/Burial Grounds/Tourism/
- Multi Annual Restoration Roads Improvement Works 2022 - 2024
- Part 8 Planning Reports for Housing Construction Units

Members met three Deputations during 2021 to hear and take actions on their concerns.

Cllr. Geraldine Donohue was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting held in June 2021, while Cllr. P.J. Murphy was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Members of the Municipal District of Connemara held nine meetings in 2021 including an Annual Meeting and a Budget Meeting.

At their meeting on 5th March 2021 the Members approved the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 (to include Roads Programme and Environment, Housing, Recreation and Amenity Schedule of repairs and maintenance) for the Municipal District of Connemara.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 11th June 2021. Cllr. Seamus Walsh was elected Cathaoirleach and Comh. Tomás O'Curraoin was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

In accordance with the Roads Act, 1993 the Municipal District of Connemara declared 7 roads to be public roads in 2021.

The Members considered a wide range of topics which included

- Roads Programme 2021
- Flooding/Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
- Declaration of roads to be public roads
- Taking in Charge
- Water Quality
- Caravan Parking
- Beaches/Lifeguards
- Causeways
- Burial Grounds
- Piers & Harbours
- Road Safety/Hedge Trimming
- School Safety
- Connemara Greenway
- Members received presentations on the following:
 - A report on the Causeway Bridge Structures
 - An update on the proposed development of the harbour at Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin
 - A presentation on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme
 - Part 8 report for the construction of 31 no. houses in Maigh Cuilinn
 - An update on water quality issues in Bearna
 - A report on Burial Grounds in Connemara area
 - A briefing by the Tourism Officer regarding the Tourism Strategy
 - An update on Piers & Harbours.
 - A Presentation from Aecom Consultants on the Connemara Greenway

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Municipal District of Athenry consists of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry-Oranmore. The Municipal District Members are elected to the Council at the Local Elections for a term of five years. The Members of the Athenry Municipal District met on ten occasions in 2021 to discuss the provision of services for the Municipal District, policy matters, community issues and concerns and matters relating to their representational role. The Meetings convened in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and also via “Teams” due to the pandemic.

The district extends from the Galway City Boundary on the North, East and South and includes the main towns and villages of Athenry, Oranmore, Baile Chláir, Clarenbridge and Cór an Dola, as well as dispersed rural areas that have experienced consistent population growth. Issues relating to road maintenance, active travel, Oranmore railway, protected structures, speed limits, road safety and traffic calming measures, were discussed at the Meetings and updates were given to the Members by the Engineers for the area. A presentation was made by the DoS, Housing in relation to the housing waiting list at the November meeting and also by the Executive Engineer for Community and Enterprise on the Town Teams Regeneration.

The following are the members of the Athenry Municipal District.

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Fine Gael,

Cllr. James Charity, Non-Party,

Cllr. David Collins, Fine Gael,

Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, Non-Party,

Cllr. Jim Cuddy, Non-Party,

Cllr. Albert Dolan, Fianna Fáil,

Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn, Fianna Fáil.

During 2021, Members approved the Declaration of a number of roads to be made Public Roads under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993. The Part 8 for the construction of a new Fire station at Athenry was approved at the September 2021 meeting.

At the March Meeting, the Municipal District Schedule of Works, which included the Roads Programme 2021, was presented to the Members and, following consideration and discussion, the Members approved the Schedule of Works and Roads Programme.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th of June 2021 and Cllr. David Collins was elected Cathaoirleach, for 2021-2022. Cllr. James Charity was elected as Leas Chathaoirleach.

The Municipal District Budget Meeting was held on the 2nd November 2021 to consider (with or without amendment) a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District. Following consideration and discussion, the Members rejected the Draft Municipal District Budget for Athenry Oranmore due to the shortfall in funding required.

The Municipal District Meetings were facilitated by the Meetings Administrator and attended by the Director of Services for the Municipal District. Engineering and Administrative Staff from the Roads Section and the Municipal District Office and other Council Departments also attended the Meetings to deal with queries and issues raised by the Members.

ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES, CONFERENCES & TRAINING EXPENSES

ELECTED MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMITTEES & OTHER BODIES

Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019
Mr. David Luskin	07.06.2019

Northern & Western Regional Assembly Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

Athenry Heritage and Tourism Co. Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. David Collins	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

Association of Irish Local Government Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019

Loughrea Heritage Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Western Inter-County Rail Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	07.06.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	07.06.2019
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joseph Sheridan	07.06.2019

Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board (Formerly VEC) Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	22.02.2021
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	27.07.2020 to 22.02.2021
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Regional Health Forum Representation, West Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons	27.07.2020
Cllr. Donagh Killilea	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

Joint Policing Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Jim Cuddy	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Mary Hoade	07.06.2019
Cllr. Colm Keaveney	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	07.06.2019
Cllr. PJ Murphy	07.06.2019
Comh. Dáithí Ó Cualáin	07.06.2019
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019

Galway Rural Development Company Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Martina Kinane	26.06.2017
Cllr. Peter Roche	26.06.2017

Forum Conamara Ltd. Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Seamus Walsh	21.10.2019
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	29.06.2020
Cllr. Thomas Welby	07.06.2019

Comhar na nOileán Teoranta Committee	Membership Date
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	21.10.2019

Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Galway Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Michael Connolly	01.02.2016 to 25.01.2021
Cllr. Eileen Mannion	25.01.2021

Local Traveler Accommodation Consultative Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	07.06.2019
Cllr. Shane Curley	07.06.2019
Cllr. Michael "Moegie" Maher	07.06.2019
Cllr. Peter Roche	07.06.2019
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

County (Local) Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Gerry King	07.06.2019
Cllr. Joe Byrne	07.06.2019
Cllr. Tim Broderick	07.06.2019

County Galway Local Sports Partnership	Membership Date
Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	07.06.2019

Local Community Development Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Noel Thomas	07.06.2019
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	07.06.2019
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag	07.06.2019

Audit Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Liam Carroll	07.06.2019
Cllr. James Charity	07.06.2019

Road Safety Together Committee	Membership Date
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	25.11.2019

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS

	Conference	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	Health & Safety in the Workplace	Celtic Conferences	24 th – 26 th September 2021 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
2	The Fair Deal Scheme	Celtic Conferences	1 st – 3 rd October 2021 in Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
3	Mental Health & Wellbeing	Celtic Conferences	8 th – 10 th October 2021 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
4	A Practical Guide to Budget 2022	Celtic Conferences	15 th – 17 th October 2021 in Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
5	A Housing for All. How will it help find people homes?	Celtic Conferences	29 th – 31 st October 2021 in Carlingford, Co. Louth	2
6	The Fair Deal Scheme	Celtic Conferences	5 th – 7 th November 2021 in Clonakilty, Cork	1

ELECTED MEMBERS EXPENSES

Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses attendance at training	Expenses attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Total
Broderick Tim	8512.14	21664.32								509.79	30,686.25
Byrne Joe	6713.72	21664.32			6000.02				315.93	509.79	35,203.78
Canning Ivan	9167.60	21664.32			3461.55					509.79	34,803.26
Carroll Liam	5151.64	21664.32								509.79	27,325.75
Charity James	2922.40 4552.43 v	21664.32	17615.44							509.79	47,264.38
Collins David	5794.88	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	30,969.00
Connolly Dermot	9082.58	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	34,256.70
Connolly Michael	8512.14	21664.32			6000.02				302.84	509.79	36,989.11
Cronnelly Gabriel	6805.50	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	31,979.62
Cualáin Dáithí Ó	6437.86	21664.32								509.79	28,611.97
Cuddy Jim	4924.14	21664.32		3230.78						509.79	30,329.03
Curley Shane	7540.52	21664.32							267.38	509.79	29,982.01
Curraoin Tomás Ó	5003.18	21664.32					432.63	396.93		509.79	28,006.85

Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses attendance at training	Expenses attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Total
Dolan Albert	6162.26	21664.32								509.79	28,336.37
Donohue Geraldine	8742.24	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	33,916.36
Finnerty Gerry	12244.73 ¹	21664.32								509.79	34,418.84
Geraghty Declan	9061.26	21664.32								509.79	31,235.37
Herterich Quinn Shelly	6070.48	21664.32			2538.47					509.79	30,783.06
Hoade Mary	6823.96	21664.32							293.08	509.79	29,291.15
Hynes Pat ²	5462.92	16552.03								509.79	22,524.74
Keaveney Colm	7540.52	21664.32					368.17	548.41		509.79	30,631.21
Keaveney Peter	9025.90	21664.32	16153.90			3000.01				509.79	50,353.92
Kelly, Declan ³											0.00
Killilea Donagh Mark	7081.10	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	32,255.22
Kinane Martina	5702.84	21664.32					319.16	379.91		509.79	28,576.02
King Gerry	9990.50	21664.32				3000.01		587.82	207.48	509.79	35,959.92
Mac An Iomaire Padraig	7411.82	21664.32								509.79	29,585.93

Name of Elected Member	Annual Allowance	Salary	Cathaoirleach Allowance	Leas-Cathaoirleach Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Municipal District Chair Allowance	Expenses attendance at training	Expenses attendance at Conferences	Mobile Phone Allowance	Municipal District Members Allowance	Total
Maher "Moegie" Michael	7118.02	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	32,292.14
Mannion Eileen	9482.72	21664.32								509.79	31,656.83
McClearn Jimmy	8682.18	21664.32	215.22 ⁴				671.89	600.00		509.79	32,343.40
McHugh Farag Karey	6594.09	21664.32			6000.02		1500.00			509.79	36,268.22
McKinstry Alastair	5243.42	21664.32			6000.02					509.79	33,417.55
Murphy PJ	7632.56	21664.32							310.51	509.79	30,117.18
Parsons, Evelyn Dr.	8813.22	21664.32								509.79	30,987.33
Reddington Andrew	7687.68	21664.32								509.79	29,861.79
Roche Peter	7411.82	21664.32		2769.24	6000.02			561.31		509.79	38,916.50
Sheridan Joseph	6045.78 2587.00 v	21664.32				3000.01	550.00			509.79	34,356.90
Thomas Noel	5427.24	21664.32								509.79	27,601.35
Walsh Séamus	4557.80	21664.32				3000.01				509.79	29,731.92
Welby, Thomas	6382.74	21664.32					560.17			509.79	29,117.02
Total	286,107.50	839,796.19	33,984.56	6,000.20	36,000.12	30,000.10	4,402.02	3,074.38	1,697.22	19,881.81	1,260,943.90

Payments made to non-Elected Members of Local Authority Committees:

Committee	Amount paid
Joint Policing Committee	€ 39.06
Planning SPC	€ 33.48

TRAINING EVENTS ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS

	Training Event	Organised By	Venue & Date	Attendees
1	The Decision on the Planning Application and Appeal	OPR-AILG	22 nd January 2021 Online Webinar	7
2	Local Authority Planning Enforcement Functions	AILG-OPR	26 th February 2021 Online Webinar	5
3	Communications Infrastructures and Local Authorities	AILG	26 th March 2021 Online Webinar	6
4	Housing Supply Targets and Core Strategies	AILG-OPR	30 th April 2021 Online Webinar	3
5	Local Authority Housing and the Housing Agency	AILG	7 th May 2021 Online Webinar	4
6	Rural Housing and Development Policy	AILG -OPR	28 th May 2021 Online Webinar	11

7	Housing Commitments in the Programme for Government and Affordable Housing Delivery	AILG	25 th June 2021 Online Webinar	5
8	Delivery of High-Quality Housing Appropriate to its Setting	AILG	23 rd July 2021 Online Webinar	6
9	Government decision on the reform on remuneration payable to Local Authority Elected Members & update on Planning & Development Bill 2021	AILG	23 rd September 2021 in Co. Wicklow	3
10	Climate Policy in the Development Plan – On and Offshore Renewables	AILG-OPR	24 th September 2021 Online Webinar	6
11	Government decision on the reform on remuneration payable to Local Authority Elected Members & update on Planning & Development Bill 2021	AILG	2 nd October 2021 in Sligo	2
12	How to implement National Renewable Energy Targets in Development Plans	AILG - OPR	29 th October 2021 Online Webinar	4

13	Autumn Training Seminar 2021	LAMA	3 rd – 5 th November 2021 in Sligo	7
14	Elected Members Mental Health & Well-being and briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	AILG	6 th November 2021 in Galway 10 th November 2021 in Kilkenny	3 1
15	IPI Annual Conference 2021	Irish Planning Institute	17 th to 19 th November 2021 in Wexford	1
16	Sustainable Travel & Transport Planning & Local Authority Development Plans	AILG-OPR	26 th November 2021 Online Webinar	7

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Mr. Jim Cullen (Interim)

HOUSING & ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Director of Services: Mr. Liam Hanrahan

Senior Executive Officers, Housing: Ms. Nuala Heffernan (Acting)

Mr. Gerard Scully

Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise: Mr. Alan Farrell

Administrative Officer, Housing: Vacant

Administrative Officers, Community & Enterprise: Ms. Mary McGann

Ms. Eimear Dolan

Senior Social Worker: Mr. Kieran Keon

Senior Engineer: Ms. Rachel Lowe

Senior Executive Engineers: Mr. Kevin Murphy

Mr. Daithi Flood (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineer, ERCD: Mr. Ciaran Wynne

Rapid Co-ordinator: Mr. Kieran Coyne

Arts Officer: Ms. Sharon O'Grady

Sports Co-ordinator: Vacant

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Director of Services: Mr. Derek Pender (Acting)

Administrative Officers: Ms. Eibhlin Curran

Ms. Edel Hourigan

Senior Engineers:

Mr. Damien Mitchell

Ms. Fiona Holland (Acting)

Mr. Tony Collins (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineers:

Mr. Aengus Breathnach

Mr. Sean Breathnach

Mr. Fintan O'Meara

Mr. John Coyle (Acting)

Mr. Alan Raleigh

Mr. Paraic Breathnach

Ms. Paula Higgins

Mr. Gerard Haugh

Mr. Sean Devaney

Mr. Fergal Fahey (Acting)

Mr. Enda Gallagher (Acting)

Mr. Steven Lally (Acting)

Mr. Sean Whelan

Mr. Eoin McHugh (Acting)

Chief Technician:

Mr. John Maloney

Mr. Enda Thompson

Administrative Officer, Water Services:

Mr. Enda Moloney

Senior Engineer, Water Services:

Mr. Anthony Kelly (Acting)

Senior Executive Engineers, Water Services:

Ms. Martina Connaughton

Ms. Eithne Murphy

Mr. Michael Shiel

Mr. Fergal O’Sullivan (Acting)

Safety Advisor/Health & Safety Officer:

Ms. Julianne Gavin

AREA ENGINEERS

Municipal District Ballinasloe:

Mr. Niall Morrissey

Municipal District Loughrea/Portumna:

Mr. Niall Kennedy

Municipal District Loughrea (Gort):

Mr. Niall Hogan

Municipal District Athenry/Oranmore:

Ms. Peter Gavin

Municipal District Tuam

Mr. Tom Regan

Mr. Paul Connolly

Municipal District Conamara (South):

Mr. Michael Kerrigan

Municipal District Conamara (North):

Mr. T.J. Redmond

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

Director of Services:

Mr. Michael Owens

Senior Planner:

Ms. Valerie Loughnane Moran

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services:

Ms. Jean Brann

Administrative Officer, Planning:

Ms. Eileen Keaveney

Administrative Officer, Corporate Services:

Ms. Liadhan Keady

Senior Executive Planners:

Ms. Saoirse Kennedy

Mr. Brendan Dunne (Acting)

Mr. Alan O’Connell

Heritage Officer:

Ms. Marie Mannion

Conservation Officer:

Ms. Máirín Doddy

County Librarian: Ms. Bernie Kelly (Acting)
Senior Executive Librarians: Ms. Josephine Vahey
Ms. Siobhan Arkins

Buildings & Facilities Manager: Mr. Kevin Finn

Law Agent: Mr. Robert Fergus Meehan

Senior Executive Solicitors: Ms. Angela Casey

Ms. Anne McCormack

Executive Solicitors: Mr. Michael O'Doherty

Ms. Leona McMahon

Internal Auditor: Vacant

FINANCE UNIT

Head of Finance: Mr. Gerard Mullarkey

Financial Accountant: Ms. Áine Fenton

Management Accountant: Mr. Michael McGovern

Administrative Officers: Ms. Margaret Jordan

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE AND MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Director of Services: Ms. Eileen Ruane

Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources: Ms. Niamh Farrell

Administrative Officer, Environment: Ms. Maria Finn

Administrative Officer, Human Resources: Ms. Anne Gardiner

Administrative Officer, Human Resources: Ms. Johanna Roche

Chief Fire Officer: Mr. Gerry O'Malley

Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers:

Mr. Joseph Kelly

Mr. Gearoid Blake

Mr. Paul G. Duffy

Mr. Anthony Travers

Civil Defence Officer:

Mr. Brendan Qualter

Head of Information Systems:

Mr. Michael Martyn

Senior Executive Engineer, Environment:

Mr. Mike Melody (Acting)

Climate Change Co-Ordinator:

Ms. Christina Ryan (Acting)

County Veterinary Inspector:

Ms. Rita Gately



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Galway County Council

www.galway.ie/www.gaillimh.ie * www.twitter.com/galwaycoco * www.facebook.com/galwaycounty
email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

OFFICE LOCATION

Headquarters

Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

The following offices are located
in Áras an Chontae

Housing Applications	091 509200
Housing Loans & Grants	091 509301
Human Resources	091 509303
Motor Taxation	091 509099
Planning	091 509303
Roads, Transportation & Marine	091 509309
Rates	091 509171
Register of Electors	091 509310
Freedom of Information & Access to Information on the Environment	091 509319
Casual Trading	091 509327
Local Enterprise Office	091 509090

091 509000

The following offices are located at
Centrepoint, Liosbaun, Tuam Road
Galway

Environment	091 509510
Water Services	091 509505
Community & Enterprise	091 509521
Business Response Unit	091 509521
Arts Office	091 509521
Social Inclusion	091 509521

The following office is located at
Corporate House, Ballybrit, Galway

National Roads Project Office	091 509594
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AREA OFFICES

Athenry/Oranmore	091 509088
Ballinsloe	091 509074
Conamara South	091 509060
Conamara North	091 509095
Tuam	091 509011

Gort	091 509065
Portumna	090 9741019
Loughrea	091 509166

FIRE BRIGADES

Athenry, Ballinasloe, Clifden Galway City, Gort, Inis Mór Loughrea, Mountbellew Portumna and Tuam Civil Defence Officer	999 or 112 091 570940
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LIBRARIES

Headquarters, Galway	091 509388
Galway City Branch	091 509594
Ballybane	091 509244
Westside	091 509091
An Cheathrú Rua	091 595733
Athenry	091 845592
Ballinasloe	0909 643464
Ballygar	090 66249199
Clifden	095 21092

Dunmore	093 38923
Eyre court	090 9675056
Glenamaddy	094 9659734
Gort	091 631224
Headford	093 36406
Inis Meáin	099 73126
Inis Oírr	099 75154
Inishbofin	095 45891
Killimor	090 9676062
Kilronan	099 20937
Leenane	095 42920
Letterfrack	091 742666
Loughrea	091 847220
Moylough	090 9679072
Oranmore	091 792117
Oughterard	091 557002
Portumna	090 9741261
Roundstone	095 35518
An Spidéal	091 504028
Tuam	093 24287
Woodford	090 9749887

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie

MOTOR TAXATION

Indicative Activities in 2021:

The number of **motor tax** transactions carried out by Galway County Council motor tax offices in 2021 was 42,431. Over €7.3m was taken in by Galway Motor Tax Offices for this period.

- Approximately 80% of total motor tax transactions for the Galway area were carried out online in 2021. The motor tax office continues to deal with phone queries in relation to the on-line taxing of vehicles.
- The motor tax offices issue tax discs for private and commercial vehicles, tractors, hackneys, taxis and large public service vehicles. Trade plates, trailer licences, replacement documents are also issued and Garda queries and other Local authority queries i.e., S103s and CT53s are also processed.

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Galway County Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in March 2016.

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 cost 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.

During 2021 the collection of Development Contributions remained a priority for the Council. The monies collected will be used to assist in the provision of necessary public infrastructure and community facilities for the County. A sum of €3.79 Million was collected under the Council's Section 48 Development Contribution scheme in 2021.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021 (unaudited)		
Net Assets	2021 €M	2021 €M
Fixed Assets		3,652,467
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses		175,977
Long Term Debtors		43,969
Current Assets	91,196	
Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	(60,392)	
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		30,803
Creditors (Amounts falling due after one year)		(57,621)
Total		3,845,595
Represented By		
Capitalisation Account		3,652,467
Receipts - Work in Progress		174,477
Other Reserves		211
General Revenue Reserve		27
Other Balances		18,413
Total		3,845,595

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

	2021 €M
EXPENDITURE	
Housing	17.312
	53.146
Roads	
Sanitary Services	14.145
Planning & Development	15.767
Environmental Protection	19.197
Recreation & Amenity	9.065
Agriculture & Education	2.122
Miscellaneous Services	18.953
Total Expenditure	149.707
INCOME	
State Grants	108.349
Other Sources	44.211
Total Income	152.560
	2.853
Surplus / (Deficit) for year before transfers	
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(2.832)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for year	.020
General Revenue Reserve at 1st January	0.007
General Revenue Reserve at 31st December	.027