

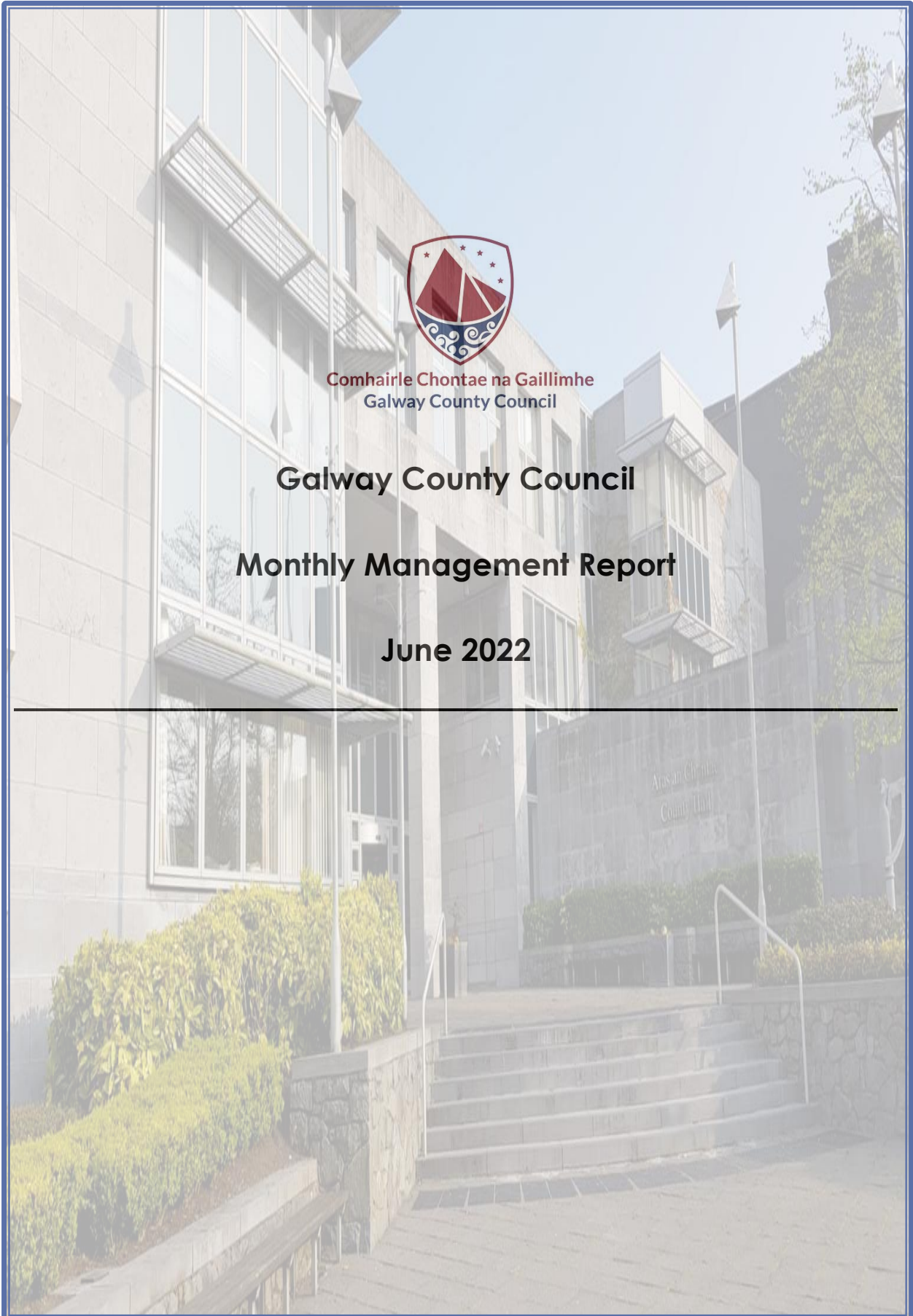


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council

Monthly Management Report

June 2022



HOUSING & ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING UPDATE

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Over the last two months the response locally has stabilised. The emergency response accommodation (community centre) has been stood down as Galway CoCo have sourced longer term accommodation in former nursing homes, hotels and larger B&Bs etc. The last two weeks the response has turned to examining the pledged accommodation lists by private households. The International Organisation for Migration (UN organisation) and Red Cross are responsible for the placement of people in these pledged houses.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

To date Galway County Council have completed Energy Retrofits to 117 properties. Works are currently ongoing in 14 properties with a further 30 at tender stage. The completed energy retrofits constitute a combined energy saving of 1700MWhr per year and 450 tonnes of CO2 per year supporting our Climate Action Plan goals. All properties that received the energy retrofits achieved a BER rating of A3 or higher.

A further 34 properties will be tendered this year under the retrofit programme for 2022.



A Gort Mhaoilir, Athenry - 26 properties completed last week. Provisional BER Rating – A.

HOMELESS SERVICES

There is a marked increase in the number of households making enquiries and accessing homeless services in the recent couple of months with the number growing daily.

There are currently 15 families residing in homeless/self-catering, accommodation. Prior to very recently, the number of families availing of homeless services on a weekly basis was around 10.

It has become apparent that homelessness is now affecting working people – people who are employed in low paid jobs who are unable to access rented accommodation, due to the cost and/or the scarcity of accommodation available. Unlike in recent years, we have working families living in emergency accommodation with limited affordable rented accommodation available. There are many more enquiries from such families regarding homeless accommodation with most of them continuing to “involuntary share” with other family members. These are the hidden homeless and this is unsustainable in the longer term.

The Council has yet to receive any notification on the details of the proposal recently announced by the Minister whereby Local Authorities could purchase properties where HAP tenants live when they are for sale to prevent homelessness. Until such time that the scheme is formally announced we are not in a position to purchase such properties.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Single Rural Programme



Williamstown Property
Browns Grove

(1)
(2)



Construction Works Contracts for 6 single rural developments have been signed with Mannion Construction and works have commenced on-site. These sites are located in the following town lands:

- Knockaloura West, Browns Grove
- Woodfield, Dunmore
- Woodpark Portumna
- Ballyglass, Ardahan
- Creggatlough, Craughwell
- Carrowmore West, Ballinasloe

Tender for the construction another single rural unit at Williamstown was advertised in June 2022 and we await the outcome this procurement process.

Design Team Appointments:

O'Brian Finucane Architects (OBFA) have been identified as the most economically advantageous tender for the regeneration development of 14 units at Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe and the infill the development of 6 units at St. Josephs, Ballinasloe. OBFA have worked with GCC previously on developments at Barrack Street, Loughrea (5 Units) and Carton, Kinvara (10 Units).

Planning permission:

The closing date for receipt of submissions for the proposed development of 8 units at Ballymoe closed and no submissions from the public were received. Two advisory submissions were received from Irish Water and the National Park and Wildfire Service.

Construction Programme:

VACANT HOMES OFFICER

The VHO (Vacant Homes Officer) has begun a targeted approach of identifying a number of properties for specific families with special needs. Other regeneration and 'buy and renew' schemes are also being progressed.

Specific Properties are required in Headford, Tuam & Ballinasloe areas.

ERCD UPDATE

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

- Work is progressing on the review of the current LECP and development of a socio-economic statement for the development of a new LECP. A Webinar on the Community elements of the LECP was hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development on Wednesday 22nd June. There are six key stages within the new LECP process. In relation to the socio-economic analysis (a key component of stage 1 of the process) the section is in consultation with personnel in the School of Business in NUI Galway on advancing this element.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- A meeting of the SICAP Sub-Committee will take place on 29th June to review progress to date on the Annual Plan for SICAP.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development have advised that the SICAP programme has won the prestigious 2022 UN Public Services Award, in the category 'Institutional Resilience and Innovative Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic'. All involved can be very proud that SICAP has been recognised for this award, an acknowledgement internationally of the immense work of the programme, particularly over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the partners including staff in the Programme Implementers (GRD in Galway), Galway County Council, DRCD and Pobal as well as the programme beneficiaries. The award is an acknowledgement of the impact SICAP is having for communities and individuals on the ground.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- A meeting of the Galway County Older Persons Council took place on 13th June and the members were consulted on a pilot research project by NUIG called "Farmers Yard" which is aimed at reducing social isolation of older farmers.
- An Age Friendly Alliance Meeting took place on 15th June to review progress to date on the workplan and consult on a physical activity programme of activity for older people under Healthy Ireland.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

- The PPN's Training - Sustainable Living - Building Community & Climate Resilience with internationally renowned permaculture trainer, Alfred Decker, is taking place over the course of 8 weeks, with each week bringing participants through the various aspects of permaculture.
- The PPN in partnership with GCCN held a public Active Travel meeting to discuss issues and concerns around active travel in Galway.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Cathaoirleach Awards for 2022 were held in conjunction with the Cathaoirleach's Charity Ball in the Ard Rí Hotel, Tuam, on 11th June with awards presented to the following:

Arts & Culture Award – Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre

Best Contribution to Heritage Award – Headford Lace Project

Social Inclusion Award – Loughrea Men's Shed

Environment & Climate Action Award – Ballymoe Development Group

Sports Award – Bearna/Furbo Hurling Club

Heritage Publication Award – Scoil Bhriocáin Rosmuc

Gradam na Gaeilge – Féile Chois Fharráige

Tidy Towns Recognition Award – Milltown Tidy Towns

Pride of Place – Lawrencetown Community Development & Woodford Parish Development

Special Award – Headford Lace Project (2nd in National Pride of Place Creative Community)

Volunteer Recognition Events were organised in conjunction with the Municipal District Meetings to honour the groups and individuals who volunteered to provide practical and social supports throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Each Group was presented with a Commemorative Letter and specially commissioned badges. The feedback from the events was positive and it was appreciated that the efforts of communities was recognised at Municipal District level.

Local Live Performance Scheme Round 3/ Ceol an Samhraidh

Each weekend in June, events have been taking place all over the County in partnership with local venues and community groups to deliver this county wide programme. This is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and aims to support employment and wellbeing in the arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances for the period to June 2022.



Little John Nee at Headfest

Photo credit: Aengus McMahon

04- 06 June 2022

Ballinasloe Town Hall

Eleanor Shanley & Ultan Conlon

Headfest, Headford

Little John Nee and Tara Stacey

Ballyglunin Railway Station

with Three Rings Festival

Drumadore, Fuse Collective & The Whileaways

The Mall Theatre Tuam

Julie Feeney

11-12 June 2022

Inis Oirr/Aras Éanna

Outdoors with Máirtín O'Connor Trio

Station House Theatre, Clifden

The Raines

17-19 June 2022

Oranmore Castle	Ye Vagabonds, Poor Creature, Pádraic Keane & Friends
Athenry Heritage Centre	Paddy Casey, Julie Feeney, Pádraig Stevens & Leo Moran

26-30 June 2022

Gallery Café Gort	Mathew Noone, A Lilac Decline, John Conneely & Andrais de Staic
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Clonbur Community Hall

Back the Valley” featuring Martin Coyne, Barney Mc Cabe, Colm Naughton, Jamie O'Neill and Pearse Doherty. Special guests include Ailish Laffey, Brendan Begley, Fabian Joyce, Kelly Fitzhenry, and Sorcha Ní Chadhain.

The Department are making additional funding available for the LLPS and the Arts Office will be working to develop a further programme.

- **Culture Up:** Arts Office taking part in a visit to Leeuwarden in June 2022 as part of an Erasmus+ Culture Up capacity building programme for Arts Officers and European Capitals of Culture legacy programming work in rural areas.
- **Culture Night 2022** –Culture Night will take place on Friday 23rd September. Expressions of Interest are live and closing dates for is Thursday 07 July. Link to form: <https://forms.office.com/r/yjKwRdxEks>. An information session was held for all those interested in taking part on Monday 13th June.
- **Arts Office Programme Key targets for June:** Currently finalising Artist in Schools programme, Youth Arts Programmes, Children’s Book Festival, Strawboys County Tour, Festival supports, and Planning Host Visit of EU Partners in Oct 22 and range of ongoing artists supports programmes and residencies.
- **Public Art Programme:** Public Art Management Group (PAMG) met in June. Terms of reference were agreed upon and a process to begin the public art programme. A budget was outlined from flood relief schemes and housing and a proposal to begin with flood relief scheme projects was agreed. A draft brief will be presented to the PAMG at next meeting.
- **Strategic Partners Meeting:** A meeting will take place in June of professional arts organisation partners in the region to discuss potential collaborations in the county with the Galway County Arts Office.
- **Music Generation Galway County:** 3,500 students are now engaging with Music Generation’s programmes on an ongoing basis across a variety of contexts in Galway County. These areas of provision include educational settings (primary schools, post-primary schools, Youthreach centres (pre-schools from Sept. ’22)) and community

settings (after-school/evening music hubs and camps across the County). In addition, in partnership with youth services, Music Generation Galway County targets areas where vulnerable communities exist, where remote geographical location leads to access issues, while it engages with children and young people with disabilities and those that are marginalised or disenfranchised in any way. In 2022 Music Generation Galway County will commence work on developing a new 5-year strategic plan to assess and address current and future needs where the provision of performance music education is concerned across Galway County.

- **Artist Residency- Interface Inagh Valley:** Supported by the Arts Office, Interface Inagh Valley have an open call to offer one Galway County based artist a 2 -week residency includes access to a studio space and accommodation, with a fee of €700 for each artist with support from their local authority.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland Programme is led by the Arts Office.

- **Cruinniú na nÓg** was a massive success on Saturday 11th June. 21 projects directly received support from the programme with events happening with groups of young people throughout the county. We have also partnered with Dance Ireland and Galway Community Circus to deliver larger scale events for children. See projects in Tuam and Ballinasloe below:



- Work is to begin on the **Galway County Creative Ireland Strategy 2023-2027**. The Culture Team met with Creative Ireland to discuss priorities and plans for the programme nationally over the next five years which should inform the local strategy.
- **The Art of Being Healthy and Well National Symposium led by Creative Ireland takes place online on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 (10am–2pm)**. The Department of Health, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Health Service Executive and the Arts Council will co-host a national symposium – The Art of Being Healthy and Well. The symposium will consider policy in relation to the effective use of creativity and arts in support of health and wellbeing while showcasing and reflecting on the learning to date.
- **"Bloomsday in Skehana"** is one of the recipients of the Creative Ireland Galway County Bursary this year and takes places on Thursday June 16th. [Skehana and District Heritage Group](#) celebrated Bloomsday through music, song and narration in their local area.



TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL - MAIN SCHEME

The Department of Community and Rural Development launched the 2022 Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) on June 1st

- The Expression of Interested Process was launched in Local Print and Social Media and via PPN registered Membership and Notifications to Members and Internal Staff
- A Briefing was held for Elected Members on June 20th
- A Workshop with Galway County PPN Membership Invited was held on June 20th
- One to one meetings and advisory calls are ongoing with groups interested in submitting Expression of Interest
- The EOI process closes **on Tuesday July 5th** when the process then moves into assessment and shortlisting of EOI's and Further Information. Local Authorities must then make final applications under the TVRS 2022 by July 22nd to the Department.
- The Deadline is 5pm July 5th and email only EOI's signed and scanned can be accepted up to Midnight on July 5th.
- Queries can be directed to tandv@galwaycoco.ie

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are sought from Business Representative Groups, Community and Voluntary Groups, Local Authority Sections for the Main Town and Village Renewal Scheme and for the Project Development Measure.

The number of Expressions of Interest that can be shortlisted for development into Applications are:

- 5 applications of between €20,000 and €250,000
- 1 application of between €20,000 and €500,000

Further streams of funding under the 2022 Scheme:

- 2 applications up to €50,000 each under the Project Development Measure
- 1 application up to €50,000 for a specific County Marketing campaign

Specifically, the 2022 Scheme will prioritise tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Projects that focus on developing vacant and derelict buildings and sites into use as multi-purpose spaces are prioritised.

- The involvement by community interests and/or business interests will be an essential feature of successful projects. Ideally, projects will have been identified as part of a masterplan, or similar, produced for the town or village.
- Only one application can be submitted in respect of any individual town/village, including towns that may be under the remit of more than one Local Authority. However, an individual application may include several linked components to support the rejuvenation of the town/village.
- Under the 2022 Scheme, a minimum of one application must be submitted from Towns/Villages that have not previously been approved for funding under the Scheme in the last 3 years
- Proposals in respect of towns or villages that have not previously applied, or have not been successful under the scheme, will also be prioritised by the Department where possible, subject to the overall quality of the project.
- It is advisable that appropriate assessments, feasibility studies and planning permissions (if required) are in place or substantially progressed prior to the submission of a project application. Should they not have commenced, it is

recommended that the application is retained for future years or may be submitted under the Project Development Measure.

- Only proposals that are capable of being delivered within an 18 month timeframe should be submitted. Grant Funding is at a rate of 90%.

Expressions of Interest are sought under Town and Village Renewal 2022 for projects in line with the Priorities of the Scheme which are categorised as follows.

Priority A1

Proposals that bring back vacant and derelict Buildings and Site into use as multi-purpose spaces.

May include state owned property

Multi-purpose definitions includes but is not limited to;

- Enterprise Spaces
- Arts
- Tourism
- Youth Hubs and other Community Uses

Projects that bring back vacant properties in Town Centres into use as Remote Working Hubs

Priority A2

- Regeneration Projects that assist in revitalising towns and villages in line with Town Centre First Policy. These projects should be identified in Town or Village Masterplans
- New Build Community Centres (with a clear need demonstrated)
- Projects to develop Parks, plazas, outdoor dining, green spaces (allotments) recreation facilities including outdoor skate parks, basketball courts, tennis courts in town centres etc.
- Marketing Campaigns targeted at Remote Workers

Priority B

- Upgrade and enhancement of existing shopfronts and street facades in towns and villages and build upon spaces developed under Priority A2 (plazas etc)
- Projects that support Night-time Economy in line with emerging proposal from Night-Time Economy Task Force

- Enhancement of Heritage Assets (local museums, attractions focused on heritage sites/buildings including energy efficiency measures).

Project Development Measure

The Town and Village Project Development Measure is similar in nature to Category 2 projects under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). The purpose of this Measure is to assist Local Authorities to contribute to a pipeline of significant, well developed projects which might be subsequently progressed to construction stage, subject to the availability of further funding. It is proposed that applications would involve:

- Development costs for one strategic large-scale project that may be subsequently progressed with funding from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme e.g. detailed design, preparation for the planning and/or procurement, appropriate assessment etc.
- Funding of up to €50,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- Maximum of two proposals to be submitted by any Local Authority

The approval of funding under this category does not automatically guarantee future support under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for delivery of the emerging project – the resulting projects will need to be submitted as normal under the competitive Town & Village Renewal process.

Point to Consider for the 2022 Scheme

- If the project involves works on buildings or lands that are not in the ownership of the grantee, a minimum 15 year lease must be in place from date of project completion.
- In the case of funding allocated to enterprises or facilities (i.e. community centre, hubs), it is a requirement that they must operate as funded for a minimum of 5 years following release of the final stage of funding, otherwise funding may have to be repaid. Where they do not operate as funded this must be advised and agreed with the Department in advance
- Phased Payments: Funding may be drawn down in up to 3 phases. The minimum amount that can be drawn down at any time is 20% of project costs.

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

- The 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Co-Funded Streetscape Enhancement Measure which was operated in Ballygar; Glenamaddy; Headford; Loughrea; Oranmore and Oughterard.
- A detailed Report on the 2021 Measure was prepared and submitted on May 31st 2022 to the DRCD to close out on the Measure.
- The table below provides a summary overview of the investment made under the 2021 Scheme. The engagement by local business, residents, Tidy Towns and Development Associations with support by the Elected Members was critical in ensuring successful roll-out of the Scheme.
- Overall, there was a high take up and completion rate. Some offers were not taken up due to timelines, changes in property ownerships or personal circumstance in the period, increasing costs in some instances and difficulty in securing an approved supplier to complete the works. This feedback was included in final submission to DRCD. The amount paid reflected eligible verifiable expenditure on completion of works. Grants were paid at rates of 80% for adjacent properties or 70% of eligible costs for stand-alone properties in key locations which were approved for inclusion.

Town	No. of offers made	Amount Offered	No. of Offers claimed.	Amount Paid	% of Grant Amount Offered Claimed
Headford	41	€ 79,105.00	30	€ 55,769.67	71%
Oranmore	11	€ 16,224.20	7	€ 9,962.00	61%
Ballygar	22	€ 42,097.00	19	€ 31,134.93	74%
Glenamaddy	16	€ 42,234.00	16	€ 37,993.57	90%
Oughterard	24	€ 34,287.81	19	€ 20,748.45	61%
Loughrea	60	€ 132,266.07	56	€ 108,361.96	82%
Overall	174	€ 346,214.08	147	€ 263,970.58	76%

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022

The 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) has now Closed.

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The scheme supports sporting and recreational pursuits. It helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the

economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

It provides funding for:

- development, extensions and repair of trails, walkways, cycleways and blueways
- improved access to outdoor leisure or recreational facilities
- development of outdoor recreational infrastructure

Projects applications are accepted from Local Authorities (All Measures), Local Development Companies (Measure 1) and/or State Bodies (Measure 3/Project Development Measure) under the scheme:

- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects.

The Following Projects were submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development on 19th April, 2022 under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Scheme Measure	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Amount of ORIS funding requested
M1	Connemara Greenway Maintenance	General maintenance of the completed 15kms of the Connemara Greenway along section between the town of Clifden and the village of Recess. Works to include grass cutting to verges and pruning of overhanging trees	27,000
M1	Connemara Greenway Marketing	Marketing materials and promotion of the Connemara Greenway section from Clifden to Recess	27,000

M1	Monivea Woods Trail	Enhancement to Monivea Woods walking, running and cycling trails to include the upgrading of signage and pathways and the development of marketing infrastructure for the trail.	27,000
M1	Carrabane Forest Muddy Walks	The "Mucky Boots Trail" - "Feel the Forest" will be a multi-use family trail at Carrabane Forest Walk to add to the enjoyment of a visit to our forest.	29,250
M1	Gort Riverwalk	Upgrade of an old village road to a class 2 trail and the completion and registration of a 3.5km looped trail from Gort Town Centre	27,424
M1	Glenamaddy Walking Trails-Frass Looped Walks Phase 2	Second of two environmental walking trail loops around the Frass Clooncon Bog Inner at Glenamaddy. Establishing a link return to the start point which restores the trail as a loop rather than its current 'out and back' design.	21,071.70
M1	Lough Belsrah Board Walk & Viewing Point	Erection of a board walk and viewing area at Lough Belsrah.	29,700
Project Dev	East Galway Eco Park	The development of a trailed eco park on a former landfill site offering experiences in Amenity & Recreation, Biodiversity and Heritage, Health & Wellbeing, Educational and Sustainable Practices.	50,000
Project Dev	Portumna Outdoor Recreation Park	The development of an overall masterplan for the future development of Portumna Forest Park and Bathing Areas incorporating new activity and recreation zones, visitor hub, performance areas and enhanced public realm	49,950

The Following Projects were submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development on 25th May, 2022 under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Scheme Measure	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Amount of ORIS funding requested
M2	Creggs Mountain Walk	The Mountain Walk project in Creggs involves the creation of a trail in a tranquil area in East Galway, part of the Beara Beifne Way and the Suck Valley Way which provides an ideal location for rural outdoor activity. Rich in folklore, heritage and biodiversity, this area has scenic views of four counties and would be a huge benefit to people of all ages and abilities.	200,000
M2	The Walks Loughrea	Should this application be successful, it will allow the repair of The Walks wall to be finished, improve trout breeding grounds and enhance biodiversity.	200,025
M2	Killarainy Woods Trail	Upgrade/Develop utilize and enhance existing Community trails for the benefit of the entire community/public and tourism. Create a new multi access trail suitable for those with reduced mobility. This will encourage community involvement and participation and promote a sense of ownership and belonging	99,000
M3	Western Way Trail Upgrade	Upgrade and improvement of existing Western way Walking trail to include improved wayfinding, marketing and trail surface and carpark upgrade.	405,000

RURAL REGENERATION SCHEME

ATHENRY:

The Regeneration Team have met with the Department and progressed discussion for the inclusion of Cross Street with the Square as part of the Category 2 works.

TUAM:

Part VII application for Town Hall was considered by the Municipal District on June 13th and approved. A funding application for the Scheme can now be considered as part of a future call for proposals now that the Part VIII is in place.

LOUGHREA:

Part 8 planning was presented to the MD on June 13th and received approval.

CLIFDEN:

Second Public Consultation was held on June 8th in Community Hall with good response.

Topographical Survey Contractor appointed, and surveys continuing.

Ground Investigation Contractor appointed with works programmed for the coming months.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE:

The tender assessment process for the Portumna Design Team has been completed and the appointment of consultants is imminent with the process currently in the standstill period.

GORT:

Public Realm and Town Centre First Masterplan Engagement of Consultants Documents advanced and advertised on e-tenders on June 17^h, 2022.

TOURISM:

TOURISM STRATEGY

The Executive team and GCC management staff met up on 10 June '22 to take part in a consultation workshop in the Chamber in County Hall. With excellent levels of attendance across the teams- the group proposed that a staff team would be established to 'steer' the development of the Tourism Strategy as well as implementation of actions for the local

authority sections throughout the lifetime of the plan. CHL have taken away recommendations for the workshop for incorporation into the consultation programme.

DESTINATION GALWAY BRAND DEVELOPMENT:

A full Gaeilge and English language survey was circulated to industry stakeholders through Failte Ireland databases and through city and county platforms and databases. So far, 150 respondents have provided feedback.

A 'local experts group' was convened in the Dean Hotel, Prospect Hill on 21 June for a consultation and ideation workshop.



Galway County Council Tourism Department



Festivals & Events

Galway is known for its rich cultural heritage and is a vibrant community-based county. Galway County Council works with its various development initiatives. In 2022, Galway County Council and Galway Tourism have joined forces to create a new festival calendar for the county, with all festivals being planned over 10 weeks. The festival series also promotes local businesses and supports the county's economic recovery. Galway County Council will also be providing a range of marketing and digital campaigns that will continue throughout the summer. To ensure the festival series is successful, Galway County Council will be providing a range of support to festival organisers, including access to the county's marketing and digital resources. Galway County Council will also be providing a range of support to festival organisers, including access to the county's marketing and digital resources.

Selection of Festivals for 2022

Galway Garden Festival
July 1st - 10th

Galway Garden Festival is a celebration of the county's horticultural heritage. It is a free event for all ages and is held in the grounds of the Galway City Hall. The festival features a range of activities, including garden tours, workshops, and talks. It is a great opportunity to see the county's best gardens and to learn more about horticulture.

Galway Arts Festival
July 15th - 25th

The Galway Arts Festival is a celebration of the county's rich cultural heritage. It is a free event for all ages and is held in the grounds of the Galway City Hall. The festival features a range of activities, including music, dance, and drama. It is a great opportunity to see the county's best artists and to learn more about the arts.

Crúinní na míle
July 28th - August 1st

The Crúinní na míle festival is a celebration of the county's traditional music and dance. It is a free event for all ages and is held in the grounds of the Galway City Hall. The festival features a range of activities, including music, dance, and drama. It is a great opportunity to see the county's best musicians and dancers.

Croígg - 20th to 22nd October

Croígg is a festival of traditional music and dance. It is a free event for all ages and is held in the grounds of the Galway City Hall. The festival features a range of activities, including music, dance, and drama. It is a great opportunity to see the county's best musicians and dancers.

New tourism strategy for County Galway

Galway County Council is currently taking steps to address new opportunities for the county. The new tourism strategy for the county is set to be published in the next few weeks. The strategy will focus on promoting the county's natural and cultural heritage, and on supporting the county's tourism industry. The strategy will also focus on promoting the county's tourism industry, and on supporting the county's tourism industry.

10 Great places to visit!

The Aran Islands
The Aran Islands are a group of three islands in the Atlantic Ocean, west of the Galway coast. They are known for their rugged beauty and their rich cultural heritage. The islands are a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape.

Kilmore Abbey
Kilmore Abbey is a 12th-century abbey located in the town of Kilmore, County Galway. It is a well-preserved example of medieval architecture and is a great place to visit if you are interested in history.

Coole Park
Coole Park is a large park located in the town of Coole, County Galway. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape. The park features a range of activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing.

Letterkenny, Diamond Hill
Letterkenny is a town located in the town of Letterkenny, County Donegal. Diamond Hill is a mountain located in the town of Letterkenny. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape.

Ballyvaughan
Ballyvaughan is a village located in the town of Ballyvaughan, County Galway. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape. The village features a range of activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing.

Mountbellina
Mountbellina is a mountain located in the town of Mountbellina, County Galway. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape. The mountain features a range of activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing.

Sky Road, Clifden
The Sky Road is a road located in the town of Clifden, County Galway. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape. The road features a range of activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing.

Galway, West Pier
Galway is a city located in the town of Galway, County Galway. The West Pier is a pier located in the town of Galway. It is a great place to visit if you are looking for a peaceful and scenic escape. The pier features a range of activities, including walking, cycling, and fishing.

With a focus on domestic markets again in 2022; Tourism invested in a County based marketing spread for the Connacht Tribune Supplement published in early June. **Where West** is a full colour, high quality magazine circulated throughout the west- from Connemara to the Islands; south to north Galway; north Mayo to south Clare.

4 pages in 'Go West' magazine will also be published in June. Galway County Council annually invest in the magazine of Knock Airport- alongside local authority partners in Sligo; Mayo, Roscommon and Galway City. For 2022- coverage includes walks; camping and caravanning; highlighting festivals and events that are supported by GCC and promoting the best aspects of the visitor experience around the County as well as some new openings in the County with high quality photography to promote Tourism in the County.

INDUSTRY SUPPORTS AND TRAINING:

From early May, concluding in June -as the season kicked off in earnest; the Tourism Office developed a series of workshops to engage with the trade in the north, east and south of the County with funding sourced from Fáilte Ireland's 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' regional brand to support training in this area. This programme of workshops- delivered online- incorporated recommendations and advice on funding; social media and digital presence; as well as messaging and marketing. A full report is being prepared for Fáilte Ireland as the funding partner. The programme was delivered on behalf of Galway County Council by 'The Tourism Space.'

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

UPDATE ON THE MOYCULLEN BYPASS

The project, when complete, will be a 4.3km of Type 1 standard single carriageway road with hard shoulders 2 No. 3 arm Roundabout junctions at either end. There will be 2.1km of re-aligned local and link roads, 0.6km of re-aligned side roads, 2.0km of newly constructed access roads and 1.7km of farm/accommodation roads. There will be 9 No. Bridge or Platform Structures & 2 No. Retaining Walls. New road drainage systems; Service diversions and relocation, including underground Eircom Optic Fibre lines, Galway County Council watermains & sewers and ESB; and all associated Accommodation Works

Programme & Progress to Date

- 22 Month Construction Programme
- Works presently 35% Complete
- Proposed Completion Date of Summer 2023 and presently on target to achieve

The majority of construction works are currently taking place off-line with minimal impact to traffic on the national and local road network.

Presently the main focus of the construction works has been on the earthworks and structures operations. The Earthworks Operation is in full swing presently and progressing well taking full advantage of drier summer weather. A number of the structures are advancing with ST02 – Farm Underpass, ST03 – Knockferry Road Overbridge and ST04 - Ballyquirke Canal Bridge well underway.

Look Ahead Programme

The main focus of works over the next few months will be to advance the following elements of the scheme works:

- Completion of the Earthworks
- Advancing the installation of the structures i.e bridges and piled platforms
 - ST01 Stream Culvert
 - ST05 Homefarm Road Crossing over Ballyquirke Canal
 - ST06 Access Road Underpass
 - ST07 Lough Kip River Overbridge
 - ST10 Farm Underpass
 - ST11 Piled Platform
- Progress the extensive drainage works
- Commence the utility works in particular water and wastewater network



Location of Western Tie-In at Drimcong – Earthworks ongoing



Construction works ongoing for ST02 a Farm Underpass at Killrainey



Installation of Pre-Cast Concrete Beams to ST04 – Bridge crossing over Ballyquirke canal



Preparation Works in progress for Deck of ST03 – New realigned Knockferry Road



Works ongoing at Knockferry Road crossing



Earthworks excavation adjacent to the Homefarm Road – Note poor ground conditions and depth of excavation required



Earthworks operation ongoing at eastern Tie In



Driving of Steel Piles for ST07 Foundations – Lough Kip River Overbridge

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF THE DUNKELLIN RIVER & AGGARD STREAM FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

On Tuesday June 14th last former Cathaoirleach Peter Keaveney, and Chief Executive Jim Cullen, on behalf of Galway County Council, were pleased to formally accept the handover of the Dunkellin River and Aggard Stream Flood Relief Scheme from Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan.

Brief History

During the major flood event in County Galway in November 2009, in addition to the flooding of houses, the majority of transport links in to and out of Galway were impassable. The N6 was closed both in Craughwell village and Ballinasloe town. It was agreed with the OPW that a solution for these two locations should be advanced as soon as possible. GCC commissioned a report for Craughwell in 2010 and Tobin's Consulting Engineers were appointed as Project Engineers in March 2011.

A scheme to resolve issues in Craughwell village, Rahasane and Killeely Beg was developed and submitted to ABP in October 2014 (including an EIS & NIS). ABP granted permission (with 7 conditions) in March 2016. In July 2016, Galway County Council appointed the OPW as the main contractor for the works.

The works included:

- Upgrade of the flood bypass channel in Craughwell village
- Regrading of over 2km of riverbed in and downstream of Craughwell village
- Capacity improvement works at Rinn, Dunkellin and Killeely Beg bridges
- Provision of 1km of two-stage channel from Dunkellin bridge to Killeely Beg bridge
- Channel maintenance works on 7.5km of the Aggard stream



Flooding of November 2009

Other Notable works on the scheme included the following:

- *Unfortunate collapse of Dunkellin bridge in August 2018 (re-opened October 2019)*
- *1,400 native trees planted as part of the scheme*
- *Fishery improvement works carried out on the Dunkellin river*
- *Refurbishment works carried out on 5 bridges (2 bridges date from the 1600's)*
- *In excess of 20 households now protected from the 1 in 100 year flood event*
- *Strategic roads protected and local roads now have improved protection*
- *5 years ecological study of Rahasane turlough has commenced*
- *Works completed September 2021 – 90% of compensation payments now completed*



Dunkellin Bridge collapse August 2018



Completed works Dunkellin Bridge April 2021



Handover Ceremony 14/06/22: GCC Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach with Minister of State for the OPW Patrick O'Donovan & Jim Casey OPW Head of Flood Risk Management

CONNECTED HUBS 2022 APPLICATION



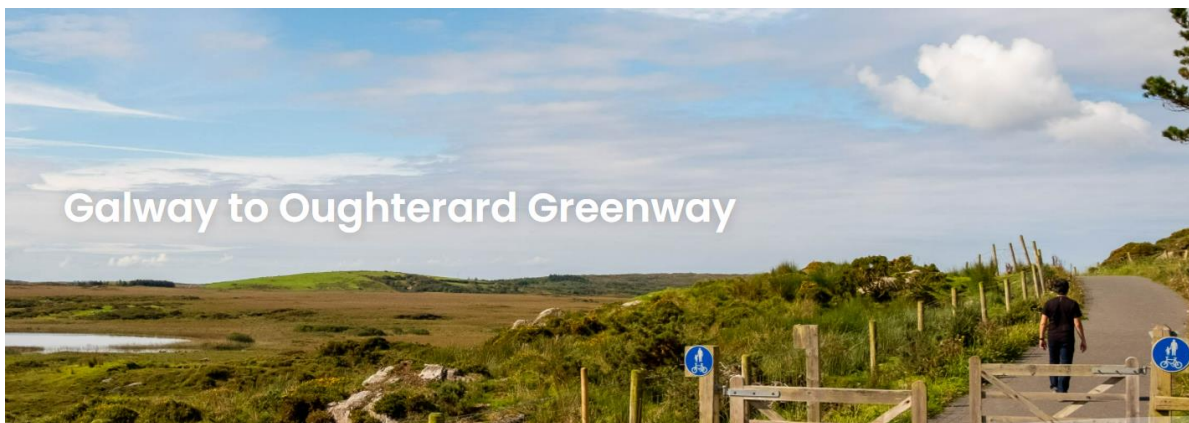
Galway County Council was successful in securing funding of €127,779 on behalf of five Broadband Connection Points (Clonberne, Inis Oirr, Portumna, Tuam and Leitrim Ballydugan) following a successful application to the 2022 Connected Hubs Call.

This application brings together three BCPs (Clonberne, Inis Oirr and Tuam) who benefitted from Connected Hubs 2021 funding and wish to increase their service offering to their communities in 2022 through a combination of increased remote working spaces, updating facilities and e-charging points to support the wider community and acknowledging the national move to sustainable modes of transport at a local level. These three hubs have an NBI fibre network delivery date towards the end of the fibre roll out program c. 2026, as such they will be key infrastructure in supporting their communities into the future.

This multi-hub application also included 2 BCPs (Portumna and Leitrim Ballydugan) who applied to the Connected Hubs fund for the first time, with one of the applicant BCPs (Portumna) intending to offer remote working facilities for the first time.

Three BCPs (Ballyglunin, Lackagh and Ceantar na nOileán, Leitir Móir) were successful in submitting single hub applications directly to the DRCD and were awarded a total of €192,550. The Connected Hubs Call represents a €5 million investment by the state in remote working facilities nationwide and the total allocation for Galway in 2022 is €320,329.

GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY - PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2



Galway County Council, in conjunction with Galway City Council has invited the residents of the local area, members of the public and other interested parties to participate in a non-statutory public consultation on the Route Corridor Options for the Galway to Oughterard Greenway project. Participation in this consultation is important and the Council would value any feedback which the public think should be reviewed by the project team to help inform the development of the project.

The project is currently within Phase 2: Option Selection, which involves the examination of alternative options in order to determine a Preferred Option. The purpose of this public consultation is to inform the public of the option selection process and invite feedback on the Route Corridor Options.

A series of in-person public consultation events took place in Moycullen, Oughterard and Galway City between 21-06-22 and 23-06-22:

- **Áras Uillinn Moycullen** - Tuesday 21st June 2022 – 12:00-21:00
- **Oughterard Community Centre** - Wednesday 22nd June 2022 – 12:00-21:00
- **Clybaun Hotel, Clybaun Rd, Galway City** - Thursday 23rd June 2022 – 12:00-21:00

In addition, all relevant material is still available on the project website to allow for virtual means of consultation. The information will be accessible online at galwaytooughterardgreenway.ie until Friday 15th July 2022.

The public are requested to submit their views and feedback online or send by post or by email on or before Friday 15th July 2022.

PLANNING

Draft Ministerial Direction in the Matter of Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended) Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

On the 16th June 2022 the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31 AM(8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), has delivered notice of the Minister's intent to issue a Direction to Galway County Council (being the Planning Authority for County Galway). The Draft Ministerial Direction relates to the Galway County Development Plan 2022- 2028.

The Reasons stated for the Draft Direction are that:

I. Pursuant to section 31(1)(b), section 31(10)(ba)(i) and section 31(1)(c)

The Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 as made includes material amendments to the draft Plan, that are inconsistent with the evaluation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and which individually and cumulatively are not consistent with the Core Strategy, national and regional planning policy, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including:

a. Land zoned for residential development that is not consistent with the Development Plan's own Core Strategy for Clifden, Headford, An Cheathrú Rua and Woodlawn, in the adopted Plan. In making the Development Plan with residential zoning in excess of that determined to be required under the Core Strategy, the Planning Authority fails to have regard to the requirements of section 4.5 of the *Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)* and section 4.4 of the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities - Draft for Consultation (2021)* to ensure enough land is zoned and to avoid zoning too much land and the Planning Authority provides no or no adequate reasons relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to explain why the guidelines have not been followed;

b. Land zoned for residential development located in peripheral locations outside the CSO settlement boundary in the case of Clifden, and Headford, and in the case of Woodlawn where no CSO boundary exists, inconsistent with the requirements for compact growth in NPO 3c and RPO 3.2;

c. Land zoned for development located in non-sequential and peripheral locations at a distance from the centre and beyond undeveloped greenfield lands in Clifden and Headford, An Cheathrú Rua, and Oughterard, or in the case of Woodlawn detached from any existing settlement, which fails to have regard to the requirement to implement or adopt the sequential approach to zoning under the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)* issued under Section 28 of the Act, except in exceptional circumstances (which ‘*must be clearly justified ... in the written statement*’), and under section 6.2.3 of the *Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning authorities - Draft for Consultation (2021)* and the Planning Authority provides no or no adequate reasons relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to explain why the guidelines have not been followed;

d. Land zoned for development in Oranmore vulnerable to flood risk in areas known to be at risk of flooding contrary to NPO 57 and which fails to have regard to the statutory guidelines of the Minister *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)*, as revised and where the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommends that the zoning amendment not be adopted;

e. Land zoned for development in Maigh Cuilinn adjacent to the route of the N59 Maigh Cuilinn by-pass, which has the potential to negatively impact the delivery of the planned national road network in the area, undermine Government investment in the N59 Moycullen Bypass Scheme and fails to have regard to the statutory guidelines of the Minister *The Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)*.

Further, the residential zoning amendments are also inconsistent with the requirements of section 10(2A)(d)(ii) of the Act which requires the development plan to provide details of how the zoning proposals in respect of lands zoned for residential and for a mixture of residential and other uses accords with national policy that development of land shall take place on a phased basis.

Further, the statement under Section 28(1A)(b) attached to the Development Plan as made fails to include information which demonstrates that the planning authority has formed the opinion that it is not possible to implement the policies and objectives outlined at (I), above, as contained in the Guidelines, because of the nature and characteristics of the area and to give reasons for the forming of that opinion contrary to Section 28(1B)(b).

II. Pursuant to section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes policy WW9 and reference to the minimum 100 metre separation distance for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua which may unreasonably and significantly prejudice the delivery of this key infrastructure and prejudice the planned sustainable growth of An Cheathrú Rua over the plan period inconsistent with the statutory requirement in section 10(1D) of the Act that the development objectives in the development plan are consistent with the conservation and protection of the environment.

III. Pursuant to section 31(1) (ba){i}

The Development Plan as made includes material amendments to identify Ballinasloe and Tuam as being unsuitable locations for a regional waste management facility and/or sludge hub centre inconsistent with NPO 56 and RPO 8.17 to promote circular economy principles to maximise waste as a resource, and the provisions of NPO 63 and RPO 8.12 to ensure that sustainable water services infrastructure is in place to meet demands of continuing population growth and the developing economy.

IV. Pursuant to section 31(1)(c)

The Development Plan as made includes policies and material amendments to the draft Plan that are inconsistent with the evaluation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

V. Pursuant to section 31(1){a}(i)(II)

The Development Plan has not been made in a manner consistent with and has failed to implement the recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator under Section 31 AM.

Public Display:

A copy of the Draft Directions may be inspected from 23rd June 2022 to 08th July 2022 (inclusive) at <http://consult.galway.ie> and during normal hours at the Planning offices of Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

Submissions or Observations in Respect of the Draft Direction:

Written submission or observations, in respect of the Draft Direction, may be made (one medium only) to the Council between the **23rd of June 2022 to 4pm on 08th July 2022** as follows:

- Online via the Council’s Public Consultations Portal: <http://consult.galway.ie/>; or
- Via emails to forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie or
- In writing marking “Draft Direction to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028” Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

Observations or submissions must include the full name and address of the person(s) making the submission and where relevant, the body or organization represented. Late observations/submissions will not be accepted.

All submission or observations made in respect of the Draft Direction, during this period, shall be taken into consideration by the Office of the Planning Regulator before it makes a recommendation to the Minister on the matter.

Please note that observations or submission will be made public on the Council’s website and at the offices of Galway County Council and will also form part of the statutory Chief Executive’s Report subsequently published on Galway County Council website. The details including the names of those making submission may be shared with relevant Council and Government Departments or their agents involved in the process and may form part of reports linked to the making of any Direction.

In accordance with Section 19 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018 all valid submissions received by the Council shall be published on the Galway County Council website within 10 working days of its receipt by the Council. The planning process is an open and public process and therefore your submission (in part or in total) will be available.

Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 249 of 2022)

These new Regulations amend the fees chargeable for street furniture licences under section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended in order to assist in reducing the cost burden for hotels, restaurants, public houses and other establishments where food is sold for consumption on their premises outdoors. In this regard, the street furniture licence fee for tables and chairs to facilitate the consumption of food outside such premises is

reduced from €125 per table to €0 per table. This reduced fee arrangement, which extends the waiver originally introduced in 2021, will apply for the remainder of the current year.

Building Control – End of Measures Introduced during the Covid-19 Emergency

The Building Control Regulations 2020, (S.I. No. 113 of 2020) temporarily dis-applied certain provisions of the Building Control Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 496 of 1997) in relation to specified works that were being carried out in response to Covid-19 and replaced them with a streamlined notification process.

As of March 31st, 2022 the option to avail of the streamlined notification process by way of submitting a Works (Covid-19 Crisis) Notice no longer exists. However, the Regulations require the State authority, or those working on its behalf, to now apply for a Regularisation Certificate¹ for the works covered by the Works (Covid-19 Crisis) Notice, within 12 months from the end date i.e. 31st March 2023, if the works, or a Material Change of Use are still in place.

The Building Control Act 1990 (Section 5) Order 2020, (S.I. No. 112 of 2020) provided, for a limited period, a temporary dispensation for State authorities from the requirements of Part L ‘Conservation of Fuel and Energy’ of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations. The Order was effective for the same period as the Building Control Regulations 2020 i.e. from 13th March 2020 to the end date as specified in the Health (Preservation and Protection and other Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) Act 2020 (No.1 of 2020).

As of 31st March 2022 this dispensation is longer available. However, the Order provides for the relevant buildings to be brought into compliance with Part L ‘Conservation of Fuel and Energy’ within 2 years from the end date of the order i.e. 31st March 2024, if the works, or a material change of use are still in place.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022 Galway County Council Allocation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has agreed to grant funding to Galway County Council for the following projects:

1. Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans to the amount of € 6,587
2. Council Staff Biodiversity Training to the amount of €3,764
3. Quagga mussel project to the amount of € 3,371
4. Sustainable management of spaces training to the amount of € 12,580
5. IAS management to the amount of € 5,280
6. Barn Owl project to the amount of €2,975
7. North- East Galway Wetland Audit to the amount of €12,750
8. Bird Survey in Connemara Blanket Bog to the amount of € 10,455

Galway County Council has been granted €57,762 and was required to have 15% of the cost of the projects in place and this amounts to €10,173.30.

The following is a short overview of each project:

1. Biodiversity & Pollinator Municipal District Plans:

The primary aim of Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans is to provide a framework for protecting, managing and/or enhancing natural heritage in each municipal district through actions led by the local authority (Area Office) and the local community. Given the size of the county and variation in landscape and natural heritage resources and the fact that the county is divided up into municipal districts with an area office of Galway County Council it was decided to use the municipal district as the basis of area in which the plans would be developed and implemented.

The process of producing and implementing a plan for each municipal district creates an opportunity to co-ordinate action among local groups, individuals, the local authority, statutory bodies, and other organisations at a local level which is more meaningful and achievable.

2. Council Staff Biodiversity Training

It is proposed to deliver the following training to relevant Galway County Council staff online by Beo Ecology Limited. This training will assist in the delivery of the biodiversity and pollinator plans at Municipal District Level. It is also needed as there are a lot of new staff members who need to be trained up on biodiversity matters.

3. Quagga mussel project

The project focusses on the Quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*), a high impact aquatic invasive alien species discovered in the Shannon in 2021 and aims to address several key knowledge gaps (as detailed in business case attached). At its core NBAP seeks to halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems. The quagga mussel will outcompete the zebra mussel, establish higher biomass even on soft sediments to a depth far beyond 34m, effect the filtering rates of our lake and river water and threatens the provision of water as it will affect abstraction. These factors will all effect our native biodiversity and change our aquatic ecosystems

4. Sustainable management of spaces training

Findings of a landmark [2019 UN assessment](#) tell us we are living in an era of unprecedented human led biodiversity loss. Just under 40% of Galway surface waters are no longer meeting the required environmental standards set by the Water Framework Directive (EPA,2019). Due to the nature of pesticides in water and the environment, the overuse of these products can lead to the contamination of our drinking water sources and poisoning of our wildlife. These are serious challenges we all face but working with nature and using sustainable practices we can all be part of a solution to turn these figures around.

The aim of this project is to develop a practical training course and accompanying resources to upskill attendees in sustainable practices when looking after their green and blue spaces. The courses will be run in Letterfrack and Ballinasloe.

5. IAS management

In 2020, Galway County Council commissioned a survey to determine the detailed distribution and extent of *Gunnera tinctoria* (Gunnera) in the Clifden area of Co Galway. The survey was also used to record the presence of Japanese knotweed and any other invasive alien plant species that are present on the Third Schedule (Part 1) of current Irish legislation (S.I. 477/2011), and those listed as being of Union concern in the EU IAS Regulations (1143/2014).

The survey data was used to generate distribution maps for *Gunnera* infestations identified within the survey area and to produce a Management Plan and a list of control/management options applicable to *Gunnera*. Based on the findings from the survey conducted in 2020, areas in and adjacent to the town of Clifden that support infestations of *Gunnera*, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed and Himalayan balsam will be treated, as recommended in the report. Some areas with large infestations of *Gunnera* will be targeted for an early season herbicide treatment (late May or early June), reflecting the excellent results that were achieved at a number of *Gunnera* sites elsewhere in Co Galway using this method. Due to the

nature of Gunnera and the difficulty involved in its control, a long-term view must be taken in relation to its management in the Clifden area.

6. Barn Owl project

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 awareness-raising focused on Barn Owls.

In 2021, with the support of NBAP funding, we undertook a countywide survey of Barn Owls which provided new information on the status and trends of Barn Owl populations in County Galway. This was the most comprehensive survey of Barn Owls in the county to date and greatly relied on the input and assistance of the general public, local communities and landowners who reported information on Barn Owls throughout the county. This information was used alongside data from a strategic survey which in combination allowed us to determine the health of Barn Owl populations in Galway and their conservation requirements. The findings were extremely positive and showed an increase in the range of Barn Owls in the county over the last forty years, however Barn Owls remain scarce in the west of the county. One of the recommendations arising from this work was to initiate a targeted nest box scheme in the east of the county to support the increase in Barn Owl numbers.

We now hope to implement the second phase of the project, to continue to foster links with local community groups and landowners to implement practical conservation initiatives, to take advantage of the recent increases and to help secure the future of Barn Owl populations in the county. We will build and install nest boxes in suitable locations in east Galway, in addition to monitoring known nest sites in the county to assess their occupancy, breeding success and to address any conservation requirements at individual sites to ensure these sites remain suitable and protected.

7. North- East Galway Wetland Project

County Galway is known to contain a wide variety of wetlands, which support many flora and fauna species of high conservation concern. Due to the varying topography, geology, hydrology, climate, and soils present, North East Galway has wetland habitats ranging from bogs (raised and upland blanket as well as cutaway bogs), turloughs, lakes, fens, marshes, rivers and associated floodplains, springs and wet woodland habitats.

The North East Galway Wetland Audit 2021 was funded by NBAP .As part of this audit site boundaries were mapped for the 442 main wetlands identified during the audit, which include both those within the NPWS network of designated sites and those wetland areas that fall outside the designated network. These 442 sites cover an area 29,439ha or 17% of the study area. Of the 442 wetland sites identified, 66 sites lie within areas designated for nature conservation while the remaining 376 are outside of designated areas. A significant proportion of these undesignated sites, most of which have not been subject to ecological survey, are likely to support habitats and species of conservation importance.

According to the 2021 audit it is thought that 327 of the wetland areas in North East Galway have not been subject to any detailed wetland survey, suggesting that a targeted wetland survey should be a key priority to gain a better understanding of the wetland resource and to ensure that those sites of highest importance are afforded appropriate protection.

A recommendation of the report is that sites to be prioritised for field survey should include those that have not been surveyed in detail in the past and those that are likely to contain wetland habitats of high conservation importance. Therefore, it is hoped to survey 15 such sites in 2022. It is proposed to survey 5 bog sites, 5 fen sites and 5 turloughs sites of high conservation importance.

8. Bird Survey in Connemara Blanket Bog

It is proposed to undertake a comprehensive survey of breeding birds on blanket bogs in the Connemara Bog Complex SPA to understand the species present, the importance of these sites and to inform their future management. Gathering baseline information in this way will allow future changes in the bird populations on blanket bogs to be tracked over time and will contribute to an understanding of the distribution of several priority species (including Golden Plover, Red Grouse and Merlin). This information will be used to increase awareness and appreciation of the biodiversity value of our blanket bogs to a local and national audience and to enhance engagement among local communities with these sites.

Flora (Protection) Order 2022

Flora (Protection) Orders are made under Section 21 of the Wildlife Act 1976. Section 21 provides that where the Minister considers that a particular species of flora should be protected, he may by order declare the species to be protected either throughout the State or in one or more particular areas of the State.

Reason for making Flora (Protection) Order 2022

The 2022 Order was made following a review of the list of vascular plants in Schedule A of Flora (Protection) Order 2015 carried out by the Scientific Unit of the Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

NPWS recommended that four vascular plants should be no longer be protected species because they are either more common than earlier data indicated or because they are no longer considered to be native species. It also recommended that protection should be given to a further 25 vascular plants, because they have a restricted geographical range, occur in a very few locations and have known populations comprising a small number of individuals. The Minister accepted the recommendations and made the Order.

Vascular plants which are no longer protected species

The following vascular plants are no longer protected species:

Removed	Scientific name	Common name
1	<i>Acinos arvensis</i> (Lam.) Dandy (syn. <i>Clinopodium acinos</i> (L.) Kuntze)	Basil Thyme
2	<i>Logfia minima</i> (Sm.) Dumort. (syn. <i>Filago minima</i> (Sm.) Pers.)	Slender Cudweed
3	<i>Misopates orontium</i> (L.) Rafin.	Lesser Snapdragon
4	<i>Papaver hybridum</i> L. (syn. <i>Roemeria hispida</i> (Lam.) Stace)	Round Prickly-headed Poppy; Rough Poppy

Vascular plants which have become protected species

The following 25 vascular plants were added to the list of protected species of flora:

Added	Scientific name	Common name
1	<i>Alchemilla alpina</i> L.	Alpine Lady's-mantle
2	<i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i> Wallr.	Silky Lady's-mantle
3	<i>Arenaria norvegica</i> Gunnerus	Arctic Sandwort
4	<i>Callitriche palustris</i> L.	Narrow-fruited Water-starwort
5	<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i> L.	Soft Hornwort
6	<i>Equisetum pratense</i> Ehrh.	Shade Horsetail
7	<i>Hieracium argentatum</i> (Pugsley) P.D. Sell	Killarney Hawkweed
8	<i>Hieracium hartii</i> (F. Hanb.) P.D. Sell & C. West	Hart's Hawkweed

9	<i>Hieracium hibernicum</i> F. Hanb.	Irish Hawkweed
10	<i>Hieracium scullyi</i> E.F. Linton	Scully's Hawkweed
11	<i>Hieracium sparsifrons</i> P.D. Sell & C. West	Kerry Hawkweed
12	<i>Juncus compressus</i> Jacq.	Round-fruited Rush
13	<i>Juncus filiformis</i> L.	Thread Rush
14	<i>Matthiola sinuata</i> (L.) W.T. Aiton	Sea Stock
15	<i>Mibora minima</i> (L.) Desv.	Early Sand-grass
16	<i>Orthilia secunda</i> (L.) House	Serrated Wintergreen
17	<i>Parapholis incurva</i> (L.) C.E. Hubb.	Curved Hard-grass
18	<i>Poa alpina</i> L.	Alpine Meadow-grass
19	<i>Pyrola media</i> Sw.	Intermediate Wintergreen
20	<i>Pyrola minor</i> L.	Common Wintergreen
21	<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i> DC.	Three-lobed Crowfoot
22	<i>Salix phylicifolia</i> L.	Tea-leaved Willow
23	<i>Sorbus anglica</i> Hedl.	English Whitebeam
24	<i>Sorbus scannelliana</i> T.C.G. Rich	Scannell's Whitebeam
25	<i>Stenogrammitis myosuroides</i> (Sw.) Labiak	Kerry Mousetail-fern

The significance of Flora (Protection) Order 2022

This Order provides that there are now 157 species of protected flora in Ireland.

These comprise:

- Schedule A: Vascular plants (89 species, subspecies and hybrids)
- Schedule B: Mosses (40 species)
- Schedule C: Liverworts (25 species)
- Schedule D: Lichens (1 species), and
- Schedule E: Stoneworts (2 species).

It is an offence for a person – except under and in accordance with a licence granted by the Minister under section 21(5) – to carry out certain activities, for example to cut, pick, purchase, sell, be in possession of, or wilfully alter, damage, destroy or interfere with the habitat or environment of, any species of flora that are subject to a Flora (Protection) Order.

Sensory and Neurodiversity Services

On the 10th of June Galway Public Libraries were delighted to launch their Sensory and Neurodiversity Services in Westside Library. The launch saw the Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Colette Connolly and the Cathaoirleach of Galway County Cllr. Peter Keaveney formally open the purpose-built sensory room in Westside Library as well as a suite of supports, book resources, programming and initiatives that will be available in locations throughout the city and county.

This is the first phase of sensory services that the libraries have developed, and these programmes will further enhance the inclusive nature of the library service.

All of the 29 libraries including the mobile library service will have resources to support and enhance library visits for those with additional needs. Accessibility for everyone is fundamental to the concept of the public library.



Library Stay & Play sessions for Ukrainian families

“Stay & Play” storytime and activity sessions for Ukrainian families are taking place in various branch libraries throughout the city and county. Branch libraries in Gort, Oranmore, Loughrea and Galway city host “Stay & Play” sessions which are facilitated by staff from Galway Childcare Committee. Members of the Ukrainian community have been welcomed to their local libraries across county Galway, where new collections of Ukrainian language books have been added to library stock. Library brochures have been translated into Ukrainian and ebooks in Ukrainian are available via Borrowbox.

Summer Stars National Reading Adventure 2022

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children which runs from the 13th of June until the end of August. All children throughout county Galway are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads one book/ ebook is regarded as having completed the programme – and it’s all completely free!

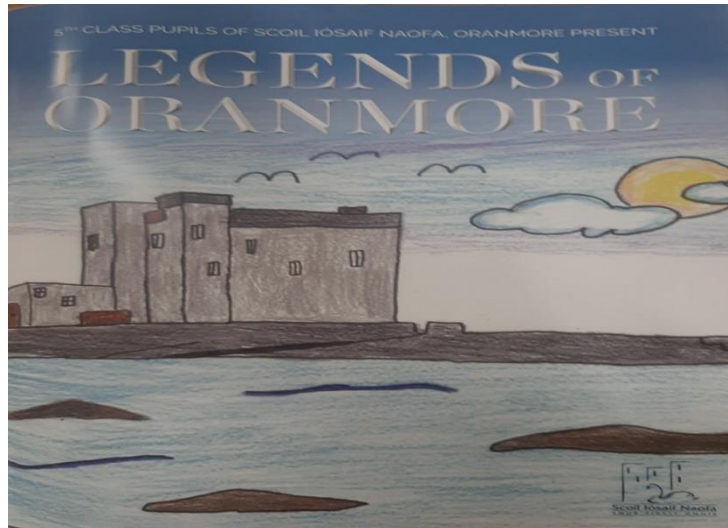
The theme for this year’s Summer Stars programme is “Climate Change: Reduce, Renew & Re-think”. Library staff are creating book displays and exhibitions on renewable energy, recycling, conservation, wildlife, nature and biodiversity.

A selection of Summer Stars reading material is available on Borrowbox. Browse, borrow, read and listen to the Summer Stars collection of children’s e-books and e-audio books through the library’s BorrowBox app. This is free for all members to use from anywhere, anytime. Non-members can join online for free at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library>.



Launch of “Legends of Oranmore” in Oranmore Library

Fifth class pupils of Scoil Íosaif Naofa took part in the Heritage Keepers' project sponsored by Burren Beo. Through a series of workshops, they gained an appreciation for Oranmore's rich heritage and culture. The pupils decided to write and illustrate a local history book featuring some of the well-known historical features of Oranmore. They linked in with local experts who helped with their research and truly learned the skills of working as historians. The research, writing and illustration was all done by the boys of fifth class and the book is the result of their hard work. The book was launched in Oranmore Library on June 14th.



Africa Day at Galway Public Libraries

Galway Public Libraries was successful in securing €6,300 from Irish Aid, Dept. Of Foreign Affairs for Africa Day 2022.

Galway Public Libraries liaised with the African community by engaging with Africa United Galway; AMDAF & GoCom Radio; Shining Light Galway and Megan Flynn-Dixon of Galway County Intercultural Forum in developing a programme of events for Africa Day.

Africa Day took place on Wednesday 28th May. Events in Ballybane Public Library and Loughrea Public Library were very well attended by multiple nationalities.

The focus was on African youth culture in Galway. A letter of invitation was sent out to all secondary schools in Galway City, Oranmore and Loughrea to participate.

“I was unaware of the vibrant African music scene in the area and the no. of African organisations in Galway!” - reaction of Community Garda Kevin, Millstreet Garda Station who attended Africa Day at Ballybane Library.



Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre Launch Night

On Wednesday 15th June, a launch night was held in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre hosted by the Cathaoirleach of Galway, Cllr. Peter Keaveney and Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District, Cllr. Dermot Connolly



Visitors were able to browse around the Centre, view the artefacts on display, watch the Battle of Aughrim video in the display room, view the diorama of the battlefield and see the new educational and learning zone.

Thanks to the following individuals who assisted in developing the centre:

- Dr Hugh Maguire for his advice and recommendations and who provided us with a 'road-map' to give the Centre a sense of identity.
- Michael Collins & his team in the Ballinasloe Area Office, Steven Lally formerly Corporate Services & Marie Mannion Heritage Officer
- Michael Riddell & Abbie McGowan for their support, advice, and assistance throughout the rejuvenation and for their yearlong dedication and commitment to the Aughrim Centre. Many thanks to Michael also for the provision of the soldiers on the battlefield within the interpretive room each year
- Damien Goodfellow for design of the Visitor Centres branding, signage, publications and on the website
- Gerry in KPW Print Ballinasloe and also AT Design Athenry for the printing of the Centre's promotional materials.
- Dr Padraig Lenihan for his assistance in proofing documentation
- Gorry Gallery for permission to use the Mulvanny print in some of our promotional material.

- Lynne Williams, Irish Arms for provision of costumes/artefacts of that era to the Centre.
- Tadhg Flynn for all his work in the interpretative room
- Joyce Little for the donation of costumes and wall tapestry of the battlefield to the Centre.
- Valerie Seale for refreshments provided at our many events and to the local ladies, Helen Mannion, Mary Hynes, and Theresa Loughrey who assist with the catering at our events!
- Gerry Greaney and his team and members of Aughrim Dev Committee for their help/support throughout the season in keeping the grounds around the Centre
- Local historian group - Cath Eachroma 1691 - for their promotion of the Battle of Aughrim and Visitor Centre and their excellent event held during Heritage Week each year.
- Hidden Heartlands/Fáilte Ireland for their promotion of the Visitor Centre and the support and funding received to assist in our website presence
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the highest funding allocation nationally in 2019 to enhance the Education & Learning element within the Centre.
- Gerry Stronge for photography



#YOURCOUNCILDAY

The vital work of Galway County Council employees and the role they are playing in our County's fight to tackle climate change is being highlighted for this year's 'Your Council Day', which takes place on **Friday 1st July**.

Across social media, #YourCouncilDay will showcase the work of our committed and passionate local authority employees who are working to make a difference to the lives of the people in their community.

Local authorities will also provide a 'behind the scenes' look at a typical day in the council to show the public the range of work and the variety of services their council provides to them.

The national Climate Action Plan states that local authorities occupy a pivotal role within communities to demonstrate leadership on climate action at a local and community level.

Galway County Council will be developing a climate action plan for the county, building on our existing Climate Adaptation Strategy and our commitments in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter. This will clearly outline the steps the Council is taking and will take to meet our climate targets and lead climate action in our areas and communities.

Social media users throughout the community are asked to post their experiences of council initiatives using the hashtag #YourCouncilDay / #DoLásaChomhairle.

Follow Galway County Council social media or #YourCouncilDay / #DoLásaChomhairle to find out what's happening in Galway during Your Council Day.

Martin Joyce Summer Lecture Series

Announced at the Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre Launch Night was the Martin Joyce Summer Lecture Series.

This Lecture Series is named after the late Martin Joyce (RIP) whose vision and dedication to highlight the bloodiest battle in Europe led to the development of this Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre.

The first lecture is scheduled for Friday 24th June by Joe Joyce, son of the late Martin Joyce.

Lectures are scheduled for Friday afternoon at 1pm in the Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre with light refreshments being served.

A promotional poster for the Martin Joyce Lecture Series. On the left is a black and white photograph of a man in a hat and suit, identified as Joe Joyce. The right side of the poster has a black background with white and red text. At the top, it says 'The MARTIN JOYCE Lecture Series'. Below that, in a red box, it says '1pm | Friday 24th June 2022' and 'Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre, Aghrim, Ballinasloe, County Galway, H53 KH51'. The title of the lecture is 'Was Henry Luttrell Really a Traitor?' by Joe Joyce. A short paragraph follows: 'This inaugural lecture will be given by Joe Joyce, who is the son of the late Martin Joyce, who grew up on Aghrim. Joe is the author of seven novels and three non-fiction books, including 1691: A Novel, which centres around the battle of Aghrim and the events of that fateful year.' At the bottom, it says 'For further information please email: battleofaghrim@galwaycoco.ie'. The footer contains the Galway County Council logo and the Battle of Aghrim Visitor Centre logo.

Schedule of Speakers Confirmed to date:

Dates	Speaker	Title
24-Jun-22	Joe Joyce	"Was Henry Luttrell Really a Traitor?"
08-Jul-22	Michael Riddell and Abbie McGowan	"The Folklore of the Battle of Aughrim".
15-Jul-22	Daniel Curley	Aughrim Uí Maine in the later medieval period, an illustrated talk
05-Aug-22	George Geraghty	"The Rise and Fall of the House of Stuart"
12-Aug-22	Dr Padraig Lenihan	"A panorama of Aughrim by Jan Wyck or Dirck Maes: A Moment in Time?"

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

ENVIRONMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

There has been a substantial increase in the level of enforcement carried out in 2022. This has come about as additional resources have been assigned to enforcement which has been funded by the Dept.

There has been an increase in the number of prosecutions initiated in 2022. All of this shows that the waste enforcement unit is detecting more illegal activity and taking the appropriate enforcement action to deal with the issues arising.

MULTI-AGENCY ILLEGAL DUMPING CAMPAIGN

On the 9th of June Galway County Council in conjunction with Galway City Council and An Garda Siochana launched a new multi-agency operation to combat illegal dumping, starting with a radio interview on Galway Bay FM.

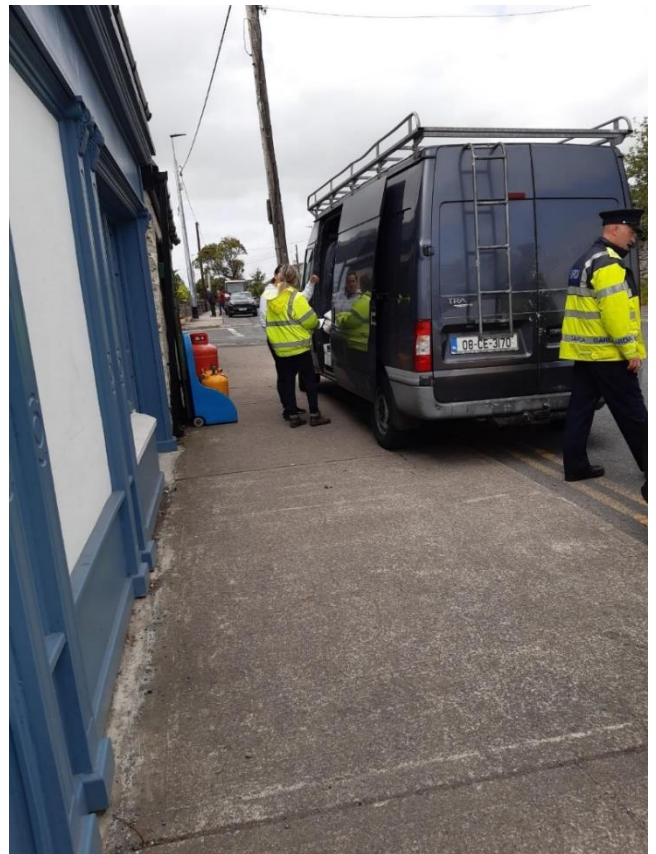


Gardai and waste enforcement officers conducted a number of multi-agency checkpoints on that date targeting the illegal haulage of waste. An

associate social media campaign circulated on the Garda Western Region Facebook page on the day, and on Galway County Councils' social media platforms.

Day 1 of this multi-agency approach was primarily focusing on highlighting the offenses of illegal dumping and providing the public with the necessary advice. Further days of action will be rolled out across the city and county over the next few months and checkpoints will be carried out during the daytime, the evening, late at night, and at weekends.





In addition to this Waste Presentation Bye-Law inspections took place in Gort, and Loughrea.

ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVES

We received funding and approval for 13 projects with a total funding amounting to €110, 000.

Projects range from clean-ups, awareness, bulky goods, and paint collections. Some of these projects have been initiated.

NATIONAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WEEK LAUNCHED 30TH MAY - 6TH JUNE 2022

Galway County Council supported the National Food Waste Recycling Week through the social media platform and website posts. We also had available free waste caddies throughout the week. We will continue to use assets from this campaign in ongoing awareness campaigns.

Recycling Food Waste is a positive climate action. The National Food Waste Recycling Week which runs from the 30th of May until the 6th of June 2022 is a new national campaign from MyWaste and the aim is to encourage people to recycle their food waste.

BLUE FLAG BEACH COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

Galway County Council invited all primary schools in County Galway to participate in a Blue Flag Beach Art Competition. The students had to design and paint a picture. The Theme for this year was *Our Beaches - Our Environment*.

Each winning poster will receive a voucher and their poster will be displayed on the Notice Board at the relevant beach over the summer months and on GCC website www.galway.ie

BLUE FLAG UPDATE

The Blue Flag has become an internationally recognised symbol of high standards in water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety. Galway County Council has been awarded 6 blue flags for this current bathing season. We work in partnership with An Taisce, coastal communities and volunteers throughout the county. An Trá Inis Oírr, the main beach on the Island has been awarded a Blue Flag for the first time this year. Our other beaches include Cill Mhuirbhígh, Inis Mór; Trá an Dóilin, An Ceathrú Rua; An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán; Portumna Bathing Area and Long Point, Loughrea.

GREEN FLAG UPDATE

The Green Coast Award recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty. Green Coast Award sites are exceptional places to visit and enjoy

our rich coastal heritage and diversity. An important aspect of the Green Coast Awards is the involvement of Clean Coasts groups which is made mainly of volunteer who participate in community clean-ups and in co-operation with Galway County Council help sensitively manage their local beaches throughout the year. Galway County Council has been awarded 6 green coasts award for the 2022 season.

An Tra, Inis Oirr has been awarded both a Blue Flag and a Green Coast Award for this season. The other beaches include Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oirr; An Dumhach Inisbofin; East End Bay Inishbofin; Renvyle Beach and Aille Brack, Ballyconneely.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

ENERGY

The 1st meeting of the cross-department Energy Team took place on the 17th May with discussions in relation to our fleet, buildings, and lighting project. Mayo County Council (Lead Partner) has signed an MoU with SEAI and a contract with the recommended tenderer and the Regional Energy Bureau is now in place. Recruitment of Local Energy Bureau Officers has commenced. The Energy Team is scheduled to meet the Energy Bureau Regional Manager this month. It is expected that the Bureau Officers will support the Energy Team to deliver agreed work programs and build expertise internally. Galway County Council will require significant resources internally to deliver these programmes.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Ministerial direction regarding the development of Local Authority Climate Action Plans is expected in Q4 2022, however, background work has commenced on the development of the plan. Staff from several sections attended a regional workshop in May and identified a preferred structure for the implementation of climate actions and the development of the Climate Action Plan.

A presentation was given to the management team setting out climate actions ongoing throughout the organisation and the proposed structure to drive climate action going forward. The Management Team signed off on the proposal at the meeting. The structure will include a Climate Action Steering Group, Energy Team and Climate Action Team in addition to the existing Climate Change and Biodiversity Steering Group.

An internal communications strategy will be developed to provide information and support to people throughout the organisation. As a first step a Climate Action Day is scheduled for later this month and work is ongoing to prepare for this event. The event is being hosted by the Housing Section and the Environment Section with assistance from the Heritage Officer and the Facilities Team. This event will be open to the public and will provide information on

how staff and the public can reduce their energy consumption, reduce household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and support biodiversity.

A presentation was also given to Minister Eamonn Ryan in relation to climate actions ongoing throughout the organisation and the proposed structure to drive climate action going forward.

CLIMATE ACTION AWARENESS DAY

Galway County Council hosted a Climate Action Awareness Day in County Hall on Wednesday 22nd June, 2022. The objective of the event was to increase awareness and encourage discussion about the choices that we can make to deliver on our commitment to Climate Change as an organisation and also as citizens. The following is an outline of the programme for the day:

- learn more about the actions taking place across the organisation and the great work being done by communities,
- take a test drive in an electric vehicle,
- see a working heat pump and get information on grants for upgrading your home,
- learn how to protect biodiversity and reduce your waste and carbon footprint,
- join a *'lunch and learn'* with Unitherm! - book a spot to learn more about upgrading your home and the grants available.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Climate Awareness Day

Working with you on Climate Action!

Join us on Wednesday 22nd June 2022
10:30 to 14:30
Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX

- See a working example of an Air to Water Heat Pump
- Learn about our Housing Retrofit, Lighting, Active Travel and Community Programmes
- Take an Electric Vehicle Test Drive (bring driving licence)
- Discover our Biodiversity and how best to protect it
- Get advice on SEAI Grants and Deep Energy Retrofits (bring heating bills)
- Learn how to reduce your Waste and Carbon Footprint

Firebird HP ALL unitherm KORE seal

Inis Orr Orchard Photo Courtesy Paddy Crowe

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES

There are 28 Sustainable Energy Communities across the county, which are supported by SEAI. Some of the communities are very advanced in the Learn-Plan-Do process and have been implementing their Energy Master Plans (EMPs) for a few years. This includes the Aran Islands Energy Co-op which has been identified as the Decarbonisation Zone for County

Galway. The DOS and Climate Change Coordinator visited Inis Mor and met with representatives from the Aran Islands Energy Co-op in May. Further meetings with Energy Co-ops will be held next month. Information in relation to the SECs will also be provided as part of the Climate Action Day.

Under SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Program, the Environment Department has engaged with five SECs to support them to develop their EMPs. Galway County Council has appointed consultants to deliver EMPs for Headford SEC, Milltown SEC, and Dunmore SEC. The launch of the Milltown and Dunmore Energy Masterplans took place on the 17th of May.

BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY REPORT JUNE 2022

To celebrate National Biodiversity Week 2022, a workshop was held on 'How to Create a Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan' in Comhar Pobail Spiddal, An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, H91XFE8, at 7.00pm, Monday 30th May 2022.

This workshop was open to all and suitable for community groups, Tidy Towns, schools and villages who would like to develop a Biodiversity & Pollinator Plan for their area. On that evening we held a public consultation for the development of the Galway Municipal Districts Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plan. Galway County Council are currently drafting Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans for County Galway Municipal Districts.

THE IRISH HEDGEHOG SURVEY

Elaine O’Riordan, The Irish Hedgehog Survey, NUIG teamed up with Galway County Council and held an event at Wildlands, Moycullen Eircode H91 WYV2 Saturday 28th May 10.30am.

The Irish Hedgehog Survey 2022 is running from May to the end of September. This is a citizen science project to gather information about the Irish hedgehog population. The public are asked to take part in the project in one of three ways: • Recording hedgehogs wherever you see • Surveying your gardens for hedgehogs • By undertaking a larger survey in your local area There are no special skills required to take part and we welcome any interested individuals and groups to volunteer.

THE GALWAY BUZZ!

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2022

WILDLANDS, MOYCULLEN
EIRCODE H91 WYV2
SATURDAY
28th MAY
10.30am

THE IRISH HEDGEHOG SURVEY 2022

The Irish Hedgehog Survey 2022 is running from May to the end of September. This is a citizen science project to gather information about the Irish hedgehog population. The public are asked to take part in the project in one of three ways:

- Recording hedgehogs wherever you see
- Surveying your gardens for hedgehogs
- By undertaking a larger survey in your local area

There are no special skills required to take part and we welcome any interested individuals and groups to volunteer.

If you are interested in taking part in the Garden or Local Area Survey, you are invited to take part in a workshop at Wildlands, Moycullen at 10.30am on Saturday, 28th May. You will be given all the information you need to take part and you can make your own hedgehog footprint tunnel to survey for hedgehogs in the garden at home or school. You can also learn some tips for making your garden more hedgehog friendly. Further information can be found on the website www.Irishhedgehogsurvey.com

Facebook @IrishHedgehogSurvey Instagram @Irish_hedgehog_survey Twitter @Irish_Hedgehogs

An initiative of Galway County Council and part funded by Galway County Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 - 2023 and supported by the Local Authority Waters Programme and the Heritage Council. The survey is supported and co-funded by the Heritage and Biodiversity Officers in the County Councils of Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Kildare, Donaghadee Rathfriland and Dublin City, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Water Wildlife are facilitating the survey in Northern Ireland.

Galway County Council | An tAonán Talamh | Parks and Wildlife Service | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage | An Chomhairle Oidhreachta | The Heritage Council | Water Programme

If you are interested in taking part in the Garden or Local Area Survey, you are invited to take part in a workshop at Wildlands, Moycullen at 10.30am on Saturday, 21st May. You will be given all the information you need to take part and you can make your own hedgehog footprint tunnel to survey for hedgehogs in the garden at home or school. You can also learn some tips for making your garden more hedgehog friendly. Further information can be found on the website www.Irishhedgehogsurvey.com

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Loughrea Fire Station: The tender has been accepted for the design of the station and contracts are expected to be finalised in the coming week to appoint the design team. It is anticipated that the Part 8 application will be lodged xxx

Athenry Fire Station: Following the passing of the Part 8 planning permission for the development of a new fire station for Athenry, the Department have now given approval for the Council to move onto the construction stage. A request for tenders has issued with a closing date of 22nd July, 2022.

Mise, le meas,

Mr. Jim Cullen

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

24th June 2022