



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meitheamh 2023
June 2023

TOURISM

TOURISM OFFICER POST:

The advertisement for the post of Tourism Officer closed earlier this month and it is anticipated the shortlisting and interview elements of the process will progress in the coming weeks

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Festivals & Events - County Galway 2023

APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
13th-16th Clifden Traditional Music Festival 28th-1st Connemara Mountain Walking Festival 28th-30th Wild West Musical Festival 29th-30th Connemara Isles Wellness Retreat	1st-2nd 14th Annual Garden Festival, Claregalway 11-16th Galway Film Fleadh 28th-30th South Galway Bay Music Festival 28th-6th Clonberne Festival 2023 30th-6th Cashel Together 30th Mountbellew Vintage Annual Show 20th-23rd Williamstown Summer Festival	1st-3rd Carna Walking Festival 2nd Clarinbridge Market Day 3rd Taispeántas Chois Fharralge Teo 7th-10th Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds 8th-10th Cleggan Fringe Festival 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 14th-24th Clifden Arts Festival 2023 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 16th-17th Athenry M.A.D Festival 22nd-24th Bia Bófinne Food Festival 22nd Culture Night 2023 26th-1st Three Rings	10th-15th Three Rings 13th-22nd Baboró International Arts Festival for Children 13th-22nd Glenamaddy Theatre Festival 21st-30th Connemara Sea Week 27th-30th Creggs Harvest Festival 27th-29th Kiltcvna Festival 29th Halloween on the Green
MAY	AUGUST	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
5th-7th Féile Joe Éinníú 2023 19th-21st Galway Comhaltas (Galway County Board of Comhaltas) 24th-28th Ballinasloe Tourism Sample Weekend	3rd-8th Ballygar Carnival 4th-13th Dunmore Annual Festival 4th-13th The Woman who built All Saints, Clonbur 11th-13th Clonbur August Summer Festival 12th-14th Cruinniú na mBad 15th-18th Connemara Pony Festival 19th Felle Lunasa An Cheathrú Rua 24th-27th The Dessie O' Halloran Music Weekend 26th-27th Féile Báid Seoil Inis Meáin 26th-27th Féile ná Sléibhte 26th-28th Feile an tSruháin	1st-8th Ballinasloe Horse Fair 3rd-8th Three Rings 3rd Headford Community Arts Festival 3rd-8th Féile Chois Fharralge 6th-8th Éigse Dara Beag 6th-7th Cúirt Cheoil na mBan	12th-24th Galway Science & Technology Festival 25th Howl of the Moon
JUNE			DECEMBER
2nd-4th Headfest 5th Féile An Spideal 18th Kilkerrin Festival			9th Christmas Walk in the Woods Mountbellew

Staff in the Economic, Rural and Community Development unit along with in a number of other units are actively supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County that will provide a great visitor experience and support the social and economic contribution of tourism to the County.

For any event/festival that is not on this calendar, details can be emailed to tourism@galwaycoco.ie

LEO Galway provided the following supports to small businesses and entrepreneurs in May-June:

- 3 projects for grant aid approved to the value of €213,219
- 18 mentoring assignments completed
- 91 business advisory (1-to-1) sessions held
- 5 Trading Online Vouchers approved
- 79 participants on LEO Training courses

Social Media Statistics

- Facebook reach so far this year (to June 14th): 60,576
- Instagram reach: 5355
- Visitors to website: 8020

ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

- The Energy Efficiency Grant was announced on May 26th by Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment at the Building Better Business event in the University of Limerick.
- The new support, available through the Local Enterprise Offices, will aid small businesses on their sustainability journey and will enable those businesses to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient. The grant will be available to companies who through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes have identified the technology and equipment need & benefits.
- The grant will cover up to 50% of the costs to a maximum amount of €5,000. The scheme will reduce the impact of small businesses on the environment and may help them to reduce costs over time to enable them to become more competitive.
- Minister Coveney said; “The Energy Efficiency Grant is another significant step in helping our small businesses to become more sustainable and to make a significant contribution to reducing their energy output. Everyone must make changes as we aim to become a more sustainable country and small businesses are no different. This grant will make it more feasible for small businesses to engage in this process and hopefully set them on a more sustainable path. The Local Enterprise Office’s Green for Micro programme has enabled many small companies to take those first steps and now with the Energy Efficiency Grant they can continue that journey.”

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

- Galway Homeopathics Manufacturing Ltd t/a GH Agri, based in Tuam, were finalists in the Local Enterprise Office’s National Enterprise Awards 2023. GH Agri was established in 1989, and provides safe and effective immunization programmes for the prevention and treatment of a range of on-farm diseases. GH Agri products are manufactured in their own HPRA accredited facility in Tuam. The company is licensed to manufacture, wholesale and retail in Ireland and UK by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine and Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the UK.

- The National Enterprise Awards, run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices, were in their 23rd year. The Finalists compete for a prize fund of €50,000 and along with an overall National Enterprise of the Year winner there are categories for Best Start-Up, Best Export Business, an Innovation Award, a One-to-Watch Award, and a Sustainability Award. There is also an Outstanding Achievement award for a business that started with their Local Enterprise Office and has gone on to achieve international growth with the assistance of Enterprise Ireland.
- The event was held on Jun 1st in the Round Room in the Mansion House, Dublin and attended by LEO Galway's a/Head of Enterprise Valerie Kelly and AnnMarie Costello, along with GCC Chief Executive Liam Conneally and Director of Service Alan Farrell.



PICTURED ABOVE L-R: JOHN MCGEE, CHAIR OF LEO NETWORK, KEVIN MCHUGH & STEPHEN MCHUGH OF GALWAY HOMEOPATHICS MANUFACTURING LTD T/A GH AGRI (GALWAY FINALIST).



PICTURED ABOVE L-R: ALAN FARRELL, JARLATH WILSON, STEPHEN MCHUGH, KEVIN MCHUGH, DELLA MCHUGH, VALERIE KELLY, LIAM CONNEALLY, ANNMARIE COSTELLO.

MOVE THE NEEDLE EVENT IN PORTERSHED

LEO Galway attended the Move the Needle Event in the Portershed, Galway on Tuesday, May 16th. Two of Ireland’s leading female entrepreneurs delivered unrivalled insights into sales leadership and digital marketing innovation at a unique event featuring Lady Chanelle McCoy, one of Ireland’s most successful businesswomen and the multi award-winning young entrepreneur and LEO Galway client, Chloe Gardiner of Wonky Woolins. This free business breakfast and networking event was an opportunity to hear candid stories and top tips from their personal industry experience. Organised by the West of Ireland based Sales Professionals Network and supported by Regional Skills West of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and funded by the National Training Fund.



PICTURED L-R: VALERIE KELLY, A/HEAD OF ENTERPRISE OF LEO GALWAY, LADY CHANELLE MCCOY OF CHANELLE MEDICAL, CHLOE GARDINER OF WONKY WOOLINS AT THE MOVE THE NEEDLE EVENT IN THE PORTERSHED.

START100 – START YOUR OWN BUSINESS MORNING

LEO Galway provided a half day Start Your Own Business workshop as part of the Start100 programme on May 30th in University of Galway. Start100 is the University of Galway's only student incubator programme. The programme is competitive with only 10 student teams selected to participate each year. Individuals or teams work for 6 weeks on an early stage idea business idea and develop their skills and competences. Teams are matched with an expert mentor and take part in weekly workshops and meetings to develop their idea.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES

SHARED ISLAND:

Galway County Council through the Economic, Rural & Community Development Unit is the lead partner and this project is a unique collaboration with a shared commitment of Galway and Leitrim County Councils partnered with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to develop Excellence Centres in Food Innovation and Agritech. Each of the Local Authorities is leading out on one of the three strands with signature events organised around this. ABC Borough Council held one of their key events on June 7th/8th and the pictures below include the participants from the various council areas. Leitrim County Council have events lined up for June 21st/22nd.



Galway County Council will be hosting their headline events in the Autumn with dates to be confirmed. The BIA Innovator Campus are central to the project and the potential for Ag Tech is coordinated with BIA in terms of scoping the potential to build out on the existing/planned services through the facility.

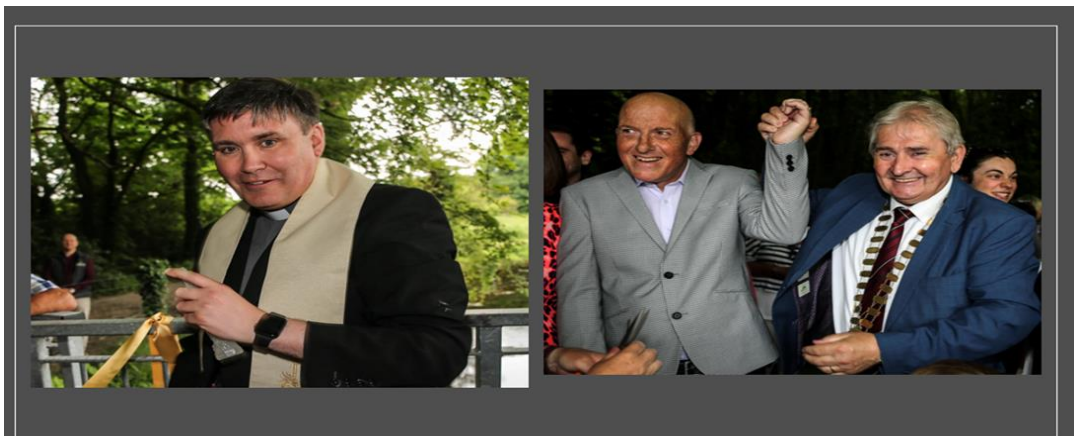
OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SCHEME (ORIS):

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KILCORNAN WALKING TRAILS, BY THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY CLLR. MICHAEL "MOGIE" MAHER TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY 9TH JUNE, 2023.



The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael "Mogie" Maher this week officially opened the Kilcornan Trails, located in Clarinbridge, following development work over the past two years — and in his speech thanked all involved who facilitated the creation of the network of Trails.

The ceremony started at the Footbridge in the Clarinbridge Cowpark, followed by a blessing of the bridge and trail by Fr. Barry Hogan, the trail was then officially opened by Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael (Mogie) Maher and local resident Mr. Michael Sullivan.



ORANMORE/MAREE/CLARINBRIDGE

Walking Trails' new dimension

The Cathainleath of the County of Galway, Mr. Michael Maher, this week officially opened the Kilmoran Trails in Clarinbridge, following development work over the past two years – and in his speech thanked all involved who facilitated the creation of the network of trails.

This is the culmination of an idea that began in 2018, when Galway County Council, the Brothers of Charity and Coillte worked together to progress an application for funding to the Department of Rural & Community Development, in order to maximise the benefits of recreation lands in their ownership. A Grant of €200,000 was secured under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funded under “Our Rural Future” which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland.

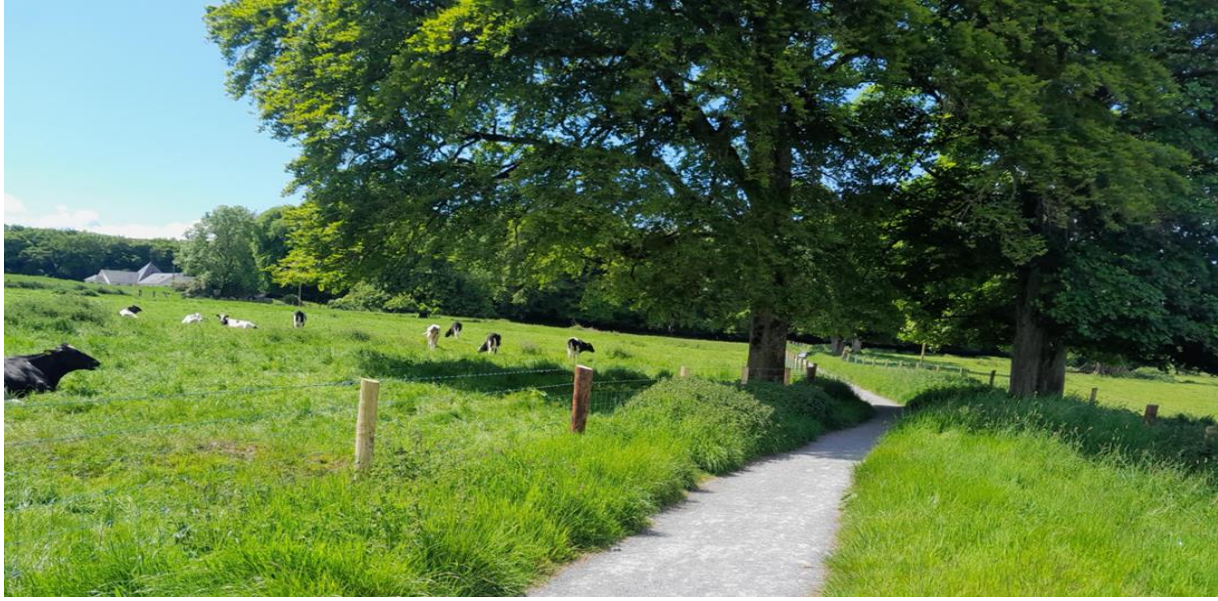
Following the grant of planning permission in 2021, the work commenced. Since then, the trails have become a huge success and provide access to over 6.5km of safe and accessible walking trails.



Michael O'Sullivan cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of Kilmoran Walking Trails last fall. Cllr Michael Mangan Maher, Minister Arno Rabbiner and Cllr Martina Khamis.



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In 2015, Galway County Council acquired the Clarinbridge Cowpark, by means of a proposal and transfer from the Cowpark Trustees and the Department of Agriculture. The Transfer was conditional on all the lands being developed as a public amenity in perpetuity for recreational purposes with the sole purpose of providing walkways/Cycleways through the landscape. The

Kilcornan Trails Project was based on Galway County Council's desire and intention to advance this commitment in accepting the lands.

The Cowpark was traditionally used for overwintering animals by the local farming communities for more than 300 years and is classified as an 'unfarmed grassland'. It remains untainted by mechanical or pesticide intervention and is noted for its unique diversity value.

Since the development of the trails, Galway Sports Partnership have hosted many inclusive events including a Triathlon Event in the grounds of Kilcornan, which included a trike/bike/and walk/run. The event was very successful and there are plans to run a further event in July, 2023. Other activities included events for Bike Week and Positive Ageing week.

A health talk and Activator walking event is also being planned for September, 2023 which is open to older adults and will be hosted in Kilcornan Hall. This will include a talk from FitWalk Ireland followed by a walk around Kilcornan trails, using Activator Walking Poles.

For those wishing to indulge in some exercise and enjoy the wonders of nature along the way, the Kilcornan trails open up 190 ha. of grassland, sheltered forest, farmland, and meadow, providing several options for the walker, including a walled garden and playground in the Historical Kilcornan Estate.



THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES, KILCORNAN AND COILLTE.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Todhchaí Cheantair
Thuaithe na hÉireann
Our Rural Future



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2020

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY:

The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being incorporated into the wider public realm is currently being finalised for the Part VIII package. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. The work is continually being coordinated to ensure alignment the imminent Draft Local Area Plan and Local Transport Plan.

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL:

Aughey O Flaherty Architects are re engaged on the project following Departmental approval to move to procurement. Programmes are being developed and design elements are being agreed between GCC and the Architectural Team.

CLIFDEN:

LUC have considered all submissions made on their conceptual design and follow meetings are now scheduled with GCC Regen Team on June 16th.

Meetings with FI have taken place regarding Destination Towns funding on site with Regen Team and MD Engineering staff. Proposals have been made to FI who are to respond presently.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The Regeneration Team are currently reviewing the Draft Tender Documents for Portumna Courthouse. An updated ecological survey including Bat surveys is scheduled for the coming weeks.

PORTUMNA

RPS Consultants are progressing the Portumna public realm design with feedback on draft issued by Regen Team following the first phase of public consultation. It is anticipated that final draft will be submitted to the Council in the coming weeks and that the next phase of public consultation will take place in June. As part of the consideration of the public realm enhancements potential car parking sites have been identified, with negotiations continuing following the engagement of a valuer by the Council

The acquisition of the opportunity corner site on Abbey Street is nearing closure.

As part of the Portumna Streetscape Scheme two information events were held in Portumna and applications were invited in accordance with the scheme. The extended closing date was Monday 15th May and it is expected that assessments will be completed by the end of May.



STREETSCAPE
INFORMATION
EVENT IN
PORTUMNA

GORT :

A third phase of Public Consultation on the conceptual design for Gort was held in Gort on June 15th, 2023 and was attended by BDP Consultants and staff from the Council. This was very successful with one on one scheduled sessions with many parties and a follow up presentation and open discussion. Formal submissions will continue to be made in the coming days and the issues raised at the sessions and the forum will form an integral part of the follow up analysis by BDP and Regen Team.

In tandem with the public realm, the Gort Town Centre First Plan is being progressed. The consultation process remains open for both elements on <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/gort-town-centre-first-masterplan-public-realm-regeneration-scheme-0#/>

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

A LCDC Meeting was held on 14th June to discuss and agree elements which will feed into the public procurement process for the next iteration of SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) from 2024-2028. As these decisions are subject to an ongoing public procurement process, they are governed by the legal and confidentiality requirements set down in relevant legislation and policy until the full procurement process is initiated.

HEALTHY IRELAND

- Healthy Ireland received final approval for the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund 2023-2025. This funding will go towards breaking down the barriers to recreational amenities and increasing social and leisure opportunities for youth, older adults and people with disabilities.



- Healthy Galway County was delighted to see Tuam Womens Shed receive a Cathaoirleach Award in the Sporting Category in recognition of the emphasis and commitment they have made on increasing Physical Activity opportunities for the members of Tuam Womens Shed. Healthy Galway County supported Tuam Womens Shed with sports equipment and leader training opportunities to help Tuam Womens Shed offer a diverse range of activities in a sustainable way. Pictured above are Helen McDonagh of Tuam Women's Shed with Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael 'Moegie' Maher, and Andrew McBride, Healthy Galway Coordinator.

- As part of Mens Health Week 2023 Healthy Galway County attended Solas Family Resource Centre's Men's Health NCT event in Headford. Healthy Galway County showcased all the programmes and supports available, while also networking with various stakeholders from the area of Health and Wellbeing.



- Healthy Galway County is leading out on the Playground Stencil Loan Scheme for Primary Schools. These stencils are a colourful way to encourage young people to be playful and active and utilising the space in school playgrounds. These stencils are available to schools free of charge.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Judging dates have been organised for the National Pride of Place Competition and will take place on Tuesday 15th August as follows: Gort River Walk from 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and Creggs Rural Development from 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. The Judging will comprise of a presentation and walk-about with the Judges, and a huge element of the assessment criteria is the groups linkages with their local community, staff and Elected Members of the Council, and other agencies. Therefore, all those with linkages to these groups and their work are very welcome on the judging day to feed into the process and highlight this work to the judges.
- The winners of the Cathaoirleach Awards for 2023 were announced by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael ‘Moegie’ Maher at the Mayor’s Charity Ball. These Awards are hugely important in recognising the work and achievements of local community groups and volunteers across a range of areas and all winners received a framed Certificate, hand-crafted Award, and cash prize of €500.



PICTURED L-R FRONT ROW: EABHA NÍ NEACHTAIN AND CAITRIONA NÍ RAIFEARTAIGH (CEOLTOIRÍ OGA COIS FHARRAIGE), PAULINE CONNOLLY (MILLTOWN HERITAGE GROUP), MAIRÉAD SEERY (CURVE ESKER), CATHAOIRLEACH MICHAEL “MOEGIE” MAHER, EMMA LAFFEY (AN BHEAN GHLÚINE), HELEN MCDONAGH (TUAM WOMEN’S SHED) AND KAREN O’NEILL (GORT RIVER WALK); MIDDLE: SEAN BEIRNE (CREGGS RURAL DEVELOPMENT), MAURA HOLOHAN (ABBAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION) AND COMAN KEAVENY (GLENAMADDY THEATRE FESTIVAL); BACK : VINCENT LYONS (CHAIR OF GALWAY COUNTY PPN), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL), DONAL CONNOLLY (ALEEN CUST MEMORIAL SOCIETY) AND IGNATIUS EGAN (EAST CORRIB ALLIANCE)

WINNERS OF CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS 2023:

- Arts and Culture Award: Glenamaddy Theatre Festival
- Best Contribution to Heritage Award: Milltown Heritage Group
- Environment & Climate Action Award: East Corrib Alliance
- Social Inclusion Award: CURVE
- Sports Award: Tuam Women's Shed
- Heritage Publication Award: Emma Laffey
- Gradam na Gaeilge: Ceoltóirí Óga Cois Fharraige
- Tidy Towns Recognition Award: Abbey Community Development Association
- Pride of Place Awards: Gort River Walk Group & Creggs Rural Development
- Cathaoirleach's Recognition Award: Aileen Cust Memorial Society

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- A meeting of the Older People's Council (OPC) Executive Committee took place on Monday 12th June and the Age Friendly Alliance Meeting takes place on 21st June. An interagency working group meeting will also take place in June to further the revision and updating of the Directory of Services for Older People.

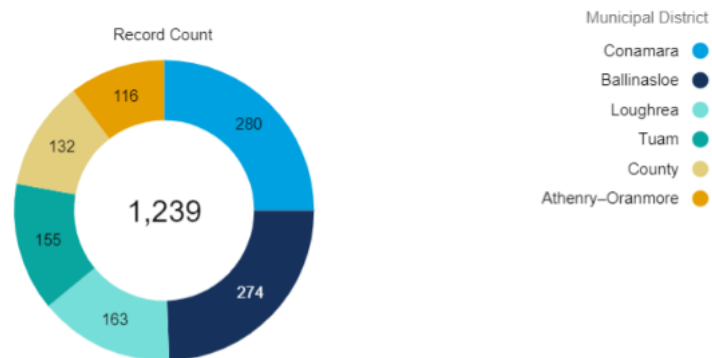


- Staff from the Community Development Department, in addition to the Cathaoirleach Cllr Moegie Maher and Cllr. Liam Carroll attended the official opening of Oranmore Men's Shed on Friday 16th June. There are approximately 450 Sheds across the Country with County Galway having over 25 Sheds, with a number of Sheds recently being established in Monivea, Mountbellew and Inis Oirr. The physical and mental health benefits of Men's Sheds have been well documented in studies, however, they also contribute greatly to local community development and assist many community facilities in progressing initiatives and projects. However, many Sheds have difficulty in sourcing stable and permanent locations for premises, and Oranmore Men's Shed persevered with a decade of fundraising and sponsorship to cover the capital costs of their new Shed, and the fit-out was funded through LEADER and the LCDC's Community Enhancement Programme.

Acting as an Information Hub:

- The PPN sent out 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 11 mass emails to all 1,239 Member Groups.
- Regular updates across the PPN’s social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and updates from various other shareholders shared.
- The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls, website and emails.
- The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

Groups by Municipal District



14-Jun-2023 11:19 - Viewing as Mary Mullen

Building Capacity:

- PPN ran a series of workshops aimed at building the capacity of member groups. These workshops are free and took place online. The workshops covered Strategic Planning, Writing Funding Applications and Social Enterprise Development.
- The PPN liaised with Biodiversity Officer, Rosina Joyce, to discuss holding an information event for the PPN.
- The PPN Annual Report 2023 was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development on the 6th of June.
- PPN workers attended Intercultural Awareness Training 25th of May.

Promoting Representation:

- The PPN welcomed a new Secretariat member, George Francis, representing the Social Inclusion Pillar. An introductory meeting was held on the 11th of May with members of the Secretariat to formally welcomed George to his new representative role. There are currently 11 members sitting on the Secretariat.
- The PPN Secretariat meeting was held on 6th of June at 10am. The Secretariat meet every 6 weeks.
- The Housing SPC took place on 7th of June, PPN Housing SPC Reps attended the meeting and gave a feedback report to the PPN.
- Nominations were sought for a PPN Representative from Craughwell to sit on the Public Art Selection Panel. This Public Art Commission is being led by Rina Whyte, Public Art Co-ordinator on behalf of Galway County Arts Office. A total of 3 nominations were received. An election will take place to select a representative.



PICTURED AT THE CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS CEREMONY, PPN WORKERS DUANA TUIE (SUPPORT WORKER) AND MARY MULLEN (ACTING RESOURCE WORKER).

ARTS OFFICE

Culture Up – International Residency Exchange.

Galway County Arts Office in collaboration with Áras Éanna was successful in being awarded Internationally Residency Exchange with 4 European partners to the value of €50,000.

Artists in Schools Scheme: 5 schools were awarded Artists in Schools for 2023, the successful schools were: Scoil Naisiunta Na Bhforbacha, St. Brendan's National School Portumna, St. Patrick's National School Ballinasloe, Claregalway Educate Together National School and Scoil Naisiunta Inis Meain. The Artist taking part in the scheme this year include: Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, Jacqueline Glynn, Madeleine Shinnick, Alan Meaney and Paul Murphy with a focus on traditional arts, visual arts and film this year.

Visual Artists Networking Galway

An Artist's Guide to Tax Webinar took place on Tuesday 14th June 2023 at 2pm. Followed by 1-2-1 Clinics with Gaby Smyth from 3pm-5.20pm. Free for all Galway based visual artists.

<http://tinyurl.com/artisttax>

Supported by [Galway County Arts Office](#), [Galway City Council](#) and [Galway Culture Company](#)

The event is part of a series of professional development events for Galway County and City visual artists presented by Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway City Council Arts Office, and Galway Culture Company in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland



VAI Lifelong Learning

WEBINAR
An Artist's Guide to Tax

THE ARTS OFFICER
OPENED THE OCAP
EXHIBITION ON THE
16TH JUNE 2023.

DOUGHTERARD COURTHOUSE ARTS PROGRAMME
presents

FULL CIRCLE
uachtarARTS Group Show
16th - 25th June 2023

Featuring:

Anne-Mette Kelter	Kathleen Furey
Barbara Dunne	Kathleen Hinde
Caroline McFadden	Maria Hutton
Colette NicAodha	Mary Byrne
Deirdre McAvinchey	Maureen Mooney
Deirdre Stephens	Mimi Szali
Diana Van de Kamp	Olga Magliocco
Geraldine Folan	Patricia McQuinn
Gil Cusack	Philippa Maguire
Grainne MacManus	Rebecca Philbin
Helen Caird	Renske Boef
Isabelle Caborit	Shona Butler
Jess Walsh	Susanne Keane

Opening
Friday 16th
June
7-9pm

Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun 12 - 5pm

Email: uachtararts@gmail.com
www.uachtararts.ie

image: Patricia McQuinn



PUBLIC ART -

A meeting of the Public Art Management Group took place on 8th June.



POETRY AT THE RIVER WALK,
GORT FOR POETRY DAY.

CRUINIÚ NA NÓG GALWAY COUNTY 2023, SATURDAY JUNE 10TH 2023 - SUMMARY REPORT



2023 was the largest programme of events for Cruinniú na nÓg in Galway with 31 events which took place in 20 different locations around the county including the Aran Islands.

There were a number of strands in this year's programme:

OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

This was the largest strand with 26 submissions received and 22 receiving funding. The activities in this strand included photography, acting and improv workshops, stilt-walking, music, nature walks, pop-up street performance, creative writing and a wide range of visual art including print-making, clay and ceramics and lantern-making.

Of the projects in this strand, four were in Irish and based in different parts of the Gaeltacht.

LIBRARIES:

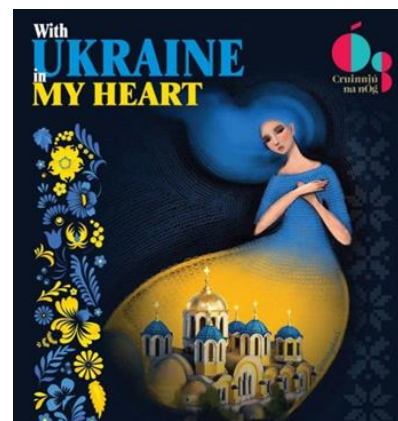
Various branches of Galway Library Service were funded to run an array of events. Events, which included junk robot-making, chalk art, mosaic-making workshops, coding, and cartoon-making, took place in Oranmore, Loughrea, Carraroe, and Ballinasloe libraries with Tuam Library hosted a print-making workshop on the day as well as an art exhibition. All libraries received Cruinniú na nÓg bunting to promote the day in the weeks leading up to June 10th.

The libraries also facilitated the distribution of spinning plates for Circus Explored which is an all-island project rolled out by the ISACS Network. Children could avail of free spinning plates and learn how to spin them through online tutorials.



CREATIVE PROVISION FOR THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY:

A priority for Cruinniú na nÓg in Galway County this year was to ensure that children and young people from the Ukrainian Community could participate in Cruinniú nan Óg. Events were programmed in 8 refugee accommodations in Carna, Carraroe, Maam Cross, Spiddal, Esker, Kiltormer, Loughrea and Dunmore. Workshops were provided by artists Jennifer Cunningham,



Drumadore, circus skills facilitator Maria Auletta, Go Fly Your Kite and Music Generation Galway County.

Galway County had the largest number of events in refugee accommodations nationally and these events were highlighted on the Cruinniú nan Óg national website: <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/ukraine/>

STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

In 2023, we engaged with Cork-based GMC Beats and the Kabin Studios on their national project, *Rhyme Island*. *Rhyme Island* is a youth rap initiative that gives young people the skills to tell their own stories through the media of rap, song-writing, and video. The Rhyme Island workshop was paired with Foróige - Gort Youth Service which led to the creation of a song and video written and recorded in one day. The track entitled "This System" is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vx3YbZAM8w> and got its first airplay on Galway Bay FM a few days before Cruinniú na nÓg.



RTÉ's This Is Art! National art competition received a significant number of entries from Galway County this year. We obtained design assets to "frame" the artwork from Galway County. The artwork was displayed digitally on Facebook, Instagram and on a YouTube video on the Creative Ireland Galway YouTube channel.

PUBLICITY:



The programme for Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 was launched by Minister Anne Rabbitte in Tuam featuring some of the participating projects. Connemara Community Radio and Galway Bay FM featured the events in the run up to June 10th and regional newspapers gave substantial coverage to events particularly in Tuam where there were a number of Cruinniú events. Local newspapers also featured ads promoting June 10th and included highlights of the programme.

In the run up to June 10th, an “At a Glance” programme became a pinned post on social media platforms as well as being featured on the national Cruinniú na nÓg website. This graphic specifically featured public workshops (as opposed to workshops that were for targeted cohorts such as refugee communities or targeted youth groups like Treo Nua) to make it easy for patrons to find an available event in their locality.




Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Galway County

A FREE day of creativity for children and young people on Saturday 10th June 2023



PERFORMANCE
Stilting Workshops and Performance
Gloria Community Arts Group will run still-walking workshops for teenagers culminating in a mini street spectacle in Loughrea, 7pm-8pm. All ages. **O**

Sparkcatchers!
The Shape Shifting Slua Sparkcatchers! Creative Youth Committee in Tuam, have created large scale creatures for outdoor pop-up performances! Starts 1:30pm, The Square, Tuam heading to The Little Mill and ending at Tuam Shopping Centre **O**

EXHIBITION
Visual Art at Tuam Library
Tuam Library will exhibit art by the participants of creative workshops with artist Jennifer Cunningham funded by the Local Creative Youth Partnership (GRETB) in partnership with Youth Work Ireland Tuam. A selection of work in a variety of media will be displayed. **O**

LIBRARIES

Mosaic Magic
Children will create mosaic art piece from the initial design process to learning technical skills during 2 workshops. The mosaics will be exhibited in Ballinastoe Library. Workshops: Age 9+ Sat. 20th May & Sat. 27 May, 2.30pm-3.30pm **B**

Exhibition: All ages, 10am - 5pm, Ballinastoe Library **O**

Lego Coding with Corrib Kids Coding
Create Lego robots that light up, move and sense and learn coding to control them. Ages 8-12yrs, 10am-11.15am & 11.30am - 12.45pm, Carraroe Library **B**

Junk Robot Building and Chalk Art
Build your own 'Junk Robot' from recycled materials and try 'Chalk Art' in our designated outdoor area. All ages, 11am - 4.30pm, Loughrea Library **B**

Cartoon Workshop with Aidan Courtney
Illustrator Aidan from Coimici Gael will be teaching children how to create mini-comic strips with crazy cartoons, lots of fun and cúpla focal tool 10.30am-12pm, Oranmore Library **B** **G**

Printmaking with Jennifer Cunningham
Pre-formed rubber stamps and natural materials like leaves, paper stencils and feathers will be used to create images, 6-9yrs, 10am-11am. Monoprint to create a unique once-off print will be explored, 11.30am-1pm, 10-13yrs, Tuam Library **B**

WORKSHOPS

Creative Writing with music and art with Patricia Callaghan-King & Graham Keane
Create your own story through theory, art and music. Patricia will share her stories and Graham will demonstrate illustration work and compose music to each story. Ages 9+, 2pm - 4pm, The Miller's House, Tuam **B**

Group Drumming with Drumadore
This fun and energetic workshop offers young people a chance to express their musical creativity! 1.30pm -3pm, Oughterard Community Centre **O**

Lego Coding with Corrib Kids Coding
Create Lego robots that light up, move and sense and learn coding to control them. Ages 8-12yrs, 11am - 12.15pm & 12.30pm - 1.45pm, Scoil Mhuire, Moycullen **B**

Siúlóid Teaghlaigh & Picnic le Gaeilge Mhaigh Cuilinn
Siúlóid i gCoillte Cill Ráine chun áilleacht na gCoillte a ceiliúradh. Beidh piosa cainte faoi chúrsaí athrú aeráide agus scéalta. Rachaidh gach duine go Teach na Gaeilge ina mbeidh gearscanáin a rinne an Club Óige faoi chúrsaí athrú aeráide. Ansin beidh picnic, scéalta, ceoil, ealaín agus spraoil. Gach aois, 12i.n.-5i.n. Coillte Cill Ráine, Maigh Cuilinn **O** **G**

Patterns of Invisible Life with Madeleine Shinnick
Using mandalas and card lanterns, patterns and colours of the plant kingdom will be explored. Children will create art assembled into a large Mandala and illuminate lanterns. Ages 9-12, 10am-4pm, Mountbellew Community Hall **O**

Slógadh na nÓg le Muintearas
Is imeacht sóisialta é seo do dhéagóirí, ina mbeidh sraith cheardlanna dírithe ar chruthaitheacht na ndaoine óga. Tar éis na gearclanna, beidh BBQ agus ceolchoirm amuigh faoin aer. 12i.n.-4i.n., gach aois, Páirc Peile Rosmuc **O** **G**

Acting & Improv with Nova Productions
This workshop for teenagers will be a blend of drama and improv - work on scenes from TV shows, learn acting skills and play improv games! Age 13+, 10am-4pm, Cregmore National School **B**

Finding Music Everywhere by FUSE Jnr.
Interactive music and art workshop exploring hearing music in the everyday. Kids will learn a song, playing it on instruments made from everyday objects. Age 7-11, 1-3pm, Mall Theatre, Tuam **B**

Further info/booking: <https://cruinniunativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/galway/>

POST-EVENT PUBLICITY:

Three Galway County Cruinniú na nÓg projects were featured in RTÉ's Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 Highlights Reel at the end of the day on Saturday which is fantastic achievement for those featured: <https://www.rte.ie/video/id/6528/>

Photographer Aengus McMahon photographed a number of events around the county on June 10th and sent a selection to the papers on Monday 12th of June for further coverage on the events.



ENGAGEMENT

The final report forms are still being submitted but it is expected that around 700 children and young people engaged directly with the various workshops on offer and that audience figures for street performances and exhibitions would add a few hundred to that number.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT GRANT:

Club Development Grant Club development grant opened after the GSP Steering Group in March with the closing date of 7 th May. A workshop was held on Monday 10th April with 51 attendees. Those present were brought through the terms and conditions of the funding along with a run through the grant form itself. We received 113 applications in all for the grant and at the May Steering Committee meeting 45 applications were approved for funding after an assessment of the applications carried out by a working group of the committee. The meeting noted that working group will revisit some of the unsuccessful application as there is a small pot of funding to be allocated.

GET GALWAY ACTIVE:

Following on from the Get Galway Active programme in January, running alongside the Operation Transformation show two groups developed into an ongoing programme of activity. Kylemore and Westside has groups from two disadvantaged areas involved in activity weekly because of the programme. "I enjoyed exploring different places you can walk in the area with the encouragement of our leader" Moylough Movers is a movement and yoga class aimed at getting older adults in that community active and socially engaged after the Covid-19 restrictions. We have 25 participants taking part in the 8 weeks of movement/yoga in an indoor setting. "This class is a great way for us to meet up again, post covid –we have not seen some people in 3 years due to restrictions and lockdowns with some people have not returned to mass." "Dalva (tutor) is brilliant – she is getting to know us as well as knowing our ability and constantly encouraging us"

OTHER INITIATIVES:

Work continues to progress in the following areas;

- Activator programmes
- Good2Go
- Sports Inclusion Disability including Horses Connect where another programme is taking place this month
- Boccia
- Sports Hubs

HOUSING

SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

The Housing SPC and subsequently the Plenary Council approved the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Homes in May 2023 – subject to the Minister’s approval.

It has been confirm that Minister O’Brien approved the Galway County Council Scheme of Priority for Affordable Homes on the 2nd June 2023 and advised that it be brought to the members attention. I wish to advise that the scheme has been approved without any changes by the Minister and therefore does not need to be brought back to the members. The Housing section will now progress the Affordable Schemes that are being developed and are confirmed in this report. Advertisements and application forms will follow along with the appointment of the Affordable Homes Project Manager.

RETROFIT PROGRAMME

The ongoing retrofit programme of Council properties has delivered significant upgrades across the County with delivery in Ardrahan, Clifden and Roundstone in the last month:

RETROFITTING WORKS AT CAISLEAN RATHIN, ARDRAHAN



RETROFITTING WORKS AT CHURCHILL, CLIFDEN



RETROFITTING WORKS AT FAIRGREEN, ROUNDSTONE



PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Part 8 social housing planning permissions will be sought for the below developments at the Loughrea Municipal District and the Ballinasloe Municipal District this summer:

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

Galway County Council proposes to carry out a 10no. unit housing development comprising of; 3no. single storey two-bed dwellings, 1no. two-storey three-bed dwelling, 6no. two-storey two-bed dwellings, car parking, connections to existing services and all ancillary site development works, at Caisleán Raithin, Ardrahan



BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

DUNLO HILL

Galway County Council proposes to renovate & extend the existing terraced buildings at Dunlo Hill, including “Dooley’s Pub” (protected structure RPS ref 2730) to create a residential housing development comprising of; 10 no. duplex one bed apartments, 1 no. single-storey one-bed apartment, 2 no. duplex two-bed apartments (13 no apartments in total), as well as the conversion of “Dooley’s Pub” from a public house to a community use. The proposal includes for partial demolitions (outbuildings & sheds to the rear courtyard areas) & alterations. A new single storey extension is proposed to the rear of Dooley’s townhouse at ground level, a new store, part of unit 10 & an escape route for the community centre. This extension forms an external access roof terrace enabling part M compliant stepped access to the entrances of the upper level duplex apartments (units 11 to 13). New construction forming 2 no. one-bed duplexes (units 08 & 09) in lieu of the existing sheds along the northern boundary. Site renewable energy design measures are planned for all units. The existing rear courtyard area to be adapted creating a new pedestrian route through the development. Provision of common services such bike parking, bin storage are proposed. The development includes for connections to existing services (including existing mains drainage), temporary construction signage, new estate signage, the delineation of on-street carparking, provision of street trees, set down area & all associated ancillary site development works.



NORTH WEST STREET VIEW FROM DUALO HILL & DUALO STREET



VIEW OF COURTYARD FROM PODIUM



APR 2014 - 10:00 AM - 01/14/14



EAST STREET VIEW FROM HILL & ASD

ST JOSEPH'S

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given that Galway County Council proposes to construct a new 8 no. unit terraced housing development comprising of; 2 no. single storey two-bed dwellings, 6 no. two-storey two-bed dwellings, renewable energy design measures for each housing unit, car parking, connections to existing services (including existing mains drainage), temporary construction signage, new estate signage, and all associated ancillary site development works.



Typical Mid-Terrace Entrance - Perspective View



Shared Footpath - Perspective View

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ongoing works in 2023 are on time and due for delivery:

Housing for All = Capital Delivery:

Year Development	2022				2023				2024			
	Target	Deliv.	Proj.	+ / -	Target	Deliv.	Proj.	+ / -	Target	Deliv.	Proj.	+ / -
Build	230	224	0	-6	351	0	209	-142	358	0	50	-308
Leasing	13	0	8	-5	7	0	0	-7	7	0	0	-7
Total	243	224	8	-11	358	0	209	-149	365	0	50	-315

SHIP delivered Q1/Q2 2023:

Kinvara – 10 units

Fana Bhui Tuam – 48 units

Clifden – 26 units

SHIP to be delivered in Q3/Q4:

Ahascragh – 18 units Rurals – 6 units

Weir Rd Tuam- 29 units

Turnkeys delivered

Athenry – 27 units Weir rd – 5 units

Turnkeys to be delivered:

Ballinasloe – 78 Units (LA & AHB)

Athenry – 31

Glenamaddy – 22 units

Williamstown – 7 units

AHB Delivered 2023:

Cluid – 25 in Headford

CHI – 7 units in Ballinasloe

Planning Permissions ongoing:

Ardrahan

Dunlo Street

St Josephs

Cossmona

Sun St, Birmingham Rd

Claregalway

AFFORDABLE UNITS DELIVERY:

Galway County Council has Departmental approval 2023 for the delivery of:

- 62 Units Claregalway
- 24 units Mountbellew
- 7 units Williamstown

These units are being delivered using a 'turnkey' model with developers.

Detailed design stage is being progressed for further units at:

- Claregalway
- Tuam
- Athenry
- Oranmore
- Loughrea

These units are being delivered through Galway County Council owned sites, they will be brought through design, planning and build by Council Housing Staff.

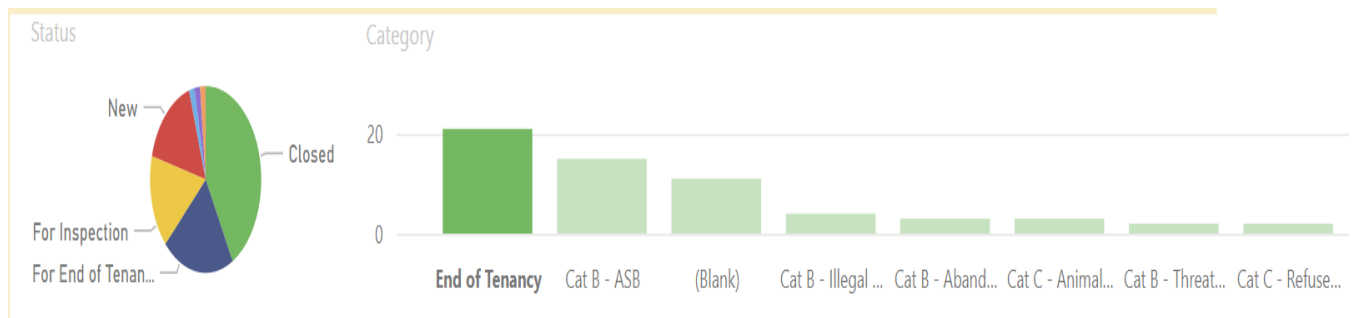
TENANT IN SITU:

The situation regarding 'Tenant in Situ' has stabilized, although there are a significant number of queries there hasn't been a major jump in Notice to Quits and we have been in a position to offer people tenancies or to move to tenant in situ purchases:

- 77 Notice to Quits
- 53 HAP
- 18 Private Rented
- 6 Other
- Expressions of Interest from Landlords: 59 on i-House
- 17 private/not on ihouse
- DOS Instruction to Purchase: 22
- Transboundary purchase:2
-

TENANCY ENFORCEMENT

A new portal for tracking Tenancy enforcement complaints has been upgraded.



This assigned cases to the Tenancy Enforcement Officer and the Housing Liasion Officers, as well as categorising them, the system tracks them through various stages of investigations and warnings:

62 Cases of TEMS have been opened this year.

26 have been closed

13 were end of tenancy procedures, 4 for illegal occupancy

15 were for Anti-Social Behaviour complaints, 3 for animal control.

VACANT HOMES REFURBISHMENT GRANT

The first workshop was held in the last few weeks with the public in Carna at the invitation of Forbartha Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo. The workshop included inputs from Galway County Council, SEAI, Udaras and local community.



UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

4770 Ukrainians are now living in Galway City and County.

63 houses have been offered via Offer a Home.

- 25 have been allocated
- 12 have been withdrawn from the programme
- 5 are no longer available
- 2 were assessed as not suitable
- 12 are being progressed by our implementing partner IOM
- 7 are currently being inspected

The Ukraine Community Response continues to meet with GRD/TUSLA/GARDAI/PPN – Ukrainians/HSE/GRETB all attending

Government/ LA renovation projects have been progressing in:

Loughrea, Tuam & Ballinasloe with proposals being developed in conjunction with the owners of properties.

The OPW continue to assess sites for Modular homes with Athenry under consideration.

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

N63 LISS TO ABBEY SCHEME – PLANNING CONSENT FROM AN BORD PLEANÁLA

The Council is pleased to confirm that it received notification on Friday 26th May from An Bord Pleanála confirming consent for the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme.

The Proposed Road Development will consist of a 2.3 km road realignment which will extend from the eastern edge of Abbeyknockmoy, across the Abbert River, to the townland of Derreen and on towards the junction of the N63 with the L6234.

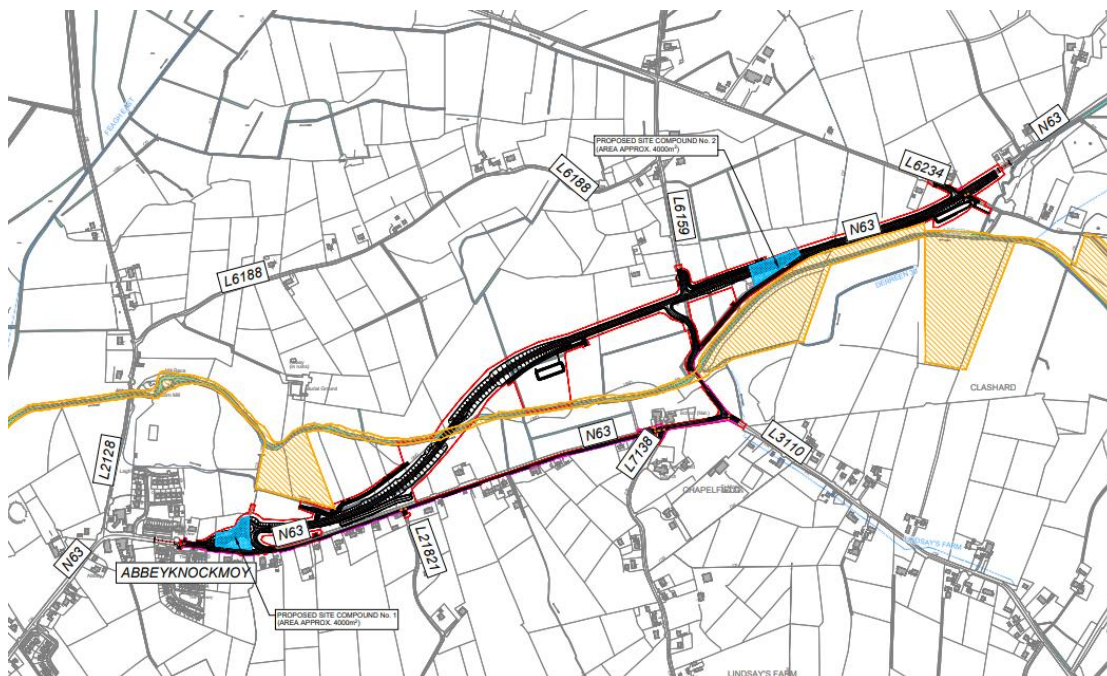
It will cross the Abbert River, which is part of the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and within close proximity to Knockmoy Abbey, a National Monument.

The existing Liss Bridge is narrow and significantly restricts traffic flows (see photo below), with two Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's) travelling in opposite directions unable to safely pass on the Liss Bridge.



Given the rural nature of the scheme, agricultural vehicles conflict with local road traffic on the Liss Bridge on a regular basis, which in turn generates localised traffic issues.

Beginning at Abbeyknockmoy village (see scheme layout below), the Proposed Road Development will deviate offline to the north of the existing N63 and be connected to the existing road network through a three-armed roundabout. From there, it will continue in a north-easterly direction through agricultural land before crossing the Abbert River at a skewed angle of approximately thirty-five degrees. The proposed alignment will then sweep east and continue through more agricultural land, running parallel to the existing N63. The alignment then crosses the L6159 and continues east through an area of existing woodland until it ties in with the existing N63 at its junction with the L6234. The existing L6159 will be realigned to create a north/south staggered junction with the proposed alignment, and the L6234 will be realigned to tie in with the proposed alignment.



The Proposed Road Development will comprise the following major elements:

- Approximately 2.3 km of new Type 2 Single Carriageway road (predominantly offline);
- One new roundabout at the western end of the Proposed Road Development to provide connection with the existing N63;

- Two new priority junctions to provide connection to the existing L6159 and L6234, including some minor local road realignments;
- One new clear span steel girder bridge crossing of the Abbert River;
- Seven new piped culverts and two new box culverts over existing field ditches;
- Three new flood alleviation culverts (box culverts);
- New pedestrian and cycle facilities, predominantly located along the existing N63;
- Associated earthworks including excavation of unacceptable material (2000 m³), excavation and processing of rock and other material, and recovery of unacceptable material for re-use in the works;
- Accommodation works, including the provision of access roads and accesses;
- Drainage works, including the construction of attenuation ponds in accordance with sustainable drainage design principles and guidance ;
- Treatment of surface water run-off prior to outfall discharge, spill containment measures and attenuation treatment facilities;
- Utilities and services diversion works including medium voltage (10 kV/20 kV) overhead lines and EIR overhead lines;
- Safety barriers, public lighting, fencing;
- Viewing area for Knockmoy Abbey with parking;
- Landscaping planting works signage, lighting and other works ancillary to the construction and operation of the Proposed Road Development;
- Construction of farm access tracks with accommodation works ancillary to the Proposed Road Development; and
- Environmental measures and other ancillary works.

The existing arrangement is also deemed to be suppressing an active travel modal shift at a local level. At a local level there is a demonstrated need for an active travel improvement linking the two sections of the community in Abbeyknockmoy which will again further improve safety for all road users.

In particular access to community facilities such as the local primary school and GAA Club via provision of a high-quality pedestrian and cycling link was identified as a key need during the early scheme preparation.

The need for the Proposed Road Development and associated active travel improvements was reiterated at both Public Consultations for the scheme held in the local school, undertaken during the options development phase, where the local community showed great support for the scheme and were very enthusiastic for the scheme to progress.

Safety is also compromised by the number of at -grade junctions and private accesses. There are nineteen direct accesses onto the N63 within the study area. The overriding principle in the final design was that direct access onto national road should be avoided. Several of these accesses do not have the required sight distance and are thus a safety risk.

The Proposed Road Development will not only improve journeys across the Abbert River, with improved horizontal and vertical alignments, but the improved cross-sections, realignment and upgraded junctions will improve safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

Abbeyknockmoy is split into two distinct sections with the residential area being to the west and community facilities such as; the school, church, GAA Club and Community Centre being to the east and connected via the existing N63. The existing N63 does not have any dedicated NMU (non-Motorised User) facilities between these two sections so there is limited opportunity for safe travel for NMUs between the two sections of Abbeyknockmoy.

During both Public Consultations it was emphasised by a number of participants the desire for dedicated NMU routes along the existing N63 to encourage active travel between the two sections and give children a safe opportunity to walk/cycle to school or the GAA Club.

It's hoped to be in a position to award a construction contract in Q2/Q3 of 2024 with an estimated 18month construction period.

JUNIOR SCHOOL WARDENS SCHEME COMPETITION

There was much excitement on Tuesday, 13th June last, as the Junior School Warden Scheme Competition for 2023 was held at Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Moylough.

Three schools took part in the Competition: Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Moylough; Ballygar National School and St. Mary's National School, Mountbellew.

The Junior School Warden Scheme has been operating in Ireland since 1969 and it facilitates safe road crossing of school children. Its' continued success is due to the dedication, hard work and co-operation of all involved in its' implementation, including Garda trainers, school Principals and teachers, Galway Co. Council and most importantly, the pupils themselves that act as Wardens. The Competition was organised by the Council's Road Safety Officer, Deirdre Caulfield, and adjudicated by Eamon Doyle, retired RSA and Barry Rogers, retired An Garda Síochána. The winning Team on the day was from Mountbellew National School and prizes were presented by the Mayor of County Galway, Councillor Michael 'Moegie' Maher, followed by lunch in the nearby Malt House Restaurant. A great day was had by all involved!



MAYOR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER, PRINCIPAL MICHAEL KELLY, GARDA TRAINER COLIN BRODERICK, DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, JUDGES EAMON DOYLE AND BARRY ROGERS, COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND THE WINNING WARDENS FROM MOUNTBELLEW NATIONAL SCHOOL



MAYOR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER, PRINCIPAL AIDAN DOHERTY, TEACHER MARTINA MILAND, GARDA TRAINER KAREN FITZGERALD, GARDA COLIN BRODERICK, DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, JUDGES EAMON DOYLE AND BARRY ROGERS, COUNCILLORS MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND EVELYN PARSONS AND WARDENS FROM MOYLOUGH NATIONAL SCHOOL



MAYOR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER, TEACHER IMELDA, GARDA TRAINER PAT REGAN, DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, JUDGES EAMON DOYLE AND BARRY

ROGERS, COUNCILLORS MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND EVELYN PARSONS AND WARDENS FROM MOYLOUGH NATIONAL SCHOOL



COUNCILLORS EVELYN PARSONS AND MICHAEL CONNOLLY, MAYOR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER, JUDGES BARRY ROGERS AND EAMON DOYLE, AND GERALDINE BYRNE, GALWAY CO. COUNCIL



COMPETITION IN PROGRESS

BALAMI FUNDED PIER & HARBOUR PROJECTS

Funding to the value of €1,225,975 has been received across 2022 and 2023 for works on Piers and Harbours in the Galway County Council functional area from the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI). Matched funding 5% of the works value is provided from Galway County Council's own budget to bring the total provision to €1,290,500.

The majority of this spend is in the Conamara Municipal District, comprising works at 16 locations with a combined allocation of €1,125,500. Most of the works have been completed and the remainder are on target for completion ahead of the funding drawdown deadline of November 2023.

The largest of the projects include the construction of a storm wall at Bealcarra Pier and the installation of pontoons at Kilronan, Inis Mór. The pontoon installation contract has been awarded and the pontoons are scheduled to be in place by the end of September 2023.

The pictures below show the before and after conditions at a number of the relevant landing places.

BEALCARRA PIER IMPROVEMENT WORKS – STORM WALL & BASE



ROUNDSTONE PIER IMPROVEMENT WORKS – NEW LADDERS & GUARDRAILS REPLACEMENT



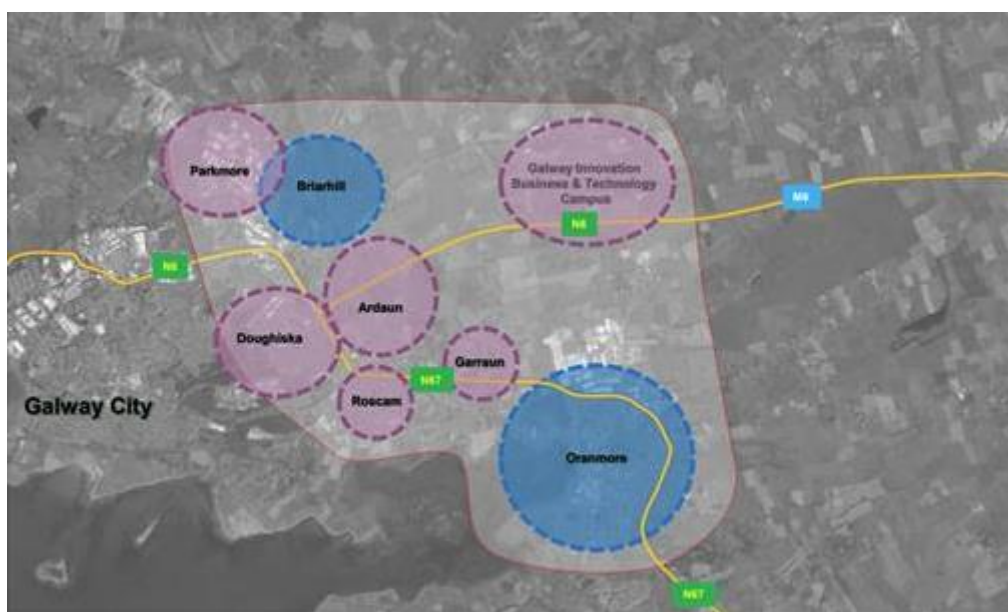
GALWAY EAST METROPOLITAN AREA LTP UPDATE

The Council requested permission from the National Transport Authority to proceed with a Local Transport Plan for Oranmore. Having considered the matter in detail and having met with us and the City Council in relation to same, it was decided to take this forward as part of a more strategic plan for the wider area. Oranmore sits at a strategic location, close to the city and close to other areas that will

see significant changes and development per the Urban Framework Plans, County Development Plan etc.

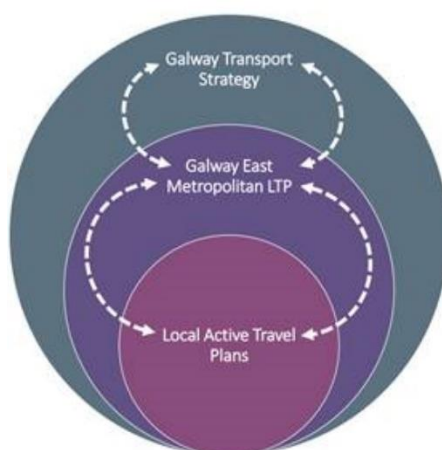
Connectivity within Oranmore is critical – and this is a key priority for the County Council & our Active Travel team, but the linkages between Oranmore and adjacent areas also need to be developed as there is significant potential for connectivity improvements across the wider eastern hinterland. This consideration has been less critical for other LTPs.

The study areas included in that plan will be: Oranmore, Garraun, Briarhill, Roscam, Parkmore, Ardaun and Doughiska.



STUDY AREA

HIERARCHICAL LAYOUT OF STRATEGIES AND PLANS.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ORANMORE NOW?

The approach of the Council with the Galway East Metropolitan Area LTP will include focus on connecting neighbourhoods within the eastern corridor; providing access between communities and also focus on the local trip making within the different communities of East Galway. There will be a focus also on Oranmore and transport within Oranmore and how best to make improvements for the future.

In the short term, the development of this plan will not delay Active Travel proposals for Oranmore. This year alone the Council has received the following funding allocations specifically for Oranmore (i) School Routes €120k, (ii) cycleway to the railway station €100k (iii) various other Active Travel schemes €150k.

The consultants are already appointed – Systra.

WHAT ELSE IS INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT?

This work will include the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Briarhill. This piece of work is critical with regard to planning and development of this area and this work has started.

ORANMORE TO TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

On June 14th last, the Council published a new Tender for the Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme along the R338 Coast Road to deliver pedestrian and cycling facilities along this route.

This Tender is for Consultancy Services to Complete Phases 2-4 as per NTA's Project Approval Guidelines (PAG), ie. from Concept Design and Options Selection, through Preliminary Design to completion of Statutory Processes.

This project will align with Galway to Athlone Cycleway and will tie into the existing or any proposed footpaths and cycle tracks in the Oranmore area. Pedestrian and cycle facilities will be improved at all junctions along the route.

The project is circa 1.3km long and extends from the mini roundabout north of Oranmore Village (private road access to Tesco/Aldi) and terminates at the Train Station Entrance junction on Coast Road.

The extents are show below, including locations of the four junctions included in the works, ie. mini roundabout marked as Junction 1, and Train Station Access junction marked as Junction 4.



GUIDELINES ON ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF 'NOTICE OF MOTION' FUNDS - JUNE 2023

'Notice of Motion' allocations can be expended on the following activities on **local and regional roads** only where work is carried out directly by Galway County Council or by a contractor procured by the Council:

1. Maintenance works including drainage, hedgecutting, replacement/installation of regulatory and statutory signage (only TSM signage and Town Name signage can be funded), pothole repairs.
2. Surface dressing.
3. Road reconstruction/ strengthening.
4. Junction improvement/ widening
5. Removal of minor bends, improvement to sight distances.
6. Any other project deemed necessary on the public road network. (Local and Regional Roads). If clarity is required - the individual case can be assessed for need and suitability by the Director of Services or Senior Engineer.
7. Public lighting to the limit of €6,000 per year subject to approval of the Area Engineer as to whether the lighting is sustainable, realistic, deliverable.
8. Taking in Charge of roads in line with GCC guidelines
 - *This is a reserved function but please note that current levels of funding for road maintenance do not support a case for increasing the public road network. All applications must have approval at Senior Engineer level. For non-public roads an allocation is required to bring the road to up public road standard. This work shall only be carried out after the road has been formally made public by the Council at MD meeting and the funding fully allocated.*

Allocations **may not** be expended on the following activities:

- a. The provision of car parking areas in front of private houses or in private property or lands not directly in charge of Galway County.
- b. The carrying out of any works which are the subject of planning conditions issued by the Authority (unless there is a supporting public interest and the project is sanctioned by the Director of Services).
- c. Works on private property i.e. drainage, site filling or fencing.
- d. Payment to contractors not procured by Galway County Council.
- e. It cannot be used to fund projects which come under the expenditure budgets of Environment, Water, Housing or other directorates.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – 2023 ROUND 2 FUNDING CALL

The scheme supports the improvement of rural roads and laneways that are not normally maintained by local authorities making an important contribution to connectivity in rural Ireland.

The Council currently has a total of 93 Applications to hand with an estimated Cost of €5,358,991.

If the Council receives the same level of funding again as per the first-round call, approx. €900,000 it would be in a position to complete another 14 Roads at a Total Cost of €891,371 by 10th Nov 2023 (last allowed drawdown date).

The Council also requested additional funding for the Islands (separate to the amounts above) similar to the first-round funding call totalling €323,190.

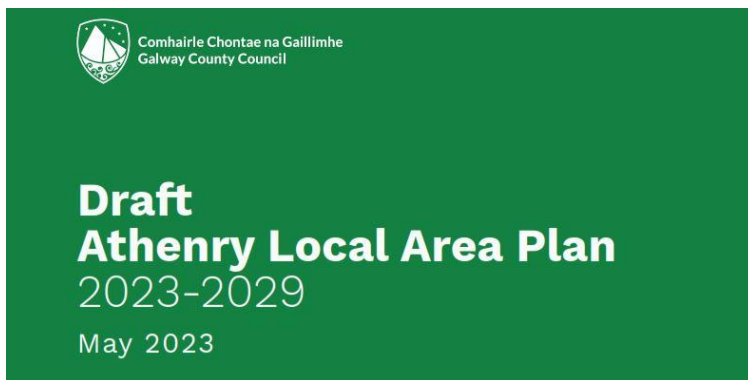
SITE SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Galway County Council hosted very successful Planning Webinars for Planning Agents on Thursday, 8th June 2023. The first webinar focused on Site Suitability Assessment for Domestic Wastewater Treatment with the second webinar focused on Site Suitability Assessment for Domestic Wastewater Treatment for Shallow Soils with a specific emphasis on Conamara and the Islands.

A total of 111 Planning Agents registered for the webinar with excellent attendance and engagement. The webinars were facilitated on behalf of Galway County Council by Consultant Geologist Dr. Robert Meehan. Robert Meehan began work as a Consultant Geologist in 2003 and is an independent geoservices (Environmental Geology) consultant focused on ground analysis, groundwater and surface water protection, site investigation and geodiversity. His ideology is that of sustainable development in partnership with environmental interests and concerns.

Further webinars are scheduled for Q3 Rural Housing Site Selection and Design and Q4 Guidelines for Roads & Parking, Sight Distances, Traffic Impact Assessment and Road Safety Audits.

ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029



Galway County Council has prepared a Draft Local Area Plan (LAP), Local Transport Plan (LTP), a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Stage 2 Natura Impact Report and also a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Athenry.

The Draft Local Area Plan along with the reports outlined above will be on public display and may be inspected from

- **Thursday 25th May to Friday 7th July 2023 (excluding weekends and public holidays)**

VIEW THE DRAFT ATHENRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023 - 2029

The Draft LAP and associated reports will be available for inspection at the following locations:

- **Planning Office, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway H91 H6KX (Monday -Friday 9am-4pm)**

- **Athenry Library, Old Church Street, Athenry H65 C992** (Wednesday & Friday 10.30am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 5.00pm (closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday) Thursday 3pm – 7 pm; Saturday 11.00 am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 5.00pm
- **Athenry Area Office, Old Church Street, Athenry H65 C992** (Monday -Friday 9.00am -1.00pm & 2.00pm - 5.00pm)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION WEBINAR

A Public Webinar event will take place on:

- **Thursday 29th June 2023 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

Webinar Registration Details can be found through the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83418627419?pwd=dUZtVHFtVU5lZUs0TDBjZmI4a1ZMdz09>

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP-IN SESSION

Galway County Council invites you to attend a public consultation drop-in session on the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2023-2029 to take place on:

- **Thursday 22nd June 2023 – 2:00pm – 7:00pm** in the **Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry (H65 E443)**

Written submissions or observations in respect of the Draft LAP, LTP, the SEA Environmental Report, AA Natura Impact Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Athenry made to the Planning Authority during such period will be taken into consideration before the Plan is adopted by Galway County Council.

Submissions or observations should be made in one of the following ways:

Online

by visiting <https://consult.galway.ie/> and clicking 'Make a Submission' button on the top right of the page.

By Email

to forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie.

In writing

Addressed to:

'Athenry Local Area Plan', Forward Planning Section, Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX

Closing Date for Submissions or Observations is Friday 7th July 2023 at 4pm.

NEW PLANNING EXEMPTIONS

Planning and Development (Exempted Development) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 250 of 2023) – effective from 19 May 2023;

2. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 269 of 2023) – effective from 22 May 2023;

3. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 246 of 2023) – effective from 22 May 2023.



1. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 250 of 2023)

The Programme for Government (Our Shared Future) and the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy set out the Government’s commitment to introduce a Deposit and Return Scheme (DRS) for plastic bottles and aluminium cans. In November 2021, regulations to establish a national DRS were signed and the scheme was officially launched in November 2022 by the Minister of State for the Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth, T.D. The planned go-live date for consumers is February 2024.

The DRS encourages people to recycle drink containers. It works by charging anyone who buys a drink a small deposit for the plastic bottle or can that it comes in. Customers get this money back when they return the container to a retailer or other collection point to be recycled. The majority of retail outlets will have to be modified to cater for reverse vending machines (RVMs). RVMs are an automated way for retailers to collect, sort and handle the return of used drink containers from customers

These regulations amend the existing Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (the Principal Regulations) to provide an exemption for the installation of RVMs at retail and certain other locations, subject to certain specified conditions and size limits.

MAIN PROVISIONS

These regulations, which insert a new Class 42A in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Principal Regulations, provide an exemption for RVMs in three circumstances:

- (i) within the curtilage of a shop where the opening of the receptacle is located on an inner wall of the shop while storage and associated roofed area are developed to the outside and operates ancillary to the shop*
- (ii) within the curtilage of a shop detached from main building*

(iii) standalone reverse vending machines for the likes of GAA clubs or Community centres

It should be noted that the installation of standalone RVMs within an existing building would not require any interaction with the planning system, as such installations would not constitute “development” as defined under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act) and so have not been included in this planning exemption.



2. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 269 of 2023)

These exempted development regulations amend the Principal Regulations to provide an exemption for the installation of bus poles or bus pole signs along roads in connection with a public passenger transport service (as defined in the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008).

MAIN PROVISIONS

These regulations amend article 5 of Principal Regulations to insert a definition of ‘bus pole’ and ‘bus pole sign’ and limits its use to along roads. The bus pole is limited to 3.6m in height above ground. In addition, a new Class 30A is inserted into Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Principal Regulations for *“The carrying out of development consisting of the removal, construction, erection or placing by or on behalf of the National Transport Authority, a public transport operator (as defined in the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008) or a local authority of:*

- bus poles or bus pole signs in connection with a public passenger transport service (as defined in the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008).”

These regulations will assist the roll out of bus stop infrastructure to support the use of public transport and remove the need for planning permission for bus poles whilst maintaining the requirement of Local Authority approval through the Road Traffic Act 1961 as amended.

It should be noted that this exemption does not cover bus shelters. The National Transport Authority (NTA) will work in partnership with local authorities for the provision of bus shelters.

3. Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 246 of 2023)

These exempted development regulations amend the Principal Regulations to provide an exemption from the requirement to obtain planning permission for certain minor works undertaken by Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), the statutory undertaker authorised to provide a gas service.

MAIN PROVISIONS

These regulations amend article 5 of the Principal Regulations to insert new definitions for “gas vent stack” and “gas pressure regulating station”. In addition, a new Class 29C is inserted into Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Principal Regulations to provide that the erection of a “gas pressure regulating station” or a “gas vent stack” shall be exempted development, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

- *the volume above ground level of any gas pressure regulating station, and ancillary equipment, shall not exceed 9 cubic metres, measured externally,*
- a gas vent stack shall not exceed 3 metres in height, and
- *no such development shall be constructed or erected within 5 metres of the curtilage of any house or other residential building.*

These regulations will assist GNI in the roll out of small-scale, gas infrastructure to facilitate the safe supply of natural gas to the end user whilst maintaining the requirement of Local Authority approval through the Road Traffic Act 1961 as amended

Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 273 of 2023)

These new Regulations amend provisions in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (the Principal Regulations), relating to the licensing of outdoor events.

Amendment to Article 186(1A) of the Principal Regulations

The regulations amend article 186 (1A) of the Principal Regulations by the substitution of “24 month” for “12 month” and by the substitution of “24 months” for “12 months”.

By way of explanation, the regulations amend the period during which a pre-application consultation meeting on a proposed event under article 184 must take place, involving the local authority concerned, the person who intends to make an application for an event licence and the prescribed bodies. The regulations extend the current 12 month period prior to a proposed event during which a pre-application consultation meeting on same is required to be held to 24 months. In the case of a licence application for a number of events at a venue in a period not exceeding one year, the period during which a pre-application consultation meeting is required to be held is extended from 12 months prior to the holding of the first event to 24 months prior to the holding of the first event.

These changes are being made to take account of the longer time horizons and pre-planning that is now being required of event promoters seeking to bring some of the larger international acts to Ireland, particularly in the case of acts planning to embark on European and world tours, some of which are now being planned up to 2 years in advance.

Planning and Development (Street Furniture Fees) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 256 of 2023)

The Regulations are aimed at assisting activity in urban areas, particularly in the hospitality, restaurant and tourism sectors.

The new Regulations amend the fees chargeable for street furniture licences under section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ('the Act'), and Schedule 12, Part 1 of the associated Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (the Principal Regulations), 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 introduced in 2021 and 2022, will apply for the remainder of the current year. Where licence fees have already been paid by establishments in respect of the current year, these should now be refunded.

HERITAGE REPORT JUNE 2023

MY LOCAL HOLY WELL

Galway County Council and the Heritage Council in partnership with Forum Connemara CLG and Galway IFA need your help.

We are collecting information about holy wells in the North Connemara area.

- Have you any information about your local holy well?
- Is there an annual pattern day at the well?
- When do people visit the well?
- Do you know any stories about the well?

Please send your stories, experience and photos to galwayholywells@gmail.com

TOBAR BEANNATHE AN CHEANTAIR

Tí do chúnamh ag teastáil ó Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ón gComhairle Oidhreacht a i gcomhar le Fóram CLG Chonamara agus IFA na Gaillimhe.

Tíimid ag bailiú eolais faoi thoibreacha beannaithe i Chonamara Thuaidh.

- An bhfuil aon eolas agatsa faoi aon tobar beannaithe i do cheantarsa?
- An mbíonn lá pátrúin ar siúl gach bliain ag an tobar?
- Cén uair a dtugann daoine cuairt ar an tobar?
- An bhfuil aon seanchas agat faoin tobar?

Seolaigi bhur goid scéalta, tairbhí agus grianghraf ar ríomhphost chuig galwayholywells@gmail.com

GALWAY'S HOLY WELLS

The Holy Wells Audit of County Galway is moving into North Connemara this summer. Funded by Galway County Council and the Heritage Council and working in partnership with Forum Connemara CLG and Galway IFA, the aim is to collect and collate information about each and every holy well in the County, so that it can then be shared for use in community projects and recorded for future

generations. This exciting project has been underway over the past three years, through the months of May to September. The Municipal Districts of Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Tuam and Athenry have been the focus up to this year.

The data collected includes location, infrastructure, physical condition, access, protection status, ownership, archaeology, architecture, biodiversity, traditions, folklore, oral heritage and customs associated with and connected to the holy wells. This information will be shared through a map based platform on the Galway Community Heritage websites: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/holy-wells-of-the-county-of-galway>

and

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>



ST FEICHIN'S HOLY WELL, OMEY ISLAND

This audit is an invaluable information collecting process for an important aspect of our intangible heritage. The partnership approach with local residents, landowners and community groups is helping to uncover information that only exists in local memory.

Local communities and interested individuals are being asked to send in information about their local wells to the email address galwayholywells@gmail.com.



THE MONK'S WELL, ROUNDSTONE

The long term objective of this audit is to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of the holy wells in the County of Galway and to use the collected data to guide community initiatives and ensure best practice in the future conservation of this important aspect of our intangible cultural heritage.

MAJOR AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE RECORDINGS IN EAST GALWAY UNDERWAY

Stories, memories and folklore of East Galway, recorded on tape cassettes, reel to reels or in digital form, are being sought as part of an exciting new project, launched by Galway County Council. The Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in East Galway, under the direction of Galway County Council's Heritage Officer Marie Mannion, will work with community groups, historians, and collectors to create, for the first time, a comprehensive list of oral heritage recordings made to preserve the stories and memories of another time in Galway's past.

The audit, which hopes to extend across the entire county in the coming years, will be led by Dr Tomás Mac Conmara, Director of Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting.

The project is not seeking to physically take collections, but instead is aimed at compiling information about the collections, like their current location, format, content etc.

As well as auditing what has been recorded by national and regional bodies, the Project will also focus on private collections and the work of various community groups and heritage organizations.

The audit of oral heritage collections, although initially focused on East County Galway, will provide a fantastic resource for all of these groups and for the wider community, across the county and beyond. The audit and the accompanying database will give people an idea of the recordings that already exist and will help to identify priorities for future recording work. We would really appreciate people's help in identifying oral history recordings or collections held by community groups and individuals so that we get as complete a picture as possible as to the current volume and extent of recordings.

The successful completion of the audit is sure to be a significant resource for historians, scholars, the education system and the general public.

The Heritage Council joins the National Museum of Ireland and participating local authorities including Galway County Council in funding the digitisation of Ireland's community archives, through iCAN



Galway Community Heritage Groups from Abbey, Woodlawn, Killrerin, Moylough, Skehana, Milltown, Claregalway, Moycullen & Oughterard with Dr Martina Moloney, Chairperson of The Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive Officer, The Heritage Council, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council, Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer, Galway County Council and Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist at the launch in Wicklow.

An event was held in Wicklow on 31 May to mark a new chapter for the award-winning Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), the leading organisation championing and supporting community archives in Ireland.

Since 2009, iCAN has supported the creation of 33 online digital archives in Clare, Cork, Galway, Mayo and Wicklow, and there are three more currently in development. Over 180 volunteers are involved in managing and supporting the existing community archives.

iCAN was established by the National Museum of Ireland and has been developed in partnership with participating local authority Heritage Officers and with support from Creative Ireland.

The local authority partnership model provides funding, guidance and resources at local level and was spearheaded in 2014 with Galway County Council Heritage Office. This led to the establishment of iCAN's first bi-lingual archive and the first county-based, multi-site digital archive platform, which has since been adopted by other County Councils around the country. Between 2019 and 2020, iCAN was supported by the Creative Ireland Programme.

iCAN community archive websites are contributory, which means that anyone, anywhere in the world can contribute their photos, maps, letters, records, stories and documents to help build the

collections. As well as documenting information about local heritage sites, traditions and well-known local people, the archives are also a valuable source for genealogy and ancestry projects.



Many of the archives also include oral histories and videos and valuable resources such as local 'census' documents dating from before the famine, and visitors can access digital and searchable archives relating to specific graveyards, townlands, and even houses - which in turn gives a unique and valuable insight into family records.

The diaspora uses the iCAN community archives to connect with local groups, who in turn assist with their family history enquiries. These connections frequently result in visits to Ireland with the local group bringing visitors to ancestral homes and graves and re-connecting them with unknown or lost family members. Several of the archives have volunteers who are based abroad in countries such as America and Australia. The iCAN network has been visited 2,244,000 times by visitors from 215 countries, or 16,000 cities, across the world - more than 5,750,000 pages of Irish heritage content has been explored.

Links to the Galway Community Websites can be found here:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

<https://galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

LAUNCH OF THE CREATIVE IRELAND/GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDED BILINGUAL BOOKLET AND SHORT FILM

Chloe Ni Mhaille agus Maidhce Pheiti O Conghaile, owner of the last thatch house on Inis Oirr, at the launch of the Creative Ireland/Galway county Council funded bilingual booklet and short film in association with the architectural conservation office. Works are to be carried out to the roof this year under the funding ring fenced for thatch under the Build Heritage investment Scheme.



<https://vimeo.com/830509540?share=copy> link to film



BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY WEEK

Biodiversity Week took place from the 19th – 23rd May and the Galway County Council Heritage and Biodiversity Office ran a series of events across the county to mark the occasion. The week opened with a Wildflower Workshop in Brigit's Garden, Rosscahill on Monday 22nd May. The workshop filled up quickly, and attendance included members of the local Tidy Towns groups, Community Employment schemes, and community garden volunteers. The event also saw the launch of "Weed or Wildflower" Swatch by Kay Synott and produced by Galway County Council as part of a project by the Local Biodiversity Act Fund and supported by the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Department of Housing, Environment and Local Government.



PHOTO: PICTURED AT THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S WEED OR WILDFLOWER SWATCH WERE KAY SYNOTT (AUTHOR), GINA O'SHAUGHNESSY (GCC), JENNY BEALE (BRIGIT'S GARDEN), ROSINA JOYCE (GCC), MARTINA CREAVER (GCC), AND DR. CAITRIONA CARLIN (UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY).



PHOTO: ATTENDEES AT THE WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP IN BRIGIT'S GARDEN FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2023.

The Heritage and Biodiversity Office ran two Orchard Management Workshops with the Headford Environment Group in the Headford Community Orchard with the Irish Seed Savers Association. This project was supported by the Heritage Council and an output as part of the Heritage Stewardship Grant. Both workshops were booked out and was attended by members of local Tidy Towns groups and local community garden volunteers.



PHOTO: COVERAGE FROM THE TUAM HERALD 31ST MAY OF THE ORCHARD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP AS PART OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL.

A sustainable gardening workshop with horticulturist Aoife Munn was held in Loughrea. This event had a full attendance of 40 people from across East Galway. This was a joint initiative between the Galway County Council's Tidy Towns Coordinator and the Heritage and Biodiversity Office.



PHOTO: SUSTAINABLE GARDENING COURSE WITH AOIFE MUNN AS PART OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK PROGRAMME BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Mountbellew BioBlitz and Biodiversity festival was held on the 26th & 27th May. The events were run in partnership with MKO, the Holy Rosary College and Galway County Council. A team of ecologists, the Biodiversity Officer and volunteers recorded over 500 species in the 24-hour period. The festival also included a bat walk, bog walks, a conservation dog demonstration, a woodland walk, and aquatic surveying. Each of these events had between 20 to 40 members of the public present.

National Biodiversity Week concluded with a Dawn Chorus Walk led by Kate McAney and Pete Tyndall on Sunday 28th May at 5am in Greenfields. This was run in association with the Headford Environment Group. 38 species of bird were recorded.



PHOTO:

A DAWN CHORUS WALK WITH THE HEADFORD ENVIRONMENT GROUP AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY OFFICE FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2023.

DRAGONFLY WORKSHOPS

Galway County Council Heritage and Biodiversity Office supported two Dragonfly workshops.

The first workshop was held in Portumna with Dave Wall from the National Biodiversity Data Centre as part of the Eco ShowBoat programme. The second was held in Brigit's Garden which was run in partnership with Galway County Council and the National Biodiversity Data Centre and had 15 attendees. This was an in-depth course on recording dragonfly and damselfly species and was facilitated by Nature Learn.



PHOTO: DRAGONFLY WORKSHOP AT BRIGIT'S GARDEN ON 10TH JUNE AS A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND (LBAF) ANNOUNCEMENT

Galway County Council was awarded €104,555 National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 31st May 2023. This funding has been awarded for the following projects:

- Connemara Blue Dot Programme
- FORUM Connemara Rhododendron Management Project
- Galway Bay I-WeBS Project
- Working with Nature 2023
- Wetlands of North-East Galway Survey 2023
- Management of Invasive Alien Species in south Connemara
- Survey of Invasive Alien Species
- River Shannon Quagga Mussel Project
- Connemara Bog Natural Heritage Awareness Programme 2023
- Barn Owl Booklet
- Monitoring Alpin Newt Population

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The results of the Galway County Council and BirdWatch Ireland Art Competition featured in the Connacht Tribune (26th May) and Galway Advertiser (25th May) and their social media accounts.



Galway County Council announced the recent appointment of the Biodiversity Officer and also highlighted the recent LBAF funding awarded. Articles in local newspapers included The Connacht Tribune (9th June) and The Tuam Herald (7th June). The Galway Daily also ran the story on the 2nd June.



The Biodiversity Officer took part in a live radio interview with Galway Bay FM on Keith Finnegan Show on the 26th May. She spoke about the new role, the art competition and the biodiversity week events. She also carried out an interview with the Galway Bay FM newsroom on her recent appointment on the 8th June.

Galway County Biodiversity Office Facebook Page reached 10.3k accounts and has increased the number of followers by 173 in the last 28 days. Galway County Heritage Office Facebook Page reached 11.8k accounts and has 70 new followers in the last 28 days. Galway County Biodiversity Office Instagram.

GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES JUNE 2023

CRUINIÚ NA NÓG

Is the annual national day of free creative activities and play for children and young people in Ireland. This year it was celebrated on Saturday 10th June. Libraries throughout the city and county celebrated their communities by offering an extensive array of programmes, workshops and events.

LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA

Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua hosted Robotic and Coding workshops that showcased the various elements of robot design and was facilitated by CorribKids Coding.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea Library had several events including bookmark making, LEGO workshops and robot building using recycled materials. They also had chalk drawings in the car park encouraging children to decorate the public space with colour.



ORANMORE LIBRARY

Oranmore Library inspired future authors and illustrators with a fun and interactive workshop on comic making



TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam library hosted a series of printmaking workshops facilitated by artist Jennifer Cunningham.

The library also had a visual art exhibition by the participants of the workshops.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library showcased the talents of young people in an exhibition of mosaic work that was completed in workshops recently held in the library.





BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Ballybane Library hosted baby rhyme time sessions with Colour Strings and participants were joined by the Creative Ireland Galway City team and the Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Clodagh Higgins.



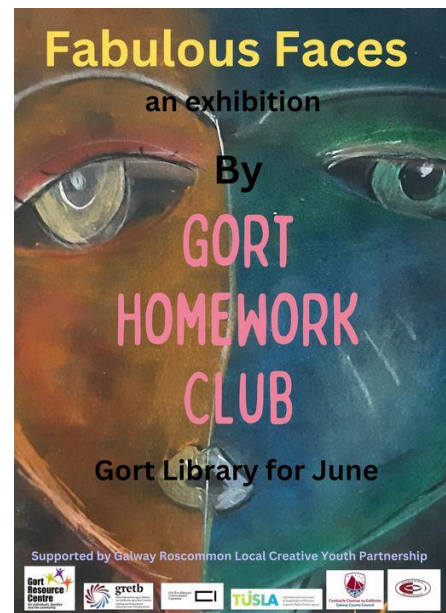
WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library encouraged little ones to explore music and dance under the guidance of Dee Dee with plenty of giggles and fun along the way.



GORT LIBRARY

Gort Library held an exhibition launch in conjunction with Gort Homework Club and the GRETB Creative Youth Partnership. This exhibition was titled 'Fabulous Faces' and was facilitated by artist Shona McGillvery. The exhibition runs for the month of June.



LITTLE LIBRARY BAGS

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books just for them that can be collected at any library.

The **'My Little Library Book Bag'** initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2023 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout the county from Thursday the 8th of June 2023

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

Book bags are available in both Irish and English. Here is Seán and John delivering the bags to libraries across Galway.



SUMMER STARS READING CHALLENGE

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 12th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the country 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 even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free! All Libraries in Galway city and county participate in the programme.



AKIDWA PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Akina Dada wa Africa-AkiDwa (Swahili for sisterhood) is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. AkiDwa's vision is a just society where there is equal opportunity and equal access to resources in all aspects of society – social, cultural, economic, civic and political.

AkiDwa held a presentation of certificates to local women who have completed a course in advocacy, these are a mixture of migrant and local women who are learning how to verbalise their needs with different government groups. The Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Clodagh Higgins attended and the event lasted 3 hours during which there was group work, presentations and discussions.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library hosted VR headset experiences with the support of Foróige. Ballinasloe Library is part of a pilot programme called the Foróige Digital Library project. These headsets are currently available in Westside Library.



Galway City Library hosted an informative discussion on 'From farm to fork: towards a sustainable food system in Ireland'. Speakers included Senator Pauline O'Reilly, Dr. James Moran, Senior Lecturer in Ecology and Biology at ATU and Henry Walsh, Galway IFA Environment Rep. The event was chaired by Tim Hayes, Head of Communications in the European Commission Representation in Ireland.



MEN'S HEALTH WEEK – 12TH TO 18TH JUNE

Men's Health Week is an international event that aims to raise awareness and improve the health and wellness of men and boys. Oranmore Library, Loughrea Library, Ballybane Library and Oughterard Library hosted coffee mornings to encourage communication and engagement surrounding men's health issues.

Galway Libraries in conjunction with Mayo and Roscommon Libraries are holding a photography competition with the winner receiving a Fitbit kindly sponsored by Community Healthcare West.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2023
12th - 18th June

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY
Theme: What's your picture of health?

Win a Fitbit!

To Enter please send your photograph with your name, telephone no. and your entry to:
MHWPhotographyCompetition@gmail.com
The competition runs from 12th June to 5.00pm on Friday 30th June 2023

Logos: HE, FORUM, HI, etc.

ECO SHOWBOAT "JOURNEY TO THE EAST" BALLINASLOE LIBRARY 09 JUNE 2023

In June the Eco Showboat Mayfly - solar-powered riverboat - navigated up the River Suck, to moor for several days at Ballinasloe. Events included an opportunity to visit the marina and see the Mayfly, Ballinasloe Library hosted local artist Sheila Flanagan on Friday 9 June to take part in discussions and activities with Eco Showboat artists Anne & Denis and local artist Sheila Flanagan showcased her film on the River Shiven.

The Eco Showboat Journey to the East is a five month arts expedition, from Askeaton in the west to Dublin in the east, aboard the Mayfly, flagship of the Eco Showboat project. Last year the Mayfly sailed from Limerick to Enniskillen, the first time such a voyage has been undertaken on a solar-powered vessel.

Brainchild of artists Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly, the project has received the Arts Council Open call Award for 2021, as well as an SFI Discover Award, the Limerick Arts Strategic Award, and is supported by Galway County Council, Creative Ireland, Waterways Ireland, the Local Authority Waters Programme, local authorities and universities across the country.



CHILDREN FROM CREAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL PARTICIPATING IN THE EVENTS IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



LIBRARIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023-2027

The Department of Rural and Community Development provides capital funding from the Exchequer to local authorities for the development of public library infrastructure, facilities and mobile library vehicles under the Libraries Capital Programme.

Recognising the need for continued investment, the Department of Rural and Community Development, with the support of the Libraries Development Unit of the Local Government

Management Agency (LGMA) is now developing a new five-year Libraries Capital Programme for the 2023-2027 period.

Applications were sought from Local Authorities under the Libraries Capital Programme 2023-2027 which will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The objectives of the Libraries Capital Programme are to:

1. Co-fund investment by Local Authorities in new library buildings, refurbishments, extensions and building acquisitions that meet the needs of library users;
2. Co-fund investment in next generation mobile library vehicles.

Galway County Council as the lead local authority for Galway Public Libraries submitted four applications under the Libraries Capital Programme as follows:

- New Galway Central Library for Galway City & County.
- New Community Library for Athenry.
- Next Generation Mobile Library Vehicle for Conamara and the Gaeltacht
- New Generation Mobile Library Vehicle for East Galway

Projects must receive Stage Four (Contract Award) Approval within 18 months of approval issuing, and must commence construction no later than four months after that. Projects must be fully completed with all funding drawn down by the end of 2027. All projects must satisfy the requirements of the [Public Spending Code](#).

Assessment Criteria	Maximum Marks (1000)
1 Quality of Proposal	300 Marks
Overall quality of the proposal submitted with a clear rationale for investment.	150 Marks
Supports urban and rural regeneration and sustainable communities - Integrated Approach	50 Marks
Provides suitable community facilities and enables the local authority to better deliver services for the community	50 Marks
Robust, sustainable funding model proposed	50 Marks
2 Consistency with strategy and policy objectives	150 Marks
Alignment with Government priorities	30 Marks
Alignment with new Public Library Strategy	30 Marks
Alignment with County Development Plan	30 Marks
Alignment with Library Development Plan	30 Marks
Alignment with Local Economic Community Plan	30 Marks
3 Need and Justification	200 Marks
No pre-existing building or the existing building has limited capacity, is of low quality or is not in a prime location.	150 Marks

Community Need - population of the catchment area and distance from nearest branch 50 Marks

4 Impact and Additionality 150 Marks

Expected impact and additionality of the new/refurbished facility 100 Marks

Clearly defined objectives, outputs, results and impacts to enable monitoring and evaluation 50 Marks

5 Project Delivery 200 Marks

Capacity to deliver library capital projects 100 Marks

Readiness of project proposal to commence based on the Four Stage Capital Management Process status 50 Marks

Commitment to completion within timeframe 50 Marks

Applications for funding to acquire next generation mobile library vehicles will be assessed against the following criteria:

Applications for funding to acquire next generation mobile library vehicles will be assessed against the following criteria: Maximum Marks (100 marks)

Rationale for investment and evidence of need 50 marks

Extent of service to be provided and expected usage 50 marks

- Submitted projects will be assessed by the Libraries Development section within the Department of Rural and Community Development in the first instance, using the criteria as detailed.
- The Libraries Development Unit in the LGMA will support the Department's assessment of projects by providing observations and expert guidance.
- The Architectural Advisory Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, will support the Department's assessment of projects by conducting a review of projects that are being considered for funding and providing a technical report to the Department.
- The outcome of the assessment will form the basis for a report to the Minister on projects recommended for funding. The Minister for Rural and Community Development will make the final decision on the funding of projects.

It is envisaged that the approved projects will be announced in **September 2023**, following the assessment process.

SOCIAL MEDIA REVIEW

1ST MAY – 31ST MAY 2023

Galway County Council’s Customer Service team monitors and updates the Council’s social media platforms with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain an awareness of the work of the Council.



www.facebook.com/galwaycounty



www.twitter.com/galwaycoco



www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

33K



0.5% from 33K

Fans & Followers

733



74.1% from 421

Posts

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 175 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page (159 posts and 16 shares), an increase of 38.9% in comparison to the previous month. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook this month sharing 25 stories with followers. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month increased by 17% to 46,607.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 72 Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of May 31st, 2023, to 15,610.

Galway County Council’s Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.7% of this age group are women and 10.8% are men.

In total, 31.8% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 68.2% are female.

APRIL'S TOP POSTS

It's worth noting that the top performing posts in April were during the Washington delegations visit to Galway. Galway County Council's Cultural Night live video gained over 40% engagement, while the post in relation to the delegation's trip to Clifden's social housing scheme drew a 61.27% engagement rate with of Galway County Council page followers.



Galway County Council
Apr 27, 11:36

Le linn an turais go dtí an Chlochán De Máirt, thug toiscaireacht Washington County, Wisconsin cuairt ar scéim nua tithíochta Galway County Council ag an gClochar During Tuesday's trip to Clifden, the Washington County, Wisconsin delegation visited Galway

61.27 % engagement rate



Galway County Council
Apr 24, 18:42

Tonight we're celebrating 20 years of twinning between Galway County Council and Washington County, Wisconsin with a cultural evening reception. #gailimh #galway

40.09 % engagement rate

MAY'S TOP THREE POSTS



Galway County Council
May 10, 11:10

NTA Active Travel Public Lighting Schemes completed – An Spidéil Coastal Walkway, Co. Galway An Spidéil Coastal Walkway is lit up for Active Travel! The National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Investment Team recently provided Galway County Council Roads and

44.79 % engagement rate



Galway County Council
May 12, 11:14

Ambassador of Mexico to Ireland Visits Galway County Council Yesterday, the Ambassador of Mexico, Ms Carolina Zaragoza Flores visited Áras an Chontae Hall to meet with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr Michael 'Moegie' Maher and the Chief Executive Liam Conneally.

9.23 % engagement rate



Galway County Council
May 05, 14:03

Galway County Council welcomes the news that medtech firm Dexcom is to create 1,000 permanent jobs at its proposed new global manufacturing facility in Athenry. We recognise the significance of bringing new employment into the region and look forward to working

9.82 % engagement rate

AUDIENCE METRICS – TWITTER

During this period on Twitter, Galway County Council posted a total of 51 tweets with 58.2k impressions, an increase of 12.5% compared to the previous period.

Galway County Council's account was 'mentioned' 156 times and a total of 9 new followers were gained in this period, bringing the total following to 16.4k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page.

Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 71% being female and 29% being male. The main audience again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 26.2% women and 11.5% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have gained 127 Instagram followers bringing the total to 490.

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME WATER SAFETY AWARENESS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

County Galway has a striking coastline available to water enthusiasts. Days out in the aquatic environment should be enjoyable and safe for all. Supervision and swimming at lifeguarded waters is essential.

As the schools break for the summer holidays, our beaches and coastlines will get busier. Heading into the busy season with wonderful Blue Flag beaches on our doorstep, water safety is of the uppermost importance.

Galway County Council have appointed a full-time Water Safety Awareness and Development Officer, Mr. Shane Coogan to manage the bathing areas and promote water safety awareness while delivering a lifeguard service for Galway City and County during the bathing season.

Lifeguards are on duty on 16 beaches in Galway City and County, if there is no flag displayed, there is no lifeguard on duty. Galway City have six bathing areas which include Ballyloughane Renmore, Grattan, Palmers, Ladies Beach and Blackrock Salthill, Silverstrand Bearna. Galway County have ten bathing areas, these areas are Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór, Inis Óirr, Loughrea and Portumna Lake, An Trá Mhór, An Cnoc, Indreabhán, Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua, Cloch na Rón, Tracht, Cinn Mhara, Céibh an Spidéil, An Spidéil, Bóthar an Spidéil, An Spidéil.

The Lifeguard service has commenced with the Lifeguards available at locations in accordance with the Summer Ready Plan for 2023.



(PHOTOGRAPH WATER SAFETY AWARENESS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH SOME OF GALWAY'S BEACH LIFEGUARDS FOR THE BATHING SEASON OF SUMMER 2023)

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

As of Summer 2023, Automated External Defibrillators (AED) will be available on all lifeguarded beaches, including the islands in County Galway.

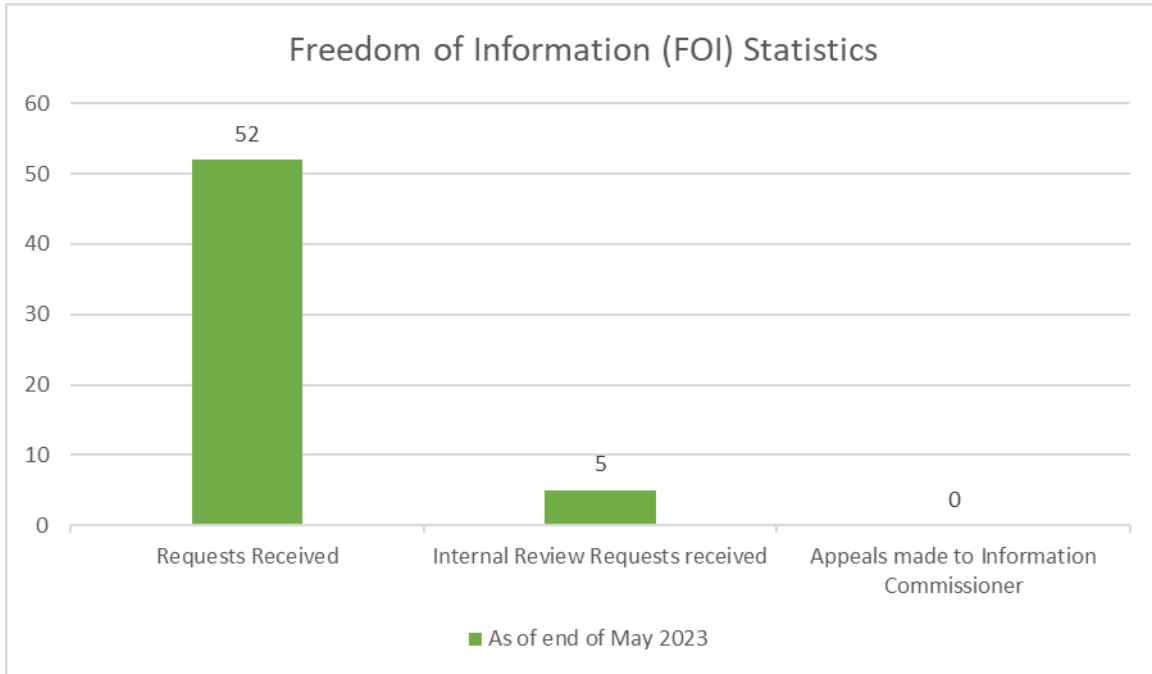
An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyse the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

This lifesaving medical equipment is an important and welcome addition to our beaches.

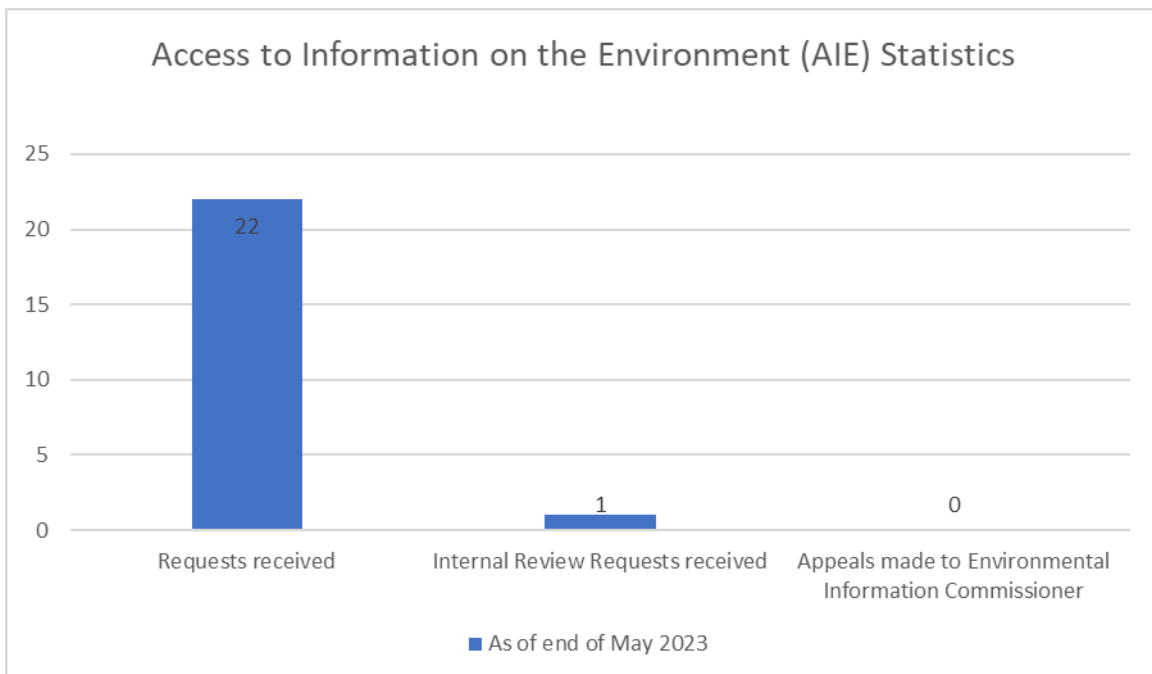


2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.05.23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



- **6 Data Access Requests 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g. Gardaí**
 - 6 Data Access Requests -
 - 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g. Gardaí
- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**
 - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
 - Revised Remote Working Policy & Procedures issued to All Staff

LOCAL AUTHORITY CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029 AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DUTY



Galway County Council is taking steps to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights duty (the Duty) [1]. A working group drawn from across Galway County Council is undertaking this task. The first step required under the Duty is to undertake an assessment of the equality and human rights issues that face the identified groups for the Duty and that have a relevance for the functions of Galway County Council.



The working group has prepared a draft assessment of equality and human rights issues for use in our ongoing implementation of the Duty. To complete and finalise the assessment in a participative manner, an online review meeting was held on Thursday 22nd of June 2023, involving civil society organisations that are representative of the identified groups, to consider and contribute to the work done in implementing the Assess step of Duty.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION -DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The National Disability Authority (NDA) has developed a draft Code of Practice on Accessible Public Buildings following the request of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. This Code of Practice has been developed under Section 25 of the Disability Act which states that: “public bodies shall ensure that its public buildings are, as far as practicable, accessible to persons with disabilities.”

This public consultation gives you the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Code of Practice on Accessible Public Buildings and become involved in the development process by submitting your views.

Feedback from Disabled Persons Organisations (DPO’s), persons with disabilities, their families and advocates, organisations who represent persons with disabilities, and all members of the public who have an interest in the accessibility of public buildings.

[1] [Section 42](#), Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

As this Code of Practice will apply to all public buildings occupied, managed, or controlled by a public body, feedback is also being requested from public bodies.

All feedback received by the National Disability Authority will be carefully reviewed and used in the process of finalising the Code of Practice on Accessible Public Buildings.

The public consultation on **the draft Code of Practice for Accessible Public Buildings** is now open and will close at 5pm on 26th June 2023.

You can find consultation information **and feedback methods** at: <https://nda.ie/news/public-consultation-draft-code-of-practice-for-accessible-public-buildings>

Feedback methods include online survey, email, or post.

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

WORKSHOPS

Several national sectoral workshops were held to develop draft actions for the Climate Action Plan including:

- Biodiversity
- Transportation
- Built Environment and Landuse Planning
- Community Development and Enterprise
- Landuse Change (incl. Agriculture and Water)
- Decarbonisation Zone (initial webinar)

These were well attended by staff members from across the organisation. Two further national sectoral workshops are scheduled in June:

- Decarbonisation Zone (2 day)
- Actions Workshop

BASELINE RISK ASSESSMENT AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

The draft Baseline Risk Assessment (KPMG) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment (Bable GmbH) were presented to the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC on the 26th May. A number of technical queries were raised, and a meeting will be arranged with KPMG to discuss them further.

PLAN-MAKING PHASE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN AND DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

A draft Engagement Strategy for the pre-drafting stage of the development of the Climate Action plan was prepared with the assistance of CARO. It was also presented to the SPC on the 26th May, 2023. A Discussion Document is currently being drafted which will form the basis of the consultation information for stakeholders. It will also be presented to the SPC and Management Team before final approval.

GALWAY COUNTY CLIMATE YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The findings of the Galway County Climate Youth Assembly have been co-ordinated and are ready for official presentation to the plenary Council later in the summer.

STAFF UPDATE

Rebecca Mooney, our new Climate Action Officer, started last week and attended two of the national workshops on behalf of GCC.

Denise Feeney, our new Community Climate Action Officer, started in the role on the 19th of June. The CCMA are currently developing an MOU with DECC to enable the Community Climate Action Fund to be opened to the public. We are developing an online application system to streamline the application process.

GCC INTERNAL ENERGY

ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

GCC's Climate Unit has engaged with SEAI's ISO 50001 Accelerator Program to develop an Energy Management System accredited ISO 50001. ISO 50001 (Energy Management) is an international standard created by the International Organization for Standardization to support organisations minimise their impact, conserve resources and become more energy efficient.

An Energy Policy and associated documents have been drafted and will be presented to Management Team shortly for approval.

The Climate Unit has also engaged with CARO and the Regional Energy Bureau on a project to procure a Data Collection and Management System. The delivery of this will enable the collection of relevant and accurate data that can be analysed in line with ISO 50001 standards.

SEAI PATHFINDER PROGRAM

SEAI's Pathfinder Program was set up in 2017. Following the program's initial success, SEAI are now trialing deeper retrofit and renewable heat solutions focused on decarbonising thermal demand and setting a pathway towards our 2030 and 2050 targets.

In 2022, SEAI, the ASBN CARO and its 5 x LAs agreed to collaborate on the delivery of a Pathfinder Programme (2022-2024) for the region. The **ASBN Energy Bureau** was subsequently established to manage the progression of this energy and decarbonisation agenda.

An Indicative Envelop of Funding (€10 million) to deliver the Program was agreed. Funding would be contributed on a 50/50 basis with ASBN CARO Authorities contributing a maximum of €5 million and SEAI contributing a maximum of €5 million over the period 2022-2024 (inclusive).

Following an assessment of the Significant Energy Users within the organisation, the following buildings were nominated for progression under the Pathfinder Program.

- County Hall
- Tuam Area Office and Library

- Ballinasloe Area Office
- Westside Library

Under this program, detailed designs for retrofit options are likely to be delivered for consideration by Q4 2023.

SEAI SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Energy Master Plans have been delivered for the following Communities under this Program:

- Headford
- Milltown
- Ballinasloe
- Athenry
- Dunmore

Contracts have been awarded for the delivery of Energy Master Plans for a further three Communities (Clifden Glen, Kinvara, Galway County PPN). Delivery of same is expected in Q4 2023.

To date, GCC's support to this program amounts to approx. €125,000.

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

GCC has engaged with the Cities4Forests' "Partner Forest Program". As part of the engagement, the Pilot Projects Organisation has appointed Greenville Procurement Partners Ltd to support GCC to co-create a comprehensive Green and Sustainable Procurement policy for public projects and tenders relating to wood specification and purchases. This policy will include a framework for comparison of sustainability credentials between wood choices originating from different sources, such as "reuse" wood, "local urban" wood, "certified" wood and wood from "social forestry" enterprises. Greenville will also support GCC to commence the development of an overall Green Public Procurement Strategy for GCC.

JUST TRANSITION AREA

The [EMERGE programme](#) is now entering its mentoring phase, and their team will be available over the Summer to mentor groups, and to help them progress their project ideas. Earlier this year they ran a series of webinars where groups heard from people involved with providing support and some successful community projects across the midlands. These webinars are all [viewable here](#). They have just completed in-person workshops involving individuals and groups from in or near the 20 midland communities selected as JTF areas. A full version of the workshop is available [here](#) and you can download the workshop slides [here](#) (PDF).

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



NATIONAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WEEK 2023

- Galway County Council supports National Food Waste Recycling Week
- Separating food waste is a positive climate action that we can all make

Galway County Council is supporting the National Food Waste Recycling Week which runs from the 5th June to 11th June 2023. We encourage all residents of County Galway to reduce, segregate and dispose of their food waste properly. This campaign, managed by [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie) provides practical advice, with easy-to-follow hints and tips to encourage everyone to recycle more of their food waste.

As part of the week Galway County Council has organised a number of Events. This includes a social media campaign, set up and launch of an information stand at Áras an Chontae, combined promotional event on Shop Street, Galway with Galway City Council, and a promotional event at Ballinasloe Library with Ballinasloe Tidy Towns.



ECO UNESCO YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2023

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an all-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment.

The Climate Action team supported this programme with an €800 grant. Two schools from County Galway reached the finals in Dublin with one school winning an award. Galway County Council was acknowledged as a sponsor and was represented on the judging panel for the awards.

OIL POLLUTION.

There is ongoing remedial work and monitoring being carried out at the site in the Owenriff River in Oughterard where there was an oil spill on the 23rd of April. Verde, Remediation Specialists are providing regular updates on the investigations and remedial work being carried out

BATHING WATERS

Sampling of bathing waters commenced with 41 samples taken and tested. All bathing water samples were deemed excellent standard.

BLUE FLAG UPDATE

The blue flag has become an internationally recognized 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. Our blue flag beaches include Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór; An Trá, Inis Oirr; 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 up mainly of volunteers who participate in community clean-ups and in co-operation with Galway County Council help sensitively manage their local beaches throughout the year. Our green coast awards for 2023 include An Trá, Inis Oirr; Trá Poll na gCaorach, Inis Oirr; An Dumhach Inishbofin; East End Bay Inishbofin; Renvyle beach and Aille Brack, Ballyconneely.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Inspections of households for compliance with the Waste Presentation Bye Laws continued to be carried out by Waste Enforcement Officers in June. Households in Tuam and Gort were called to, to provide evidence of their method of domestic waste disposal. Non-compliant households will be followed up with warning letters.

Inspections of commercial food premises and premises obligated to comply with the PRI regulations were also carried out by enforcement officers.

During the month of May 99 waste complaints were logged and 158 waste complaints were closed off by Community Wardens and Technical Staff.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

A number of Warning letters and 1 Section 55 Notice under the Waste Management Act 96 were issued in June.

2 court cases were for hearing at Tuam District Court

1 – Section 32 prosecution for stockpiling of household waste, the defendant was not present in court and the judge issued a Bench Warrant for his arrest.

2 - Non-Compliance with Section 55 Notice to remove old farm machinery and scrap metal from site. The Judge gave the defendant more time to clear the site. This case was adjourned to September

TYRE REMEDIATION SITE

All tyres were removed from the site by the end of May. In total 4782 tonnes of tyres were removed. This was just over half the estimated amount that was thought to be present.

SOLID FUEL REGULATIONS

Funding of €100 ,000 was approved by the Dept for a Joint project with Roscommon County Council and Mayo County Council under the Solid Fuel Regulations 2022. The project will involve taking samples of solid fuel for sale within each county and having them transported to the UK for analysis of sulphur content to assess compliance of products on sale with the regulations. Meetings will be held with the other Local Authorities to plan the project timelines. A separate fund amount of €10,000 was approved for Galway County Council to have a register of solid fuel producers and products being sold in the county developed.

- 1. Restoration Improvement** – Contract Awarded, contractor Planned to start in June
 - a. Roanmore
 - b. Annagh Hill
 - c. Gorteen
 - d. Kiltullagh
 - e. Castlelambert
 - f. Cloonboo
 - g. Lydican
 - h. Garraun/Ardaun
- 2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**
 - a. **Surface dressing** - Ongoing
 - i. Belville Cross/Hundred Acres - Complete
 - ii. Parkcurry
 - iii. Carnakelly South - Complete
 - iv. Glennagloghaun/Cloonkeen
 - v. Kilskeagh
 - vi. Castleturvin - Complete
 - vii. Gardenham - Complete
 - viii. Moneymore
 - ix. Maonbaun
 - x. Annaghdown
 - xi. Killoughter
 - xii. Tiaquin demesne
 - b. **Works completed by direct labour crews** – works beginning this week
 - i. Farravaun - Complete
 - ii. Gortbrack - Complete
 - iii. Rockfield - Complete
 - iv. Killoughter
 - v. Ballygurraun – Complete
 - vi. Clamperpark - Complete
 - c. **Recycling Contract** – Contract awarded with other MD’s we are in negotiations with the preferred bidder to agree on a programme of works.
 - i. Aghafadda
 - ii. Clooncah
 - iii. Bushfield
 - iv. Muckrush
 - v. Annagh West
 - vi. Monard
- 3. Safety Improvement Works**
 - a. Derrydonnell Beg Tenders received from consultants
 - b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) SW/PG to look at this to ascertain requirements
 - c. Oranbeg (Furey’s Cross) Tenders received from consultants
 - d. Cregmore Bridge Awaiting ESB to power traffic lights kiosk

4. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher
- b. L7125 Ballydavid
- c. L3112 Gloves West
- d. L2117 Lisheenanoran
- e. L3117 Cormachugh

5. Community Involvement Scheme

Allocations not issued yet once they have been issued, we will complete designs and plan works.

6. Other Items

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. Belville Road realignment | Discussions ongoing with Landowners
Consultant completed Part 8 application
information |
| b. Hydrological study Clarin River | Revised application sent to OPW for minor
works fund – Grade 1 engineer has said we
will get a response soon |
| c. Lavally Drainage District | More works planned for this year |
| d. Athenry Pedestrian Bridge | Pavement works to be completed. |
| e. Dual carriageway Oranmore | Re-surfacing planned this summer for
section on Eastbound carriageway Tender
gone out on Supplygov |
| f. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue | Drone survey completed; CCTV planned
once water levels drop access through fields
will be required once silage harvested |
| g. Pedestrian crossing Monivea | Gone to Tender on SupplyGov |
| h. Pedestrian Crossing Library | Gone to Tender on SupplyGov |
| i. Raised table Bridge street | Gone to Tender on SupplyGov |
| j. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore | updated location design ongoing. |
| k. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd. | Contractor planning works next month |



FIG.1 – GLENASLAT FOOTPATH, MONIVEA



FIG.2 – FARRAVAUN SURFACE DRESSING



FIG.3 – GORTBRACK SURFACE DRESSING



FIG.4 – MONEYMORE PRE-DRESSING TREATMENT



FIG.5 – NEW LIGHTS LACKAGH



FIG.6 – ANNAGHDOWN FOOTPATH WORKS - ONGOING



FIG.7 – BENCHES ATHENRY RING ROAD



FIG.8 – NEW BOLLARDS ORANMORE

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The Ballinasloe MD held its AGM on the 14th of June. Cllr Parsons thanked members, staff and her family for their help and support over the last year and highlighted a number of successful initiatives such as Ballinasloe 300 and the Roscommon/Galway Councillor meeting.

Cllr Declan Geraghty was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Tim Broderick elected Leas.



Updates at the June meeting that followed included:

Preparation of P8 applications

ORIS application process

Ballinasloe October Fair 2023 plans

BALAMI FUNDED PIER & HARBOUR PROJECTS

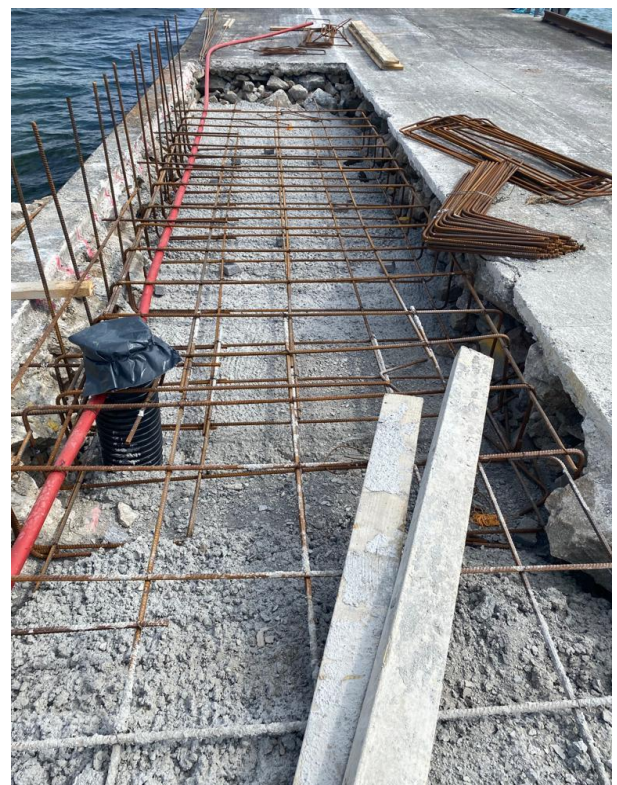
Total funding of €1,225,975 across 2022 And 2023 has been received for works to Piers and Harbours in the Galway County Council functional area from the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI). Matched funding at 5% of the works value is provided from Galway County Council's own budget to bring the total provision to €1,290,500.

The majority of this spend is in the Conamara Municipal District area, comprising works at 16 locations with a combined allocation of €1,125,500. Most of the works have been completed and the remainder are on track for completion ahead of the funding drawdown deadline of November 2023.

The largest of the projects include the construction of a storm wall at Bealcarra Pier and the installation of pontoons at Kilronan, Inis Mór. The pontoon installation contract has been awarded and the pontoons are scheduled to be in place by the end of September 2023.

The pictures below show the before and after conditions at a number of the relevant landing places.

BEALCARRA PIER IMPROVEMENT WORKS – STORM WALL & BASE





ROUNDSTONE PIER IMPROVEMENT WORKS – NEW LADDERS & GUARDRAILS REPLACEMENT





BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOS'S OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN CLIFDEN

- (1) 11 no. Pedestrian Crossings redone with New Belisha Lights, New Tactile Paving and New Linemarking.
- (2) Works Complete in December 2022. Linemarking complete in March 2023.
- (3) Constructed by: Noone Civil Engineering Ltd, Foxford, Co. Mayo.

CROSSING NO. 1

BEFORE:



AFTER:



CROSSING NO. 2

BEFORE:



AFTER:



CROSSING NO. 3

BEFORE:



AFTER:



We currently have the following completed within the Roads programme for Loughrea

RI 40% complete – 18 of 44 roads

- Lagans have 10 of 17 schemes complete (Colas still have to surface dress some of these)
- Francis Daniels has 7 of 17 complete
- Colas has 10 schemes to do - recycling

RM 65% complete – 21 of 33 roads

- Colas have 8 of 15 schemes complete
- Francis Daniels has 13 of 17 complete

DG 43% complete – 7 of 14 complete

ROADS PROGRAMME RI PROJECTS COMPLETED:

In recent times all crews have been concentrating on getting the roads listed on the 2023 Schedule of Loughrea Municipal District Works (Roadworks Programme) prepared for remediation and resurfacing. A lot of time has been spent on drainage works, surface preparation works and hedge cutting/ boundary preparation.



7 NO. RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT ROADS COMPLETED

- R-353 Kennedys Cross to Ballinakill
- R-355 Magheranearla
- R356 Fahys Bridge to Grange

- L-4220 Ballymannin to Ballymanagh
- L-4511 Cockstown West
- L-8537 Castlepark
- L-8107 Knockawuddy

- **36% of the Restoration improvement works have been completed to date**

ROADS PROGRAMME RM PROJECTS COMPLETED:

🕒 **12 Restoration Maintenance Grant roads commenced**

- R350 between Bullaun and Ballyfa
- R-353 Ballyshrule
- R-347 Ardrahan to Craughwell
- L-4214 Grange
- L-4102 Athenry Rd. Clarinbridge
- L-4510 Tirneevin
- L-4501 Dunkellin
- L-4219 Deerpark
- L-4514 Lurga
- L-4510 Kilmacduagh
- L-4511 Loughaunawadda
- L-8521 Cappard Demesne



➤ **37% of the Restoration maintenance works have been completed to date**

ROADS PROGRAMME DG PROJECTS COMPLETED:

- 42% of the Discretionary Road Grants works completed to date

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS COMPLETED

- Upgrade of Kiltullagh paths by Anthony Cunnane
- Installation of new rubber mats at swimming area in Portumna
- Installation of 7 tier planters in Loughrea town
- Installation of vehicle activated speed signs in Portumna and Abbey Village
- Erecting of new road signage in Loughrea
- Drainage works at Bullaun and Tulla Loughrea



UPGRADE OF FOOTPATHS AT KILTULLAGH

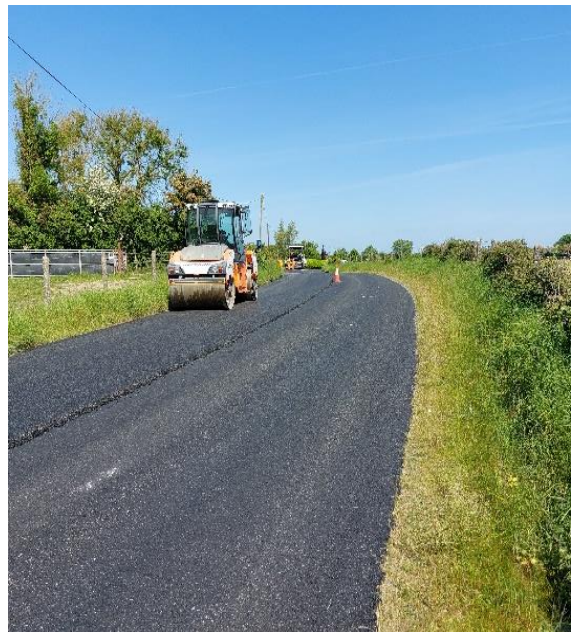


SURFACE DRESSING ON R350 BETWEEN BULLAUN AND BALLYFA

Contractor: Colas



R355 PORTUMNA TO BALLINASLOE ROAD RESURFACING WORKS – LAGANS



R353 KYLEMORE SURFACE DRESSING – FRANCIS DANIELS



L-4501 DUNKELLIN SURFACE DRESSING – COLAS





INSTALLATION OF NEW RUBBER MATS AT SWIMMING AREA IN PORTUMNA

Blue flag status achieved in Portumna

BEFORE (SLIPPERY SURFACE – HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARD)



AFTER (NON SLIP – SAFER ACCESS TO WATER)



MAINTAINING THE LONG POINT, LOUGHREA

Blue flag status achieved in Loughrea



DRAINAGE WORKS AT TUROE PET FARM



DRAINAGE WORKS AT TULLAGH



ROAD MARKINGS THE GREEN LOUGHREA



SPEED ACTIVATED SIGNAGE PORTUMNA





- The roads programme for 2023 is up and running and there has been significant progress with the works. The Overlay contract began last month and is substantially complete. Works are ongoing to complete the surface dressing on the overlays that are outside the speed limits. The MD has carried out significant drainage works at all new overlay locations, with the creation of large water-tables along all the routes which have been filled with 3-inch stone and will result in greatly improved drainage and less damage done to the road surface by sitting surface water. The Surface Dressing contract has started and 25% of roads are now completed. The Recycling projects have also begun. Outdoor staff have completed the edging of roads, repairing potholes and carrying out drainage works ahead of the Main Contractors.
- The outdoor crews have commenced our 'direct labour' surface dressing, the current spell of good weather has increased productivity significantly.
- Works have commenced on the preparation of Land Dedication documentation for this year's Community Involvement Schemes. There are 13 in total on the list this year.
- Maintenance of the grassed areas within the MD has commenced. Works have commenced in parks, graveyards, housing estates etc.
- Works were recently completed on the installation of a palisade security fence at the Tuam Community Allotments at Parkmore, Dublin Road. The new fence has ensured the allotments are secure and people can grow their vegetables etc without interference from outside parties.
- Works are currently ongoing on Stage 3 of the Caherlistrane project, which involves the construction of a Pedestrian Crossing near the GAA pitch, with a short section of additional footpaths. The Civils part of the Crossing is completed and Electric Skyline have begun the

installation of the Mech and Elec elements of the works. Harringtons will install a ramp and Colas will carry out line marking in the next few weeks. The Council has also installed a number of new public lighting columns and replaced existing heads with LED. New traffic calming road markings were installed recently, on the approach to the new Ped Crossing.

- The MD has received codes for the 2023 'Local Improvement Schemes' (LIS's) within the MD. There are 4 LIS's in total this year, to a value of €187,000. These works have commenced in Tuam East (at Rosmearan) and will be starting soon in the other areas. The majority of works will be carried out later in the year when the Roads Programme has been completed.
- The MD has also received codes for this years 'Low Cost Accident' projects within the MD, there are 3 schemes in total, to a value of €73,000. These will improve safety in these areas and we are very thankful to landowners that dedicate land to allow the completion of these projects. We have commenced works at Dalgin, near Milltown and started preparatory works with the rest, ie. checking deigns, availability of land etc.
- The MD also has received codes for 'Climate Adaption' within the MD this year. There are 8 Schemes in total, to a total value of €275,478. These projects are dispersed well from a geographical view throughout the MD and will greatly assist in reducing flooding and other climate related issues in these locations. Works have been completed on the Weir Road and in Pollacorrugane under this scheme. Other projects to follow once the Roads Programme is substantially complete.
- The MD has again this year applied for the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Award for the Palace Grounds in Tuam. A lot of work has gone into these applications and significant time goes into getting the park looking well by our Community Employment Scheme for the judging part of the process. The MD is confident of retaining both flags this year and improving on last year's score. The MD has also applied for a new flag from An Taisce called the 'Pollinator Project Award' and again a significant amount of work went into this application, but it is worthwhile as it is an excellent way to showcase how biodiversity has been embraced in the Tuam MD. It will help ensure a rich habitat for pollinators in the Palace Grounds. This is the third year where large areas have been left uncut and the benefits are there to see with many varieties of natural wildflowers visible within the meadow. Please note Galway County Council has appointed a new Biodiversity Officer and the MD look forward to working closely with her.
- The MD has been successful in its application for additional funding for the Palace Grounds Park under the 'Community Regeneration Fund'. This application includes for the replacement of defective footpaths, new fencing, removal of Leylandii trees and replacement with native species, age friendly benches, picnic tables, new signage and new maintenance equipment.
- The MD is delighted to report that it has received a wonderful new sign for the Palace Grounds relating to the 'An Choill Bheag (AnCB) initiative' from An Taisce. The MD was approved to partake in this late last year and have completed the first stage of works. These are small, dense, biodiverse native woodland habitats planted on community grounds, providing a space for people and wildlife. An Taisce have planted twenty little woodlands throughout the country, planting over 3,350 native trees and working directly with groups and individuals. The Palace Grounds was planted earlier this year and it included the TY students from the Presentation Secondary School in this venture. Again, this project highlights Galway County Councils commitment to protecting the Environment and to improving areas under its control for the greater good of the general public.
- Works are ongoing for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in Barnaderg. New public lighting and have been installed in the village centre. Frank Dollys crew have commenced Civils for two new pedestrian crossings and a contractor has been appointed to install the Mech and Elec elements of these crossings. It is intended to install additional footpaths and ducting for future public lighting on the road to the church, the scale of this work will depend on the size of funding available after the other works are complete.
- Stage 1 of the installation of a new footpath on the Weir Road in Tuam, across from Millstream Park is complete. A landowner agreed to dedicate land to facilitate the installation of this

footpath, allowing two existing footpaths to be joined up and this will result in a significant improvement in pedestrian access to the town centre from the Weir Road.

- The vacant CES supervisor position in Tuam will be filled very soon. Interviews took place recently for this position. One of the CES staff is currently acting in the role. This is a very important job as the scheme carry out important maintenance works throughout Tuam and the environs.
- Upgrade works of existing signage has been completed at a number of locations in Tuam East over the past month (on the R328, R362 & R332)
- The new compactor has been delivered to the Bobby Burke Road depot. The compactor is being hired in from a waste company and will greatly improve the litter storage situation at the depot. This compactor presses the rubbish allowing significantly more material to be stored before collection.

See photos of some of the ongoing or completed projects below:



NEW OVERLAY ON THE ATHENRY ROAD, AT TUAM GOLF CLUB, SURFACE DRESSING TO FOLLOW THIS WEEK.



THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW IN THE PALACE GROUNDS IS IN FULL BLOOM. THIS IS THE 3RD YEAR OF THE MEADOW, AND THE WILDFLOWERS ARE REALLY STARTING TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD IN THE PARK. WE HAVE APPLIED FOR A POLLINATOR AWARD FROM AN TAISCE AND ARE HOPEFUL OF SUCCESS.





THESE 'BEFORE AND AFTER' PHOTOS WERE TAKEN AT GLASS AVENUE, TUAM. THIS ROUTE WAS DARK, UNINVITING AND NO VEGETATION GREW UNDER THE NON-NATIVE LEYLANDII TREES. THE PATH SURFACE WAS ALSO BADLY DAMAGED FROM PROTRUDING TREE ROOTS. WE CARRIED OUT A FULL UPGRADE HERE LAST YEAR, PLANTING NATIVE TREES AND PLANTS AND WE CAN REALLY SEE THE DIFFERENCE THESE WORKS HAVE MADE THIS YEAR. THE AREA IS IN FULL BLOOM AND IS NOW WIDELY USED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.



ONGOING WORKS AT A LOW-COST ACCIDENT SCHEME AT DALGIN, NEAR MILLTOWN.



ONGOING DIRECT LABOUR (OUR OWN CREWS) WORKS FOR THIS YEARS ROADS PROGRAMME, TUAM EAST.



WALL REMOVED ON WEIR ROAD (OPPOSITE MILLSTREAM PARK) FOR NEW LINK FOOTPATH, BEFORE AND AFTER.

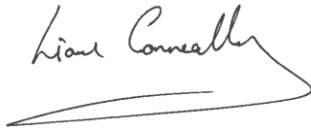


THIS IS A RECENT SIGN WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM AN TAISCE, FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE VERY SUCCESSFUL AN 'CHOILL BEAG' NATIVE WOODLAND PLANTING IN THE PALACE GROUNDS TUAM. THIS SIGN WILL BE ERECTED IN THE PARK NEXT WEEK.



THIS IS A RECENT PALISADE FENCE THAT WE ERECTED AT THE ALLOTMENTS IN PARKMORE IN TUAM. THIS FENCING ENSURES THE SECURITY OF THIS IMPORTANT COMMUNAL PUBLIC PLANTING AREA.

Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Conneally". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly curved line that serves as a decorative underline.

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

20th June 2023