



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Nollaig 2024

December 2024

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

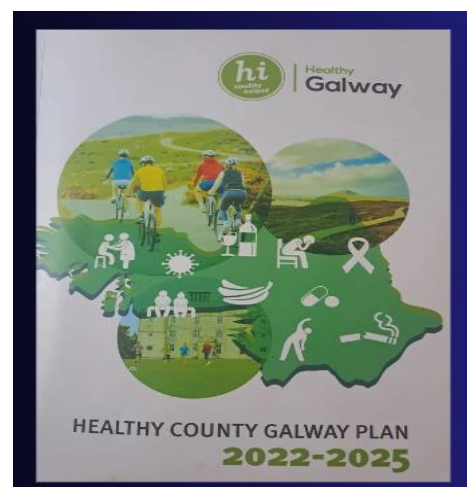
At the LCDC meeting held on the 3rd December, the committee members received a presentation from Maria Hall, Hub Planning on the Draft Local Economic & Community Plan. The LCDC members approved the Plan, and it will now be presented to Plenary Council at the December meeting. The LCDC members also received an introduction from Jennifer Swannock on the Galway County Council Integration Team. The Local Enhancement Programme for 2025 was presented and discussed. It was agreed that the scheme will focus on supporting the development of social and community facilities and services to prevent social isolation and loneliness among the elderly and persons with a disability. The LCDC meeting dates for 2025 were circulated and agreed.

SICAP

At the request of Pobal, a mid-year review of SICAP 2024 was undertaken and all queries raised by Pobal were addressed. The SICAP tender for Galway Islands Lot was retendered due to Galway Rural Development advising that they would be withdrawing from the Galway Islands Lot at the end of the year. It is anticipated that a new contract will be signed before the end of the year.

HEALTHY IRELAND

The Healthy Galway County Plan 2022-2025 is an initiative aimed at improving the health and well-being of the residents of County Galway. The plan focuses on promoting physical activity, mental health, and social inclusion through various community-based programs and partnerships. It aligns with national health strategies and emphasizes sustainability, accessibility, and equality in health services. The plan was developed as part of Healthy Galway's objective to enhance the physical environment where people grow, live, play, work, and age. It supports the establishment and development of additional community and school gardens, allotments, sensory areas, and biodiverse outdoor spaces to strengthen the connection between nature and health.



Subsequently a total of €30,000 was made available by Healthy Galway to support projects proposals within the community with grants between €1,000 - €5,000 provided. Projects were to be completed and funding to be drawn down by 30th November 2024. The funding supported the purchase of equipment and materials to enable participation in social & leisure activities in outdoor spaces.

The project proposal submitted was to demonstrate that an increase in the number of people engaging in regular and sustainable social & leisure activities, with particular emphasis on one or more of the Target Groups of General Population, Older People, People with Disabilities and Youth.



Project proposals were welcome from any not-for-profit Community or Voluntary sector who is managing a Community Garden that is freely available to the wider community as a means of improving social connection opportunities for older people to reduce isolation and subsequently support physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

A further objective of the Healthy Galway County plan is to improve access and opportunities for participation in physical activities in the county. The Active Parks Initiative funded by Healthy Galway and in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership, identified and approved three areas and designs for the installation of Activator Fit Stick Trails for Galway County for 2024.



Active Parks use local city parks and greenspaces to create opportunities for community residents to take part in physical activities to improve their health and wellbeing. Three areas of Galway County were identified for the installation of activator signage. The areas selected to install the activator 'Fit Stick Trails' aligned with community groups already using activator poles in the area, supported by previous programmes via Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway.



Mental Health and Social Wellbeing are also highlighted as key objectives of the Healthy County Galway Plan to combat social isolation and loneliness, and to promote mental health at all stages of life. Consequently, the community health and wellbeing boards project focuses on mental health, recognizing it as a crucial component of overall well-being.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD / BOIRD SLÁINTE AGUS FOLLÁINE POBAIL

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

CONNECT
It's important to have people you can talk to about your feelings. This can be a friend, family member, or a professional. Talking to someone can help you feel better and give you ideas on how to deal with your problems.

BE ACTIVE
Being active can help you feel better about yourself and your life. It can also help you sleep better and have more energy. Try to get some exercise every day, even if it's just a short walk.

TAKE NOTICE
It's important to notice when you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed. This can help you take a break and do something to relax. You can also try to find things that make you feel good and happy.

KEEP LEARNING
Learning new things can help you feel better about yourself and your life. It can also help you meet new people and make friends. Try to learn something new every day, even if it's just a new recipe or a new hobby.

GIVE
Giving to others can help you feel better about yourself and your life. It can also help you meet new people and make friends. Try to do something nice for someone else every day, even if it's just a small gesture.

Supports and Services:

- West Be Well
- your area health
- SAMARITANS
- ISPCCC Childline
- JIGSAW GALWAY
- pieta
- spunout
- LGBT
- westdoc
- parentline
- EMART
- mabs

www.mentalhealthireland.ie

Galway City | Healthy Galway County

The project has two main objectives:

1. To raise awareness of various local and national supports and services by installing community health and wellbeing boards in sports clubs and community groups across Galway County.
2. To promote the Five Ways to Wellbeing, which are five simple, evidence-based actions that everyone can incorporate into their daily lives to enhance and improve their wellbeing. In collaboration with West Be Well, Mental Health Ireland, Galway Sports Partnership, HSE and Healthy Galway County, these boards aim to address mental health issues at a community level by promoting awareness, providing resources, and supporting initiatives that improve mental health outcomes for the wider community.

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

A meeting of Galway County Older People’s Council took place on 2nd December to review activities during 2024 and discuss priorities for 2025 including the hosting of the National Age Friendly Achievement and Recognition Awards in November 2025. A meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance took place on 4th December to receive presentations on the GICPOP (Galway Integrated Care Programme for Older People) by HSE, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme by Age Friendly Ireland, Positive Ageing Week 2024 from COPE Galway, and Galway County Council’s award-winning project on Bus Shelters at Casla and Indreabhán by the Roads/Infrastructure Department. A final report was submitted to Age Friendly Ireland on the Healthy Islands ring-fenced allocation for 2024, to increase the number of sustainable social & leisure activities available on the 4 offshore islands. Tenders have also been assessed to identify a consultant to develop an Age Friendly Strategy for the County & City. The Directory of Services for Older People has been reviewed and a reprint of the updated Directory has been ordered for January 2025 and it is hoped that these copies will be distributed to libraries and community centres at local level.

The Age Friendly Programme hosted 2 sessions of “Putting your House in Order” in Ballinasloe Library and Oughterard Courthouse on 28th and 29th November, which involved advice on legal and financial issues for older people including “Think Ahead” from The Irish Hospice Foundation, and Enduring Power of Attorney and assistance in registering with the Decision Support Service. These sessions were well received by attendees, and we hope to roll out further sessions in partnership with these organisations in 2025.



‘PUTTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER’ INFORMATION WORKSHOP AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2024.

PUBLIC

PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Galway County Public Participation Network "PPN Plenary Winter Event" was held on 19th November 2024 at the Connemara Coast Hotel in Na Forbacha (Furbo). An excellent gathering of PPN Member Groups, PPN Secretariat and Reps, PPN Staff and Galway County Council Staff from Environment, Housing, Arts, Integration, Sports, Rural and Community

Development Sections. Special thanks also to Ger Deering, Ombudsman, who presented on the role of the Ombudsman's Office.

Long Service Awards were presented to Vincent Lyons, Dan Dowling, and Jarlath P. Canney, PPN Secretariat by Jacqueline Carroll, Director of Services, Rural, Community Development, Integration and Environment of Galway County Council. These three volunteers have served a ten-year term on the PPN Secretariat Advisory Body, while also serving their Local Communities for many years. Galway County PPN would like to sincerely thank them for their dedication.



ATTENDEES AT PPN WINTER PLENARY

LONG SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:
VINCENT LYONS, DAN DOWLING,
JARLATH CANNEY



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
STAFF L-R: EIMEAR DOLAN, JANET
KEHELLY, MARK MOLLOY,
MAJELLA MOYLAN, JACQUELINE
CARROLL, MARY MCGANN,
THERESA DONOHUE, SHARON
O'GRADY, JOHN MOORE,
MICHELLE CONNELLAN, MORVEN
BROOKS, DUANA TUIE.

GALWAY COUNTY PPN
SECRETARIAT L-R: CARMEL
MCGRATH, PATRICK
MCHUGH, MARIA
HENEGHAN, JARLATH P.
CANNEY, VINCENT LYONS,
DAN DOWLING, MARTIN
WARD, MARTINA FINN



ARTS OFFICE

CREATIVE PLACES TUAM

A Stakeholder Meeting of Creative Places Tuam was held on the 27th November with Create, Galway County Council Arts Office and GRD. As we are now entering into Phase 2 of this programme. plans are in place to contract two new local positions to support the local steering committee to deliver the programme on the ground. This current phase of the project has been funded by the Arts Council in collaboration with Galway County Council and GRD.

Creative Places Tuam has invested in and programmed 33 community awards, 6 artist residencies, mentored 167 artists and 58 community groups produced 1 Community Festival, leveraged 1 Irish Architecture Foundation award, developed a targeted training programme, opened the Blue Doors of Tuam Town Hall and partnered with The Tuam Herald to share the work with the people of Tuam.

Creative Places Tuam aims to hold space in which the artists and communities of the town can flourish and create meaningful connections with each other through artistic practice, with peers nationally and internationally, with funders and other support agencies, and with the essence of what it means to live together as a local community.

The vision is for a town in which artists and communities feel closely intertwined and are supported to embark on creative work of depth and quality. Our mission is to cultivate a collaborative environment for arts and culture to thrive. We do this through the supports provided by the coordinator, a consistent series of funding supports, training provision, professional development for artists, and

**Open Call to artists from
County Galway**

STUDIO MÓR AND GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICE ARE OFFERING A FULLY FUNDED WEEK-LONG RESIDENCY TO 3 ARTISTS. 2 ARTISTS FROM COUNTY GALWAY AND 1 ARTIST WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. STUDIO MÓR IS A SUPPORTED ART STUDIO BASED IN ORANMORE AND PROVIDES A SAFE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE TO CREATE. ARTISTS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AT ANY STAGE OF THEIR CAREER ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ACCESS THE STUDIO. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 13TH AT 6PM. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT <https://visualartists.ie/advert/open-call-residencies-at-studio-mor/>

engagement with local community and stakeholders. Phase 2 places a greater emphasis on the building of local capacity to initiate and sustain arts practice.

STUDIO MÓR ARTIST RESIDENCY OPEN CALL

Studio Mór in collaboration with Galway County Arts Office announce its Open Call to artists in any art form from County Galway to submit a proposal for a weeklong artist residency at Studio Mór. Oranmore. Studio Mór is a supported art studio based in Oranmore, Co Galway and operates alongside the Brothers of Charity Galway daycentre Limelight Creative Arts.



Studio Mór provides a safe, accessible and inclusive space for people with additional needs to create art. People come from all over Galway both independently and with support to use the space one day a week.

The residencies will offer three artists a weeklong residency in Spring 2025. Includes two residencies for artists from all backgrounds from County Galway and one artist with a disability or additional needs from anywhere in Ireland.

CREATIVE IRELAND

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



We've come to the end of another year of Creative Ireland funding. In mid-November we carried out our final drawdown from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. In 2024, Galway County Council received a total of €181,419 in funding for our Core Programme. We received an additional €42,957 to programme

creative events for children and young people on Cruinniú na nÓg back in June. Not including Cruinniú na nÓg, we funded a total of 27 creative projects across Galway County in 2024. This breaks down to 13 Open Call Applicants, 7 Culture Team Projects, and 7 Flagship Projects. In terms of geographical spread, 2024 saw Creative Ireland projects take place as

far West as Clifden, East to Ballinasloe, North to Tuam and Headford, and South to Gort. We also had projects taking place on Inis Oírr and Inisboffin.

Many of the projects which received Creative Ireland funding have been discussed in previous reports, so we have included a quick rundown of them here.

OPEN CALL 2024

The Open Call this year was hugely oversubscribed. With €60,000 to allocate, we had a total ask of €360,000. The panel had the difficult task of deciding which projects would be recommended for funding.

Out of over 50 applicants, only 13 were successful.

Many of the projects which were awarded funding consisted of workshops. There was a large focus this year on long term community engagement with creativity and the arts.

Below is a list of the 2024

Creative Ireland Open Call projects.



- Athenry Music School – ‘Samba le Chéile’
- Brú Bhríde – ‘Engage Circus Workshop’
- Pala Creative Advancement – ‘Creatively Connecting the Community’
- Cois Cladaigh Centre Arts Groups (BOCSI) – ‘Aistear and tSaoil’
- Corrib Kids Coding – ‘Creative Technology for Children’
- FUSE Music Collective – ‘Half Speed Trad’
- Galway Traveller Movement – ‘Reclaiming Cultural Spaces’
- Gort Arts Group – ‘Fite Fuaite 2: Exploring Creativity in Gort’
- Group 8 – ‘Connected’
- Headford Lace Project – ‘A Meitheal for Molly’
- Interface Inagh – ‘Art in the Landscape’
- Limelight Creative Arts (BOCSI) – Sensoryscape
- Art Room 109 – ‘Read, Play, and Create!’

CULTURE TEAM PROJECTS

The Culture Team operates within Galway County Council and consists of representatives across many departments. The purpose of the Culture Team is to ensure that creativity is integrated across a broad variety of aspects of life in Galway County. Members of the Culture Team use Creative Ireland funding to fund creative projects and support community groups in their respective areas of expertise. Below is a list of the Culture Team projects which received Creative Ireland funding in 2024.



- Biodiversity Office – ‘Creative Carrownagappul’
- Heritage Office – ‘Roundstone Lecture Series’
- Heritage Office – ‘Forged Gates Project’
- Integration Team – ‘1 Million Stars’
- Libraries – ‘Marking Time Bookmarks’
- Libraries – ‘Reflecting, Scribbling, Sketching’
- Libraries – Tús Exhibition’

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Each year a number of large-scale projects are funded directly by the Creative Communities Engagement Officer. These projects are chosen on a strategic basis to ensure that the programme for the year covers all areas identified in the Creative Ireland Strategic Plan. Below is a list of the Flagship Projects for 2024.

- Gort Art Groups – ‘HERSELF: Cloak of Renewal’
- Breakdown Productions – ‘We Built this City on Rock and Coal’.
- Galway Music Residency – ‘Musical Afternoons in Residential Care Facilities’
- Alan James Burns – ‘Augmented Body, Altered Mind, BrainSTORM!’
- Sparkcatchers! – ‘Tiny Mutiny: First Sparks’
- Sing Along Social – ‘St Anne’s Pop-Up’

LOOKING FORWARD

Planning for 2025 is already well underway. The Culture Team have been asked to bring their proposals for projects to a meeting on the 9th of December. A meeting of Creative Communities Engagement Officers and Creative Ireland Co-ordinators in Dublin on December 11th will reveal any increases in funding and/or strategic priorities for 2025. The 2025 Open Call will go public in mid-December with a view to completing assessment by late January. It already looks like 2025 is going to be an even busier year than 2024 as we support our communities to explore their creativity in new and exciting ways.

MENOPAUSE – PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR WELLNESS

Menowell 6-week online exercise, nutrition & health education programme coming in January 2025

Galway Sports Partnership in collaboration with the EduFIT team, the University of Galway and the Atlantic Technological University Galway will deliver a FREE 6-week exercise nutrition and health education programme designed for women in mid-life in January 2025. Back in September, Dr. Diane Cooper (founder of Edufit) delivered an excellent workshop on the importance of physical activity for women in midlife, and her colleague Ann Kavanagh, provided a take home resource of videos. Based on the engagement and level of interest in the workshop, it was possible to go ahead with the full programme delivery.

The 6-week evidence-based programme is a wonderful way to start the new year with 2 x live workouts weekly and a 30min online health education workshop weekly that will cover topics that relate to women’s health and wellness in midlife.

SPORT IRELAND COACHING TEENAGE GIRLS ONLINE WORKSHOP

Galway Sports Partnership delivered the Sport Ireland Coaching Teenage Girls Workshop for the first time on December 11th. The workshop aims to support and educate coaches to specificities of teenage girls and sport. It was co-delivered by Galway Sports Partnership staff who are trained tutors.

The interactive format offers opportunities for experience sharing while equipping coaches with best practice solutions they can adapt to their own setting.

It covers topics such as the reasons why girls engage and disengage from sport, the Menstrual Cycle and practical tips in how to create a positive coaching environment.

The programme was funded by Women in Sport, Sport Ireland via Galway Sports Partnership and will be run again in 2025.

INISMORE CELTS

Galway Sports Partnership and Basketball Ireland were delighted to partner to support the Inis Mór with basketball equipment for a social/leisure basketball group. Galway Sports Partnership working with Basketball Ireland were able to provide funding and put together a support package through Basketball Ireland's club Innovation scheme to help this group become a new Basketball Ireland affiliated Club on Inis Mór which are now formally called



the Inis Mór Celts. All equipment, coach training and upskilling is provided along with a basketball for every child in the school on Inis Mór. This is a great example of how Galway Sports Partnership works with communities to put in place sustainable initiatives to support existing and new clubs in partnership with National Governing Bodies of Sport.



INTEGRATION

The Integration Team have supported new Ukrainian and International Protection Applicant arrivals in Tuam, Gort, Loughrea, An Cheathrú Rua and Clifden. We have provided information on education and training, pathways to employment, access to Legal Aid and referrals to health services.

We are currently working with 1,299 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and 400 International Protection Applicants.

In addition to our information clinics, we have helped to deliver community events across the County with local groups, Healthy Ireland and Local Development Companies, including:

RUGBY TASTER DAY WITH BALLINASLOE RFC



COFFEE MORNING IN CARNA

WELCOME EVENT IN TUAM



ONE MILLION STARS WORKSHOPS

CLIFDEN DESTINATION TOWN FUNDED PROJECT

The Destination Town project for Clifden was developed in line with the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Programme. Clifden Destination Town funding was allocated through the ‘Destination Towns Capital Infrastructure Programme’.

Galway was granted by Fáilte Ireland to boost tourism appeal of the town. This project is now complete.



THE EU JUST TRANSITION REGENERATIVE TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING SCHEME 2023-2026

In April 2024, Galway County Council appointed an EU Just Transition Activator to support local community groups and SMEs in accessing the Just Transition Fund. Over the past six months, the Activator has engaged with 15 community groups and approximately 20 SMEs, holding over 50 face-to-face meetings to promote the fund. These engagements resulted from combined marketing efforts, including four public information sessions and two radio segments disseminating information.

The EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme 2023-2026 closed for expressions of interest on July 2, 2024, at 12 noon. A total of 25 EOIs were submitted, with 23 moving to the approval stage. The Activator is now assisting applicants through the application phase, providing checklists, scheduled monthly updates, and guidance throughout.

To date, seven applications have been submitted with five more expected during December. Work continues on the other applications, with some pending planning approvals. So far, three applications have been approved.

The final application deadline is January 13th, 2025, with funding allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. The Activator will continue supporting applicants to help as many as possible meet the deadline and will provide ongoing support and guidance for successful projects.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME FESTIVAL AND EVENTS

The Tourism Department is dedicated to 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.

In 2024, The Community Support Scheme facilitated festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants (€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000. A total of 61 communities were granted support and almost all grants are now drawn down for 2024.

Community Support Scheme for 2025 will be advertised in the local papers, applications can be submitted online, closing date 24th January 2025.

TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024	
MARCH	
9th	Ghana Independence Day 6th March 2024
15th-23rd	Claregalway Drama Festival
17th	St Patrick's Day Festival & Parade
22nd-30th	Glenamuckly 40th Annual Theatre Festival
APRIL	
1st	Kilcolgan Easter Festival
4th-7th	Clifden Traditional Music Festival
MAY	
1st-19th	Galway County Fleadh 2024
3rd-5th	Inishbofin Arts Festival 2024
3rd-6th	Féile Joe Eimín
5th-6th	Connemara Mountain Walking Festival
24th-26th	Britanny Fest 2024
24th-26th	Ballinasloe Something for Everyone Weekend
JUNE	
1st-2nd	National and All Nations Sheep Shearing and Wool handling Championship 2024
9th	Corcán Dark Race
13th-16th	St. Kenil's Festival
20th-23rd	Féile na Sliabh
23rd	Samhraidh le Chéile
23rd	Taspéintas Croicín an Cladaigh
JULY	
Jun 30th-Jul 3rd	Headfest Festival
5th-6th	Curis Stories, These Are Our People
4th-7th	Galway Garden Festival
9th-14th	Galway Film Fleadh
12th-14th	Roundstone Pony Show
25th-28th	Williamstown Community Festival
26th-28th	South Galway Bay Music Festival
28th-4th	Cathal Together Festival
AUGUST	
1st-6th	Ballygar Carnival
3rd-4th	Féile Rísáil Inis Meáin
12th	Ballymore Bridge Hein Fair
15th-18th	Clonberne Festival 2024
16th-18th	Comórach 175 bliain an 'Big St. John'
16th-18th	Féile Ceol An Cheathrú Rua
16th-18th	Cruinnio na mBád
23rd-25th	Castiballakeery Summer Festival Weekend
30th-2nd Sept	Féile an Ghraibín
SEPTEMBER	
1st	Taspéintas Chois Fharraige 2024
5th-8th	Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds
6th	Exploring County Galway's Usher Heritage
7th	Clarinbridge Market Day
8th	Meelick Riverfest 2024
13th-15th	Cleggan Fringe Festival
13th-15th	Féile Anm Cleite
14th	Kilcoona Scout Group 25 Year Anniversary Celebration
18th-29th	Clifden Arts Festival
20th-22nd	Bia Búiféine - Food Festival
21st-22nd	Atherry MAD Festival
TBC	Mullagh's Community Day
OCTOBER	
4th-6th	Something In The Water
11th-20th	Balavac International Arts Festival for Children- County Programme
18th-20th	Carna Walking Festival
19th	Howl at the Moon 2024
24th Sep-13th Oct	North East Galway Fit Up Theatre Festival
29th Sep-6th Oct	Ballinasloe Fair & Festival
25th-28th	Creggs Harvest Festival
TBC	Taste of Oramore & Clarinbridge
TBC	Eigse Dara Beag
NOVEMBER	
1st-17th	TULCA Festival of Visual Arts 2024
DECEMBER	
28th Nov- 8th Dec	Santas Cottage
TBC	Winter Wonderland and Ballyglunih Christmas Fair

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GREEN SCHOOLS



Green School visits to Scoil Éinne, An Spidéal, Clarin College, Athenry, Inis Meáin schools, Peterswell NS and Kilconnell NS.

SOCIAL MEDIA



ONGOING SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



DOG CONTROL

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS NOVEMBER 2024

- 642 licences were purchased during the month of January. The breakdown of the licences purchased consisted of 620 annual licences, 20 lifetime licences and 2 general licences.
Over 71% of licences were purchased at the post office.
- 2 fixed penalty notices issued to dog owners for offences under the Control of Dogs Act during November. 59 fines issued year to date.

In March 2023, the cross-Government Working Group on Control of Dogs published their report which contained a number of recommendations to improve dog control in Ireland which included the need to improve dog control infrastructure and equipment in local authority dog shelter facilities.

The Department of Rural and Community Development committed funding under the Dog Control Support Initiative to the local authorities in November 2023 with Galway County Council receiving an allocation of €67,967 in capital funding. In July 2024 it was announced that additional capital funding was made available to the local authorities to undertake necessary repairs and upgrades to dog shelters, vehicles and related equipment. Galway County Council will receive the same allocation granted as in 2023.

The funding allocated will be used to continue to upgrade the dog shelter with the provision of 5 additional kennels, treatment room and exercise areas as we continue to deal with extremely high numbers of stray and abandoned dogs coming through the service. These works will assist in futureproofing the service in respect of the health and well-being of the dogs in our care as well as assisting in improving the health and safety of dog wardens, shelter keeper and veterinary personnel on site. Work is presently ongoing, and we will provide an update on the completed works in the shelter in due course to the plenary.

VETERINARY

Work is continuing around the permanent transfer of the Vets and food businesses to the Department of Agriculture which is scheduled to happen on the 1st of January 2025. Food Businesses have been written to by DAFM to advise of same.

1,090 bovines, 6,889 ovines and 129 poultry have been processed through local abattoirs to date in 2024.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

AGRICULTURE

Inspections under the National Agricultural Inspections Programme were carried out in at risk and protect status waterbodies. These were:

- Kilcolgan_020
- Owenriff (Corrib)_010
- Glennamucka_010

23 farm inspections were carried out in November across the 3 waterbodies and 2 inspections were carried out in relation to complaints.

WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

21 litter fines were issued during the month of November.

4 cases for offences under the Litter Pollution Act were heard at Loughrea and Derrynea District Courts during this month.

3 of these cases resulted in convictions for the offenders under the Act with the other case adjourned to January 2025. Regarding the two cases heard at Loughrea District Court, fines of €2,000 were issued to each of the offenders with costs of €300 also awarded to the Council.

CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

CORPORATE SERVICES

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the Galway U14 Ladies Football Team on winning the All-Ireland U14 Platinum Championship.



MEMBERS OF THE
GALWAY U14 LADIES
FOOTBALL TEAM

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Rachel Timothy on competing in her second Paralympics where she set a national record in the Women's C1-3 500m Time Trial.

L-R: MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. RACHEL TIMOTHY, PARA CYCLING PARALYMPIAN, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER



The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Mr. Ronan Grimes on competing in the Paralympics in Paris this summer, where he set a new national record in the Men's C4-5 1,000m Time Trial.



L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, MR. RONAN GRIMES, PARA CYCLING PARALYMPIAN, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Mr. Eoin Mullen on competing in his first Paralympics where he broke the national record in the men's B 1,000m Time Trial.

L-R: LEAS
CATHAOIRLEACH
CLLR. OLLIE TURNER,
MR. EOIN MULLEN,
PARA CYCLING
PARALYMPIAN, MS.
EILEEN RUANE,
DIRECTOR OF
SERVICES, GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL



The Leas Chathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Sarah Slattery on competing at the Paralympics where she produced a personal best finishing 7th in the Individual Championship Test Grade V.



L-R: LEAS
CATHAOIRLEACH
CLLR. OLLIE
TURNER, MS.
SARAH SLATTERY,
PARA
EQUESTRIAN
PARALYMPIAN,
MS. EILEEN
RUANE,
DIRECTOR OF
SERVICES,
GALWAY
COUNTY
COUNCIL

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Katie O'Brien on competing at the Paralympics and finishing 8th in the PR2 Mixed Double Sculls category.

L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, MS. KATE O'BRIEN, PARA ROWING PARALYMPIAN, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Aifric Keogh on finishing 8th with Ms. Fiona Murtagh in the Women's Pairs at the Olympic Games this summer in Paris.



L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, MS. AIFRIC KEOGH, ROWING OLYMPIAN, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Fiona Murtagh on finishing 8th with Ms. Aifric Keogh in the Women's Pairs at the Olympic Games this summer in Paris.

L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, MS. FIONA MURTAGH, ROWING OLYMPIAN, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Mr. Tom Fannon in reaching the 50m Men's Freestyle Final and setting a new Irish Record at the 2024 Olympic Games.



L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, MR. TOM FANNON, SWIMMING OLYMPIAN, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Ms. Bébhinn Parsons on representing Ireland at the Olympic games. The Ireland team finished 8th in the Women's Rugby Sevens. The award was accepted by Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons on behalf of her daughter.

L-R: LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, CLLR DR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH CLLR. DR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS ACCEPTING ON BEHALF OF HER DAUGHTER BÉBHINN PARSONS OLYMPIAN RUGBY SEVENS



The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the U12 Lackagh Ceilí Band on being crowned All Ireland U12 Ceilí Band champions for a second year in a row.



U12 LACKAGH CEILÍ BAND

The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the U12 Lackagh Ceilí Band Cnoc Dua on achieving 2nd place in the All-Ireland Grúpa Cheoil.

U12 LACKAGH CEILÍ BAND
CNOC DUA GRÚPA CHEOIL



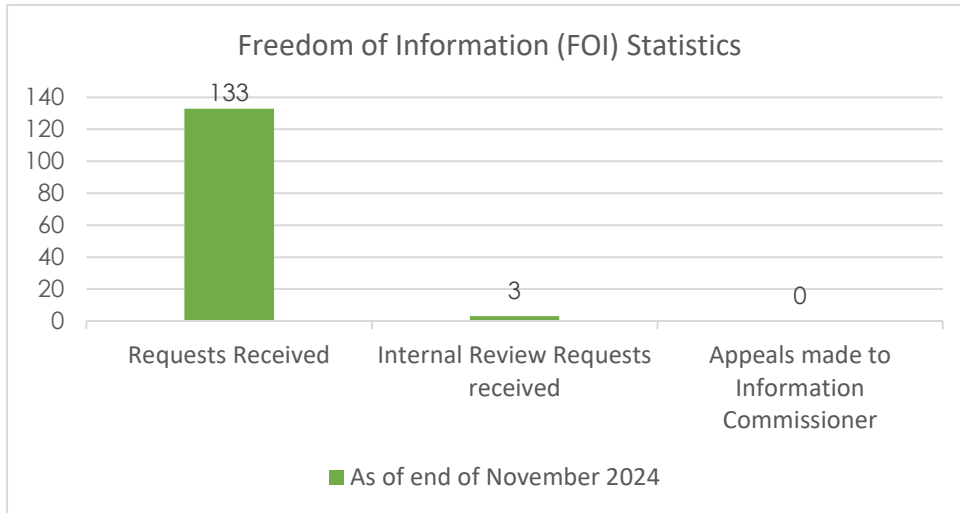
The Leas Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the U15 Carraig Mór Grúpa Cheoil who were crowned Galway and Connaught Champions and achieved 3rd place at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.



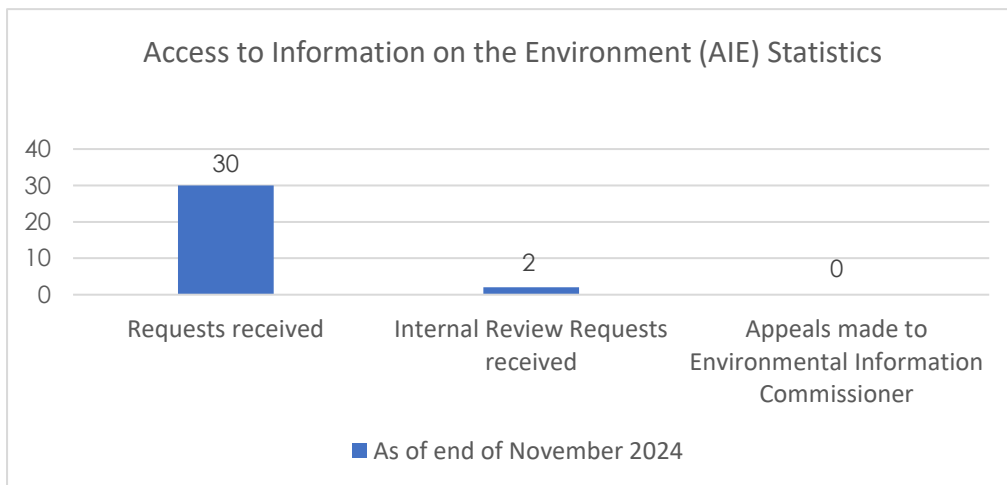
U15 LACKAGH CEILÍ BAND
CARRAIG MÓR GRÚPA CHEOIL

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.11.2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



Data Protection

- **21 Data Access Requests**
 - 15 Data Subject Access Requests
 - 6 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána
- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**
 - New online training for Cyber Security issued to all Staff
 - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff

- Online Refresher Training on Cyber Security & Data Breaches issued to all Staff
- GDPR Induction Workshops provided for Lifeguards and Community Wardens
- Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletters circulated to all Staff
- Online Data Protection/GDPR Training facilitated for the Elected Members of Galway Co. Council
- GDPR Induction Training provided to new staff

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

SOCIAL MEDIA

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



FACEBOOK

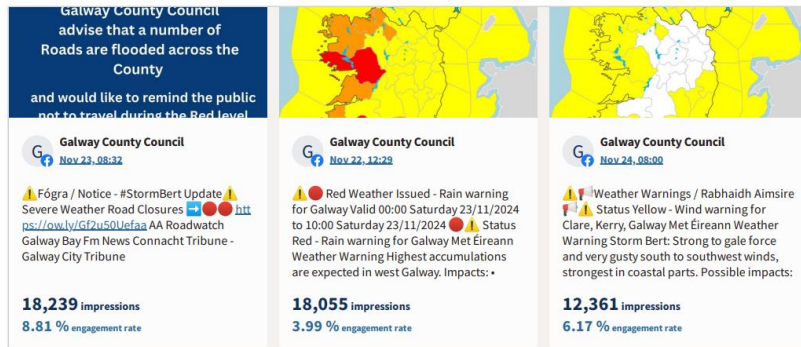
Over this period, Customer Services have posted 127 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page, with a reach of 86.2k. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 39 times this month with followers and had a reach of 6.8k. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 454.3K.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council Facebook follower count was 19,592 as of November 30th, 2024. 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 20.8% of this age group are women and 10.5% are men. The second largest audience group are those

aged between 45-54, with 20% women and 8.3% male. In total, 35% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 65% are female.

NOVEMBER’S TOP THREE POSTS



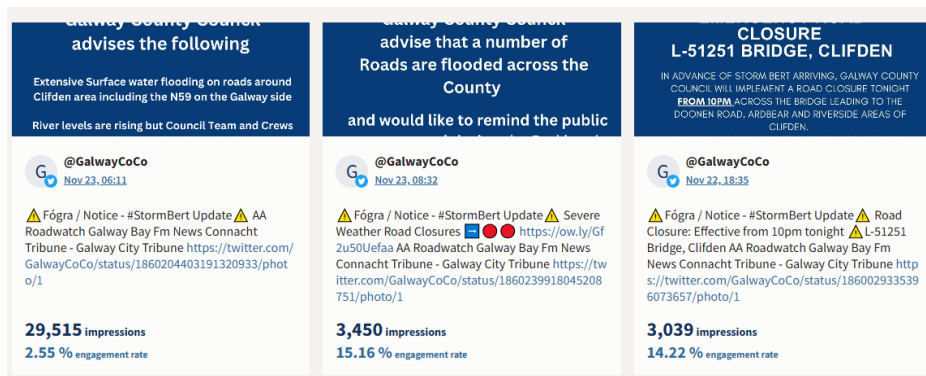
X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 88 tweets with 71.7k impressions.

Galway County Council’s account lost a total of 46 followers, bringing the total following as of the 30th of November 2024 to 16, 893.

NOVEMBER’S TOP THREE POSTS



INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 124 posts to Galway County Council’s Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function 23 times this month with followers as well as sharing 11 reels. Galway County Council’s overall reach for this period was 9.9k.




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 72.9% being female and 27.1% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 36.3% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 27.1% women and 9.5% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 1368 in October 2024 to 1570 followers by the 30th of November 2024.

NOVEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

 <p>galwaycountycouncil Nov 20, 16:42</p> <p>🚨 Orange Weather Update - Snow-Ice warning Valid 00:00 Thursday 21/11/2024 to 12:00 Thursday 21/11/2024 🚨 Status Orange - Snow-Ice warning for Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Galway Met Éireann Weather Warning Significant snowfall</p> <p>3,994 impressions 1.04 % engagement rate</p>	 <p>galwaycountycouncil Nov 13, 15:27</p> <p>An Algal Bloom has been reported to the council in Golden Bay on the northern shore of Lough Corrib. Recent unseasonal warm and calm weather is the likely reason for this occurrence. An algal bloom is an overgrowth of algae that can be seen as</p> <p>1,383 impressions 1.22 % engagement rate</p>	 <p>galwaycountycouncil Nov 22, 17:05</p> <p>🚨 Fógra / Notice @aaroadwatch @galwaybayfmnews @CTribune</p> <p>1,254 impressions 2.4 % engagement rate</p>
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LINKEDIN

AUDIENCE METRICS - LINKEDIN


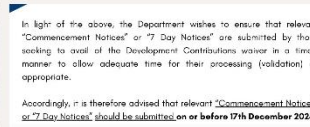

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 83 new followers, bringing the total following to 2,457 as of the 30th November 2024.

Galway County Council shared 20 posts with a total of 4.4k impressions this month.

*Post Impressions - The number of times content you published during the time frame was displayed on a person's screen. Content includes statuses, photos, links, videos, and more.

*Post Reach - The number of people who saw content you published during the time frame at least once. Content includes posts, videos, and reels.

NOVEMBERS TOP THREE POSTS

 <p>Galway County Council Nov 18, 13:18</p> <p>A state-of-the-art €2.8m new fire station has been opened by Galway County Council and Galway Fire and Rescue Service in Athenry. Thank you to everyone who attended the official opening on Friday by Minister of State Anne Rabbitte, T.D., and Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Councillor</p> <p>2,041 impressions 48.46 % engagement rate</p>	 <p>Galway County Council Nov 25, 17:55</p> <p>Year End Deadlines Temporary Development Contribution Waiver 📄 Further Information: http://tr.ee/rdbznU-UZf #Galway</p> <p>271 impressions 4.8 % engagement rate</p>	 <p>Galway County Council Nov 07, 13:05</p> <p>Vacancy - Temporary Senior Executive Engineer Closing Date: 4:00pm Thursday 14th November 2024 https://tr.ee/ARkFA8yM7n #jobfairty #gallimh #galway</p> <p>228 impressions 2.19 % engagement rate</p>
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YOUTUBE

AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

During this period on YouTube, Galway County Council’s account has 33 subscribers as of 30th November 2024. Customer Services shared 1 new video on Galway County Council’s YouTube channel, with a total of 7 views over this period.

HUMAN RESOURCES

STAFF INDUCTION DAY

We were delighted to re-commence Staff Induction Briefings with the first one, since 2019, taking place on 3rd December.

The purpose of this Organisational Induction Briefing was to provide new staff with an opportunity to meet the Chief Executive, the Cathaoirleach and other employees who have joined the staff of Galway County Council in the previous 18 months.

The staff were addressed by our Chief Executive, who opened the day and welcomed the staff to the day.

Following this, there were a number of talks from various Departments including Human Resources, Corporate Services, I.T. Department, Climate Change, Health & Safety and the Community Sports Development Officer, as well as a representative from our Sports & Social Club.

It proved to be an informative day for those in attendance, which on the day was approximately 60 staff.

A further staff induction will take place in Q2 in 2025.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Galway Public Libraries provide an extensive array of services to the community and fulfil



the key actions set out in national policy on the provision of an inclusive library service.

Key elements include extensive lending services to adults and children, PC access, printing, scanning, national book request service, study spaces, newspapers, and magazines.

It provides activity and event spaces for community groups, schools, local NGO's, arts and creative groups and various County Council departments. It works in collaboration with various organisations to deliver workshops and programmes to upskill and better inform communities about issues that are relevant to them.

It also provides a selection of online resources that are available free to registered library members. These online resources allow 24/7 access to a virtual library along with software and educational supports for those with additional needs. These include: Borrowbox for online eBooks and eAudiobooks, Comics Plus, Universal class for courses, Transparent Language online, LOTE for kids, Medici TV, TTRS and Nessy for online learning support.

GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES AT A GLANCE
 Insights on Library Engagement from November 14th to December 4th, Inclusive

EVENTS
 112 events held for adults with 1,111 attendees
 91 events for children with 1,084 attendees

COLLABORATION
 Working with 28 Organisations and Groups to deliver programming, events and workshops in our libraries

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MOBILE SERVICES

The outreach team were delighted to attend the A.T.U as part of National Library Ireland Week which encourages idea creation, opportunities for shared reading and learning and gives a platform to all types of library service available in the locality.

Students availed of the opportunity to join the public library service online and had immediate access to our eBooks and eAudio collections. The outreach team were joined by Aoife from Europe Direct Ballinasloe who was able to provide guidance and advice about studying abroad and the Erasmus+ programmes.

The Mobile Library visited 62 stops in small towns and rural locations in county Galway between the 15th November and the 4th December. We also made seven home deliveries, visited eight nursing homes and 14



creches.



As part of our growing service to older people, we visit nursing homes on a regular schedule bringing books, board games, DVDs and music CDs to these important communities. We work closely with the activity co-ordinators in selecting a wide range of books for the residents to read. Many of the residents like to come on board and have a chat

and pick a book or two. Large print westerns and romance novels remain very popular on these visits.

RIGHT TO READ

'Right to Read' is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It currently includes four national programmes that are designed to promote children's reading and literacy. This season's programme is Family Time At Your Library.



Family Time at your Library activities are provided to engage family members in the enjoyment of reading and sharing stories. The whole family are also introduced to collections of children's books, e-books and e-audio books.

The Family Time at your Library events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children.

All our libraries are participating in this national campaign by hosting story-times, family events and opportunities for arts and craft activities together with family members.

HEALTHY IRELAND- HEALTHY WORKPLACES PROGRAMME

HEALTHY IRELAND @ WORK

A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY WORKPLACES IN IRELAND

Galway Public Library service is delighted to have been selected for the inaugural programme and we are looking forward to working with Healthy Ireland @ Work.

Workplaces directly influence the physical, mental, economic and social wellbeing of workers and in turn, the health of their families, communities and society. With more than two million people employed in Ireland, **the workplace offers an ideal setting and infrastructure to support the promotion of health to a large audience.**

Recognising the enormous potential of the workplace as a setting to encourage population health, a government-led, multi-sectoral collaboration was undertaken to develop the National Framework for Healthy Workplaces. The Framework sets out the roadmap for supporting the growth of effective approaches to enhancing health and wellbeing in the workplace setting.



Changes in the culture, policies and practices in workplaces lead to improvements in physical and mental health and wellbeing and work-life balance. Healthy workers are more efficient, energetic, alert and better able to manage stress. When employee health is managed well, staff engagement increases and sick leave decreases. Thus, a considerable amount of ill-health amongst the working population is preventable. In this way, the Framework aims to lay out the path to improve the health of Ireland’s workers.

The Healthy Workplace Framework was launched in 2021 and outlines the government’s strategy to enhance the health and wellbeing of Ireland’s workers. The Framework sets the strategic direction for workplace policies and programmes.

Healthy Ireland has embarked on the implementation of the Healthy Workplace Framework. Eligible workplaces were invited to partake in the first **Healthy Ireland – Healthy Workplaces Programme**, a 12-18 month-long programme of activity that supports Irish workplaces to get started on their wellbeing journey, implement targeted strategies, and achieve *the status of a Healthy Workplace*.

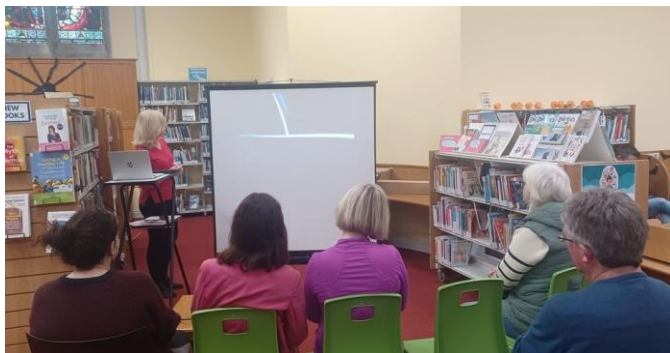
HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Healthy Ireland, a government-led initiative, is the national strategy to improve health and wellbeing, place a focus on prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer. Public libraries are currently delivering the nationwide Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme and this is a valuable resource within the community for health information.

The resource includes a comprehensive collection of books on health and wellbeing, extensive online resources incorporating eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines. In addition to this remit there is an extensive calendar of events, workshops and talks with a focus on physical health, mental health, and health literacy.

Galway public library service organizes a series of Healthy Ireland events annually. A full programme of events was held during the first six months of the year and more recently the following talks were scheduled.

POSITIVE AGEING TALK 'FUTURE YOU'



Oranmore Library hosted a Healthy Ireland Positive Ageing Talk, "Future You" with speaker Colette O'Flynn of Pegasus Media & Consulting Ltd on Saturday 2nd of November. Colette shared helpful tips on maintaining good health throughout the lifespan.

CANCER-SURVIVING AND THRIVING

Tuesday 5th November from 11am to 12pm Loughrea Library welcomed Elaine Corcoran, a senior oncology nurse at Cancer Care West to give a very insightful talk on "Cancer-Surviving and Thriving"



HEALTHY IRELAND TALK: BABY WEANING & CHILD NUTRITION



On Tuesday November 26th, HSE Senior Community Nutritionist, Lisa Corbett, gave a talk to members of the public on baby weaning and child nutrition in Tuam Library.

HEALTHY IRELAND TALK: A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO SUPPORTING CHILDREN & TEENAGERS WITH ANXIETY:

Dr. Malie Coyne, Chartered Clinical Psychologist and University of Galway lecturer gave a talk on supporting children and teenagers with anxiety. 28 parents attended the talk in Tuam Library.



CHARTERED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST DR. MALIE COYNE WITH LIBRARIAN JOE JENNINGS.

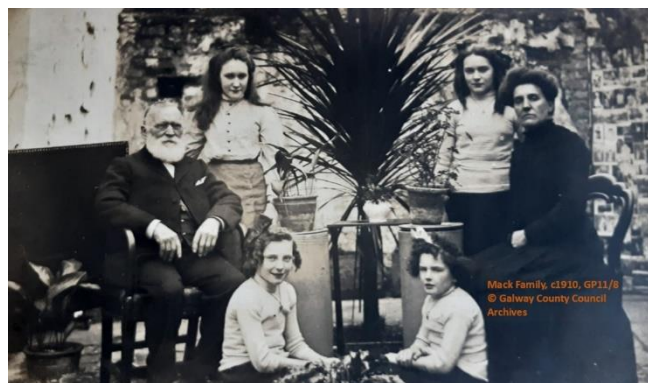
ARCHIVES

ARCHIVIST OUTREACH

The Archivist gave talk at the ATU Library on Galway County Council Archives outlining the value and importance of archives and highlighting the most important and popular collections held in the Archives.

EXPLORE YOURE ARCHIVES (EYA) FOCUS WEEK

Throughout the Archives and Records Association (Ireland)'s Explore Your Archives (EYA) focus week, at the end of November, the Archives section engaged in the EYA online social media campaign, issuing posts on various prescribed themes throughout the week to highlight collections or items in the archives. The themes included Family, Animals and Your Archive. The above photograph, c. 1910, from the Mack /Warren-Thompson Collection (GP11/), was under the #Family theme.



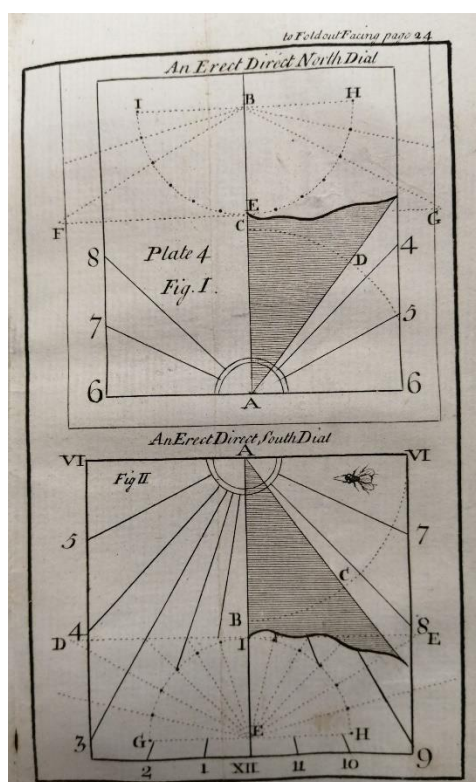
IN PERSON QUERIES AT THE LOCAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

1. Patron came in and viewed microfilm of the Connacht Tribune for 1974, to research G.A.A teams from the Maigh Cuilinn/Oughterard area, and games that were played in that year. This customer made some return visits to continue his research.
2. Patron called in weekly to look at the Irish News Archive in the microfilm room.
3. Patron called in to Local Studies to look at the reference books on Galway City, and to look at several maps also.
4. Patron called in with a query about a photo of a Golf Team that was in the Connacht Tribune in 1999. Showed him the photo in the Irish News Archive and advised him as to where he might possibly obtain a copy of the photo.
5. Patron phoned and asked to see one of the books in Irish located in the Special Collections section. The book was about the Irish Education system, and written in Irish in the 1940's. The patron called in and spent some time reading the book.
6. Two Patrons called in, one of whom was visiting from the U.K, but originally from Galway. They were interested in the History of the City, and of their family. Showed them the Local studies section, and told them about the books and resources available, and gave them the leaflet on free online resources available for genealogical research into Irish ancestors, to continue their research at home.
7. Patron phoned asking to view any books or information we had on Pádraic O'Conaire, and later visited the Local Studies section to look at some books from the special collection and made some notes.
8. Visitor came in to look at any information and books we had on William Joyce/Lord Haw Haw. This visitor also did some further research on William Joyce on the Irish News Archive and had some queries about graveyards in the city. She was given the phone number of the caretaker of Forthill Cemetery, as she was also interested in viewing the burial site of the executed Armada soldiers and wanted some general information on churches and graveyards and their locations also.

EMAIL QUERIES TO THE LOCAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

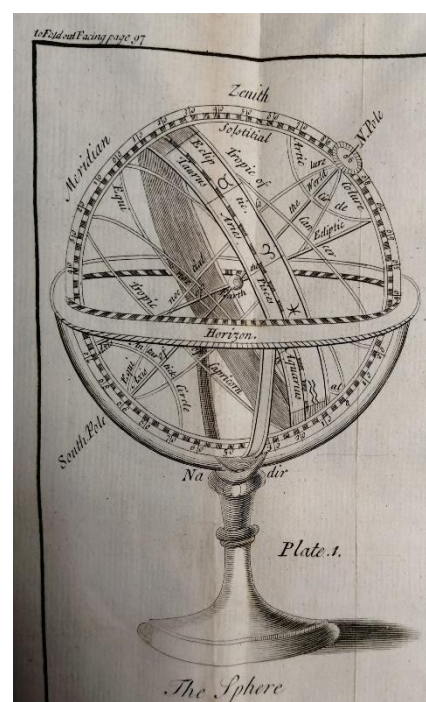
1. Research student who is an Intern at the Flanders field Museum in Belgium, was looking for personal stories of Galway people who fought in the great War of 1914-1918. Referred her to William Henry's Great War Memorial book which lists all the Galway soldiers and sailors who fought and died in the great war, with details of what part of the City or County they came from, and to Victor Whitmarsh's "Shadows on Glass", which has some personal war stories in it. Also gave her the contact details for St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, which has a war memorial to the fallen soldiers of the parish. This is an ongoing query.

2. Enquiry from a TV company in Belfast on the history of the now defunct Galway Observer Newspaper, as they are interested in an April 1950 front page article on the Titanic. This is in our microfilm newspaper collection.
3. 2 separate requests from Council staff for copies of Mary Kavanagh's Bibliography.
4. Request from a member of the public for a copy of Mary Kavanagh's book.
5. Enquiry as to whether Local Studies holds a copy of a rare 1822 book by Thomas Reid "Travels in Ireland in 1822". Informed the enquirer that we don't have an original copy unfortunately, there are only a very few copies in special collections in a couple of libraries in Ireland. He was advised that we will try to purchase a reprint copy of the book, as there are some reprints available online, and he said he would be happy to read a reprint, if available. This will be a good addition to our early travel guides on Ireland.
6. Email contact with the Galway Diocesan Archive. Donated a copy of "The Wiseman Review" for 1962 to the Archive, as we had only one uncatalogued copy of this Journal, and Archivist Dr. Darina McCarthy was pleased to accept the donation, as they have a collection of the Journals in their Archive and can add it to their existing collection.

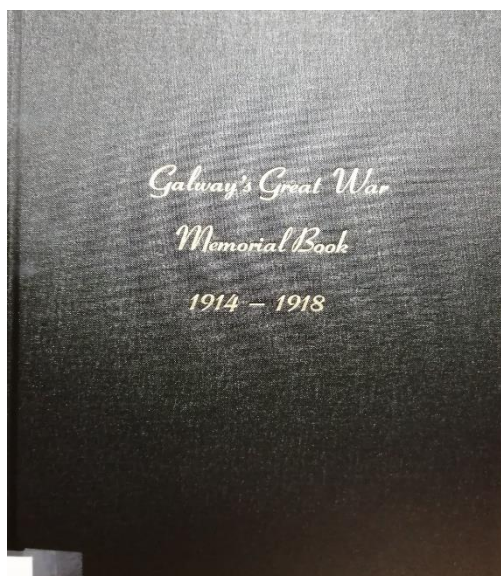


Galway Public Libraries Local Studies Section holds an original 1756 copy of this very rare and interesting book on the mechanics of sundials, with instructions on how to build them, by Charles Leadbetter. As well as all the mathematical details, there are also instructions on how to make and assemble a sundial. This also includes information on methods of painting timberwork which prevailed at the time, and recipes for making glue, and details about paint colours, and painting tools which included feathers and a hare's foot. This book was once part of the Library of Thomas Leybourn, (1770-1840), Professor of

Mathematics and Arithmetic at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and editor of the Journal "Mathematical and Philosophical Repository", from 1799-1839. He also published a book on triangles in 1802. This book bears the signature of Professor Leybourn on the front fly leaf.



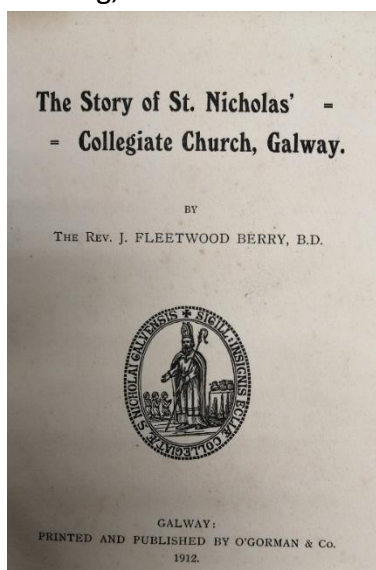
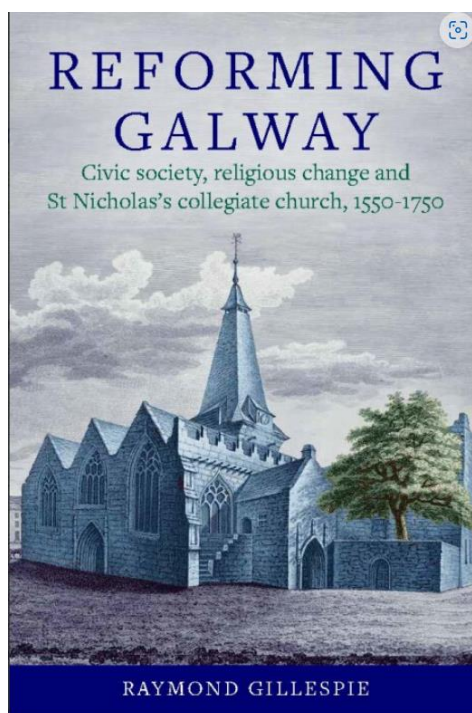
The First World War officially ended on the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the eleventh



month, November 1918. It had claimed the lives of over 9 million soldiers, and 5 million civilian casualties, with over 21 million wounded also. Roughly 150,000 Irishmen fought in the war, though the true figures may never be known. It is estimated that some 49,400 of those never returned, including at least 1,108 Galwaymen. These included well known figures such as Lady Gregory's only child Robert, a fighter pilot, immortalized in W.B Yeats Poem, "An Irish Airman foresees his own death". Galway Public Libraries Local Studies Section holds a copy of "Galway's Great War Memorial Book 1914-1918", compiled by William Henry and Jacqueline

O'Brien, which commemorates all Galwaymen who fell in the Great War. These came from all over the City and County, and sometimes sadly included more than one member of the same family, such as the brothers Michael and Thomas Byrne from Ballinasloe, killed in action in 1918 and 1916 respectively. Women were casualties also, including Nurse Sophia Barrett from Dunmore, who died while returning to duty in France, when the R.M.S Leinster was sunk by a German U-boat in the Irish sea in October 1918. This memorial Roll of Honour book makes for interesting, if sad reading, as all the people named were young and in the prime of their lives.

Galway Public Libraries Local Studies section has recently acquired a copy of "Reforming Galway, Civic Society, Religious change, and St Nicholas's Collegiate Church, 1550-1750". This is a very important work by the late and renowned Historian and Maynooth Professor, Dr. Raymond Gillespie. This is a re-creation of the social history of both a building, and the communities that used it, from the



medieval world, to the recognisably modern one. There will also be reference copies of the book available in all the City Libraries, as well

as in Tuam, Oranmore and Ballinasloe Libraries. The Local studies section also holds an original 1912 edition of "The Story of St Nicholas' Collegiate Church", written by Rev. James Fleetwood Berry, Rector from 1890-1925, and this is his definitive work on the long and varied history of the Church,

"Whose very stones I love". Reverend Fleetwood Berry's only son Edward was killed in action in the first World war in 1916 and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in battle in France. Reverend Berry's wife Mary was a member of the Connacht Women's Franchise League and advocated for Women's right to vote in the years leading up to 1918.

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Ballybane library continues to link in with local groups, providing a safe and comfortable space for meet ups and staff engagement.



Some of the groups availing of our services over the past few weeks are as follows:

Local childminders providing peer support every Tuesday morning.

In association with the GRETB, Ruth Kelly continues to provide beginner computer classes for local adults.

The ACE Afterschool club funded by Galway City Partnership continue to occupy our Maker Space every

Wednesday evening and the library staff have been heavily involved in their Story making activities in the past few weeks.

Addressing *Family Time* at Your Library:

We continue with our children's crafting for Fusion Fridays, making many Christmas crafts with local families.

Our partnership with Music Generation continues for Parents and toddlers every Friday.

Our Bilingual Storytimes roll on every Saturday addressing the needs of new families in our area.

In association with Creative Ireland Joyce Little is running a series of 4 art therapy workshops where ten participants are creating Memory Boxes.

Acknowledging our new families in the area, the English conversations group runs every Wednesday morning.

In association with the local schools HSCLs's the parents group meets every Thursday morning for activities which include DIY and Aromatherapy.

In association with the HSE our local Public Health nurses meet with new mothers in our Maker Space on the first 3 Tuesdays of each month.

Again, in association with the HSE we had a weaning class on Thursday 14th November.

As part of our Healthy Ireland remit Cancer Care West held an excellent talk in the library on Friday 15th of November.

In association with Foróige Galway City, we had a local school use the Maker Space to engage in animation with Lego for Science Week.

In association with Creative Ireland our Creative writing group are busy every Thursday with poet Gerry Hanberry creating a poem to commemorate 100 years of Galway Public Libraries.

The Galway Traveller Women held their annual coffee morning in Ballybane library on Thursday 28th November and set up their exhibition of stars to bring awareness to the blight of Domestic Violence suffered in silence by many.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



Librarian Abbie McGowan was delighted to accept a copy of "A Treasury of Short Stories" on behalf of Ballinasloe Library, which was graciously donated by author Xandra Kilduff. The occasion was marked by a selection of readings from her book by Councillor Evelyn Parsons, Padraig Lyons, and Maureen Duffy and music was provided by Hugh Collins on guitar.

Ballinasloe Library celebrates Positive Ageing Week 2024 with an exhibition of Local Heroes, produced in conjunction with COPE Galway.

Galway Age Friendly Programme delivered a free information workshop in partnership with the Irish Hospice Foundation and the Decision Support Service in Ballinasloe Library on Thursday the 28th of November.



The session- Putting Your House in Order provided valuable information on planning legal, medical, financial and personal affairs for the future. The Decision Support Service were on-site to help people open an account on their portal.

ParentChildPlus Ballinasloe held a Sensory Fun morning for local parents and children in Ballinasloe Library on the 3rd of December.



EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library and Europe Direct Centre held the Regional Finals of Soapbox on Tuesday the 19th of November. The Europe Direct Soapbox competition is an annual autumn event, raising awareness locally and nationally of topical issues in Europe and providing people with the opportunity to have their say. The theme for this year was 'A.I. is not a threat to humanity'. There were 18 contestants, and the event was compered by Cllr. Ollie Turner.



L-R: LIBRARIAN AOIFE O'KELLY WITH OUR WINNER IN THE UNDER 16'S CATEGORY MUHAMMAD ASHER ANWAR FROM COLÁISTE MUIRE MÁTHAIR.

L-R: THE WINNER OF THE 17 AND OVER CATEGORY, AVA YOUNG FROM PORTUMNA COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND LIBRARIAN AOIFE O'KELLY



Both winners received an iPad and went on to represent Europe Direct Ballinasloe in the National Finals.

FINAL OF SOAPBOX SEES A NATIONAL WINNER FOR GALWAY

The final of the Europe Direct Soapbox Competition was held on the 26th of November in the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin. The standard was extremely high with participants from Europe Direct Centres around Ireland. Ballinasloe Library and Europe Direct Centre were thrilled that our regional finalist Ava Young was the National Winner in the 17 and over category. Ava received €1,000 worth of vouchers to mark her win. This is an incredible achievement for Ava and her school.

L-R: LIBRARIANS AOIFE O'KELLY, MARIA CUNNINGHAM, AVA YOUNG, MUHAMMAD ASHIR ANWAR, TEACHER AVRIL WHELEHAN FROM COLÁISTE MHUIRE MÁTHAIR AND TEACHER LIZ SKELLY FROM PORTUMNA COMMUNITY SCHOOL.



THE WINNER OF THE 17 AND OVER CATEGORY, AVA YOUNG FROM PORTUMNA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Galway City Library hosted a three-week Music Therapy course, designed to support individuals with mental health needs. This was run by Galway Music Therapy in conjunction with the HSE.

The monthly Anime / Manga group for teens took place. This is run by Foróige at Galway City Library.

Bookclubs were very busy this month, and as part of the national public library strategy these play a vital role in community integration and provide a social outing to many individuals.



The Age Action bookclub and Discworld bookclub met with robust discussions around the chosen books.

The monthly Maidin Caife Irish language coffee morning took place. This coffee morning encourages Irish speakers from beginners to native speakers to gather and

chat in an informal welcoming environment. This takes place in conjunction with Gaillimh Le Gaeilge

AGE FRIENDLY SEATING

Galway City Library opened its new Age-Friendly seating area, with Katie Fahy from Galway City Council and Joan Kavanagh from the Older Persons' Council.



This new seating area was funded by the DRCD in conjunction with the Age Friendly Programme.

Foróige ran a two-session Analog Photography and art workshop where participants learned about the non-digital side of capturing and creating images.

Artists Liz Moran, and Anet Moore, held a 'Meet the Artists' event as part of their two-week exhibition of work.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea Library craft group continues to meet each Thursday morning from 11.00am-1.00pm.

Loughrea library book club continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 1pm.

Loughrea library hosted class visits by local national schools throughout the month for book exchanges.

The GRETB digital pop-up clinics with Niall Dempsey take place every Tuesday between 10.30am-1.00pm.

PALS Autism Support Group exhibition 26th November-3rd December



PALS is a support group for parents of autistic children which advocates for services, provides events, and offers peer support.

ORANMORE LIBRARY

On November 5th, Oranmore Library welcomed therapist, Peter Bedard who presented a talk on Anxiety Based Disorders through his book:

Billy and the Anxiety Monster: how to love your anxiety and heal: a grown-up book for your inner child

Oranmore Library hosted an event celebrating the Galway Public Libraries Centenary: *Lyrics & Lore in the Library* on November 12th at 1pm. The poet Emily Cullen launched a poem that was created in collaboration with the Oranmore Library Poetry Group, Maeve Clancy launched a painting inspired by the same writers which incorporated the stained-glass windows of Oranmore Library





Singer/Songwriter Ultan Conlon launched the song which was composed in collaboration with retired and long-service library staff. Laureate na nÓg, Patricia Forde, spoke about her experiences of libraries and how they have inspired her writing.



During Children's Book Festival, author Eve McDonnell visited Oranmore Library where she met with children from Scoil Íosa Oranmore, as it was such a wonderful event Eve sent on some signed copies of her latest novel *The Last Boy* for their school library. These books were presented to members of 4th and 5th Classes at Oranmore Library by Assistant Librarian, Aisling Mitchell on November 27th.



IRISH DESIGN WEEK 2024

Local award-winning artist Kathy Ross completed Appliqué & Embroidery Workshops as part of Irish Design Week 2024 on November 14th at Tuam Library. We had two sessions with

local schools: High Cross College and Archbishop McCale with a total of 24 students. Kathy then had a session for the public where 12 people attended.



GALWAY SCIENCE FESTIVAL – LEGO CODING WITH FORÓIGE

On November 15th, Tuam library had two coding with LEGO workshops with two local schools: Belclare National School and

Sylane National School. The workshops were led by Foróige Galway. 48 students attended.



“A WINTERS CANVAS” ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH

On November 23rd, Ella Ward’s first art exhibition, “A Winter’s Canvas” was launched at Tuam Library with 12 people in attendance.



Exhibition launch photo featured in the November 27th issue of the Tuam Herald.



MAKE YOUR OWN MINI CHRISTMAS TREE – CRAFT EVENT



There were 17 children at a special Christmas craft event on Saturday November 30th where they each made their own miniature Christmas tree and decorated it. They all got to take their tree home with them as a wonderful decoration for their homes.

WESTSIDE LIBRARY

We continued to support the Ukrainian after-school family craft activities (Galway City Partnership), Helium Arts, Speckled Eggs dancers, HSE baby weaning workshops, and Cuidiú breastfeeding, utilizing our auditorium.

Family support groups met on a weekly basis, organized by the Home School Liaison officers from both primary and secondary schools in our catchment area. Life skills classes ranged from DIY around the house to makeup tutorials.



Library lore workshops were facilitated by renowned poet Gerry Hanberry and interpreted by the well-known artist Hilary Morley. These workshops captured the essence of Galway Public Libraries' centenary using words, memories, and literature to create two library poems, from Westside and Ballybane Library.

The "Putting Your House in Order" workshop was fully booked. This was part of the Art of Life project, which aims to normalize conversations around planning for end-of-life, death, and dying. This workshop is delivered by the Irish Hospice Foundation in collaboration with Galway City Partnership.

Currently being exhibited in Westside Library is Cope Galway's new exhibition - "Positive Ageing Week 2024 Local Heroes".



Highlighting the positive aspects of ageing and celebrating the many older people who enrich our communities, workplaces and lives with their invaluable contributions, this year 27 Galway Positive Ageing Heroes feature in the exhibition, sharing their inspirational stories.



CENTENARY ROUND UP

As we prepare to close out 2024 Galway Public Libraries celebrated 100 years of serving the public. Extensive programming and events were delivered as part of the celebration. Thanks to all who celebrated with us in 2024 and we look forward to working with you all in the years ahead.

TÚS: BEGINNINGS COLLECTIVE ART EXHIBITION

Tús : Beginnings Collective Art Exhibition is a celebration of Galway Public Libraries long standing support of artists and creatives within Galway city and county - our library spaces providing opportunities for artists to exhibit their work in public spaces and to host workshops and creative classes for our whole community to enjoy.



This exhibition was part of Galway Public Libraries celebrating its centenary and past artists were encouraged to re-exhibited with Galway Public Libraries for this creative reunion. Consisting of two concurrent art exhibitions, one in Galway City Library which was officially launched by Galway City Arts Officer, Ruth Mulhern and the other in Ballinasloe Library, which was launched by Galway County Arts Officer, Sharon O Grady and supported by Creative Ireland City and County. 36 artists were chosen to exhibit their work.



AT WAR WITH MERCY

To celebrate Galway Public Libraries' Centenary celebrations, a wonderful evening of music and performance titled *At War with Mercy* was held in the Church Gallery Ballinasloe Library to celebrate Leonard Cohen's 90th birthday. *At War with Mercy* is a collaborative work between the late Canadian songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen and the writers John McKenna and Angela Keogh.

The event in Ballinasloe was the West of Ireland premiere of *At War with Mercy* and a 90th birthday celebration for Leonard Cohen. A night that will be remembered by all who attended not only because of Leonard's wonderful birthday cake but for a show that was a life-affirming journey, echoing with hope, warmth, haunting music, powerful words and healing.



REFLECTING, SCRIBBLING, SKETCHING

This project which was funded by Creative Ireland (County), **Reflecting, Scribbling, Sketching**, allowed us to reflect on our much-loved library service, scribble down verses and rhymes, and sketch not only the creative process but also the weave of words and memories in the poems.

Workshops with poetry groups in Oranmore and Gort libraries which was facilitated by poet Emily Cullen, composed their own collaborative poem reflecting 100 years of Galway Library service. The final poems which reflect our library service beautifully include from Gort – *Every Library My Own Library* & Oranmore – *My Library is a Church: let us read* Similarly, in Portumna library, poet Noelle Lynskey facilitated the workshops with local poetry group, The Pen Pushers, their collaborative poem *Portumna Library – A Merge of Avenues*

Artist Maeve Clancy joined each group for one session, she quietly sketched and observed as the group worked. Each individual art piece is reflective of the group, the process and an interpretation of the final poem.



PORTUMNA LIBRARY



GORT LIBRARY WITH POETS & ARTWORK

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT AND RETIRED IN GORT LIBRARY



ARTWORK PRESENTED BY ARTIST MAEVE CLANCY

POETRY GROUP ORANMORE WITH FACILITATOR EMILY CULLEN AND ARTIST MAEVE CLANCY



LYRICS & LORE IN THE LIBRARY: CELEBRATING A CENTURY

This is a combination of events recently hosted by Galway Public Libraries as part of our centenary programme. We commissioned singers/songwriters Pdraig Stevens and Ultan Conlon to compose and write a song celebrating our library centenary. This was facilitated by having long serving staff members and retired staff come together to chat and reminisce about library life down through the years. These memories, stories and experiences were recorded and used to weave together a song entitled *I love going to the library*. An accompanying video *Conversations in the Library* is a documented recording of the meet and it also premiered at the events.



Our events included speakers Laureate na nÓg Trish Forde, retired County Librarian Pat McMahon, poets Emily Cullen and Noelle Lyskey, and artist Maeve Clancy who conveyed through their talks their love of libraries, the importance of reading and the significance of art and the written word. Each event was accompanied by the beautiful rendition of our centenary song by Ultan Conlon. With special thanks to our funding partners.



SINGER/SONGWRITER ULTAN CONLON



LAUREATE NA NÓG PATRICIA FORDE



BRIAN KEATING AND JOHN MORRIS

TOMÁS MANNION



MARKING TIME: ONE BOOKMARK AT A TIME

The recent addition of graphics and imagery on our schools library van has added another dimension to the service. It provides opportunities for conversation and engagement with the children who visit the vehicle on a regular basis. In addition to this bookmark this proposal sought to utilize the iconic images of the stained-glass windows that are in-situ in our libraries throughout the County. Marking our cultural heritage as well as the importance of preserving them as buildings, it also ignites in people the opportunity to study in-depth the creative process of stained-glass work. The production of these bookmarks provides an opportunity to create awareness of the service offered as well as a chance to capture the beauty of the buildings which house our repositories.



Stained glass by its nature is predominately in Church buildings and this provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the wealth of Art that this medium brings to our spaces, many of whom go unnoticed in our libraries throughout the county. This project was kindly funded by Creative Ireland County.



HOUSING

BREAKFAST BRIEFING ON SOCIAL HOUSING DELIVERY IN COUNTY COUNCIL

PHOTOS BY ANDREW DOWNES

A breakfast briefing was hosted by Galway County Council on 29th November, held at the Raheen Woods Hotel in Athenry. It focused on bringing together key stakeholders, developers and interested parties to discuss opportunities and processes related to Turnkey and Part V Social Housing projects in County Galway.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL LIAM CONNEALLY SPEAKING AT THE EVENT.

The briefing offered an opportunity to provide information, guidance, and support to help developers make well-informed decisions to meet housing delivery targets. Developers were urged to engage with the Housing Department officials, ask questions, and collaborate to ensure shared success in meeting housing targets.

The event was well attended by members from the construction industry, attendees actively engaged in discussions and shared



their perspectives on housing delivery in the County.

L-R: AL CALLANAN, PAT JOYCE, PETER KILHOOLEY, SHANE KILHOOLEY

Presentations were provided by officials from the Local Authority's Housing & Planning Departments and The Housing Agency on a range of issues, including the existing social housing demand and supply situation, the Design Manual for Quality Housing, the Pre-Planning process and the Part V of the Planning act. Developers were also advised of the details regarding the soon to be published Call of Expression of Interests for the delivery of social and affordable housing via Advance Purchase (Turnkey) Contracts



CIARA MCDONAGH, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

L-R: GERRY DOLAN, PURCELL CONSTRUCTION, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, DAMIEN MITCHELL, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



L-R: KATHLEEN LOHAN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CATRIONA LAWLOR HOUSING AGENCY, KAREN O'DONNELL, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

L-R: JOE BYRNE, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MICHAEL BURKE



“A key part of the breakfast briefing was to facilitate direct engagement with developers and key stakeholders on the importance of embracing a collaborative approach to boosting the supply of social housing units in County Galway,” explained **Michael Owens, Director of Housing.**

He continued, “The event provided insights into Galway County’s housing supply and demand and encouraged developers to focus on areas with the greatest housing need and shortages, thereby ensuring maximum impact from their projects. Galway County Council’s Expressions of Interest process for Social and Affordable Housing will be launched this week. This event was used as an opportunity to encourage developers to engage with it.”

BY DECLAN TIERNEY

GALWAY County Council confirmed that granted planning applications have risen to 86% over the course of 2024. Director of Services Liam Hanrahan said that it shows that the local authority is conscious of the need for rural housing.

Mr Hanrahan said that the planning section approved 75% of one-off housing applications during the course of 2022, as an example, and that this is the Council’s support of rural housing planning applications.

“These figures show that rural housing is being granted and supported by Galway County Council,” he added.

He said that he is supportive of the provision of rural housing across the county and was glad of the delivery of planning for rural one-off housing.

This has been welcomed by Cllr Andrew Reddington, who said that he had been approached by many applicants who had been refused permission.

The Headford area Councillor said that there had been a lot of disquiet over the fact that planning permission applications had been refused.

But he was now delighted that it had



Galway County Council Chief Executive Liam Conneally addressing a breakfast briefing on Turnkey and Part V Social Housing projects in County Galway, at the Raheen Woods Hotel in Athenry. PHOTO: ANDREW DOWNES.

been resolved and that planners would look more favourable on applications. He said that it was important to keep rural communities intact.

Cllr Reddington claimed there was a shortage of planning permissions granted in rural communities, but he was glad that this situation was changing.

Cllr Reddington told a meeting of Galway County Council that he was assured by the executive that planning would be granted once the conditions were met.

“I understand where the Council planners are coming from. People that apply

for planning permission have to meet certain criteria because it is a difficult process from every point of view.

“It is not palatable for any applicant to be refused permission for planning for a rural home in County Galway but it is great to hear that so many have been approved during the course of 2024,” added Cllr Reddington.

Mr Hanrahan added that it was the Council’s policy to encourage rural housing, subject to all conditions being met, and that it was hoped that more applications would be considered by planners.

Meanwhile, a seminar organised by Galway County Council has heard that more than 1,237 social housing units have been delivered across County Galway since the beginning of 2022.

During a breakfast briefing hosted by the local authority, it was revealed that 72% of the Local Authority’s targets for the period 2022-2026 have been delivered to date.

The breakfast briefing, which was held at the Raheen Woods Hotel in Athenry, focused on bringing together key stakeholders, developers and interested parties to discuss opportunities and processes related to Turnkey and Part V Social Housing projects in County Galway.

CONNACHT
TRIBUNE MEDIA
COVERAGE OF
THE EVENT
EDITION 5TH
DECEMBER 2024

VACANT HOMES

Further to information events held throughout the County in previous months, the Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) and a member of the Housing Grants team attended the Galway



County Public Participation Network "PPN Plenary Winter Event" held on 19th November 2024 at the Connemara Coast Hotel in Na Forbacha (Furbo), to provide information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan, the Local Authority Renovation Loan, the Disabled

Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The event was well attended.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The first affordable homes to be developed in County Galway since 2013 are nearing completion in Baile Chláir (Claregalway). Galway County Council are currently providing nominations to the developer, Damree Developments (Claregalway) Ltd. Applications were accepted via an online application portal between October 14th and November



11th, 2024. 165 applications were received for the 17 units in the soon-to-be-completed first phase of the development which include 2 two-bedroom, 9 three-bedroom and 6 four-bedroom houses. Work on 16 additional homes in the second phase of the development will commence in January and will be delivered in mid-2025 with a further 28 units to be developed in the third phase later next year. Located on the Lakeview Road, the housing scheme also features a crèche and is located close to local amenities in Baile Chláir.

SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

Galway County Council’s social housing stock figures are show below. This information can be obtained through Galway County Council’s online social housing supply and demand interactive dashboards <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/>

PROPERTIES

2966 LA
877 AHB
104 RAS
86 Traveller accommodation
69 leasing
47 MTR

Social House Type	Units
Local Authority Housing	2966
Approved Housing Body	877
Rental Accommodation Scheme	104
Traveller Accommodation	86
Leasing Properties	69
Mortgate to Rent	47
Total	4149

PROPERTY STATUS		Athenry - Oranmore	Ballinasloe	Conamara	Loughrea	No Eircode	Tuam	Total
Occupied	33	515	868	728	1004	5	918	4071
Vacant		6	15	6	18	4	11	60
Under Offer	1	1	1	6	4		5	18
Total	34	522	884	740	1026	9	934	4149

There are a total of 78 units currently vacant in Galway County (1.87%). These are broken down as follows: -

- 61 LA units (2.05% of total LA units)
- 10 Traveller units (11.63% of total traveller units)
- 6 AHB units (.68% of total AHB units)
- 1 MTR unit (2.13% of total MTR)

LETTING STATUS	Units
Available Unit(s)	16
Awaiting Minor Repairs	18
Derelict	27
Major Refurbishment	17
Total	78

Social House Type	Units
Local Authority Housing	61
Traveller Accommodation	10
Approved Housing Body	6
Mortgate to Rent	1
Total	78

LETTING STATUS	Units
Available Unit(s)	9
Awaiting Minor Repairs	17
Derelict	24
Major Refurbishment	11
Total	61

Social House Type	Units
Local Authority Housing	61
Traveller Accommodation	10
Approved Housing Body	6
Mortgate to Rent	1
Total	78

Of the 61 vacant LA units, (2.05% of total LA stock)
 3 are being shortlisted for offers, (.1%)
 6 are under offer pending key handover (.2%)
 17 are currently in GCC's voids maintenance programme. (.57%)
 24 are derelict pending sale during 2025 (.8%)
 11 are currently in the major refurb programme (.37%)

THE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2024

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) is an annual report that provides a comprehensive overview of the need for social housing support across Ireland. The SSHA is a critical tool for understanding and addressing housing needs in Ireland. By providing detailed data on the demand for social housing, it helps inform policy decisions and resource allocation. The SSHA highlights the ongoing challenges in meeting housing needs and underscores the importance of targeted strategies to support vulnerable households. Ensuring data accuracy and consistency across local authorities is essential for the effectiveness of this assessment.

The primary goal of the SSHA is to identify the current level of national housing need. This data is essential for shaping housing policies and allocating resources effectively.

The assessment includes information from all local authorities on households that are qualified for social housing support but whose needs are not currently met. This comprehensive coverage ensures that the data reflects the true extent of housing need across the country.

Net Need Figure: One of the most critical metrics in the SSHA is the net need figure. This figure represents the number of households on each local authority’s housing list that remain eligible for social housing support and whose housing needs have not been met. It provides a clear picture of the demand for social housing.

The assessment excludes certain households from reassessment, such as those who have recently qualified for support, those reassessed in the previous year, and those currently housed under schemes like the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS). This ensures that the data focuses on those with ongoing unmet needs.

Summary Item	Number of House Holds
Total number of households subjected to a fully completed assessment for the purpose of determining their qualification for social housing support	1684
Households subjected to fully completed assessment and deemed qualified for social housing support	1240
Households where an assessment to determine their qualification for social housing has been completed and deemed not to qualify for social housing support	444
Households where an assessment to determine their qualification for social housing has not yet been completed and no decision as to their qualification has been made	164
Households suspended from the list of qualified households for refusing 2 offers of accommodation within a 12-month period	63

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
SSHA 2024

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

Galway County Council is responsible for the provision, refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance of Traveller Specific Accommodation in the County of Galway:

63 Traveller Specific Group houses

17 Single Traveller Specific rural houses

16 halting site bays in two halting sites and one Traveller Specific Group housing development

In accordance with Section 10 Housing (Traveller Accommodation Act) 1998 Galway County Council has prepared the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029.

In preparation of this programme consultation was held with stakeholders, including 7 consultations in 5 locations in County Galway. All eligible housing applicants and approved transfer applicants were invited to attend this independent consultation, facilitated by Dr Padraic Kenna, of the School of Law, National University of Ireland Galway, specialising in housing law and policy and human rights.

The Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 was on public display for a period of two months with 3 submissions received. Following consideration of the submissions received, the updated Draft was discussed and considered by the LTACC on 04th October 2024, and it was agreed to forward it to the Plenary Council for their consideration and if deemed appropriate its adoption.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 was adopted by the Plenary Council on 25th November 2024 and will be published shortly.

Over the course of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029, a substantial programme of work on Traveller Specific Accommodation is planned for delivery:

- Redevelopment of Tuam halting site to provide Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme (in conjunction with CENA)
- Reconstruction of 1 Traveller Specific Group House
- Major refurbishment and upgrades of 22 Traveller Specific Group houses
- Major refurbishment of 8 Traveller Specific rural houses, including extensions as deemed necessary
- Ongoing improvements and upgrades to halting site in Capira

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

The Tenant Purchase Scheme allows a Local Authority tenant living in a local authority property included in the scheme and who meets the eligibility criteria to apply to purchase their house.

2024 Tenant Purchase Scheme Activity	
Tenant Purchase Offers	8
Tenant Purchase Acceptances	11
Tenant Purchase Applications	23
Tenant Purchase Sales	15

PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS

A revised scheme for Housing Aid Grants came into operation on 01st December 2024.

The **Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme** is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.

The **Mobility Aids Grant Scheme** is available to fast-track grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing, in order that recipients are not subject to delays in accessing works.

The **Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People** is available to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a disabled person who is a member of the household.

Applications received prior to the 01st December 2024 are to be processed under the old scheme and at the grant rates payable thereof.

The maximum grant levels under the schemes have been increased:

Scheme	Previous maximum grant amount	Revised maximum grant amount	Difference
Housing Aid for Older People Grant	€8,000	€10,700	€2,700
Mobility Aids Grant	€6,000	€8,000	€2,000
Housing Adaptation Grant	€40,000	€30,000	€10,000

This is an increase of 33.33% on the previous maximum grant amounts.

The Department will recoup to Local Authorities 85% of the grant paid. Local Authorities are required to provide the remaining 15% from their own resources.

All applications for grant aid under these schemes will be assessed based on household means. The amount of grant payable towards cost of works completed is dependent on household income after deductions and disregards are applied.

For applications approved on or after 1 January 2025, grant funding cannot be provided for the purchase of a new standalone fossil fuel boiler.

Grant Type	HAOP	Amount	HAG	Amount	MAG	Amount	Total	Total
2024 applications received	673		106		303		1,082	
2024 Total applications paid	334	1,918,704	88	796,147	165	795,331	587	3,510,182

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOANS

A Local Authority Home Loan is a government backed mortgage available for first time buyers and fresh start applicants. It can be used to purchase a new, second-hand or self-build home. Loans are offered at a fixed reduced interest rate, for the full term of the mortgage. A Local Authority Home Loan provides up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum market value allowable of the property purchased with this loan is 330,000.

2024	Number of Loans	Amounts
Approved in Principle	29	4,810,168
Loans Drawn down	7	2,465,264
Approved in Principle Loans Expired	12	2,465,264
Approvals in Principle on hand	10	1,551,850

Galway County Council has received applications from a number of applicants who have expressed an interest in the purchase of a house under the Affordable Housing Scheme.

CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

APPOINTMENT OF DESIGN TEAM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNHOUSES AT MOYLROUGH

Galway County Council appointed an Engineer Led Integrated Design Team for consultancy services for the proposed development at Moylough, comprising: 'Demolition of 3 no. existing mid-terrace buildings with the exception of the front façade (part of which is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Reg No. 30404509) which will be

retained, and construction of 4 no. residential units comprising of: 2 no. 2 storey 3 bed dwellings and 2 no. 2 bed apartments.'

Following a public procurement process the Most Economically Advantageous (MEAT) Tenderer was identified as: Structural Design Solutions- SDS (Lead Engineers).

A contract signing took place on 21st November (picture below) with a site visit after to identify immediate works to take place.



L-R CIARA MCDONAGH, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SEAN PUGH, STRUCTURAL DESIGN SOLUTIONS, EITHNE MURPHY SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND JEAN BRANN SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPOINTMENT OF DESIGN TEAM FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, GALWAY RD., TUAM

A mini-competition was advertised on the joint Galway County and Galway City framework for consultancy services (Stage 1 to Stage v) on e-Tenders for a proposed housing development at Farranamartin on Galway Rd. Tuam.

The Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer (MEAT) was an integrated design team, with Collins Rolsten as the Lead Architects. This project will be delivered through the accelerated delivery programme of Design Build.

A contract signing to appoint the Integrated Design Team took place at the Boardroom in Tuam M.D. offices on Friday 29th November 2024.



BACK L-R KEVIN GAVIN SENIOR EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, EITHNE MURPHY SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CIARA MCDONAGH, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

FRONT. L-R: BREEGE LYNN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MARK COLLINS, COLLINS ROLSTON ENGINEERS.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ADVERTISED FOR PROPOSED COMMUNITY HOUSE, ATHENRY

An Expression of Interest is being advertised on e-Tenders seeking an organisation to lease/licence a new community based residential facility, suitable for persons with an intellectual disability in Athenry.


The community-based residential facility will comprise of 5 en-suite bedrooms (1 staff plus 4 residents) with communal living area and kitchen.

It will be part of an overall development, including 12 other housing units, to the south of the existing Cullairbaun estate in Athenry, due for completion in 2026.

The intention for this Expression of Interest is to identify and confirm a suitable, qualified, Not-For-Profit service provider to independently operate and maintain this new facility, under a written agreement.

Applications will be accepted from Not-For Profit service providers who have a Service Arrangement (Section 38 or 39) with the Health Service Executive for the provision of suitable services.

Further information is available on e-Tenders portal (www.etenders.ie) with completed Expression of Interest to be submitted by electronic means to the e-Tenders portal by 4pm on Friday 10th January 2025.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Community Based Residential Facility suitable for persons with an intellectual disability, Athenry

Galway County Council is seeking an organisation to lease/licence a new community based residential facility, suitable for persons with an intellectual disability in Athenry. The community based residential facility will comprise of 5 en-suite bedrooms (1 staff plus 4 residents) with communal living area and kitchen.

It will be part of an overall development, including 12 other housing units, to the south of the existing Cullairbaun estate in Athenry, due for completion in 2026.

The intention for this Expression of Interest is to identify and confirm a suitable, qualified, Not-For-Profit service provider to independently operate and maintain this new facility, under a written agreement.

Applications will be accepted from Not-For Profit service providers who have a Service Arrangement (Section 38 or 39) with the Health Service Executive for the provision of suitable services.

Further information is available on e-Tenders portal (www.etenders.ie).

Completed Expression of Interest to be submitted by electronic means to the e-Tenders portal by 4pm on Friday 10th January 2025.

*Housing Directorate
Galway County Council*

An advert for the Expression of Interest also appears on the local newspaper (Connacht Tribune 6th December).

UPDATE ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT DUNLO HILL, BALLINASLOE

A Tender for a contractor for ‘renovation and extension of existing buildings at Dunlo Hill including ‘Dooleys Pub’ Protected Structure Ref. 2730 to create a new residential development comprising 16 units and a community centre, was advertised on e-Tenders with a closing date of 11th November 2024.

There were a number of queries during the tender process. Galway County Council facilitated two open days on site (by appointment)– one for main contractors on Friday 13th November and a subsequent one for specialist sub-Contractors on Thursday 24th November.

Galway County Council approved a request via e-Tenders to extend the deadline for submission of tenders. The new closing date is 10th December.

It is intended that the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer (MEAT) will be appointed further to a tender assessment after the new closing date.

Necessary advance works have been identified and will take place in December.

STORM BERT

Storm Bert caused significant disruption to Galway over the weekend of 22nd to 24th November. Intense rainfall and strong winds resulted in heavy localised flooding and widespread damage.

Conamara was particularly affected, with over 60mm of rain falling within a short period on Friday night and into Saturday morning. The temperature rose by more than 10 degrees Celsius during a short timeframe. The intense rainfall event, combined with rapidly melting snow accumulations, led to surface runoff into rivers and streams, leading to a rapid rise in water levels.

Many rivers and streams burst their banks.

- The Owenglin River in Clifden overflowed, flooding eight properties.
- The Polladirk River flooded, blocking the N59 at Kylemore.
- The Owenriff River in Oughterard also overflowed, causing flooding on the N59.
- Mountain streams in north Conamara, swollen with snow melt and rainfall, flowed across roads and driveways.

Elsewhere, localised flooding affected roads across the county, with numerous trees down and several landslides reported. A major landslide blocked the R336 between Leenane and An Mám, while damage to local roads due to scouring rendered some impassable.

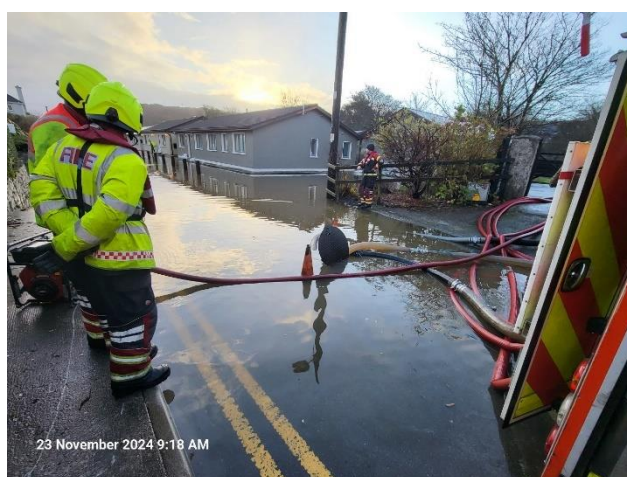
Galway County Council had prepared for the expected impact of the storm, assisted by briefings from the NDFEM, and the Local Coordination Group met on Friday afternoon. Residents in at-risk areas were made aware of the anticipated flood, and the Council distributed sandbags. Crews were on standby, and senior staff were in attendance in Clifden to monitor and coordinate the emergency response through Friday night and Saturday. The Clifden Fire Service was pre-deployed and responded overnight. Their efforts in pumping floodwaters from the Low Road in conjunction with the sandbags are believed to have prevented additional properties from flooding.

Unfortunately, eight properties in Clifden suffered internal flooding, while others experienced external damage, including significant scouring of sites and driveways.

Galway County Council's roads crews worked through the weekend and for the following week to address the storm's aftermath. Efforts focused on reopening roads closed due to landslides and debris. All roads are now open but some areas require capital funding to complete more substantive repairs.

A claim for cleanup costs was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 5th December 2024.

The photos attached give an indication of the storm's impact and the recovery efforts.



NRPO UPDATE

CONNEMARA GREENWAY PROJECT

An application for the approval of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for a section of the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway is currently before An Bord Pleanála for consideration. An Oral Hearing on the CPO was held online on the 2nd December 2024 with seven landowners participating. The project was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2013 on the basis that permissive access would be sought from landowners but if landowner consent was withheld then the Council could use its powers for compulsory acquisition. Substantial sections of the route have been acquired by agreement and the CPO application is to enable the completion of the western section of the greenway.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target each year is to have 12 estates processed for Taking in Charge and/or for Bond Release. The Table A hereunder outlines our progress to date.

Table A – Taking in Charge

Estates Taken in Charge	9
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	
Estates for consideration at next MD meeting	3
Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)	2
Total	14

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 3/2/2024

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	1
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	2
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	19
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	38
Bond Claims -	2

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted. I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND TRANSPORT AWARDS

On 26th November 2024 Rachel Lowe from Physical Development and Mary McGann from



Community Development met the staff and service users at Rehabcare in Casla to celebrate Galway County Council’s recent win at the Age Friendly Ireland Transport Awards. The Rehab team were instrumental in the delivery of the bus shelter at Casla, together with the support of local councillors, and they played a key role in the presentation to the judges from Age Friendly Ireland.

ISO 45001 HEALTH AND SAFETY RECERTIFICATION AUDIT

The NSAI ISO 45001 Health & Safety Recertification audit was held recently over 4 days.

The following sections were audited over the 4 days:

Roads & Transportation (Connemara MD, Ballinasloe MD), Library Service (Ballinasloe library, An Cheathrú Rua library), Fire Service (Ballinasloe Fire Station, An Cheathrú Rua Fire Station), Housing Maintenance, HR, Corporate Services, Planning and Health & Safety.

A very positive audit with Galway County Council achieving recertification to I.S. ISO 45001:2018.

HSA INSPECTIONS

The Health and Safety Authority have completed multiple inspections in Galway County Council workplaces over the past number of months, most recently 4 inspections in Galway Fire Service (City Fire Station, Loughrea Fire Station, Portumna Fire Station and Ballinasloe Fire Station). Some outstanding actions to be addressed in Loughrea and Portumna fire station following the HSA reports of inspection.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ACTIVE TRAVEL CONTRACTS AWARDED

Galway County Council has signed contracts with SYSTRA Ltd. for the design of two major new Active Travel schemes in Athenry and Tuam.

Funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA), the schemes will allow for the - design of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure and traffic calming measures in the towns.

GCO/24/0002 ATHENRY CHURCH ST TO TUAM RD (VIA STATION RD) ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

The €2.9m Active Travel scheme planned for Athenry will cover the road network from Athenry Church to the Tuam Road, via Station Road. The project includes the provision of a 1.3km Active Travel link between north and south of the railway improving connectivity to the town centre for the residents of over 1000 homes.

GCO/23/0021 TUAM SEAN PURCELL RD TO SPORTS GROUNDS ON R332 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

The €2.5m Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme in Tuam will be developed between Vicar Street and the Tuam Stars GAA Sports Ground on the R332 Dublin Road.

This scheme proposes to provide 1.2km of cycle infrastructure along the route, traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity across existing junctions, improvements to existing pedestrian infrastructure and crossing points, the addition of new crossing points, and the inclusion of a school street between Vicar Street and Frank Stockwell Road to improve accessibility to the schools

Athenry - Pictured at the contract signing for the €2.9m Active Travel scheme planned for Athenry; Back L-R Galway County Council's Rachel Lowe (Senior Engineer) and Uinsinn Finn



(Director of Services); Front L-R Kasia Garvey (Project Manager), Liam Conneally (Chief Executive, Galway County Council), Cllr. Ollie Turner (Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway); and Arantxa Martinez-Peral and Alan Milton (Systra Ltd). Credit Galway County Council.

Tuam - Pictured at the contract signing for the €2.5m Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme in Tuam; Back L-R Galway County Council's Donna Gibbons (Project Manager), Rachel Lowe (Senior Engineer) and Uinsinn Finn (Director of Services); Front L-R Liam Conneally (Chief Executive, Galway County Council), Cllr. Ollie Turner (Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway); and Arantxa Martinez-Peral and Alan Milton (Systra Ltd). Credit Galway County Council.



GCO/24/0001 BUS SHELTER ENABLING PROGRAMME

Main contractor, Harringtons Concrete & Quarries, and bus shelter contractor, JC Decaux, commenced construction of the civil engineering works associated with the installation of bus shelters in Maigh Cuilinn on 28th November 2024.

Due to space constraints to accommodate bus shelters at the existing bus stop locations, the two bus stops will be relocated to the western side of the traffic-signal junction. The new westbound bus stop will be located in front of the Garda Station and the eastbound bus stop will be located in front of An Cearnóg Nua shopping complex.

Considerable engagement has taken place with the Office of Public Works, An Garda Síochána, An Cearnóg Nua Management Company and local Elected Members who have been very supportive of the bus shelter works. The project has also been through a formal public consultation process under Section 38 of the Roads Act 1994.

The contractor has also programmed to complete construction works of bus stop upgrades in Labane, Craughwell, Moylough and Ballymoe in December, and complete works in Mountbellew and Headford in January.

The pictures below are of Day 1 works in Maigh Cuilinn.



GCO/23/0020 BALLINASLOE R446 BRIDGE ST. JUNCTION TO HARRIS RD JUNCTION ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

A two-week non-statutory public consultation runs on www.consult.galway.ie from 22/11/2024 – 06/12/2024. This consultation was advertised in Connacht Tribune on the 22nd Nov and posted on Galway County Council social media. The Wardens dropped the leaflets to houses and businesses along the route.

Ballinasloe R446 Bridge St. Junction to Harris Rd Junction Active Travel Scheme

Dear Resident / Business Owner

What is in this Leaflet

1. What is proposed and why
2. Benefits of the proposed scheme
3. Information on how to engage

What's Proposed?

- 1.4km new protected cycle track along R446 between Bridge Street Junction and Harris Road Junction
- Construction of Bus Stops at the Marina
- Construction of Bus Stops at Durlo Hill
- 3 No. new pedestrian crossings and an upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossings along the scheme to make it easier for pedestrians to cross R446 and Side Roads to access schools, shopping areas, hotel, marina, bus stops and parks.
- New cycle tracks will act as a safety buffer to vehicular traffic for those walking
- Traffic calming to slow speeds
- Provide new green areas/ planting
- Kick-start provision of Active Travel Network in Ballinasloe

Why is this change proposed?

There can be an uncertainty around any street changes, and it can be hard to imagine the future. Here are some reasons for this change

Local Benefits - What's in it for our area?

- Similar Active Travel schemes which have been introduced around the Country in recent years have resulted in and demonstrated increases in the numbers of people walking and cycling
- Introduction of Active Travel measures will provide for much improved road safety for all persons walking, cycling, and wheeling.
- The introduction of green areas and planting will provide for a pleasant, attractive walking and cycling environment
- New Bus Stops with Shelters at the Marina and new secondary Bus Stops at Durlo Hill will be accessible for all.
- Safer facilities will encourage active travel by children and residents.
- New pedestrian crossings, upgrades to existing crossings and junctions and narrowing of the carriageway will calm the traffic without impacting traffic volumes.

Wider Benefits

Encouraging people to walk and cycle rather than driving when they can, helps:

- Improve road safety for children and all vulnerable road users
- Improve our overall mental and physical health
- Reduce carbon emissions causing climate change
- Create economic benefit for individuals and society

How to engage

Galway County Council want to hear from all members of the community to promote better engagement and to ensure that all inputs are considered in the design process.

For more information about this Active Travel Scheme, please visit:
www.consult.galway.ie/n/browse

General Queries can be made to the Active Travel team by Phone: 091 509000
 Email: Activetravel@galwaycoco.ie

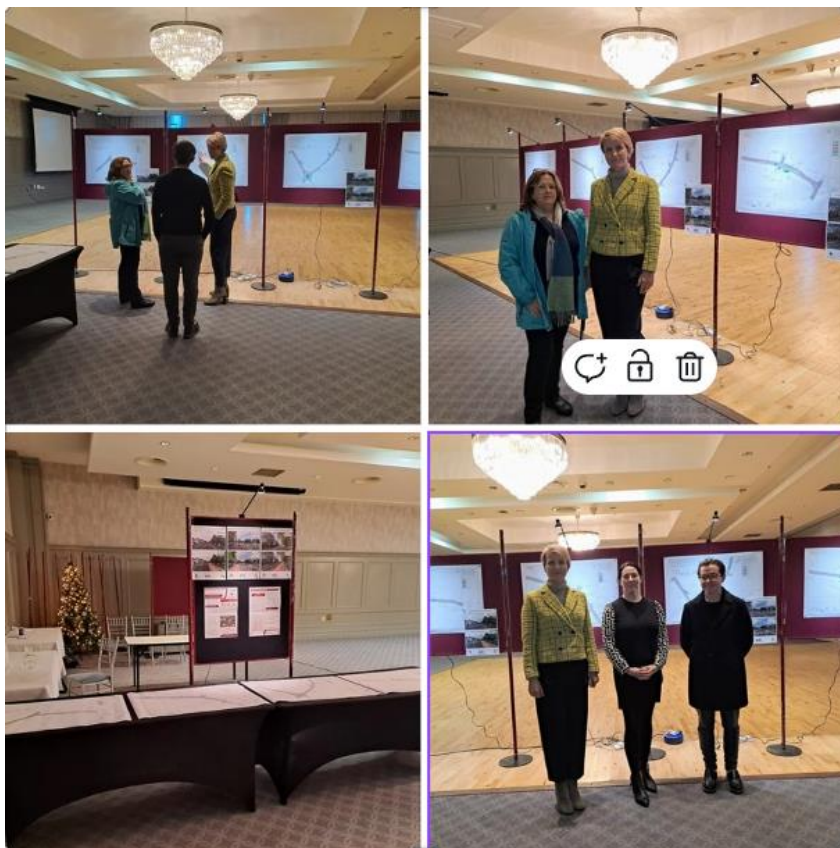
Where are we at:

- Non-statutory Options Consultation completed June 2024
- THIS CONSULTATION - Non-Statutory Emerging Preferred Option 22nd Nov - 6th Dec 2024
- Statutory Section 38 Consultation Q1-2025
- Detail Design Q2/Q3-2025
- Construction to Commence Q3-2025

Things to Know

- Cycle track will be provided to the north and west of R446
- Formal parking will be provided along the southern edge of R446 similar to existing.
- The main road (R446) will remain two-way traffic

A non-statutory in-person public consultation event was held in The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe on 2nd December 2024 for the Ballinasloe Active Travel Scheme.



ROUND 1 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Round 1 SRTS remaining 5 schools tender is now live for consultancy services for Phases 3-7. The tender is due to close on 13/01/2025.

GCO/23/0013 ORANMORE TO THE TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT

A two-week non-statutory public consultation runs on www.consult.galway.ie from 22/11/2024 – 06/12/2024. This consultation was advertised in Connacht Tribune on the 22nd Nov and posted on Galway County Council social media. The Wardens dropped the leaflets to houses and businesses along the route and laminated advertising leaflet were affixed to lighting poles along the route to capture those walking, wheeling and cycling along the route.

Oranmore to Train Station Active Travel Scheme
Dear Resident / Business Owner

What is in this Leaflet

1. What is proposed and why
2. Benefits of the proposed scheme
3. Information on how to engage

What's Proposed?

- 1. New cycle facility along Coast Road between the Mini Roundabout at Tesco and the Train Station Access Junction linking cyclists and pedestrians safely between Oranmore and Train Station with Serrins cycling commute
- Construction of new pedestrian crossings and an upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossings along the scheme to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross the Coast Road and at the junctions
- Upgrade key junctions along the route
- Kick-start provision of Active Travel Network in Oranmore

Things to Know

- Proposed cycle facility will be located to the north of Coast Road along the built-up areas and development zoned lands
- The Coast Road (R335) will remain two-way traffic
- Land acquisition is not envisaged

Why is this change proposed?

There can be an uncertainty around any street changes, and it can be hard to imagine the future. Here are some reasons for this change.

Local Benefits
What's in it for our area?

- Similar schemes in Ireland have increased numbers of those cycling and walking and helped make areas safer, more pleasant and more attractive
- New cycle track will enable direct connectivity between Oranmore and Train Station
- New pedestrian crossing points and upgrades of the main junctions along the route will improve safety for vulnerable users (pedestrians, wheeling and cycling) and will encourage more people to choose to cycle or walk for short trips for work or leisure
- Safer facilities will encourage active travel by children and residents
- Carriageway narrowing will calm the traffic without impacting traffic volumes.

Wider Benefits

Encouraging people to walk and cycle rather than driving when they can, helps:

- Reduce emissions causing climate change
- Improve our overall mental and physical health
- Create economic benefit for individuals and society

How to engage

Galway County Council want to hear from all members of the community to promote better engagement and to ensure all inputs are considered in the design process

For more information about this Active Travel Scheme please visit:
www.cocw.ie/galway/active/browse

General Queries can be made to the Active Travel team by:
Phone: 091 509900
Email: Activetravel@galwaycoco.ie

Where are we at:

- Non-statutory Options Consultation completed April 2024
- THIS CONSULTATION - Non-Statutory Emerging Preferred Option 22nd Nov – 06th Dec 2024**
- Statutory Section 38 Consultation Q1-2025
- Detail Design Q2/Q3-2025
- Construction to Commence Q3-2025

www.galway.ie
www.nationaltransport.ie
www.gcc.ie/TrainJourneyCounts

GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

The Section 38 consultation has been completed for SRTS R1 St. Pauls, Oughterard. Considering alternative design based on submissions received.

GCO/23/0015 ORANMORE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES

We are tendering works out for the pedestrian crossing near Lidl on the Old Limerick Road in Oranmore. The Section 38 consultation has been completed.

BROADBAND OFFICE

The National Hub Summit 2024 was a one-day conference held at the Tullamore Court Hotel in County Offaly on 14/11/24. It brought together hub managers, representative bodies, state agencies, government departments and local authorities. The event focused on shaping the future of the National Hub Network and discussing its role in transforming how we live, work, and conduct business.



IN ATTENDANCE PICTURED RIGHT TO LEFT:
NOEL MADDEN, BROADBAND OFFICER,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, DONNA BYRNE,
BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER, GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL.

CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The following groups have completed projects funded under the Community Climate Action Fund:

- Ballinderreen Community Centre – Water refill station, window upgrades & planter boxes
- Lackagh Museum & Community Development Association – Solar PV Installation
- Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo – LED Lighting Upgrade



CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING

There were great turnouts in Ballygar for the over 60's Climate Action course which is taking place over a 6-week period. The training is being organised in partnership with Jacinta Barrins from Climate Action 60+. Fifty people attended the training on the 26th of November to avail of presentations and one-to-one sessions with Dr Orla Ní Shuibhne from

SEAI and John Moore from the Housing Section. Attendees expressed an interest in becoming a Sustainable Energy Community. The presentation by the Housing Section covered the following grants:

- HAOP = Housing Aid for Older People, - for essential repairs to the home
- HAG = Housing Adaptation Grant for people with disabilities
- MAG = Mobility Aid Grant – for people with disabilities requiring smaller jobs



ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

GCC continues to work towards establishing an ISO 50001 accredited Energy Management System within the organisation. “Significant Energy Users” have been identified as part of this process including Fleet, Public Lighting, Leisure Centres and other large buildings. On the 28th of November, members of the GCC Energy Team including staff with roles related to our Significant Energy Users, attended an in-person training day. The training module aims to equip staff with the skills and knowledge required to maintain an Energy Management System certified to ISO 50001 standard.



GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

On 27th November 2024, the Climate Unit joined with project colleagues from Cities 4 Forests (Canada), ATU Letterfrack, and Greenville Procurement Partners, to deliver a workshop on the draft GCC Wood Procurement Policy to staff from GCC departments who

have been identified as frequent procurers of wood or wood products. It was agreed that there was a lot more consideration required before the draft plan can be implemented, and next steps for the Climate Unit will be to reach out to individual departments to get a better understanding of how they procure and use wood and wood products.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

On 19th November 2024 staff from the Environment Department and Climate Unit participated in a workshop on Circular Economy in the West of Ireland run by the OECD and facilitated by the Western Development Commission. Social Enterprises who are putting Circular Economy initiatives into action locally described the barriers they are facing. As a follow up, GCC will facilitate the Social Enterprise, An Mheitheal Rothar, to expand its collections to Galway County by working with the Civic Amenity Site in Ballinasloe to accept used bicycles on their behalf.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on November data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 141 turnouts to 124 Incidents. That is a increase of just 3 incident on 121 the previous month. 42 were fire incidents, 80 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 38.79% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 39.66% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 21.55% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.03 minutes and for county retained stations was 6.80 minutes.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION



Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is complete and operations were transferred to the new fire station on the 25th October 2024. The station was officially opened by Minister of State Anne Rabbitte TD in the presence of An Cathaoirleach, Albert Dolan on the 15th November 2024.

FIRE STATION ATHENRY OFFICIAL OPENING



L-R: MR. SEAN CANNEY, T.D., MR. GERRY O'MALLEY, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. ANNE RABBITTE, T.D., MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

L-R: MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. ALBERT DOLAN, MS. ANNE RABBITTE, T.D., MR. GERRY O'MALLEY, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Following Senior Management Team approval, the revised application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station has been submitted for publication on the 11th October 2024. The public consultation process ended on the 22nd November 2024. The Chief Executive's report is to be submitted to the Loughrea Municipal District meeting on the 09th December for members consideration. Briefings for MD members were held on the 08th and 15th July 2024.



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION LOUGHREA

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

A Request for Tender for the Design Team has completed and was received on the 13th September 2024. The tender assessment board met on the 2nd October 2024 to consider submissions and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender has been identified. All required information has been submitted by the preferred tenderer, and the Design Team Contract is expected week commencing 09th December 2024.

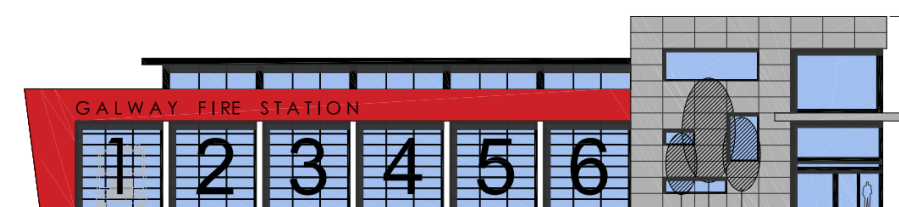


PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE
MECHANICS WORKSHOP
ATHENRY

(Indicative Only)

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

The preferred site has been identified with Galway City Council. An initial independent planning and flood risk assessment is underway, and it is hoped that this will be completed presently. The capital appraisal is 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is confirmed.



PROPOSED NEW
HEADQUARTERS
AND CENTRAL FIRE
STATION GALWAY
CITY

(Indicative Only)

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the November figures. The Fire Authority received 20 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 10 applications. 8 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 7 applications. A total of 7 new licenses were issued and 38 inspections were conducted.

TRAINING

1 no. retained station officer attended the NDFEM “Managing Fire Services Incidents Module 3” training course which took place in Bray Fire Station in November. The aim of the course was to assist Galway Fire & Rescue Service in developing and updating its ability to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services. This five-day training module provides the attending officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to facilitate effective fire service management of more complex incidents.

1 no. senior officer attended the NDFEM “Media Skills for Senior Fire Officers”. The aim of one day course was to enhance the capabilities of Galway Fire & Rescue Fire Service to manage and prepare for media interactions, including press briefing, the preparation of media statements and interviews with the print media, radio and television. This course will assist the attending senior fire officer when interacting with the media, either at an operation level or on community fire safety and fire prevention initiatives.

2 no. Swiftwater Rescue Technician training courses were conducted in November. The courses, of 4-day duration, were based in Carnmore Fire Training Centre and used various off-site locations in Co. Galway. The training was delivered jointly by GFRS and an external training provider. The trainees consisted of personnel from both the full time and retained fire services.

A “Using Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course” was conducted by GFRS on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group in November. This training course is part of the QQI accredited series of training modules for newly recruited retained firefighters. The 10-day training course took place in Sligo Fire Station and all thirteen trainees were from Galway Fire & Rescue Service. Additionally, the instructional staff consisted of Galway Fire & Rescue Service instructors along with the requisite external instructor who in this case was from Sligo Fire Service.

In summary for November, in the region of 1824 training man hours took place involving 44 no. fire service personnel.

A number of Senior Officers attended the NDFEM Senior officer seminars which took place in Tullamore, Co. Offaly in November. The aim of the one-day seminars was to enhance the capability of Galway Fire & Rescue Service to provide an effective and efficient fire and emergency service, through the provision of development opportunities for senior fire officers.

The following December training has been scheduled.

The emergency first responder refresher programme which commenced in November will continue into December with a further 2 no. three day refresher courses.

A two-day Breathing Apparatus Set Care & Maintenance course will take place in December. This course is aimed at Breathing Apparatus instructors and will give them the competencies to examine, test and repair breathing apparatus sets.


Galway County Council will be conducting an Induction Day in December for recently recruited staff. It is intended that a number of new fire fighter recruits will attend this training.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COLAS (CBE WEST) ORANMORE

A multi-Principal Response Agency review commenced of the Upper Tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Site at Colas in Oranmore, with a Principal Response Agency & relevant stakeholder meeting early in April. The required statutory exercise was conducted on the 23 May 2024 in Oranmore and led by Galway FRS. The updated External Emergency Plan for the site was advertised for Public Consultation on the 11th October 2024 and the latest date for submissions was the 15th November 2024. The EEP is scheduled to be signed

off week commencing 09th December 2024. A further blind mobilisation test was carried out for the site during October and further tested the response of the Local Competent Authorities and GFRS.



**An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and
Galway County Council**

**Public Notice under S.I. No. 209/2015 - Chemicals Act (Control of Major
Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015**

An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Galway County Council are each required by the above mentioned regulations to prepare plans to deal with effects off-site and to assist, where relevant, with the emergency response on-site in the event of a major accident at the Upper Tier COMAH Site:

CBE West Ltd. (Colas), Deerpark Industrial Estate, Oranmore, Co. Galway

A draft copy of the External Emergency Plan for CBE West Ltd. (Colas) is available for examination for a period of 4 weeks between 10:00am - 12:30pm and between 2:30pm - 4:00pm from 14th October 2024 until 11th November 2024 excluding weekends and bank holidays at the following locations:

- Galway Fire Station, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway. H91 P306
Phone 091-509070
- Regional Emergency Management Office, HSE West, Clinical & Administration Block A, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway. H91 N973
Phone 091-775933
- Oranmore Garda Station, Coast Road, Oranmore, Co. Galway. H91 D562
Phone 091-388080

Viewing is **strictly by appointment** only. Appointments can be arranged by calling one of the aforementioned phone numbers or by emailing fireservices@galwaycoco.ie and including your preferred viewing location.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed external emergency plan may be made in writing **only** to the COMAH Planning Group, Galway Fire Station, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway or by emailing fireservices@galwaycoco.ie not later than 4:30pm on 15th November 2024.

CBE WEST EXTERNAL EMERGENCY PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

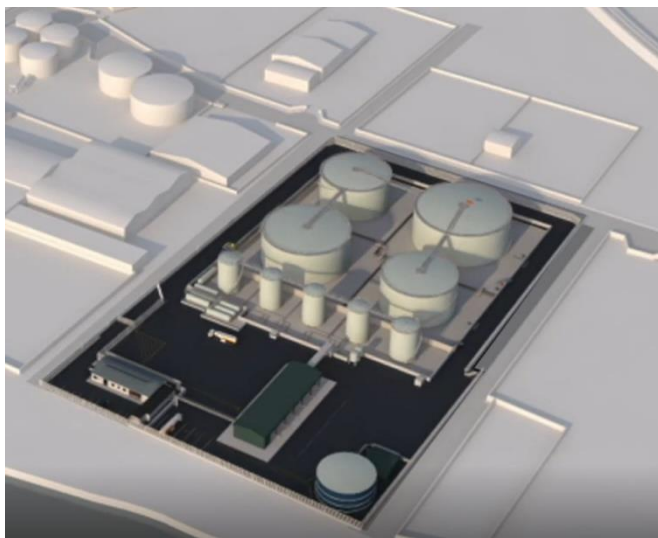
Tynagh Power Station is a lower tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site. Work is continuing on the finalisation of the external emergency plan and a preliminary site meeting was held on the 6th November 2024. An inter-agency training session to be conducted on-site is scheduled for the 17th December 2024 with a multi-agency exercise early in 2025.



TYNAGH ENERGY
LOWER TIER
COMAH SITE –
TYNAGH, CO
GALWAY

CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

The Circle K terminal is an upper tier COMAH site. Work has commenced on the review of the external emergency plan which must be completed by 2025. An initial inter-agency meeting led by Galway FRS is scheduled for 16th December 2024. It is planned to hold a table-top exercise and a large practical exercise in February 2025.



CIRCLE K UPPER TIER COMAH SITE -
GALWAY HARBOUR

ISLAND RESPONSE PLAN

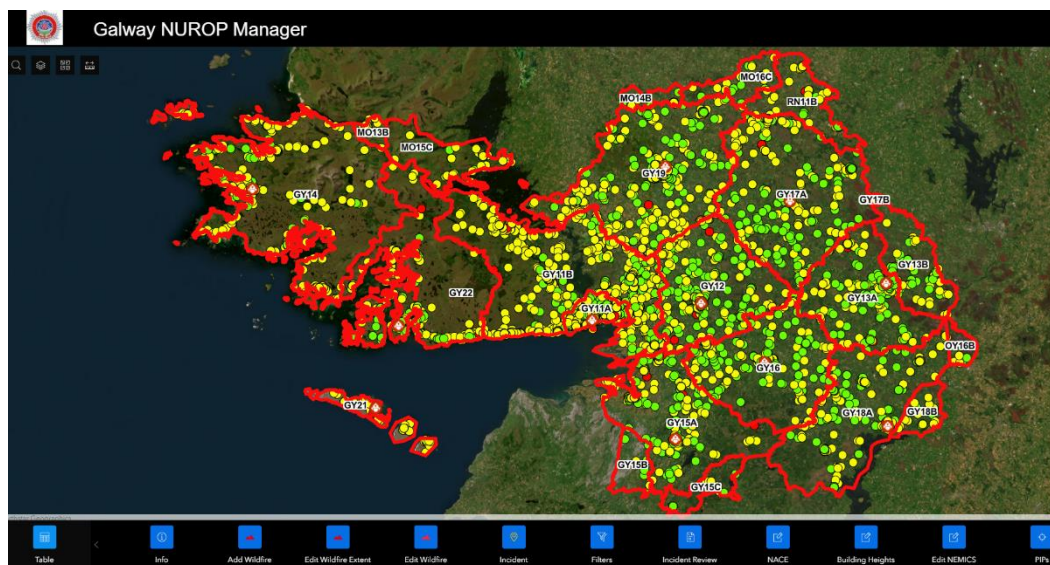
Galway County Council with MEM West Regional Working Group conducted a combined Connemara Airport and Island Response Plan Exercise on the 28th November 2024. The exercise was a combined tabletop and practical, testing the coordination and response of the Principle Response Agencies, Principle Emergency Services, Coast Guard, RNLI, Airport Authority and other relevant stakeholders to simultaneous incidents at the onshore airport and an offshore island.

CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGICAL NUCLEAR EXERCISE

Galway County Council with MEM West Regional Working Group conducted a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) exercise on the 12th December 2024 with An Garda Síochána and the HSE. The exercise is both tabletop and practical, testing inter-operability and coordination of the Fire Service HAZMAT and An Garda Síochána CBRN capabilities.

NUROP AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Work continues on the NUROP (National Unified Risk Operating Platform) and SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System). A new NUROP Manager Application has been released which includes risk scores for every domestic and non-domestic building in the county. SWEMS has recently been extended to Galway City Council and a multi-county exercise involving Donegal, Westmeath, Wicklow, Galway City and CARO is planned for early November 2024. SWEMS was successfully used in Galway County Council for recent storms Ashley and Bert.



GRANT AID FROM THE NDFEM

Galway City Council acting on behalf of the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management have published a tender for high volume pumps and associated equipment,

one of which will be allocated to Galway FRS as part of a new national response, estimated cost for each unit is approx. €1.5m.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Ongoing Induction training of new volunteers is continuing, with completion of Manual Handling Training.

Cardiac First Response Community Training (CFR-C) has commenced with the current group. Emergency First Response (EFR) training with volunteers from last year along with those requiring recertification is currently ongoing.

The assistance of The Civil Defence was requested by An Garda Síochána (AGS) to assist with missing persons searches on Tuesday 12th November 2024, at Silver Strand Beach.

Galway Civil Defence set up a Command/Control Unit for AGS. Civil Defence Members registered members of the public that joined in the search each day. This was enabled via Galway Civil Defence Sartopo/Caltopo search software.

Galway Civil Defence crews utilising a Rigid Inflatable Boat and drone technology coordinated their operations with assistance from Clare Civil Defence, Mayo Civil Defence and Laois Civil Defence.

Galway Civil Defence participated in an exercise in Ennis which included counties Clare and Limerick on Saturday 16th November 2024.

The exercise included search, communications, medical, off-road driving and foot drill elements. Galway volunteers were awarded a prize in recognition of their performance at the foot drill element of the exercise.

Galway Civil Defence Drone team responded to requests on Saturday 23rd November to assist with aerial photography of the damage due to landslides in the Leeanune area, Connemara caused by the excessive rainfall from Storm Bert.

Galway Civil Defence units continue to cover events each weekend throughout the county. The Galway Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer participated as observers at the Major Emergency Management exercise in Connemara Airport on the 28th November 2024.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

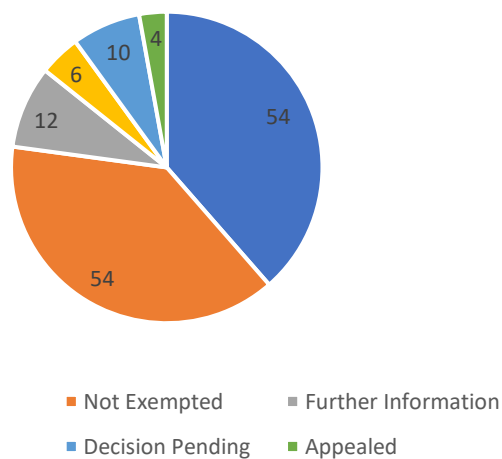
KEY Statistics 1 ST JANUARY – 30 TH NOVEMBER 2024	
Applications Received/Valid	1975/1549
Granted	1350
Grant Rate	86%
Refused	226
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (7)	
Permission (1038)	

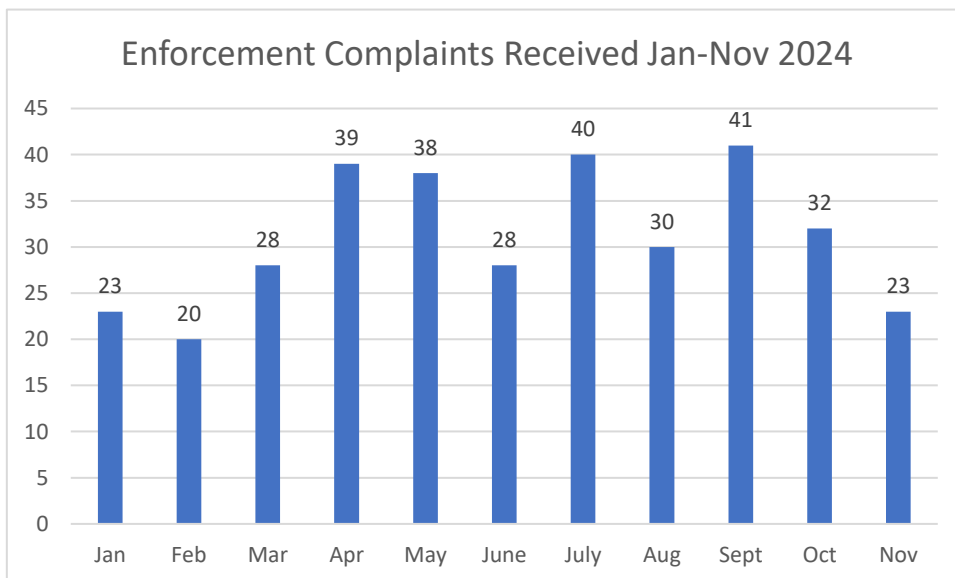
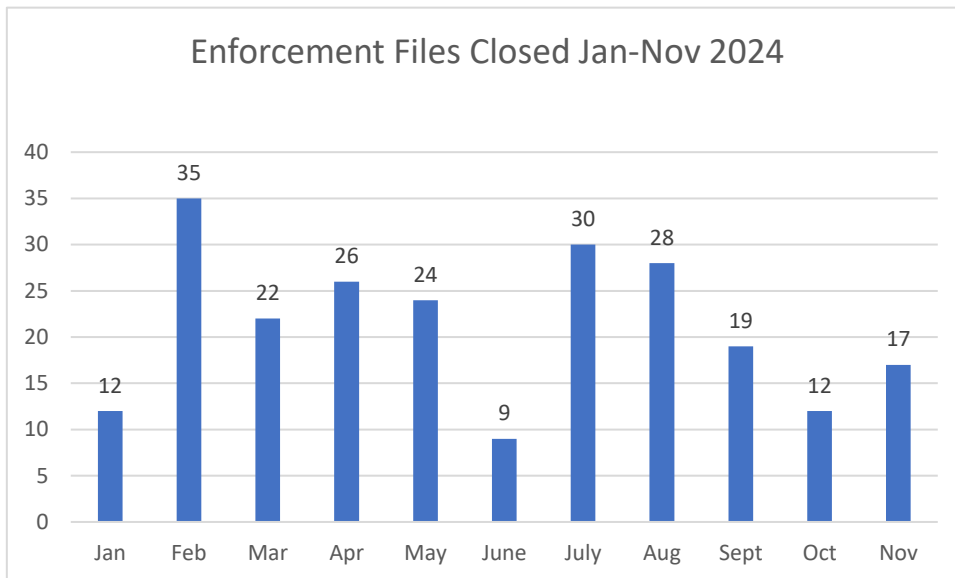
Retention (285)	
Permission Consequent (4)	
Extension of Duration (16)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	83%
Stage 1LRD	4
Stage 2 LRD	2
Major Meetings	12
SID Meetings	4

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 ST JANUARY – 30 TH NOVEMBER 2024	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	891
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	122

Pre Planning Meetings per MD per Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total per MD
Ath/Ora	4	3	0	3	3	7	4	0	7	6	4	41
Ballinasloe	4	4	2	0	2	3	7	5	3	6	7	43
Connemara	8	1	11	6	11	5	12	4	13	12	8	91
Loughrea	6	1	13	9	7	4	8	5	10	4	8	75
Tuam	5	0	2	6	7	2	5	0	3	5	3	38
Total per month	27	9	28	24	30	21	36	14	36	33	30	288

Exempted Development Applications (Section 5) January - November 2024





KEY PLANNING UPDATES

GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN

Publication of Draft Plan January 2025 – 6-week public consultation. Work is underway preparing the written statement; zonings; local transport plan environmental reports etc.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Stakeholder engagement/drop-in session held on 27 November 10am – 2pm in the Aras an Chontae Council Chamber. Small number of City Councillors attended.

LOUGHREA LOCAL AREA PLAN

CE report on Draft Ministerial Direction returned to the OPR.

URDF

Publication of tender documents on ETenders for detailed design of local/nodal centre; Ecopark and Density Typology Study at Garraun. Closing date is 20th December. Planning applications for the rail works (City and County) are currently on Further Information re. Archaeology.

RZLT

Work underway for preparation of draft maps for public display in early 2025 (Loughrea and Athenry). Awaiting guidance with respect to agriculture lands.

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application for Open Cycle Gas turbine power plant located to the north of Tynagh Power Station, Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, was granted by An Bord Pleanala on 27th November 2024.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

The LEO continued to support business and a number of events over the last month and a half, details of which are set out hereunder.

LEO Galway is the first stop shop for anyone seeking information or advice on starting, growing, or expanding a business in both Galway City and County.

This month LEO Galway continued to support small and micro businesses through their range of financial/soft supports and advisory services outlined below:

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet specific business requirements.

BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business. Our advisor will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any other relevant services that may be available to aspiring or existing business promoters.



A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year.

MENTORING

Our mentoring programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights, and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with clients who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance. The mentor contributes independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making.



The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the Galway region. Areas of mentoring include business strategy, financial planning, market research, marketing & promotion, distribution, exporting, production planning, social media. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours support from the mentor.

TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER

Our Trading Online Voucher is designed to support small Irish businesses to trade online by offering them training coupled with a financial incentive to develop their trading online capability. Our Trading Online Voucher will close at 5pm on December 13th, 2024.

However, the Digital for Business and Grow Digital Voucher will replace this support.

For the Digital for Business, our expert digital consultants assist through the analysis of existing digital systems in the business and to identify potential gaps in meeting business needs. They also explore opportunities to optimise existing systems and to integrate with new solutions to enhance business operations and provide guidance on the implementation of new or enhanced digital solutions.

Our Grow Digital Voucher offers small and medium businesses with up to 50 employees financial support to embrace their digital technology. Funding up to €5,000 is available to invest in software and training/IT configuration.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DESIGN MINGLE

Shane Cluskey will speak about his inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 13th December at 10.30am. Shane is an award-winning illustrator from Galway. He aims to tell a story in his pictures using dynamic composition with bold and deliberate use of colour.



He studied at the National College of Art and Design (N.C.A.D) and furthered his education at the Illustration Academy in Kansas City and School of Visual Arts in New York. Shane's work has garnered recognition from the Society of Illustrators, American Illustration, and Communication Arts. Notable clients include The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and Atheneum Books.

His latest work can be seen on the cover of 'The Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens' by Alan Nolan, published by O'Brien Press. The book has been shortlisted for Children's Book of the Year - Senior at the An Post Irish Book Awards.

Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate, and foster meaningful connections.

LEAN LAUNCH

LEO Galway is currently running a Lean launch programme which commenced on 14th October 2024 and will run until 10th March, 2025. The programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable. The programme will run as follows:

Module 1	Monday 14 th October 2024	9.30am – 4.30pm
Module 2	Wednesday 23 rd October 2024	9.30am – 4pm
Module 3	Monday 4 th November 2024	9.30am – 4pm
Module 4	Wednesday 4 th December 2024	9.30am – 4pm
Module 5	Monday 20 th January 2025	9.30am – 4pm

Module 6	Monday 10 th February 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 7	Monday 10 th March 2025	9.30am – 4pm

LEAN FOR BUSINESS WORKSHOP

LEO GALWAY will host a Lean for Business workshop in the Menlo Park Hotel, Galway on January 16th, 2025. The workshop is aimed at people interested in taking part in the Lean for Business programme. The workshop will be facilitated by Paula McNicholas and will give an insight into the concept of Lean in business, applying these principles and gaining positive results.

PAST EVENTS

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME

LEO GALWAY organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The November SYOB evening programme commenced on the 4th of November 2024 and ran until the 4th of December 2024. The next SYOB will be in the New Year.



LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR

The popular Local Food and Craft Fair, organised by Local Enterprise Office Galway, returned to the Black Box Theatre on November 30th & December 1st, 2024. The Local Food and Craft Fair charity partner this year was Galway Hospice.

The event showcased Galway designers, handcrafted goods and artisan produce, with over 50 stands featuring the best in locally produced gifts.

Since 2012, the Local Craft and Food Gift Fair has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. This two-day fair was great opportunity to find unique locally made gifts before Christmas, along with a wide range of locally produced artisan food products.

This year we had Barnardo the Magician who kept the kids entertained with balloon creations and magic shows over the course of the weekend which guaranteed a great family day out! Among the exhibitors this year were Fluff Beag, Aideen Monaghan Art, The Wonky Woolins, Builin Blasta and Irish Socksciety.



L-R: MS. RACHEL TOWEY, MARABAY DECO, AND MS. NOREEN DONOHUE, LEO GALWAY

L-R: MS. ANN MARIE COSTELLO, MS. MARTINA RIDDELL, LEO GALWAY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MS. CAILOSIA KEAVENEY LEO GALWAY



L-R: MS. EIMEAR DOLAN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY AND MS. MAJELLA MAHER, ENTERPRISE IRELAND

GATHER & GROW WITH MICHEAL DYER FOUNDER OF CLEAN-CUT MEALS

The Galway Local Enterprise Office organised an inspirational talk with Michael Dyer founder of Clean-Cut Meals at the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry on Tuesday 26th November 2024. Gather and Grow is a vibrant networking event tailored for entrepreneurs in the Food and Drink industry. Gather and Grow provides a platform to share ideas, collaborate, and learn from each other's experiences, help foster innovation and build strong business connections. This was a huge success for all involved.



L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY, MR. MICHAEL DYER (CO-FOUNDER OF CLEAN-CUT MEALS), MS. DEVON BUTTERFIELD (OPERATIONS MANAGER BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS) & MS. CAILOSIA KEAVENEY, LEO GALWAY

DESIGN MINGLE WITH CIARA O'NEILL

Ciara O'Neill spoke about her inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 15th November 2024. Ciara is an artist from Galway who specializes in contemporary art. She has a degree in Interior Design, and this is where she developed her eye for colour. Ciara lived in Australia for 8 years and has gotten a lot of her inspiration and vibrant colour schemes from that climate. Her Designs are inspired by her love for Aboriginal art and Andy Warhol. Ciara's art will add a pop of colour to any room. All designed and painted by Ciara in the West of Ireland. Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate, and foster meaningful connections.



CIARA O'NEILL (CIARA O'NEILL ART).



DESIGN MINGLE

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

Facebook:

8.4K followers

Reach year-to-date: 87.4K

Instagram:

3186 followers

Reach year-to-date: 37.1K

LinkedIn:

1176 followers

11187 reached

X (Twitter):

6029 followers

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF)

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the initial stages of evidence gathering for the TCF plan. An online survey will be published next week seeking input from local residents, businesses and school children regarding their attitude and opinions of Athenry Town centre. In person workshops with the local community will be arranged for the new year.

RRDF PROJECT

Following a detailed application by the Regeneration Team, Athenry was granted €6,075,518.40 Rural Regeneration Development Funding for the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme Phase1 and the redevelopment of Somers House Burke's Lane to provide a Community and Enterprise Hub. The regeneration team has progressed the project with the appointment of consultants for the Public Realm project. Current programming currently forecasts construction to commence late-2025. As part of the contract a community liaison officer will be appointed to manage engagement with local stakeholders both prior to and during works. A tender has been prepared for the appointment of consultants to deliver the construction Phase of the Somers House redevelopment; tenders are due to be returned by 07/02/25. Once appointed the design team will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases.

LOUGHREA

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

The Regeneration team submitted a request for further funding to the Department of Rural and Community development on the 26th September. The Regeneration Team are delighted to announce that their request was granted in full. The team is preparing contract documents to appoint the preferred contractors with a view to commencing construction on-site on Q1 2025. An official contract signing will take place in January 2025 of which the elected members will be notified and invited to attend.

LONG POINT

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. A Part 10 planning application has been lodged to An Bord Pleanála, and full details can be viewed on <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/loughrea-long-point-amenity-enhancement-project-part-10-planning-application> The period of submissions is now closed. The reference number for the file is JP07.320946 and is provisionally due for decision on 24/03/25.



VISUALISATIONS OF LONG POINT NEW CHANGING FACILITIES AND PARK DESIGN

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE LONG POINT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCLUDING THE VIEWING PLATFORM.



CLIFDEN

A Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Submissions can be

made to An Bord Pleanála until the 6th December and plans and particulars can be viewed online at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme>

The file reference for the file is JP07.321144. A provisional date for decision has been set at 01/05/25.



BEACH ROAD QUAY



MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET STREET



HARBOUR PARK

PORTUMNA

TOWN TRAIL

OBFA architects Ltd are progressing with the development of the Town Trail Strategy.

The key work is to:

- Map 20 key sites into four themed quadrants of the town trail (identifying key trail hubs within) – producing a user-friendly graphic map that can be used and shared by all.
- Host **Co-Design Workshops on 23rd January 2025** to get public feedback and identify high level Design Principles for the trail over the years ahead.

- List key strategic commissions and infrastructure projects 2025-2030 which will develop alongside and within the trail.
- Identify best practice for commissioning art/public works at the sites in question, within a wider project group led by Galway County Council 2025-2030.



PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Works are currently progressing ahead of programme at Portumna Courthouse to elements such as, first fix mechanical & electrical, internal rendering, first floor decking, and the foundations to the new café. The building will be open to the public in Q2 2025. An Expression of Interest for operators of the Café in the Courthouse was published mid-October, a total of 4no. operators expressed an interest.

A formal public tendering process will follow before the end of 2024. Funding through the DRCD for the appointment of a 3 year temporary post of Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility during the operational stage, we hope to get this post filled by the new year. This post will also manage the Loughrea Town Hall and Tuam Town Hall once completed.

The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme design is ready for the submission of a Part 8 planning application has been subject to pre-validation comments from the planning Department it will now be amended and lodged before the end of December.

Engagement is continuing with a view to purchasing town centre lands to increase the provision of off-street parking to support town centre businesses.

GORT

The Gort Public Realm scheme is in its final stages of preparation for a Part 10 Planning application to An Bord Pleanála. It is expected the application will be submitted by quarter 4 2024.

TUAM

TOWN HALL

The Regeneration Team have published a tender for a design team to progress the construction phase of the refurbishment of Tuam Town hall. An open-day was offered to tenderers on the 11th November. The closing date for submission of tenders is the 13th December 2024. Once appointed the design team will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases.

STATION QUARTER THRIVE FUNDING

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann, CIE and in consultation with Action Tuam to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been formally appointed to develop the masterplan. The design objectives for the Tuam Station Quarter are centred around transforming a derelict area into a vibrant, mixed-use development with a strong sense of place and local identity.

A work programme is in the process of being developed with the consultant with an expectation that a public engagement event will take place in January. Engagement is ongoing with our partners in Irish Rail and CIE to determine the footprint of available lands for inclusion in the master planning process.



SITE PHOTOS FROM SITE WALKOVER WITH REDDY ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

A separate Part 8 application will be progressed in-house by the regeneration team with a view to submitting in February/March 2025 once all the public and stakeholder consultation has been completed. Surveys of the station house building are currently taking place; topographic surveying of the study area will also progress. There is the possibility of applying for capital funding for the renovation of the Tuam Station House in May 2025 through a final round of THRIVE funding subject to financial viability of the proposal.



BRENT MOSTERT & J.P. O'CARROLL FROM THE REGENERATION TEAM ATTENDING THE THRIVE - EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT



BALLINASLOE

Following on from the successful funding application by the Regeneration team under THRIVE funding to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of a dedicated Town Centre First Plan focusing on the historic core and Fair Green identifying potential projects for future funding applications. The tendering process is now complete, and the Regeneration Team have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company (Ireland) limited to work with the Town Regeneration Officer, the Town Team and local community to progress the plan process.

A meeting of the newly established town team took place at the newly opened enterprise centre operated by BACD on Society on November 28th. An engaging discussion was had in addition to a walking tour of the town.



MEMBERS OF THE PAUL HOGARTH CONSULTANT TEAM GIVING PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLED TOWN TEAM

MEMBERS OF THE BALLINASLOE TOWN TEAM WITH COUNCIL STAFF

Regular updates will be provided to the MD meetings on the progress of the plan as well as presentations of draft proposals to Councillors for input. It is anticipated that a public engagement event will take place in January 2025.



URDF CALL 3 – VACANCY AND DERELICTION

Valuers have been appointed to the three qualifying towns of Ballinasloe, Tuam and Oranmore with 20 properties initially identified as candidate properties that are either vacant or derelict.

Ownership is being determined in many cases and engagement will be pursued with these owners to assist in having these properties re occupied.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN

The Regeneration team is working in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Town team and wider Local community to deliver a Town Centre First Plan for An Cheathrú Rua. A presentation was given to the MD on the 8th November where the project was formally launched. This is an exciting opportunity for the Town to identify key strategic funding opportunities for the town into the future.



MEMBERS OF THE CONAMARA MD, ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA, COMHARCHUMANN MHIC DARA AND DIRECTOR OF SERVICES UINSINN FINN AND TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER, HAZEL FOX AT THE LAUNCH

TOWN CENTRE FIRST INITIATIVES- TOWN TEAMS

Galway County Council was granted funding of €30,000 for the establishment of town teams and the preparation of Town Centre health checks for Oranmore, An Cheathrú Rua and Headford. The Town Teams have been working with the appointed consultants in the distribution of the online surveys as well as on the ground survey works in the town centre. The final Town centre health Check reports will be ready for publication by Q4 2024.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND PROJECTS 2024

The following is an outline of projects that received funding under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) in 2024:

FORDHAM HALL, KYLEMORE ABBEY, CONNEMARA



The purpose of the works was to highlight the stonework as an architectural feature. The south side imposts were covered in a brittle paint with the north side remainder coated in a more modern flexible paint covering. The brittle paint was removed by carefully "needling" the painted surface by hand.



FORMER TRAIN STATION, OUGHTERARD



Phase 1 repairs at Oughterard former railway station consisted of repairs to the chimneys on the former station master's house and adjoining waiting area.



New applications for the HSF 2025 are now available for download on the following link:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/archcon/grants/>

Closing date is the 3rd of January 2025

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2024

The following is an outline of projects that received funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in 2024:



THATCH WORKS
COMPLETED AT
TURLOUGHMORE
AND LOUGHCURRA
SOUTH

DETAILS OF THATCH CRAFT
CAPTURED AT CLOUGHANOVER AND
KILLEENARAN



MASONRY REPAIR
WORKS
COMPLETED AT
CREGACLARE
DEMENSE



GORT TIDY TOWNS APPLIED FOR THE CAREFUL CLEANING OF THE PUBLIC SCULPTURE

EXTERNAL LIME RENDER WORKS COMPLETED IN PORTUMNA, GORT AND CLONBOO ENSURING BREATHABILITY OF THE MASONRY STRUCTURES



Historic Thatch Buildings Grant 2025 – Applications now open

New applications for the Historic Thatch Buildings Grant (HTB) 2025 are now available for download on the following link:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/archcon/grants/>

Closing date is the 3rd of January 2025

HERITAGE OFFICE

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND PROJECTS 2024

The following is an outline of projects that received funding under the Community Monuments Fund in 2024:

ST GRELLAN'S, KILCLOONEY, BALLINASLOE

A Conservation Management Plan was produced for St Grellan's Church and Graveyard, a monument in the ownership of Galway County Council. St Grellan's is an example of a medieval parish church, with several important elements adding to its regional significance.



DETAILS OF SOME OF THE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AT ST GRELLAN'S , KILCLOONEY, BALLINASLOE



KILMEEN

A conservation management plan and statement of heritage significance for Kilmeen Church and Graveyard was produced in 2024. Kilmeen is an example of a medieval parish church. It has several important elements including a possible base of a round tower adding to its regional significance. A record of the upstanding remains and a condition survey was carried out as part of this report, and a detailed inventory of the features and issues compiled. The church is completely overgrown with ivy, and loose stones are evident through the overgrowth. Mature ash trees are growing adjacent to the church ruins and are suffering from ash die-back. The Conservation Management Plan sets out a plan of action to prevent further deterioration of the structure.



Frontispiece: Aerial view of Kilmeen Church and Graveyard (F. Coyne).

MOYLOUGH CASTLE

Moylough Community Resource Cultural and Heritage Centre commissioned the development of a conservation and Management Plan for Moylough Castle.

A record of the upstanding remains and a condition survey was carried out as part of this report, and a detailed inventory of the features and issues compiled. Structural issues, such as falling masonry were identified. The condition survey has identified a number of issues and has made recommendations as to how to remedy these.



Frontispiece. Moylough Castle, from SW (Frank Coyne).

ISSERTKELLY



ISSERTKELLY 2022 BEFORE WORKS

ISSERTKELLY AFTER CONSOLIDATION WORKS

A second phase of capital works were carried out at Issertkelly Church which involved the conservation and stabilisation of the collapsed archway and associated masonry. The wall was reconstructed as closely as possible to its original configuration.



Remaining upstanding areas of the north wall, and the east end of the south wall were consolidated and repointed. Tops were rough raked to ensure adequate water run-off. Localised repointing and pinning of large open joints were undertaken where there was a risk of masonry loss. Weathered joints which are still quite sound, or open joints which posed no risk for masonry loss were retained and now serve as pockets for nesting bats.

For more information see:

<https://fieldmonuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/churches/issertkelly-church-graveyard>

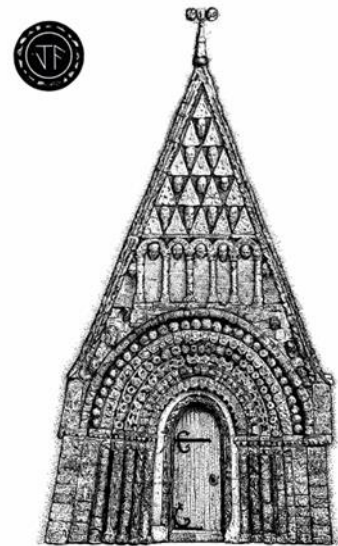
ST. BRENDAN'S CATHEDRAL, CLONFERT DIGITAL SURVEY

The survey of St. Brendan's Cathedral, Clonfert, involved a series of detailed digital recording efforts aimed at documenting and preserving the site for future conservation. The



survey employed laser scanning, photogrammetry, and drone technology to create a 3D baseline model and point cloud of the cathedral, capturing both the exterior and interior of the structure. The primary aim of the survey included creating a comprehensive digital record of the cathedral's current condition, assessing its vulnerability to climate-related factors such as

moisture infiltration and stone erosion, and generating materials to engage the public. The survey focused particularly on the cathedral's Romanesque west doorway, which is highly susceptible to erosion. Environmental and biological risks were noted, such as moisture damage from the local climate and plant growth on the stone structure. Illustrations of the doorway carvings were commissioned to help raise public awareness of the site's significance.



TEMPLE JARLATH, TUAM

Conservation works at Temple Jarlath required scaffolding to be designed to ensure that monuments and burials were not disturbed. Vegetation was removed from the structures



and treated where root systems are still in situ within the structure.

Miscellaneous voids to the walls were consolidated using salvaged stone bedded in lime mortar, keyed into surrounding stonework to interior and exterior. Loose stone to rear of obelisk memorial in chancel was taken down under archaeological supervision and rebuilt using the salvaged stone bedded in lime and sand mortar back to plumb after removing deeply embedded roots and tree trunk.

Cement mortar and loose joints were carefully raked out. Masonry walls were consolidated pinned and pointed to infill gaps using lime and sand hot mix mortar.

Works were carried out under Ministerial Consent and monitored by a licenced archaeologist.



SEEFIN SOUTERRAIN



Community Monuments Funding was sourced by Seefin Archaeological Society for essential works to assist in the conservation of a souterrain. It was identified as having a large crack on one of its lintels at the entrance to one of the chambers. The souterrain is associated with an enclosure and on privately owned land. Confined Space Training, First Aid and a drone recording of the interior was carried out. Harris fencing has been laid over the entrance to inhibit entry. The safety consultant worked with the engineer and contractor to enable the preparation of a preliminary scope of works. Further investigations are required to enable measurements of supports for the interior of the souterrain. Measured photographs of stone within the souterrain is required.

GALWAY COMMUNITY MONUMENTS STORYMAPS

Galway Community Archaeology Project and The Heritage Office, Galway County Council managed the preparation of a story map of Galway County Community Monuments. This focused on four Community Monuments Funds Projects: Abbeygormican, Kilboght, St. Kerrill's and Kilcreevanty. Four podcasts and four films were commissioned, highlighting the community's involvement and appreciation for works to date. Conservation and

Conservation Management Plans were used to inform the story of each site within the StoryMap. A pull up banner for each community was designed and printed to enable easy access to the story maps. Further information is hosted on Galway Community Archaeology Website, Galway County Council Website and various Social Media channels.

Link to Story Map via

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8ef529b34852438b9dbd4e20cf74dc81>

Abbeygormican

Welcome to Abbeygormican page on Galway Community Archaeology Website



[Abbeygormican](#)
Community Monuments Fund
2020



[Abbeygormican](#)
Community Monuments Fund
2022



[Abbeygormican Head](#)
Late medieval carved head



[Abbeygormican Story Map](#)
Community Monuments Fund



[International Day for Monuments and Sites 2024](#)

A separate link for each community group on Galway Community Archaeology Website:

Abbeygormican: <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/abbeygormican>

Kilboght: <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/kilboght>

St Kerrills: <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/st-kerrills-cloonkeenkerri>

Kilcreevanty: <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/kilcreevanty>

COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND 2025

Closing Date 31st January 2025

Galway County Council in conjunction with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are inviting applications for the Community

Monuments Fund 2025. The grant scheme offers funding for the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments.

OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS

Community Monuments Fund will invest essential capital to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. Proposed projects shall

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation;
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

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

OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS

Private applicants or community groups who are the owners or custodians of monuments may apply.

(State-funded organisations working in the heritage area may apply directly to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit.)

Up to 100% of project costs may be funded.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications from landowners, custodians and community groups within the County of Galway must be completed and forwarded in Word Format to heritage@galwaycoco.ie, Subject Line CMF2025(+Project Name) by 31st January 2025. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

For further information please see:

[Community Monuments Fund 2025 Archives - Galway Community Archaeology](#)

PLANNING

BIODIVERSITY

Drawdown reporting for the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the County Biodiversity Plan Fund from the Heritage Council has now been completed. Projects totaling €161,624 were supported through these two grant streams delivering on measures that assist with the conservation of biodiversity throughout the county.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund Projects for 2024 included:

- The Hare's Corner

- Shannon Callows Monitoring
- Invasive Alien Species Treatment
- Alpine Newt Eradication
- Invasive Alien Species Survey
- Lough Corrib Islands Study
- Working with Nature
- Mayfly Survey
- Connemara Biodiversity Awareness and Engagement
- North Galway Lakes Pollinator Project
- Barn Owl Monitoring and Conservation
- Development of an Alpine Newt eDNA tool

These projects provide support for the delivery of the actions outlined in the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030.

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024-2030

Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 was presented to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Heritage SPC on the 27th November under the chair of Cllr. Martina Kinnane. The plan was adopted and recommended to full plenary at the next meeting. The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum together with the individuals, communities, organisations, and elected members who played a key part in the development of the plan were thanked for their engagement and dedication over the last 18 months. Thanks was also given to Bernie Doherty, Zena Hctor, Sheila Murphy MCIEEM, Maria Hitchcox and Eimear O'Connell for their expert help and guidance. The preparation of this plan was funded by The Heritage Council.



Galway County Council Climate Action, Biodiversity and Heritage SPC. *The Wishing Tree* was part of the art outreach workshop programme by Maria Hitchcox, who engaged with communities not traditionally heard in the public consultation process to ensure that the

Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 is a plan that reflects the wishes and needs of the county in the widest sense.

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



The Biodiversity Officer presented to students at University of Galway from four different MSc courses; MSc Environmental Leadership, MSc Marine and Freshwater Resources: Management, MSc Sustainable Environments and MSc Sustainable Resource Management: Policy and Practice. The lecture focused on the role of local authorities in the fight against invasive species and included a site visit to provide a real-life setting to some of the issues faced in those working in local government.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

1. Restoration Improvement –2024 Contractor on Site

- a. Coast Road - Complete
- b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane) - Complete
- c. Old Church St, Athenry -archaeological issues
- d. School Road, Carnmore- Complete
- e. Knockdoemore (Tinkers Lane) - Complete
- f. Polkeen - Complete
- g. Gurraun North - Complete
- h. Kiniska - Complete
- i. Caherteenmore (Coolarne) - Complete
- j. Carnaun (Baunmore NS road) - Complete
- k. Slievefinn - Complete
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches) - Complete

m. Sheeaun - Complete

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

a. Surface dressing –

R339 Newford - Complete

LS3109 Crumlin - Complete

LS7138 Knockauncarragh - Complete

LS71149 Kiltroque - Complete

LS7126 Ballydavid Middle - Complete

LS3112 Gloves Middle - Complete

LS3102 Moneymore - Complete

LS2117 Ballylee/Annagh West/Barana - Complete

LS6200 Cahergowan/Mointagh - Complete

LS7103 Kiltullagh - Complete

b. Recycling Contract – Planning works for September

i. Cormachugh- Complete

ii. Lisheenoran- Complete

iii. Carnaun – Direct Labour Crew- Complete

iv. Waterdale- Complete

3. Safety Improvement Works

a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Project started.

b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Reinstatement of junction's complete other line marking to be completed.

4. Climate Change

a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions

b. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – Slit trenching and site investigation ongoing

c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508

d. CC2024 L2119 Corrandulla GC/24/35508

5. Community Involvement Scheme

Maree Road @ Church – - Complete

New Line Junction Crossing – Will not start until early next year

Ryehill Church – Road widening – LO Agreement received.

Coolarne no 1 – Road widening ongoing

Caraun – Road bend - Planned.

Ballyboggin – Edge drainage - Planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

a. LIS/258/21 Carnakelly North 2024 ongoing - Complete

b. LIS/264/21 Stonepark, Abbeyknockmoy 2024 - Complete

c. LIS/200/21 Frenchfort Oranmore 2024 - Complete

d. LIS/184/21 Rock Road 2024 – Landowner issues

e. LIS/31/21 Derrydonnell North 2024 - Complete

7. Other Items

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Belleville consent letters issued to landowners
Hydrological study Clarin River	Updated Funding request to be made to OPW
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Tender documents being prepared expect tender to be issued before Christmas

8. Figures and Pictures



STORM CLEAN UP – N83

STORM CLEAN UP – N83



SLIT TRENCHES – STATION ROAD ORANMORE

RYEHILL CIS



COOLARNE CIS



CARAUN CIS SCHEME



LARAGHMORE CIS SCHEME



BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During November 2024, Ballinasloe MD, and contractors on its behalf, have been working to complete several projects grant funded under the following allocations.

- Discretionary & Councillor Notice of Motion
- Low Cost Safety Improvement
- Former National Road Restoration Improvement
- Community Involvement Schemes
- Drainage District maintenance
- Climate Change Adaption & Resilience

Separately, the technical teams have been finalising the 3-year multi-annual plan for restoration improvement roadworks. This plan forms the basis and one of the primary expenditure elements of the 2024 roadworks programme which is being drafted, to also include surface dressing restoration maintenance and discretionary tertiary roadworks.

Storm Bert did not have a significant impact, with minor flooding and short-term road closures experienced. Below are examples of some of the works being undertaken in November 2024, throughout Ballinasloe MD.



UPGRADE WORKS ONGOING TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT SHANNONBRIDGE ROAD AND OLD DUBLIN ROAD LEGS AT CREAGH JUNCTION, BALLINASLOE





REPAIRS
COMPLETED TO THE
TYRING PLATFORM
AT SAINT MICHAELS
SQUARE,
BALLINASLOE



OVERLAY WORKS
BEGINNING ON THE
FORMER NATIONAL ROAD
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT GRANT
FUNDING R446 AUGHRIM
TO BALLINASLOE AT
URRAGHRY

CLONFERT LENAMORE CROSS - 2024 LOW-COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – IMAGES SHOWING BEFORE AND AFTER VEGETATION REMOVAL TO IMPROVE SIGHTLINES



ROAD LINE MARKING MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT WORKS COMPLETED ON THE R358 BALLINASLOE TO AHASCRAUGH, AT CLONGOWNA-SHANBOLEY - IMAGES SHOWING BEFORE & AFTER.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
SCHEME (CIS) AT KILMALAW
– IMAGES SHOWING BEFORE,
DURING & WORKS NEARING
COMPLETION



CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- The Conamara MD is finalising a DRAFT 3 year roads programme.
- Outdoor crews were busy cleaning up and responding to issues that arose during a recent red rain weather event Storm Bert. On 22nd November there was a Red Rainfall Warning for Galway. Conamara and Northern Conamara particularly affected. Persistent and heavy rainfall was expected in Galway, with maximum catchment average rainfall accumulations of around 55mm over 24 hours. In mountainous areas, rainfall was forecast to exceed 70mm in 24 hours.
- Conamara MD logged 31No. Severe Weather Incidents on the Severe Weather Event Management System Dashboard.
Incidents ranged from road closures due to river flooding, landslides and snow on roads. last road that was closed due to Storm Bert reopened 3rd December 2024.

- Numerous streams and rivers burst their banks firstly on the N59 at Kylemore and then the Owenglin in Clifden. On Saturday 23rd November 2024 the Owenriff on the N59 at Oughterard overflowed for a few hours.
- Restoration Improvement Works, Restoration Maintenance Works and Discretionary Grant works now complete.
- Climate Change Adaption & rehabilitation Works Complete.
- Department of Rural Community Development funding for works on Inis Mor are substantially complete.
- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area. Galway County Council has sought tenders for the provision of consultancy services necessary for the purposeful management and delivery of the TII Project Management Guidelines PE-PMG-02041 Phases 2, 3 and 4, and associated requirements and particulars of DPER's Infrastructure Guidelines (December 2023). Tender assessment is now complete a consultant has been appointed to this project.



R336 MUINTIR EOGHAN STORM BERT
LANDSLIDE



R336 MUINTIR EOGHAN STORM
BERT LANDSLIDE DURING CLEAN
UP



L1301 AILL DUBH ROAD SLIPPAGE



L1301 AILL DUBH AFTER WORKS



L1301 GRIGGINS- STORM BERT DAMAGE BEFORE AND AFTER

N59 OUGHTERARD STORM BERT BEFORE AND AFTER



PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The 2024 Loughrea MD Road Programme is now largely complete with only some minor elements still to be tidied up. Many other significant projects are also now complete e.g. Tawnagh Causeway, Kinvarra.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 24/24 (100%) Bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 44/45 (98%) Unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 28/28 (100%) Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects completed.
- 6/6 (100%) Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) completed.
- 6/6 (100%) Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience projects completed.
- 8/8 (100%) Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) completed.

A sample of the projects completed, and other on-going works is as outlined below:



PLANTING OF SPRING BULBS IN
LOUGHREA TOWN AND CLEAN UP AT
LOUGHREA LAKE





LITTER DUMPING
INVESTIGATION IN GORT.
GORT OUTDOOR CREW
ASSISTS WITH THE
TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE
TO THE YARD FOR DETAILED
INVESTIGATION



JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON
THE N65 AT GURTYMADDEN

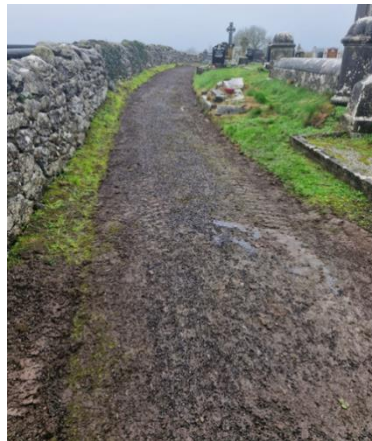




ROAD RESURFACING WORKS AT COSMONA, LOUGHREA



REMEDIAL WORKS ON
N65 AT KILMEEN TO
ADDRESS LOCALISED
DEPRESSION CAUSING
ROAD SAFETY CONCERN



KILMACDUAGH ABBEY -
PREPARATORY WORKS FOR
FOOTPATH UPGRADE
WORKS





ROAD REMEDIATION WORKS FOLLOWING
PREMATURE LOCALISED ROAD FAILURE AT
KILLORAN, LOUGHREA



WORKS AT CONVENT PARK
HOUSING ESTATE, KINVARRA

BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES FROM VARIOUS LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED IN THE LOUGHREA MD



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



INVOLVEMENT
OF
COMMUNITY
EMPLOYMENT
SCHEME AT
GORT RIVER
WALK WITH
SUBSEQUENT
RELATED
SOCIAL MEDIA
POST



Gort River Walk

1m · 🌐



Lots of great answers to our question. The correct answer is a walking 'Labyrinth'. This is a work in progress and we did some initial marking out today! There are 6000+ of these across the globe and have history going back over 4000 years. It will be a great resource for the community and also be a tourist attraction. We located it not far from the start of the trail to make it more accessible. It's only the start and will take a bit to install so if you're able to give a hand - let us know! See comments for more info on about 'labyrinths'. Thanks to [Galway County Council](#), Liam, Sylvie & lads at FAS (once again) Flor Burke, Mike O'Sullivan, Sara Jane Kingston, Richard Christie !!

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

GREEN FLAG PALACE GROUNDS

The official flag raising event for Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation Award for the Palace Grounds in Tuam took place on Wednesday 27th November at 10:30 by Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan. A real special thanks to all groups who work in close collaboration with the Tuam



MD office staff to make this Park one of the top park spaces in Galway and Ireland.

- Tuam Women’s Shed were local community leaders and Galway County Council wish to commend them for the collaborative approach they developed at local level, particularly with local schools and Disability Organisations in the development of a Sensory Garden which will cater for all needs.
- Elected Members of the Tuam Municipal District, who have also pledged their local Notice of Motion allocations towards the next phase of the Sensory Garden.
- Other local partners were Tuam Men’s Shed, Tuam Tidy Towns, the Community Employment Scheme who maintain the park.
- Galway Sports Partnership, the Biodiversity Officer, and the Climate Action Team have all been actively involved in the development of the project.

Official flag raising event for Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation Award

Palace Grounds Tuam
10:30am Wednesday 27th
November 2024



STORM BERT

Storm Bert caused significant disruption to Galway and Tuam MD over the weekend of 23rd



November. County Galway experienced intense rainfall and strong winds, resulting in localised flooding and widespread damage. Tuam and Headford areas were particularly affected, with over 40mm of rain falling within a short period on Friday night and into Saturday morning. The already saturated ground caused rapid surface runoff into rivers and streams, leading to a rapid rise in water levels. The Tuam MD roads crews were out on call from early Saturday morning to deal with the storm issues. Numerous roads were closed for a period of time throughout the weekend, but all have since reopened.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas lights were officially switched on in the town of Tuam on Saturday 24th November where there was live music and entertainment on the square from 4pm. All the businesses around the town donated funding towards the Christmas Lights this year. This year Galway County Council donated funding of €4000 toward the Christmas lights in Tuam.



OTHER WORKS



SPEED RAMPS IN MILLBROOK
ESTATE MILLTOWN



NEW FOOTPATH IN GARRAFRAUNS



CIS IN KILNASLIEVE COMPLETED



Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

10th December 2024