



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Iúil 2024

July 2024



### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Plenary Council, an Induction Pack has been forwarded to the 3 Elected Members nominated to the LCDC. An LCDC Meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, in addition to consideration of progress on other programmes as detailed below.

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### SICAP

A meeting of the SICAP Sub-Committee took place on 25<sup>th</sup> June to consider the Annual Progress Report for the January to May 2024 extension of the SICAP 2018-2023 Programme, and this will then go forward for full approval to the LCDC Meeting scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> July. This will close out the old SICAP Programme, following which Galway Rural Development CLG (for Galway East and Galway Islands) and Forum Connemara CLG (for Galway West) will develop Annual Plans for the implementation of the new SICAP Programme over the remaining months of 2024. These will then be considered at a further SICAP Sub-Committee Meeting and LCDC Meeting to be scheduled by the end of July 2024, in order to comply with the timescales for the programme set by Pobal and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

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### HEALTHY IRELAND FUND 2024

A meeting of the LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee will take place in July to discuss the Programme of Work and community engagement and awareness projects under the Healthy Ireland Fund 2024.

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### LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

The public consultation process for the development of a new 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan opened on 20<sup>th</sup> June, with consultations invited online at <https://consult.galway.ie>; by e-mail to [lhcp@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:lhcp@galwaycoco.ie); and in writing to the Community & Rural Development Department. In addition to this, public consultation workshops are being held on-street in villages, and across the County Libraries in 5 Municipal District locations. Additional targeted consultations are being arranged to engage with Comhairle na nÓg, the Older People's Council, New Arrivals, and other specific target groups, to ensure that their voice is heard throughout the consultation process. To date, there have been over 500 responses to the consultation processes by Hub Planning which are designed to be interactive and engage people in a variety of ways so that they can share their experience and priorities for the social and economic development of County Galway.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Galway County Council has sought an Expression of interest for the appointment of a chairperson to the new Local Community Safety Partnership for Co. Galway. Local Community Safety Partnerships are being established in each Local Authority area in line with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. These new Partnerships will build on and replace the existing Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) and will provide a forum for State Agencies and local community representatives to work together at local level to act on community concerns. This will provide a more holistic forum for discussion, decisions and action on community priorities. For further information on the role of the Chairperson, please see Galway County Council's website <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/communityenterpriseeconomicdevelopment/>

Expressions of interest should be submitted to [kcoyne@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:kcoyne@galwaycoco.ie) no later than 5.00 pm on Thursday 25th July 2024.

## GALWAY COUNTY AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

### OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

An Older People's Council Meeting was held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June to facilitate consultation on the Local Economic and Community Plan, in addition to a discussion about the role and Terms of Reference of the Older People's Council.



MEMBERS OF THE OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ENGAGING IN A WORKSHOP ON THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN WITH HUB PLANNING ON 24TH JUNE 2024

### AGE FRIENDLY ALLIANCE

An Age Friendly Alliance Meeting took place on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 which included presentations on the new Social Prescribing services in Galway City and County which are being administered by Galway City Partnership and Galway Rural Development respectively. Social Prescribing recognizes that health is heavily determined by social factors such as loneliness and social isolation and offers GP's and other health professionals a means of referring people to a range of non-clinical community supports to benefit their health and wellbeing. The new service in the County is particularly timely with Ireland having come out on top of the first ever EU-wide survey on loneliness, with over 20% of respondents reporting feeling lonely.



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## POSITIVE AGEING WEEK 2024

Work is progressing on planning the Local Heroes Campaign to be delivered during Positive Ageing Week 2024, to promote positive and healthy ageing and combat ageism. The SICAP Programme Implementers are identifying older people to take part in the campaign, and their biographies and photos will be exhibited in Galway Museum during October.

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## AGE FRIENDLY ISLANDS

Work is progressing on the Age Friendly Islands projects with a report on the outcomes of the audit of social and leisure activities on each island to be completed in July, to identify infrastructural deficits which can be addressed through larger-scale funding schemes. Work will commence on the delivery of the additional social and leisure activities identified under the funding allocation the carrying out of a Walkability Audit on Inishmore to improve accessibility, in conjunction with the installation of Activate Pole Signage in the Community Park.

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## NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY AWARDS

Applications are now open for the prestigious National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2024, which are open to agencies, organisations, and groups who are driving initiatives to make County Galway a great place to grow old. There are 8 categories in the Awards, each reflecting a World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Theme, i.e., Age Friendly Transport Award; Age Friendly Active and Healthy Ageing Award; Age Friendly Business Innovation Award; Age Friendly Safety and Security Award; Age Friendly Communications Award; Age Friendly Environment Award; Age Friendly Community Innovation Award; Age Friendly Housing Award. County Galway is proud to have been the national winner of the Active and Healthy Ageing Award in 2023 for the 'Healthy Islands' project which involved over 20 agencies collaborating to improve access to information and services related to health & wellbeing on the offshore islands – this responded directly to one of the key barriers identified by islanders and sought to create ongoing linkages with the participating services.

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## COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Comhairle na nÓg is the voice of young people in the development of programmes and policies in the County and their topic of interest in 2024 is Mental Health and Addiction. A Steering Group Meeting will be held on 10th July to discuss revised Terms of Reference and how members of the Steering Group can assist in the awareness and engagement activities identified by the Comhairle County Committee.

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## PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

Entry Summaries have been completed and submitted to Cooperation Ireland for the 2 Pride of Place entrants representing County Galway in the All-Island competition in 2024. These are Williamstown in the Population Category 0-300, and Kinvara in the Climate Action and Biodiversity Category. The Pride of Place judging date has also been booked for Friday 6th

September, with judging in Kinvara from 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 midday, and in Williamstown from 2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

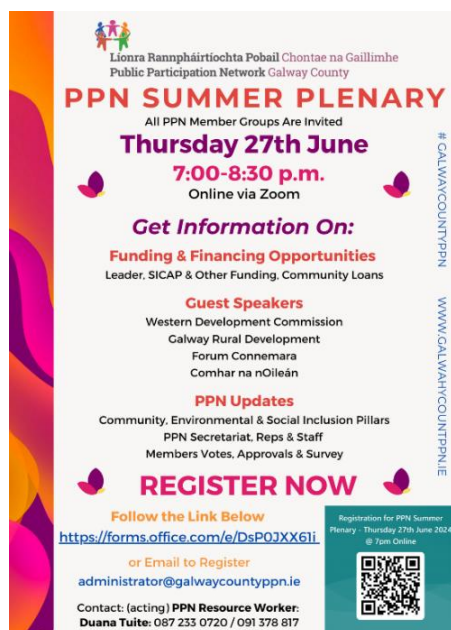
The PPN shared information with all PPN members (over 1300 member organisations) on the public consultation for the Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030 and issued a PPN Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin. The PPN also shared information with the Social Inclusion Pillar and the Galway Disability Forum (PPN Linkage Group) about a disability consultation being run by NUI Galway for Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI). The PPN Workers are attending a community information day in Oughterard County Galway, 25th July, holding an information stand and answering queries about the PPN.

### BUILDING CAPACITY

The PPN Resource Worker is attending the Climate Action Team meeting 3rd July 2024. A PPN Members Survey is being distributed via email, to gather vital feedback and help guide the direction of the PPN over the next year, regarding training and supports to groups, and highlighting main issues and solutions coming from local groups.

### PROMOTING REPRESENTATION

The PPN Secretariat (advisory body) are meeting 2nd July 2024 and the PPN is recruiting for Representatives for two representational structures: - Galway Rural Development for two new Board Members; Per Cent Public Art Commission for one PPN Representative to help guide aspects of the public art project.



The poster is for the PPN Summer Plenary Meeting. It features a colorful abstract design on the left side with shades of orange, pink, and purple. The text is centered and includes the following information:

- Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
Public Participation Network Galway County
- PPN SUMMER PLENARY**
- All PPN Member Groups Are Invited
- Thursday 27th June**
- 7:00-8:30 p.m.**
- Online via Zoom
- Get Information On:**
- Funding & Financing Opportunities**  
Leader, SICAP & Other Funding, Community Loans
- Guest Speakers**  
Western Development Commission  
Galway Rural Development  
Forum Connemara  
Comhar na nOileán
- PPN Updates**  
Community, Environmental & Social Inclusion Pillars  
PPN Secretariat, Reps & Staff  
Members Votes, Approvals & Survey
- REGISTER NOW**
- Follow the Link Below  
<https://forms.office.com/e/DsPQJXXG1j>
- or Email to Register  
[administrator@galwaycountypn.ie](mailto:administrator@galwaycountypn.ie)
- Contact: (acting) PPN Resource Worker:  
**Duana Tuite: 087 233 0720 / 091 378 817**

On the right side of the poster, there is a vertical text string: #GALWAYCOUNTYPPN and WWW.GALWAYCOUNTYPPN.IE. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and a small registration box with the text: Registration for PPN Summer Plenary - Thursday 27th June 2024 @ 7pm Online.

PPN SUMMARY PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD ONLINE ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE SHARING INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY FINANCE OPTIONS AND THE PROGRAMMES ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES, IN ADDITION TO UPDATES FROM THE PPN REPRESENTATIVES AND PPN WORKERS

## ARTS OFFICE

An element of the work of the Arts Office is to lead out and support funding applications for additional arts programmes in Galway County. In June and July, we received notifications from several successful bids for Arts Council funding towards Creative Places Tuam, Culture Night, Dance Artist Residency Schemes and Festival Investment Schemes. These exciting projects will receive well-deserved support and provide work for our artists and ambitious arts experiences for our audiences.

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### CULTURE NIGHT 2024

Culture Night is an annual national event that invites everyone, everywhere on one joyful night, to discover and celebrate all that our culture is today. Galway County Culture Night is led by Galway County Arts Office with support from the Arts Council. Culture Night events are free, and everyone is welcome. This year Culture Night takes place on Friday 20 September.

Our annual Culture Night Open Call had its deadline on 27 June. Artists, community groups and arts organisations were invited to apply for up to €1,500 towards events.

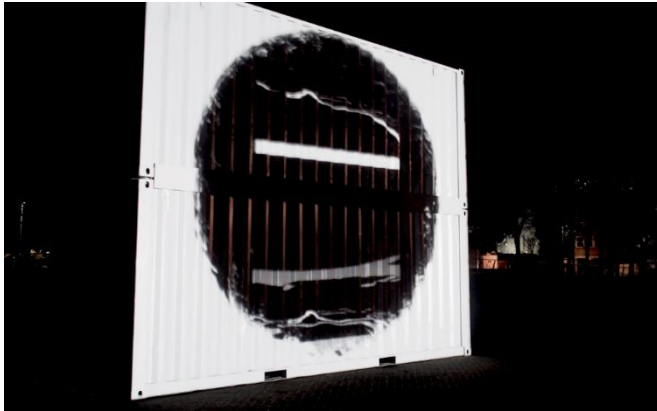
- 75 applications completed
- 12 ineligible applications
- 63 eligible applications
- Requested amount (eligible): €71,372.75
- Amount available to award: €25,600.00

39 Open Call events have been funded and offering audiences a dynamic mix of events to choose from across all 5 Municipal Districts.

Galway County Council Arts Office in collaboration with Culture Works made an application for additional **Culture Night Late 2024** funding which was successful. We're delighted to announce that we received funding for a digital mapping project that seeks to blend the rich culture of Tuam with contemporary digital art, creating a mesmerising visual spectacle that celebrates Tuam and Culture Night. This collaboration with local artists, international artists and Creative Places Tuam will result in a flagship Culture Night event for audiences to enjoy after dark in Tuam.







LIMERICK ELECTRONIC ART FESTIVAL  
LAUNCH BY CULTURE NIGHT LATE  
ARTIST SCOTT ROBINSON. PHOTO:  
SCOTT ROBINSON

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## CREATIVE PLACES TUAM 2020- 2024

Creative Places Tuam held a series of events called The Gathering to mark the end of their 4-year pilot from 2020 - 2024. The Gathering celebrated all that Creative Places Tuam has achieved to date while we wait on the results of an Arts Council funding application for the next phase of the project at the end of June.

24-26 May Creative Places Tuam hosted:

- Archive Sharing event at Tuam Town Hall
- Relmagine Tuam Open Shop with Helena McElmeel Architects and Niall O’Cleirigh at The Brewery Building
- Launch of Creative Places Tuam exhibition and handing over the archive at Tuam Library. Exhibition runs until 06 June.
- Performance of Nettle Horse by Little John Nee at The Mall Theatre.



THE GATHERING, CREATIVE PLACES  
TUAM ARCHIVE SHARING AT TUAM  
TOWN HALL

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## CREATIVE PLACES TUAM 2024 - 2025

Creatives Places Tuam has received Phase 2 funding of €70,000 for 2025 from Arts Council. The Arts Office looks forward to working with our partners Create and the Creative Places Tuam Steering Committee to build on and further develop arts practice and infrastructure in Tuam over the next 12 months.

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## ARTS COUNCIL'S FESTIVAL INVESTMENT SCHEME

The Arts Office supported three successful Galway County applications to the Arts Council's Festival Investment Scheme. The scheme supports small-to-mid-scale festivals to deliver high-quality arts experiences for audiences, and prioritises programmes engaged with, and relevant to, local communities or communities of interest.

Congratulations to:

- Cúirt Ceoil na mBan – Inis Oírr, Inis Meáin, 4 - 6 October 2024
- Northeast Galway Fit-Up Theatre Festival – Abbeyknockmoy, Dunmore, Fohenagh, Newbridge, Skehana, Tuam, 23 September – 13 October 2024
- Something in the Water – Headford, 4-6 October 2024

These three festivals will present incredible arts festival programmes to audiences across the county this autumn.



CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT  
SOMETHING IN THE WATER 2023.  
PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON

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## DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY SCHEME 2024/2025

Congratulations to Galway County contemporary dance artists Linda Schirmer and Magdalena Hylak, who have both received Arts Council funding with support from the Arts Office. Over 12 months both artists will develop their dance practices, deliver workshops locally and programme professional development events focused on dance in Galway County. We're delighted to support Linda and Magdalena at this important time for the development of dance practice in the county.

LINDA SCHIRMER GALWAY COUNTY  
DANCE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE 2024/2025



The idea for the second iteration of Headford Lace Project's Lace Matrix comes from the most common topic in the world: weather. Though not just any weather, but the Irish and the extreme.

Headford lace, like most laces around the world, is a result of culture travelling back and forth. Just like culture, weather knows no country borders. So have the lacemaking patterns, techniques, and traditions too mixed up throughout the centuries. Just like drawing air from the northern Europe, Headford Lace Project has attracted Finnish lace artist Tarmo Thorström to mix up Irish lace scene. And afterwards, he will take influence from Headford, not only to remix again in Finland but also everywhere he goes. The interaction is never ending.

Lace Matrix, designed by Róisín de Buitléar was first finished on 21st November 2021. Only a couple weeks later in December, Ireland was hit by a weather bomb, Storm Barra's explosive cyclogenesis. It brought damaging wind gusts over 120km/h and caused floods, power cuts and disruption to travel as well as damage to property and trees across Ireland. Many things got destroyed, but the heart-shaped Lace Matrix, an artwork done by a group of dedicated and passionate people, persevered. Headford lacemaking has seen war, famine, and industrialisation. Despite all the difficulties, resilient lace has endured and is still here.



The Lace Matrix 2024 is inspired by the satellite wind maps of Storm Barra on 7th December 2021.

TARMO THORSTRÖM STANDS BESIDE LACE MATRIX. PHOTO AENGUS MCMAHON 2024

HEADFORD LACE PROJECT MEMEBERS WORKING WITH TARMO THORSTRÖM. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON 2024



## UNESCO GALWAY CITY OF FILM

As part of Galway County Council's designation as Galway City of Film, Ardán are managing two documentary schemes open to Galway County based filmmakers in 2024. Galway City of Film programme for 2024 and is made possible by support from Galway City Council Arts Office, Galway County Council Arts Office, Screen Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

**Short Documentary Bursary 2024** is a documentary funding and mentorship scheme for up-and-coming filmmakers in Galway City and County. Successful applicants will be given a bursary of €3,000 to help them make a short documentary of between five and fifteen minutes in duration. The selected filmmakers will be mentored by Galway-based documentary filmmaker Donal Hughey of Hawkeye Films.



Information Day was held on Thursday June 27th at 2pm in the CREW Building.

**Misleór Short Documentary Grant for 2024** is a documentary funding and mentorship scheme open to emerging filmmakers from the Traveller community. Successful applicants

will be given a bursary of €3,000 as well as mentorship while producing a short documentary. The short documentary will then premiere at the Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures this September.



Information Day was held on Tuesday, June 25th, at 2pm in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. Deadline was 05 July at 12 noon.

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## CRAUGHWELL PUBLIC ART SCHEME

The OPW and Galway County Council have commissioned 'A River Runs Through It' by artist Stephen Burke. This Per Cent for Art project will feature a series of stone artworks for Craughwell, Co. Galway. This work is funded by the OPW through the Flood Relief Schemes at Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream and is managed by Galway County Council.



As part of 'A River Runs Through It', artist Stephen Burke hosted a Stone Carving Festival on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May 11am - 4pm on the bridge in Craughwell. The local community were invited to try their hand at stone carving and to register their interest to participate further in the creative process of this commission.

The artist will take motifs and designs for the stones/pebbles from the plant biodiversity he came across on his most recent visit to the Turlough / Fen in Craughwell with Moira. Further updates will be expected to be delivered to the local working group in late August/early September.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

June was a big month for Creative Ireland funding. We had our biggest and most widespread Cruinniú na nÓg programme yet. We also have a number of Creative Ireland bursaries that are well underway, as well as some of our Culture Team projects, and a large-scale Flagship project.

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## CRUINNÚ NA NÓG

Cruinniú na nÓg is the National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People. Ireland is



unique in that we are the first, and only, country in the world to have such a day. There was extra attention on Cruinniú na nÓg this year after the international success of the Rhyme Island project, 'The Spark'. On Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, there were 55 free creative events held all over County Galway, making it an 89.6% increase from 2023. Our

libraries were an indispensable resource, hosting interactive storytelling, balloon making, music, mosaic art, quilling, chalk art, and more. Throughout the county we had printmaking, painting, card-making, gardening, drumming, trad music, and creative play to name but a few.

One of the highlights from this year's Cruinniú celebrations was the ever-impressive Sparkcatchers! In Tuam who created a new piece of theatre which the teens wrote, produced, designed, and performed for the younger children. The play told the story of local legend Cnocmea and was performed 3 times throughout the day.



Sparkcatchers! were hosted by the Tuam library.



In Q1 of 2024, Galway County Council secured additional funding of almost €8,000 to curate a full programme of Cruinniú na nÓg events as Gaeilge on the Aran Islands. The programme was informed by a youth consultation which highlighted what sort of activities the children on the islands would like to see taking place. The programme was jam-packed with 12 events taking place across the three islands. These

included drama workshops, Lego coding, drumming, and painting. When asked about the day, the kids said that they had lots of fun and asked if we would please come back next year. Many of the parents remarked that it was a huge help to them to not have to bring their children to the mainland in order to have them engage with creativity and the arts. The success of this events just highlights the value of bringing creativity to people in their own communities.

Another new initiative this year was Cruinniú Late. This was sponsored by the Nighttime Economy officer of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. Galway County Council applied for and was awarded an additional €4,000 to programme an event which ran later into the evening and targeted older teens. For this, we commissioned Gliondar Community Arts Group in Athenry to host a one-day festival. The day involved circus skills, face painting, stilting, art workshops, ending with live performances from local teen bands, Infared and Moonlight Eclipse.



The day was well attended with roughly 150 young people arriving throughout the day. It was hosted in the garden of the Athenry Heritage Centre which provided a safe, secure place for young people to express their creativity and enjoy performances from their peers. The event was extremely well received and a great example of the talent and creativity on offer in Athenry.

Overall Cruinniú na nÓg reached over 2,000 children across Galway County. We are continuing to see the incredible impact that these creative outlets have for children. We programmed specific, closed events for groups of children in vulnerable situations, children from marginalised communities, and children living with disabilities. It is incredibly



rewarding to witness first-hand the impact that these events have on our county's children, and to get to play a role in enabling this engagement is truly rewarding.



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## WE BUILT THIS CITY ON ROCK AND COAL

Galway-based improv theatre group, Breakdown Productions brought their interactive, educational show, 'We Built the City on Rock and Coal' on tour throughout the month of June 2024. Galway County Council funded an additional 3 performances of this 'Hopepunk' show in Athenry, Inishbofin, and the Inagh Valley. Themed on the issue of climate change, these free shows included citizen scientist projects and were followed up by sustainability workshops so that attendees left with a sense of agency over what they can do in their own lives to combat climate change. They were well attended overall, and the participants reported that interesting questions were raised on what climate change means to different communities, what challenges and anxieties they are facing, and what we, as a community can do to help one another to cope. This was one of the Flagship projects of Galway County Council's Creative Ireland funding for 2024.





## TOURISM

### Galway County Council Tourism Roadshow Events in Cologne and Milan

Galway County Council, as a key stakeholder in Ireland West Airport, recently supported a tourism roadshow event in Cologne, Germany, and Milan, Italy. This initiative was in collaboration with the Airport marketing team, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Galway City Council, and the County Councils of Roscommon, Sligo, Donegal, and Leitrim. Representing Galway County Council, Tourism Officer John Neary attended the event.

Each participating County Council invited three tourism businesses to engage with tour operators in both countries. The primary objective was to promote tourism flights into the west of Ireland and encourage visits to County Galway. Ireland West Airport, in partnership with Tourism Ireland and industry representatives from the West and Northwest of Ireland, showcased the region to over 50 trade and industry representatives from the German and Italian markets.



The workshops and networking events highlighted the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, and direct flights from Cologne and Milan to Ireland West Airport with Ryanair. Over 20 Irish trade representatives, including premium hotels, whiskey distilleries, outdoor activity providers, and heritage sites, met with leading German and Italian tour operators and travel agents.

Guests enjoyed the best of Irish cuisine, prepared by Good Food Ireland.

These events provided an excellent opportunity for trade representatives from the West and Northwest to meet key buyers from the Italian and German markets. They showcased the quality of accommodation, activities, and value for money available to tourists, supported by low-cost direct flights from Milan (Bergamo) and Cologne to Ireland West Airport.



Nadine Lehmann, Tourism Ireland’s Manager for Germany, expressed her delight in partnering with Ireland West Airport Knock, The Local Authorities and other industry partners. She emphasized the ease of access from Cologne and Milan on direct flights with Ryanair and the many attractions along the Wild Atlantic Way and in Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands. Lehmann highlighted the aim to inspire potential holidaymakers to choose Ireland and support local economies and communities sustainably.

Donal Healy, Head of Marketing at Ireland West Airport, praised the events as a wonderful opportunity for trade partners to showcase the region’s attractions. He noted the importance of the direct routes from Milan and Cologne, which have generated over 30,000 overseas visitors in the past five years, significantly boosting tourism, small businesses, hospitality, and accommodation in the region. Healy thanked the Tourism Ireland teams in Germany and Italy for their support in organizing the events and expressed hope for their continuation as annual events. He also acknowledged the participation of regional trade representatives and the support of local authority partners in Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, Roscommon, and Galway.



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## EU INTERREG PROJECT: SLOWDOWN

Galway County Council is a member of the EU Interreg project SLOWDOWN, which aims to promote slow tourism for sustainable, local, and regional economic development and well-being. The project focuses on creating a deeper connection between tourists and their destinations by encouraging slower, more immersive travel experiences. This approach not only enhances the visitor experience but also supports the preservation of local culture and the environment.

The SLOWDOWN project brings together nine partners from eight EU countries, including two Associated Policy Authorities. The consortium is dedicated to improving development, planning, and funding policies to better support slow tourism initiatives. This collaborative effort will involve an intensive inter- and intra-regional learning process, enhancing the capacities of partner institutions and leading to meaningful policy improvements<sup>1</sup>.

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## KICK-OFF MEETING IN HUNGARY

Galway County Council tourism officer John Neary recently attended the first meeting of the SLOWDOWN project in Esztergom, Hungary. The meeting featured a comprehensive presentation of the Interreg Europe Programme, an overview of the project’s thematic activities, and preparations for the first Interregional Thematic Workshop. This workshop



will focus on developing a joint methodology for assessing the current state of slow tourism in partner regions and creating a communication plan to engage stakeholders effectively.

#### Supporting Tourism in County Galway

The SLOWDOWN project aligns perfectly with Galway County Council's tourism strategy, which emphasizes sustainable tourism development as a key driver of socio-economic growth. By promoting slow tourism, we can enhance the visitor experience, protect our unique landscapes,

and support local communities. This approach will help spread the benefits of tourism across the county, ensuring that even less-visited areas can tap into their tourism potential.

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### ALIGNMENT WITH GALWAY'S TOURISM STRATEGY

Galway County Council's tourism strategy aims to integrate sustainable tourism as a core economic activity. The SLOWDOWN project supports this goal by encouraging longer stays and deeper engagement with local culture and heritage. This not only boosts local economies but also helps preserve the natural and cultural assets that make Galway a unique destination.

Participation in the SLOWDOWN project offers a significant opportunity for Galway County to enhance its tourism offerings in a sustainable and meaningful way. By aligning with our tourism strategy, the project will help us achieve our goals of balanced economic development, environmental protection, and cultural preservation.

### GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

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#### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Safeguarding 1 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – 18 people registered

Safeguarding 1 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – 18 people registered

Safeguarding 1 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – [Booking Link](#)

Safeguarding 1 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – [Booking Link](#)

Safeguarding 2 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – [Booking Link](#)

Sports First Aid 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – [Booking Link](#)

Sport Ireland have launched an online certificate system which will speed up the process of participants receiving certificates and streamline the administration process in relation to

certification. It will also improve the process of validating people’s participation on courses should they misplace their certificate.

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## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP CLUB DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Galway Sports Partnership through funding from Sport Ireland ran a Club Development Grant Scheme worth €30,000. The Club Development Scheme is designed to support our clubs & sporting organisation to expand and develop in the areas that support our main target groups getting active and getting introduced to the club for future membership. These main targets include women & girls, older adults, unemployed individuals, individuals from disadvantaged areas, individuals with disabilities, young people & ethnic minorities. 28 Clubs and Organisations across Galway were successful with their applications.

| Group / Club                            | Amount  | Group / Club                                     | Amount  |
|---|---------|--|---------|
| 14th Galway St Patrick's Scout Group    | € 600   | Maree Basketball Club                            | € 1,200 |
| ARD Family Resource Centre              | € 1,400 | Moylough 79 FC                                   | € 800   |
| Bearna Basketball Club                  | € 960   | Moyne Villa FC                                   | € 1,200 |
| Castlegar Active Retirement Association | € 360   | Olympic Boxing Club                              | € 1,300 |
| Corrib Basketball Club                  | € 500   | Oughterard Rugby Club                            | € 900   |
| Dunmore Town AFC                        | € 1,480 | Portumna Camogie Club                            | € 500   |
| Galway Bay Rugby Football Club          | € 1,500 | Renmore Hockey Club                              | € 1,500 |
| Galway Boxing Club                      | € 1,500 | South Galway Lakers Special Olympics Sports Club | € 500   |
| Galway City Rapparrees                  | € 700   | St James GAA                                     | € 1,500 |
| Galway Corinthians RFC                  | € 1,250 | STAR Project Tuam Co. Galway                     | € 500   |
| Galway Lawn Tennis Club                 | € 1,500 | Titans Basketball Club                           | € 1,500 |
| Galway Triathlon Club                   | € 670   | Tobar Pheadair Boxing Club                       | € 1,200 |
| Kinvara Hockey Club                     | € 1,490 | Tuam Falcons Hockey Club                         | € 1,500 |
| Knocknacarra Football Club              | € 920   | West Coast United                                | € 1,070 |

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## HEALTHY IRELAND OUTDOOR SWIMMING INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

Galway Sports Partnership and Galway County Council were allocated €28,000 as part of the Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Scheme. This funding will go towards replacement of ladders in Portumna and Loughrea swimming areas and sheltered changing areas for Gurteen Bay and Kinvara Beach. This work will be progressing over the coming months and will enhance these amenities and people’s experiences while accessing and utilising these amenities going forward.

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## BIKE WEEK 2024

Bike Week in Galway County for 2024 was extremely eventful and successful with 28 different events around the county taking place throughout the week of 11-19 June. Six schools in Galway County held Bike Week events with talks from An Garda Síochána on road safety.



3213 participants of all ages and abilities took part in the 28 events in Galway County during National Bike Week 2024. Events ranged from Intro to Cycling in Clonbur Woods with Petersburg OEC, Get Cycling - Have Fun in Oranmore Scoil Mhuire, Zero to Gort Mini Greenway with Gort Cycle Trails, Village Bike Days with Lawrencetown Community and Bike Week - School Green Energy with Clarin College and many more.

| Event   | Organiser                               | No of Attendees |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Cycle Fest '23 (200-300)                      | Wheels of Athenry                       | 350             |
| Cycle to School Week                          | Corrandrum NS                           | 69              |
| Safe Cycle to school programme                | Cloughanover NSPA                       | 76              |
| Maree National School Bike Week Celebrations  | Maree National School                   | 231             |
| On Your Bike                                  | Carnaun NS                              | 140             |
| Cycle Right Training                          | Gort Cycle Trails                       | 150             |
| Intro Spin & Picnic to the Peir               | Headford Women's Cycling Club           | 34              |
| Bike Week - School Green Energy               | Clarin College                          | 1015            |
| Intro to Cycling in Clonbur Woods             | Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre/GSP | 15              |
| Gort Community School Cycle #GortMiniGreenway | Gort Cycle Trails                       | 150             |
| Cycle for Treasure                            | Ballinderreen Community Centre          | 69              |
| Get Cycling - Have Fun                        | Scoil Mhuire                            | 480             |
| Zero to Gort Mini Greenway                    | Gort Cycle Trails                       | 50              |
| Village Bike Days                             | Lawrencetown Let's Get Active Group     | 237             |
| Gort Cycle Trails                             | Gort Cycle Trails                       | 11              |
| Bike or Trike                                 | Glenamaddy Garden Club                  | 35              |
| Cycle Day (Moynvilla)                         | Moyn Villa FC                           | 101             |
|   | <b>Total</b>                            | <b>3213</b>     |

## NATIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION CONFERENCE

Galway Sports Partnership attended the first annual National Outdoor Recreation Conference on 27<sup>th</sup> June in Sligo. The conference was hosted by Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and Comhairle na Tuaithe to support the delivery of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors Ireland's National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027. The conference helped to network with national and county organisations involved in outdoor recreation and join in the discussion on national outdoor recreation policy and to hear about the latest developments in the outdoor recreation sector in Ireland.



MINISTER HEATHER HUMPHRIES OPENING THE NATIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION CONFERENCE

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS CONFERENCE

Galway Sports Partnerships Development Officers attended Sport Irelands National Development Officers Conference in the National Arena on Sport Ireland Campus on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May. The Development Officers Conference had over 200 attendees over the two days with Development Officers from Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of Sport. Sport Ireland had a number of speakers and workshops over the 2 days. The conference was also an opportunity to network and learn from other Development Officers and the different work going on amongst Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies.



L-R: LOUISE BURKE, DIRECTOR OF PARTICIPATION, SPORT IRELAND, LORAINÉ TREACY, COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, ADAM HESSION, GALWAY BOXING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, JOANNE MURPHY, MASTER OF CEREMONY/TRI TALKING SPORT, KAREN CONCANNON, COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ELLIE LOFTUS, SPORTS INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, THOMAS PEOPLES, COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

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## PORTUMNA TRISHAW

Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway County and Portumna Municipal Office are working on an Inclusive Cycling Equipment Pilot Hub. As part of this pilot there will be a number of inclusive pieces of cycling equipment available for people to borrow. One of these items is a Cycling Without Age Trishaw. On 27<sup>th</sup> May, Clara Clarke from Cycling Without Age trained up 14 individuals from various relevant stakeholder groups – Portumna Retirement Village, Eyrecourt



Active Retirement Group, Ability West, Milrace Nursing Home Ballinasloe, and Portumna Cycling Club – to become pilots of a Trishaw bike which will be made available to the community free of charge based on a booking system from the Municipal office. It is hoped to launch this project in August.

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## MENS HEALTH WEEK



Galway Sports Partnership ran a number of programmes as part of Mens Health Week which took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June. These ranged from Activator Pole Sessions, Walking Football, Walking Programmes, Pickleball, Taster Events, Information Events. Galway Sports Partnership also launched a 6 Week Men on the Move

Boxercise Programme with Western Traveller & Intercultural Development Center in Bru Bhríde House, Tuam.

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## OUTDOOR ACTIVATOR POLES IN TUAM

Galway Sports Partnership an 'Outdoor Activator Poles' class in Tuam Palace Grounds on a beautiful summer's day with 14 participants from the locality.

Tuam Mens Shed have recently received funding for their own sets of activator poles and are looking forward to using the new 'activator poles' signage in Tuam Palace Grounds to lead weekly walks.



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TUAM MENS SHED  
WITH GALWAY  
SPORTS  
PARTNERSHIP  
TUTOR HELEN  
DALY IN TUAM  
PALACE  
GROUNDS

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## OLDER ADULTS



Galway Sports Partnership are supporting a variety of Activities for Oughterard Older Adults in Oughterard Community Centre. These sessions will continue weekly into the Autumn and are a big hit amongst the attendees!



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## ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Galway Sports Partnership supported schools across Galway for Active Schools Week.



Partnership helped schools to be active throughout Active School Week by providing them with equipment loans, teacher training for various programmes and activities, providing talks and some taster sessions in schools.



Active School Week is the biggest event of the Active School calendar and a favourite of many students, staff, and families. All schools, primary, post primary and special schools are encouraged to participate in Active Schools Week. Galway Sports



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LORRAINE TREACY, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH KILTORMER NATIONAL SCHOOL PUPILS WHO TOOK PART IN SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS AS PART OF ACTIVE SCHOOL WEEK

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## WOMEN IN SPORT

As part of Galway Sports Partnership work in the area of Women in Sport we held an online 'Understanding Teen Girls Physiology in Physical Activity' Workshop with Orna Murray.

243 people registered for the workshop from numerous clubs and sporting backgrounds in the county and in some cases further afield! 80 participants attended on the evening.

Feedback from the event was very positive and we obtained over 30 volunteers to join our

Girl Teen Support Panel which will meet on-line bi-monthly to identify issues/barriers the participants find re teen girls participation/drop-out, pinpoint how Galway Sports Partnership can assist and support, highlight practical strategies you, as teen girl supporters, can adopt weekly, drive initiatives to turn bleak trends into a positive teen empowerment movement in sport and physical activity in the county and take action - turn the talk into walk! Our



FREE

Calling coaches, teachers, & parents!

**Understanding Teen Girls Physiology In Physical Activity**  
(Online Workshop)

MONDAY 27TH MAY @ 7.30PM

With **Orna Murray**  
co-founder of Move 2B

SIGN UP NOW!!

SPORT IRELAND

first panel meeting scheduled for end of July. We will have more webinars in the Autumn covering a variety of topics for Women in Sport.

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## HER OUTDOORS WEEK 2024

HER Outdoors week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the



benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity.

This week is all about providing more opportunities for ALL females to escape to the outdoors and try something new. Galway has so many incredible outdoor activities on offer, and this should be celebrated to the fullest! Galway Sports Partnership is working with local clubs and outdoor recreation providers to offer a variety of opportunities to take part in outdoor activities as part of HER Outdoors Week which takes place from August 12th - 18th, 2024 and will be Galway Sports Partnership biggest HER Outdoors Week to date with over 17 Activities taking place over 6 days as listed below:

- Galway Kayak Club 'come & try'
- Morning Sea Swim and Breathing Workshop in Salthill
- Kayaking in Ballinasloe, Loughrea & Portumna
- Beginners Hike
- Snorkelling in Trá an Dóilín
- Trek & Dip Portumna
- Galway Sub Aqua Taster Session
- Mountain Biking Session in Derroua
- Rowing Taster Events
- Orienteering
- General Water Sport Activities

For more information and booking links please contact Galway Sports Partnership at [galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie) / 091 509 670

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## PARENT CHILD + EVENT BALLINASLOE

Galway Sports Partnership supported Galway Rural Developments Ballinasloe's Parent Child + Event on Ballinasloe's Fair Green meeting numerous parents and organisations. Galway



Sports Partnership showcased various physical activity programmes and equipment, provided physical activity booklet resources and recommendations on how to keep children active over the summer months. Galway Sports Partnership also identified a number of potential programmes that could be delivered in the area for this target group for example our successful Buggy Buddies Programme.

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## WALK FOR AUTISM

Galway Sports Partnership supported the 'Walk for Autism' in aid of St. Teresa's Special School organised by Galway Traveller Movement staff member Geraldine Ward, in Collaboration with Galway Traveller Movement, Galway Rural Development and Ballinasloe Traveller Women's Group.



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## LARGE SCALE SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The National Sports Policy was published on 25 July 2018 and provided for a Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF). The aim of the fund is to provide Exchequer support for larger sports facility projects. The first LSSIF call for proposals closed in 2019 with applications confined to local authorities and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport. A second call for applications was made in early Summer 2024 with a closing date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. While the scheme is aimed primarily at National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Local Authorities (LAs) it is also open to other bodies (including third level institutions), philanthropic funders, clubs and voluntary organisations to apply but such applications would necessarily have to be made and prioritised by a LA and/or an NGB. Galway County Council have worked with a number of other bodies and were involved in five projects being submitted by the July deadline. The Local Authority were sponsor for three of the projects (Glinsk Community Development, Kinvara Hockey Club and Oranmore Community Development Association) while support was offered to a new sports development in St Jarlaths Tuam (the sponsor in this application is the Ladies Gaelic Football Association) and the Galway United academy development in Athenry (the sponsor for this application is the Football Association of Ireland).

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



ANTI-LITTER  
AMBASSADORS  
SUPPORT THE  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
CLEANER COMMUNITIES  
IN COUNTY GALWAY

Galway County Council has announced details of a new environmental initiative aimed at fostering public involvement in the fight against litter.

The Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme presents a pro-active and non-confrontational way for individuals, groups, communities, and businesses to declare their support for a litter-free county.

Under the new initiative, Anti-Litter Ambassadors will sign a pledge committing not to litter and to participate in the numerous anti-litter initiatives supported by Galway County Council, including National Spring Clean, the Gum Litter Campaign, Dog Fouling Campaign and the Picker Pals programme.

958 waste complaints were received by Galway County Council in 2023, each of which were investigated by the Environment section's 15 Community Wardens. 83 fines were issued during 2023, up 24% on 2022, while 36 litter and waste cases were referred to Law Agents during the year.

**Cllr. Liam Carroll the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway** said, "Litter takes from the beauty of our county and the simple solution to the problem is not to litter. The majority of people who live in and visit Galway are hugely responsible when it comes to litter management, but that does not mean that the war on litter is won. By becoming an Anti-Litter Ambassador, those who sign the pledge will be declaring that they are part of the solution."

"The Anti-Litter Ambassador programme is all about asking people to lead by example so that others may follow," he added. "This new scheme presents an opportunity for the public

to declare their support for a litter-free County Galway and to showcase the pride they have in their local community responsibility.”

**Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council** said, “I want to acknowledge the wonderful work done by so many in our County to help keep Galway Litter-Free. We look forward to seeing people from all walks of life and from communities the length and breadth of County Galway coming together in support of this important initiative, which is the latest in a series of anti-litter schemes supported by Galway County Council.”

**Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Environment** commented, “With the support of Elected Members, we are delighted to deliver this Anti-Litter Ambassador scheme and we encourage everyone to support it as higher participation will lead to a greater impact in our county”.

Galway County Council will be rolling out the public awareness campaigns in the coming months to promote the Anti-Ambassador programme including visits by staff of the local authority’s Environment section to primary schools across the county.

Visit [www.galway.ie/en](http://www.galway.ie/en) for more on how to become Anti-Litter Ambassador or contact the Environment section of Galway County Council on 091-509510 or [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie) for more information.

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#### GREEN FLAG AWARDS

37 schools in Co. Galway were awarded their green flags for Environmental Awareness. This included flags for litter and water, biodiversity, travel, and global citizenship.



waste,

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#### VISIT TO REDISCOVERY CENTRE, BALLYMUN, DUBLIN JUNE 13, 2024



#### RECYCLING PAINT PROJECT

Following a feasibility study on paint recycling by supported by

Galway Rural Development, Galway County Council, Barna Recycling, and Western Traveller and Intercultural

Development, Galway County Council and other stakeholders attended a site visit to an operational Paint Recycling facility in Ballymun to view its operation. The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland and has been in operation since 2007. The purpose of the visit was to understand the operation of paint recycling and to further investigate the possibility of developing a paint recycling centre in Co. Galway.



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL SUPPORTS NATIONAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WEEK IN CO. GALWAY

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## NATIONAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WEEK 2024

June 2<sup>nd</sup> until June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Consumers and Businesses are being encouraged to Use a Brown Bin, as National Food Waste Recycling Week is Launched

- Two thirds (67%) of householders in Ireland have a brown bin
- New legislation introduced in January means that everyone is now entitled by law to a brown bin service
- 750,000 tonnes of food is wasted in Ireland each year and it is a contributor to climate change
- MyWaste urges citizens and businesses to recycle food waste and reduce their carbon footprint

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2024** – Consumers and businesses are being urged to use a brown bin, recycle their food waste, and reduce their carbon footprint, as National Food Waste Recycling Week is launched. Now in its third year, National Food Waste Recycling Week runs from June 2<sup>nd</sup> until June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This awareness campaign from [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie), aims to provide practical advice and encourage more consumers and businesses to recycle food waste correctly in their home or workplace.

It comes as new research of over 1,000 adults found that over two thirds (67%) of all householders in Ireland currently use a brown bin. The research, conducted by iReach on behalf of MyWaste.ie, also revealed, of those who do use a brown bin, helping climate change is the top motivation, with 35% saying this is why they use a food waste bin.

However, there are still some people who put food waste in the general waste bin, meaning this food waste will never be recycled. A recent study from the Environmental Protection Agency found that in commercial general waste bins, 30% of the contents are food waste, while in household general waste bins, 17% of the content is food waste. For more information visit <https://mywaste.ie/resources-and-campaigns/national-food-waste-recycling-week/>

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## ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITION 2024

Congratulations to Students from Kinvara, Gort, Tuam and An Spidéal who were winners in the Anti-litter Poster Competition for secondary schools.



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SEAMOUNT SECONDARY SCHOOL



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COLÁISTE CHROÍ MUIRE, AN SPIDÉAL

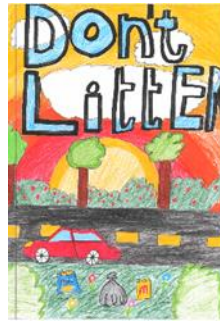


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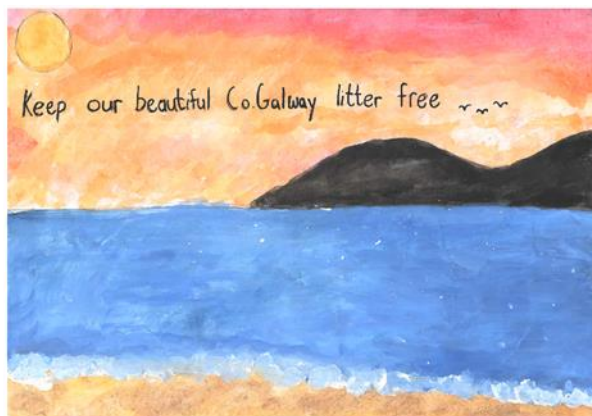
HIGH CROSS COLLEGE, TUAM  
GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Ina phóstaer iarann jimmy ó rang 6 Scoil Naisiúnta Thír an Fhia ar gach duine Conamara a choinneáil glan.



In his poster Darragh from 6<sup>th</sup> class Scoil Naisiúnta Caladh na Muc has the solution to the Litter Problem!



Ellie from 6<sup>th</sup> class Claddaghduff National School has an Anti-litter message for everyone.

Caoimhe from 6<sup>th</sup> Class Ballyconneely National School is presented with her winner's certificate by Maria Flynn, Administrative Officer, Environment.







Shauna from 6<sup>th</sup> Class Kiltartan NS has an anti-litter message for all dog walkers.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

20 NEWS www.advertiser.ie May 30 2024

### Anti-litter Ambassadors support the campaign for cleaner communities at Oranmore launch

Galway County Council has announced a new environmental initiative aimed at fostering public involvement in the fight against litter. Launched in Oranmore, the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme presents a pro-active and non-conflictual way for individuals, groups, communities and businesses to declare their support for a litter-free county.

Under the new initiative, Anti-Litter Ambassadors will sign a pledge committing not to litter and to participating in the numerous anti-litter initiatives supported by Galway County Council, including National Spring Clean, the 'gum litter' campaign, dog fouling campaigns and the Pocker Pals programme.

A 958 waste companies were received by Galway County Council in 2023, each of which were investigated by the Environment section's 15 Community Wardens.



Highlighted at the launch of the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador programme in Oranmore (left to right) Shauna and Ciara Kavanagh of Cú Shamra Oranmore and Mary Healy, Holyday, Environment Section, Galway County Council; Cllr. Liam Carroll the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway; Chris Healey, Kinvara Tidy Towns; and Liam Connelly, Chief Executive of Galway County Council. Photo Mike Shughessy.

A series of anti-litter schemes supported by Galway County Council's Environmental Services, that with the support of elected members, they are delighted to deliver the Anti-Litter Ambassador scheme and encourage everyone to support it as higher participation will lead to a greater impact in our county.

Galway County Council will be rolling out public awareness in the coming months to promote the Anti-Litter Ambassador programme including visits by staff of the local authority's Environment section to primary schools across the county.

Visit [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) for more on how to become an Anti-Litter Ambassador or contact the Environment section of Galway County Council on 091 509200 or [environment@galway.ie](mailto:environment@galway.ie) for more information.

38 NEWS CONNACHT TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024



Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Cllr. Liam Carroll with CEO Liam Connelly pictured with representatives of Galway County Council, Oranmore and Maize CE Shamra, Kinvara Tidy Towns, Oranmore Tidy Towns, and pupils from Oranmore Boys NS and Scoll Mhuire, Oranmore, at the launch of the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador programme in Oranmore.

plans were received by Galway County Council in 2023, each of which were investigated by the Environment section's 15 Community Wardens.

A total of 958 waste companies were referred to Law Agents during 2023, up 24% on 2022, while 36 litter and waste cases were referred to Law Agents during the year.

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr. Liam Carroll said that litter took from the beauty of the county and the simple solution to the problem is not to litter.

"The vast majority of people who live in and visit Galway are hugely responsible when it comes to litter management, but that does not mean that the rest of us are not responsible," he said.

"By becoming an Anti-Litter Ambassador, those who sign the pledge will be declaring that they are part of the solution."

Galway County Council will be rolling out public awareness campaigns in the coming months to promote the Anti-Litter Ambassador programme including visits by staff of the local authority's Environment section to primary schools across the county.

Visit [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) for more on how to become an Anti-Litter Ambassador or contact the Environment section of Galway County Council on 091 509200 or [environment@galway.ie](mailto:environment@galway.ie) for more information.

### 13 Blue Flag and Green Coast awards for county beaches in latest awards

Galway County Council has announced that 13 of its beaches have been awarded Blue Flag and Green Coast awards in the latest awards ceremony.



Representatives from the 13 award-winning beaches at the awards ceremony in Galway. From left to right: Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council; Cllr. Liam Connelly, Chief Executive of Galway County Council; and representatives from the award-winning beaches.

### Consumers in Galway recycled 2,748 tonnes of electrical waste in 2023

An average of 9.9kg of e-waste was recycled per person in Galway last year, exceeding the 9.5kg average collected last year, new figures reveal.

The Galway Region Waste Authority (GRWA) has announced that consumers in Galway recycled 2,748 tonnes of electrical waste in 2023, exceeding the 2,600 tonnes recycled in 2022.

The figures show that Galway is performing well in terms of e-waste recycling, with an average of 9.9kg of e-waste recycled per person in Galway last year, exceeding the 9.5kg average collected last year.

GRWA has a number of initiatives in place to encourage e-waste recycling, including the 'gum litter' campaign, dog fouling campaigns and the Pocker Pals programme.

GRWA has a number of initiatives in place to encourage e-waste recycling, including the 'gum litter' campaign, dog fouling campaigns and the Pocker Pals programme.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SLIEVE AUGHTY OPEN DAY



Galway County Council attended the Slieve Aughty Open Day, and we hosted an information stand.

Comment from the organiser "On behalf of the CELT Team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to our Open Day and Agroforestry and Biodiversity Week Celebrations this year at the Slieve Aughty Center. It was a wonderful



day, and we received excellent feedback from participants on the day and your contribution was greatly appreciated by all. We were delighted that you participated.”

## SCHOOL UNIFORM RECYCLE/REUSE SCHEME ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE

Second Hand School Uniforms

Save money while helping the environment and supporting a local charity

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>How</b>              | <p>Donate your good quality, clean school uniform items at one of our donation locations.</p> <p>Attend our shop event and select a uniform for your child/children at no cost. To ensure availability for as many as possible items will be placed on the numbers of items selected.</p> <p>Donations will be collected on the day to support our local St. Vincent de Paul.</p>  |
| <b>What is included</b> | <p>Good quality, clean uniforms for all ages.</p> <p>We will accept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light weight shirts, jumpers and cardigans</li> <li>• Uniform trousers, sweatpants and pinafores</li> </ul> <p>We will NOT accept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polo shirts, coloured shirts</li> <li>• poor quality items</li> </ul>  |
| <b>When and Where</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collection of Second Hand Uniforms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Friday 26th June and Saturday 2nd July from 10am - 12pm</li> <li>◦ St. Rita's Old Volley Ball Hall</li> <li>◦ St. Brendan's School Hall</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Second Hand Uniforms Free Shop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Wednesday 3rd July from 10am - 3pm</li> <li>◦ St. Brendan's School Hall</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Who</b>              | <p>The Second Hand Uniform Initiative is organised by the Parents Association, the Principals / Schools, the students on the Green School Committees and supported by Galway County Council.</p> <p>Any queries? Contact: <a href="mailto:atrendan@stbrigidsgalway.ie">atrendan@stbrigidsgalway.ie</a></p>   |

Galway County Council is very pleased to announce the rollout of a school uniform recycle/ reuse scheme.

This is a pilot project under the Anti-Dumping Initiative in cooperation with the Parents Association of St. Ita's and St. Brendan's National Schools in Loughrea.

Parents are invited to bring in their old school uniforms that are no longer of use to them. These uniforms will then be sorted and available for other parents to utilise. There is no cost to the parents and any voluntary donations given will go to the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul.

This project is being undertaken on the week of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July

## BILINGUAL SEASHORE EVENT, TRÁ AND DÓILÍN



As part of Biodiversity Week, the Environment Section hosted a Bilingual Seashore Event at Trá an Dóilín on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer and Noirin, Tara and Aoife from the Galway Atlantaquaria brought the pupils from the local primary school Scoil Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua on an exciting adventure which included a Seashore Bio blitz and a Scavenger Hunt. The event concluded with a beach

clean supervised by our Community Wardens.

Trá an Dóilín is one of our Blue Flag beaches. This event connected the local community and school children with nature. It promoted the biodiversity of this coral beach and its crystal-clear waters.





PUPILS FROM SCOIL MHC DARA., AN CHEATHRÚ RUA, TAKING PART IN OUR SEA SHORE EVENT AT TRÁ AN DÓILIN

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## CLOSED LANDFILLS

**East Galway Landfill** – Part 8 planning application has been lodged for the development of an Eco Park on the site of the former landfill in Kilconnell. The Council seeks to unlock the potential of this ecologically rich site and develop an amenity and biodiversity park which will act as a local and regional attraction. It will provide a range of amenity offerings to the public of all ages and abilities, local community and interest groups. Details of the project can be accessed at; <https://planning.localgov.ie/en/search/application> and submissions on the development can be made to the Planning Section until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Historic Landfills Licensing Program** – The council have recently received a draft Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for the historic landfill in Tuam. This brings the number of draft CoA's issued by the EPA to two, the second being Clifden. Representations have been issued in both cases and we await final issue. Two other CoA applications (New Inn and Gort) are being processed presently by the EPA and an application for Kilronan and Inis Moir will be submitted to EPA in June.

## VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

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### FOOD SAFETY

Darragh Kavanagh commenced as temporary Veterinary Officer with Galway County Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May last. A vacancy had arisen for the position of Veterinary Officer since the retirement of Rita Gately, County Veterinary Officer in September 2022.

Darragh has now completed the legally required 200-hour training programme as of 21<sup>st</sup> June under the supervision of Joanne Perry, Galway County Council Veterinary Inspector, to be an official veterinarian.

To date in 2024, 517 bovines, 2994 ovines, and 92 Poultry have been processed through local abattoirs.

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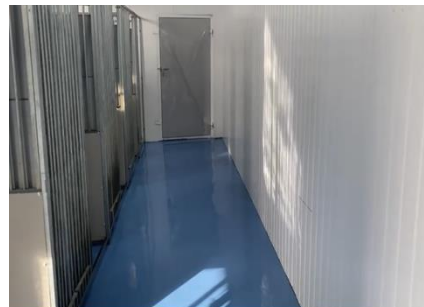
## DOG CONTROL

Significant upgrading works at the Council's dog shelter which have been ongoing for the last number of months are now completed. These upgrade works were provided for by the Department of Rural and Community Development fund granted in December 2023. Insulation work has been carried out with the external shutters and new flooring installed. The works completed will contribute significantly to the health and welfare of dogs that come under our care while providing for better biosecurity and disease management within the shelter.



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KENNELLING AREA PRIOR TO UPGRADE WORKS

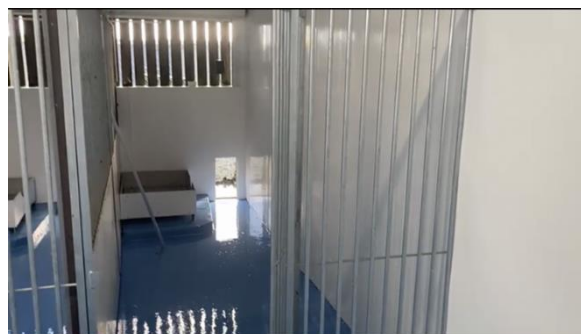


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KENNELLING AREA FOLLOWING WORKS WITH NEW FLOORING AND INSULATION INSTALLED

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FLOORING IN INDIVIDUAL DOG KENNELS



HEATING PANELS PUT IN PLACE IN  
KENNELLING AREA



SHEETING INSTALLED IN  
OUTDOOR AREA

1588 dog licences were purchased from 1<sup>st</sup> May to June 26th, 521 of which were purchased online with the balance purchased through the local post office. Licencing campaigns were carried out by our Dog Warden Service in Athenry, Ardrahan, Kilcolgan, Roundstone, An Cheathrú Rua, Moylough and Oughterard during the months of May and June.

6 fixed penalty notices were issued to dog owners during the month of May for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

In April 2024, Minister Heather Humphreys launched the Department of Rural and Community Development's National Awareness Campaign aimed at highlighting the responsibilities of dog owners in addition to addressing the issue of attacks on humans and livestock. This awareness campaign included the development of number of assets by the Department which was made available to the local authorities such as videos for social media and a booklet containing information on responsible dog ownership. These videos have been shared on our social media platforms.

Galway County Council dog warden service also released our own social media post in June highlighting to all dog owners the importance of keeping their dogs under effective control and to adhere to responsible dog ownership principles. It also emphasised the extra controls that are in place for dogs of restricted breeds and that owners of these breeds must abide by same. This post has been viewed over 5000 times on our social media platforms to date.

A National Dog Control Training Programme has commenced in 2024. Our Veterinary Officer Joanne Perry is part of the CCMA Dog Control Working Group which designed and implemented the training programme along with National Dog Control SOPs. To date Galway County Council Dog wardens, Veterinary Personnel and Administrative staff have

completed two modules of this training in Roscrea and Thurles. Topics covered in the training thus far have included legislation, enforcement, canine health, Zoonoses, Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Considerations.

Further training under this programme will take place in June and October.

## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

### NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN INSPECTIONS

Inspections were carried out on domestic wastewater treatment systems in the following waterbodies in the Loughrea and Clarinbridge areas:

- Clarinbridge - 10
- Knockshangarry - 10
- Lisduff (Kilcrow) - 10
- Rockhill (Galway) - 10

These were mostly in High-risk zones 1 and 2 which are areas of shallow soil cover or close to river or lake waterbodies. A high percentage of these systems were compliant, but some issues were identified including lack of de-sludging or malfunctioning percolation areas.



### INADEQUATE COVER ON DISTRIBUTION CHAMBER

Map showing properties in High-Risk Zone 2 which are areas with shallow soil cover.

### COMPLAINTS

Trial holes were dug, and soil and water samples were taken for testing at a site in the county in relation to potential contamination of waters. Complaints were received of sick farm animals who had drunk from a stream. Further site investigations may be required depending on the results of this initial testing.

Consultations continued with a developer in relation to malfunctioning of an on-site wastewater treatment system that was leaking effluent into an adjoining estate. After the

Council issued a Section 12 Notice under the Water Pollution Act, the Developer engaged with environment staff and carried out various works to ensure that effluent was not affecting the adjoining estate. It is hoped that the estate can soon be connected into the Uisce Eireann sewer network, and that the on-site wastewater treatment system can then be decommissioned.



CONSTRUCTED BERM TO CONTAIN WASTEWATER

SOIL SAMPLING



#### LAWPRO WESTERN REGIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING (WROC)

The 28<sup>th</sup> WROC meeting took place online on the 8th of May. Presentations were given on the Dublin Urban River LIFE Project and Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP). The Farming for Water EIP will fund farmers to implement measures for water protection. Farmers in areas eligible for funding will be contacted in due course to outline how this scheme will operate. Updates was also given by all attendees since the last meeting.



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## LAWPRO / WESTERN LAS / EPA MEETING

An online meeting was held on the 28th of May to discuss the National Agricultural Inspection Plan (NAIP) which is being coordinated by the EPA. There is a requirement for Galway County Council to complete 38 full Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Regulation inspections in 2024 and these are being planned at present. Waterbody areas will be targeted where agriculture has been identified as a significant risk to water quality.

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## EPA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS PROGRAMME TRAINING

The EPA held a training day in Gurteen College, Co. Tipperary on the 18th of June for local authority staff. This is for the roll out of the new agricultural inspection programme. Galway County Council will be required to carry out 38 planned inspections in 2024. The inspections will focus on compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations on the farmland and in the farmyard. Two technical staff from the environment section attended this training.

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## COURT ROOM SKILLS

Two staff from environment attended training in Castlebar on the 17th of June for court room skills. This was provided by a practicing solicitor. A mock court room was set up and attendees role played various roles such as judge and expert witness.

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## BATHING WATERS

Six beaches in County Galway have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag Award with a further six beaches receiving the coveted Green Coast Award for 2024. At a National Awards ceremony held at the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, the Blue Flags were awarded:

- Long Point at Loughrea Lake
- Portumna Bathing Area
- Trá Inis Oirr
- Trá an Dóilin in An Cheathrú Rua
- An Trá Mhór in Indreabhán
- Traught Beach, Kinvara

Traught beach has regained its Blue Flag having lost its status in 2022. It is a major boost to the local community and tourism sector in Kinvara.

Blue flags are awarded to bathing areas that meet excellent water quality standards and provide various amenities, including lifeguards and toilet facilities.

Six locations have received Green Coast Awards, which recognises bathing areas with excellent water quality and good quality protected environments in scenic unspoiled locations. The beaches include:

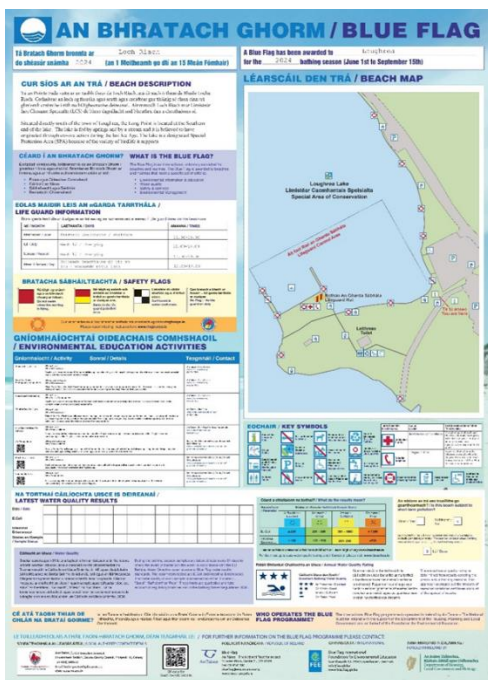
- Trá Inis Oirr
- Trá Poll na gCaorach



- Inis Oirr, East End
- Dumach on Inisbofin
- Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
- Renvyle Beach in Tully

## BATHING WATERS MANNED BY LIFEGUARDS

Posters for lifeguarded bathing waters were updated during May to reflect changes to where various facilities are, i.e., lifeguard huts, lifebuoys, etc. are located. This work was carried out with input from the council's Water Safety Officer.



UPDATED POSTER FOR LOUGHREA BATHING AREA

## WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

18 litter fines issued by the Community Warden Service under the Litter Pollution Act during May.

7 Notices were issued under various sections of the Waste Management Act

## VALIDATION OF ANNUAL WASTE RETURNS

Validation of the annual returns from Waste Collectors and Facility Permit Holders continued in May.

## COURT FILES

Three files were submitted to the Law Department to initiate legal proceedings during May.

2 files were referred for prosecution in the District Court, 1 for non-compliance with Packaging Regulations and 1 prosecution under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act

for illegal dumping of household waste. 1 file was referred for prosecution in the Circuit Court under Sections 32 and 39 of the Waste Management Act for unauthorised infilling of a site with construction and demolition waste without a permit (photos below) We are also seeking a Section 58 Order in this case directing the defendant to clear the site. The cost of complying with this Order may be over €15,000 and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the District Court.



PHOTOS SHOWING THE MATERIAL DUMPED AT THE SITE REFERENCED ABOVE AND IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PROSECUTION.



AERIAL PHOTO SHOWING THE SCALE OF UNAUTHORISED INFILL SITE.

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#### COURT ATTENDANCE

At the Tuam Court on the 14th of May, a Site Operator who stores unused cars was ordered to Pay costs of €1,568 and to clear the site. The operator has since complied with the order by paying the costs and clearing the site.

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#### CCTV

We are developing standard operating procedures for CCTV based on the Codes of Practice. The Management Team is setting up the Oversight Board required to approve any new CCTV setups.

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## ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE

List of approved projects for 2024

| Project Preference | Project Title                 | Funding Requested | Funding Allocation |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1                  | CCTV equipment*               | € 38,000          | € 28,000           |
| 2                  | Bulky Goods Collections       | € 25,000          | € 25,000           |
| 3                  | Clean up Ballinasloe          | € 20,000          | € 20,000           |
| 4                  | Anti-Litter Radio Adverts     | € 10,000          | € 10,000           |
| 7                  | School Uniform Reuse          | € 1,000           | € 1,000            |
| 8                  | Clean-up Tuam                 | € 10,000          | € 10,000           |
| 9                  | Clean up Abbey Bog            | € 2,000           | € 2,000            |
| 10                 | Bulky Goods Inishbofin Island | € 3,000           | € 3,000            |
| 11                 | CCTV Signage                  | € 10,000          | € 3,000            |
| <b>Total</b>       |                               |                   | <b>€ 102,000</b>   |

(\*Excludes funding for Mobile unit / van / container / welfare unit)

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## PROJECTS NOT APPROVED:

Project 5 Cinema adverts

Projects 6 DPIA for CCTV

## CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

### LOCAL ELECTIONS 2024

The Local Elections were held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to elect 39 Members to Galway County Council representing 7 Local Electoral Areas, Athenry-Oranmore; Ballinasloe; Conamara North; Conamara South; Gort-Kinvara; Loughrea and Tuam.

Detailed planning and preparation for the Galway County Local Elections Count was commenced in 2023 by the Corporate Services Unit. The benefit of their dedication and meticulous approach was apparent over the days of the Count, including in the preparation, presentation, and operation of the Count Centre, and in the logistics that allowed for the very efficient operation of the Count and the professional communication of the results.

Over 130 staff supported the Returning Officer at the Count and the public commentary and numerous acknowledgements by candidates, media (local and national) on the Election

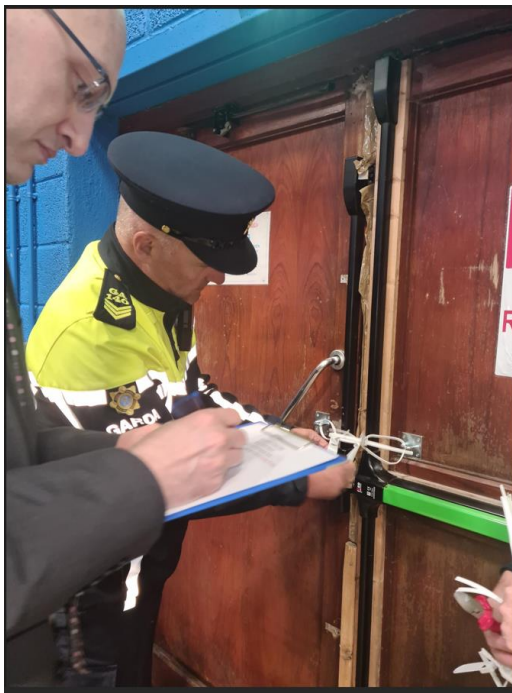
process and the manner in which the Count was undertaken was a testament to the professionalism of all involved.

Declaration of Results can be found at the following link: [Declaration Of Results – Galway County Council](#)



RETURNING OFFICER, MICHAEL OWENS, ANNOUNCING COMMENCEMENT OF THE COUNT

COMMUNITY WARDENS ON DUTY AT THE COUNT CENTRE



RETURNING OFFICER AND AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA VERIFYING THE SEAL OF THE COUNT CENTRE ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024

RETURNING OFFICER AND AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA VERIFYING THE SEAL OF ONE OF THE LEA BALLOT BOXES FOLLOWING THE COUNT



SOME OF THE STAFF FOLLOWING THE COUNT

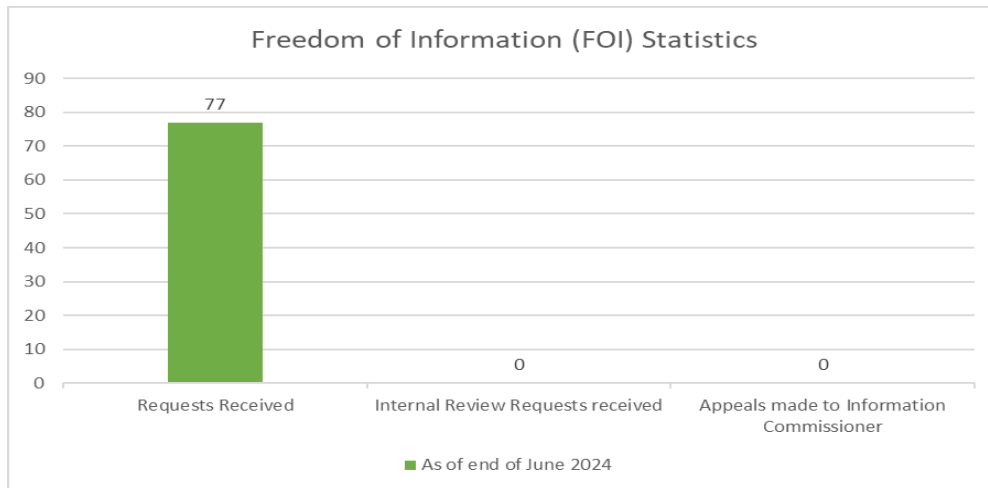
COMHAIRLEOIR PADRAIG MAC AN IOMAIRÉ INTRODUCING HIS GRANDDAUGHTER MOLLY TO LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT LOCAL ELECTION 2024 COUNT CENTRE



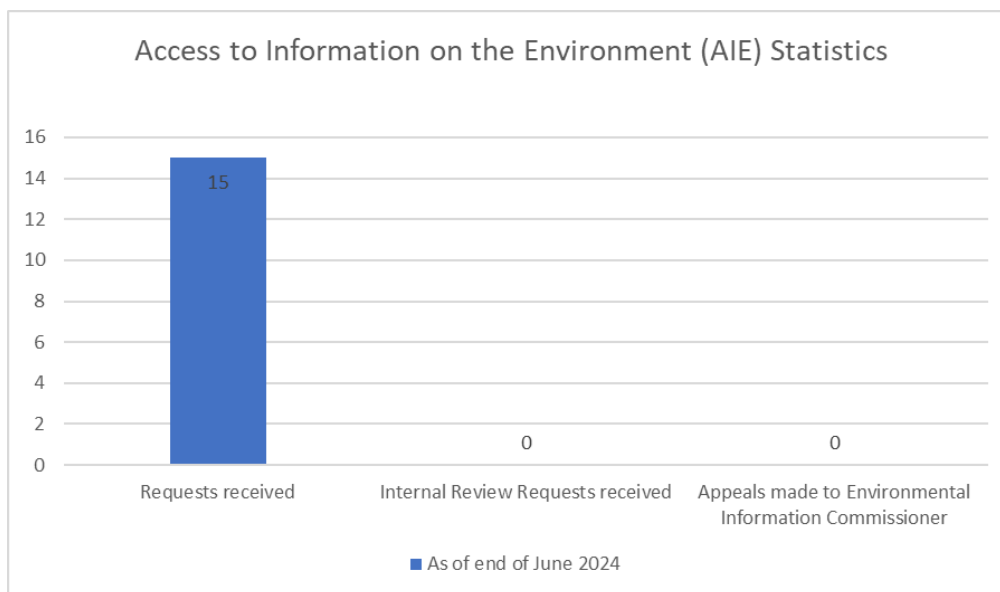
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.04.24

Freedom of Information



Access to Information on the Environment



DATA PROTECTION

- **13 Data Access Requests**
  - 9 Data Subject Access Requests -
  - 4 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána
- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**
  - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff

- Online Refresher Training on Cyber Security & Data Breaches issued to all Staff
- Data Protection/GDPR Induction Workshops provided for Lifeguards
- Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletter circulated to all Staff

## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

### PLAY & RECREATION GRANT SCHEME FUNDING AWARD FOR PARKMORE PLAYGROUND, TUAM



Our Recreation and Amenity Team are delighted to announce the successful application for funding awarded under the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in the sum €15,773.72 for *Renovations project 2024 - Parkmore Playground – Tuam*

The Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation supports the work of Local Authorities in improving access to quality play and recreation facilities within their communities. This can be through the refurbishment and upgrade of existing facilities or through the development of new ones. The Scheme offers funding of up to €18,000 per project, an investment that will see positive impacts delivered to children and families across the country.

The project comprises the installation of a new Multi Play unit and Slide together with the installation of sensory play panels within the playground. In addition, necessary repairs to existing equipment will be carried out.

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty)

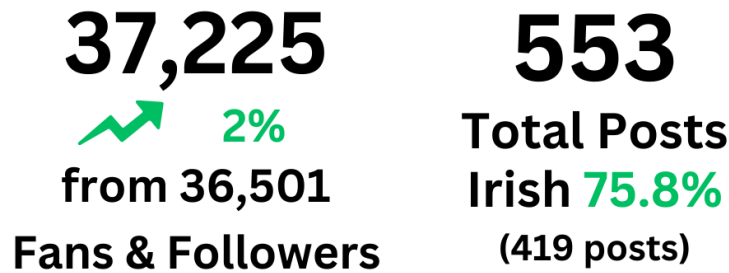


[www.twitter.com/galwaycoco](https://www.twitter.com/galwaycoco)



[www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil)

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY



## FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 261 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function on Facebook \_ times this month with followers. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 76.6k an increase of 24.1%. This increase is due to the live coverage of the Galway County Council Local Elections.

## AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 354 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to 17,222, a 2.1% increase from 16,868 in May with audience ages range between 18 – 65+. The main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 22.6% of this age group are women and 10.6% are men. The second largest audience group are those aged between 45-54, with 20.8% women and 7.8% male.

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

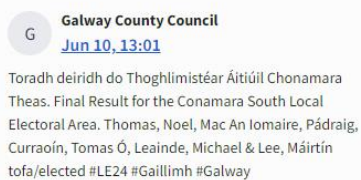
## JUNE'S TOP THREE POSTS

### Top posts



Comhairleoirí nuathofa Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe in Áras an Chontae inniu. #Gaillimh#Galway  
Newly elected Councillors for Galway County Council attending Áras an Chontae today. #Gaillimh#Galway

**97** likes and reactions



**57** likes and reactions



Galway Co. Council promoted the 'Cycle Right' Training Course in all national schools in Co. Galway, for the school year 2023/ 2024. A total of 592 pupils undertook the training. The course is the National Standard for

**41** likes and reactions



## AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 195 tweets with 342k impressions.

Galway County Council’s account gained a total of 210 new followers, bringing the total following as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 to 16, 935.

## JUNE’S TOP THREE POSTS

|                                  |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p><b>23,517</b> impressions</p> | <p><b>17,296</b> impressions</p> | <p><b>4,844</b> impressions</p> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|

## INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 102 posts to Galway County Council’s Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function 10 times this month with followers as well as sharing 9 reels. Galway County Council’s overall reach for this period was 9.9k, an increase of almost 17.3% compared to the previous period.

## AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council’s Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council’s Facebook page. The Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 70% being female and 30% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 35.6% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 25.4% women and 10.2% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 1103 in May 2024 to 1219 followers by the 30th of June 2024.

## JUNE’S TOP THREE POSTS

|                           |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><b>3,103</b> reach</p> | <p><b>653</b> reach</p> | <p><b>552</b> reach</p> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

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## LINKEDIN

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### AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 44 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,849.

Galway County Council shared 4 posts with 2k impressions this month.

### JUNE'S TOP THREE POSTS



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## YOUTUBE

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### AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

During this period on YouTube, Galway County Council's account has 33 subscribers as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The Top Ranking post this month was 'Seashore Event 2024 – An Cheathrú Rua' as part of Galway County Council's Biodiversity Week activities. The video received 194 impressions and 24 views.



GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ARCHIVES



Several volumes of Tuam Poor Law Union Board of Guardian minutes (GPL5/2, 4-4E and 5A-5B), dating from 1843 to 1852 were, following digitisation, recently uploaded to the Digital Archives. This is a particularly important run of minutes, as it covers the period just prior to the Great Famine and charts the conditions in the workhouse for most of the Famine period.

The minutes cover a substantial gap in the material dating from 1839-1921 already freely available on the [Digital Archive](#) to a global research audience to dip in, explore and learn about life and conditions in the Tuam district during the Famine. They record for instance that during the week ending 19 May 1847 there were 818 inmates in the workhouse, and 23 deaths that week, and two years later there were 60 deaths in the workhouse with 2,388 inmates during week ending 19 May 1849.

*Tuam* UNION.

Population in 1841, . . . . . 44,674 Present Net Annual Value, . . . . . £ 64,571 =

STATE OF THE WORKHOUSE for the Week ending Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1849.

| Number of inmates for which accommodation is provided. | No. that can be accommodated in each building. | Total No. in each building on the above date. | Aged and Infirm. |      | Able-bodied. |             | Boys.      |            | Girls.    |          | Children under 2 years. |                                | Born.  |  | RETURN OF SICK AND LUNATICS. |           | OBSERVATIONS. |
|--|--|---|------------------|------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
|  |  |   | Males.           | Fem. | Males.       | Fem.        | Boys.      | Girls.     | Males.    | Fem.     | Total.                  | In Hospital on the above date. | No. of Inmates in Workhouse on the above date. |  |                              |           |               |
| Workhouse, . . . . .                                   | 1250   | 1309  |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Temporary Buildings, . . . . .                         |  |   |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Additional Workhouse, . . . . .                        | 1050   | 1050  |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Permanent Fever Hospital, . . . . .                    | 70   | 111   |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Fever Shack, . . . . .                                 | 200  | 100   |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| <b>Total, . . . . .</b>                                | <b>2570</b>                                    | <b>2365</b>                                   |                  |      |              |             |            |            |           |          |                         |                                |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Remaining on previous Saturday, . . . . .              |  |   |                  |      | 100          | 1044        | 358        | 297        | 14        |          |                         |                                |  |  | 50                           | 59        |               |
| Admitted during the Week, . . . . .                    |  |   |                  |      | 59           | 111         | 27         | 38         | 4         | 1        | 2                       | 252                            |  |  | 111                          | 1         |               |
| <b>TOTAL, . . . . .</b>                                |  |   |                  |      | <b>159</b>   | <b>1155</b> | <b>385</b> | <b>435</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>                | <b>276</b>                     |  |  | <b>161</b>                   | <b>60</b> |               |
| Discharged during the Week, . . . . .                  |  |   |                  |      | 85           | 115         | 51         | 39         | 6         |          |                         | 237                            |  |  |                              |           |               |
| Dist. . . . .  |  |   |                  |      | 10           | 25          | 9          | 13         | 3         |          |                         | 60                             |  |  |                              |           |               |
| <b>Total Discharged and Dead, . . . . .</b>            |  |   |                  |      | <b>116</b>   | <b>140</b>  | <b>60</b>  | <b>52</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b></b>  | <b></b>                 | <b>327</b>                     |  |  |                              |           |               |
| REMAINING ON THE ABOVE DATE, . . . . .                 |  |   |                  |      | 593          | 106         | 335        | 383        | 59        | 1        | 2                       | 2388                           |  |  |                              |           |               |

*In Ballyquaddy 142*  
*" Grange = 30*

RETURN OF DESTITUTE PERSONS relieved out of the Workhouse, as by Relief Lists, for the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1849.

| Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse under 10 Vict. c. 31, s. 1. | Destitute Persons relieved out of the Workhouse, but not comprised in Sec. 1. | Total relieved out of the Workhouse. |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Number of   | Number of   | Number of                            |
|   |   |                                      |

**ARCHIVE OPENED**

Galway County Council Archives wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by GCC's IT team in facilitating the upload to the website.

## CRUINIÚ NA NÓG



Cruinniú na nÓg is a national initiative that celebrates and encourages participation in culture and creativity through performance, theatre, art and music workshops, readings, screenings, special events and much more.

It is about giving children and young people the opportunity to express themselves through a specially curated programme of cultural and creative activities where they can share their ideas, learn new skills,

and have fun!

All events are free of charge, child-centred and activity based. It's a day for lots of doing, making, and creating!

To celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg, which took place on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Galway Public Libraries hosted numerous events in library branches throughout the city and county.



CRUINIÚ NA NÓG EVENT IN WESTSIDE LIBRARY

CRUINIÚ NA NÓG EVENT IN PORTUMNA LIBRARY





PLANTING FLOWERS -  
A CRUINIÚ EVENT IN  
BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

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### WORLD REFUGEE WEEK JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup>

Refugee Week is the world's largest art and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. It is held around World Refugee Day which takes place annually on June 20th.

Refugee Week is an empowering platform where people who have experienced displacement can express themselves on their own terms. By hosting lots of different events throughout Ireland, Refugee Week brings International Protection applicants together with their local communities.

Westside Library hosted a special event to mark World Refugee Week. On Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> members of the Ukrainian community in Galway hosted a celebration of Ukrainian culture, featuring music & song and showcasing traditional Ukrainian food and costumes. In addition, there was an exhibition of crafts and paintings by Ukrainian artists. Westside Library hosts weekly meetings of the Ukrainian arts & crafts group 'Kalyna'.

Tuam Library hosted a bi-lingual English-Arabic story time on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. A bi-lingual Tamil/Hindi & English storytime was held in Ballybane Library on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Galway City Library invited third class pupils from Claddagh N.S. to a special multicultural storytime on June 19<sup>th</sup>.



MEMBERS OF THE  
GALWAY UKRAINIAN  
CHOIR, AT AN EVENT IN  
WESTSIDE LIBRARY TO  
MARK WORLD REFUGEE  
WEEK.

LITTLE LIBRARY BAGS

As part of the national Right to Read First 5 Little Library programme, all children who start school in September will receive a free Little Library Book Bag with 2 books and a wallet to hold their library card. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to enrol their children in their local library and to collect the Little Library Book Bag during their library visit.

The stories in the books are about starting school and making friends. The aim of the initiative is to foster a lifelong love of reading and to create links with your public library.

SUMMER STARS

Summer Stars is the free national reading programme for children which takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. Children read up to 8 books over the summer months and receive incentives to encourage them on their reading journey. Each child receives a reading card to keep a record of the books they have read and will receive a medal and certificate at the end of the summer.



LAUNCH OF SUMMER STARS IN CLIFDEN LIBRARY



LAUNCH OF SUMMER STARS ON INISBOFIN



LAUNCH OF SUMMER STARS AT LETTERFRACK NATIONAL SCHOOL

LAUNCH OF SUMMER STARS IN TUAM LIBRARY AND ON SCHOOLS' VAN



READ ALOUD BOOK CLUB

Librarian Gaby Walsh hosts the Read Aloud Book Club in Tuam Library. At this book club, the librarian reads aloud, allowing those attending to listen and enjoy and then afterwards discuss the reading. This book club is perfect for those with literacy difficulties, those whose first language isn't English or anybody who just wants to enjoy the social aspects of a book club.



READ ALOUD BOOK CLUB IN TUAM LIBRARY

## BIODIVERSITY WEEK

Biodiversity Week is an annual celebration of our diverse natural world and landscape. It connects people with nature, emphasising the importance of biodiversity and encouraging participation in its protection.



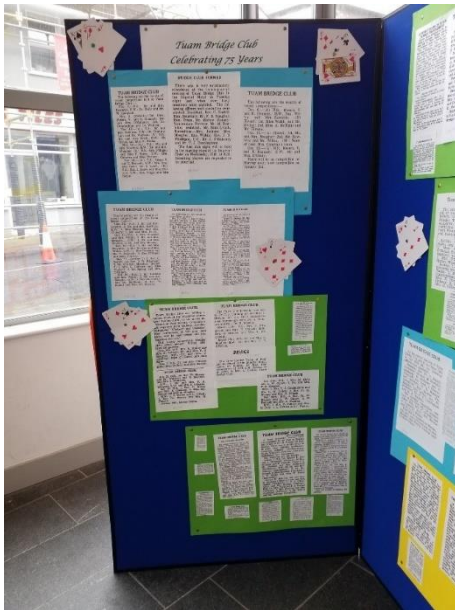
Tuam Library celebrated Biodiversity Week with a visit by John Carrig from The Barn Owl Project. Librarian Gaby Walsh got a chance to meet Erin the Barn Owl. The event was featured in The Tuam Herald.



To celebrate Biodiversity Week, Ballinasloe Library invited members of the public to help plant seeds which will be planted into containers later in the Summer. This was complimented by a wonderful book display created by Bríd.







### BRIDGE CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Librarian Margaret Garvey helped the local Bridge Club celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by using our Local History resources to research the history of the club.

Trinity Primary school enjoyed 2 Lego Robotics workshops in Tuam Library. The workshops were provided by Corrib Coding and are a fantastic way to encourage young minds.



Librarian Margaret Garvey with yoga instructor Marese Cregg at the end of a 5-week Chair Yoga course. Participants reported improved balance, improved breathing and all said they hugely enjoyed the course. This initiative is part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme.



G.R.E.T.B TUTOR NIAL DEMPSEY SHOWS LIBRARY MEMBERS HOW TO USE THEIR NEW SMART PHONES DURING A DIGITAL SKILLS CLASS WHICH IS HOSTED WEEKLY BY TUAM LIBRARY.

ARCHBISHOP MCHALE COLLEGE, TUAM, VISITED THE LIBRARY TO VIEW AN EXHIBITION OF THEIR ARTWORK.



Niall De Burca in full flow at a packed-out Storytelling event for the Bealtaine Festival. Classes from Archbishop McHale College, the local Youthreach and members of the local community enjoyed Niall's tales while also telling some of their own.





LIBRARIAN MARIA CUNNINGHAM READS A STORY DURING OUR FRIDAY AFTERNOON STORYTIME FOR OLDER READERS.

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

### BILINGUAL STORYTIME

A Romanian/English storytime took place in Ballybane Library.

Andrea Lordachescu kindly read “Puss in Boots” in Romanian and was accompanied by Zara from the library.

This was thoroughly enjoyed by the attending parents and children.



Joanna hosted a lovely workshop in our Maker Space. This was attended by 8 children ranging in age from 6 to 8 yrs. She used the theme of Diversity and made beautiful Bee Soap and planted pollinator friendly flower seeds.



The Ballybane Craft Group took part in The Big Knit to support Age Action. They knitted these beautiful hats.



## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library hosted a six-week session of Fáilte Isteach English Classes.

BEALTAINÉ STORYTELLING WITH NIALL DE BÚRCA



**Bealtaine Festival**  
An Age & Opportunity arts initiative



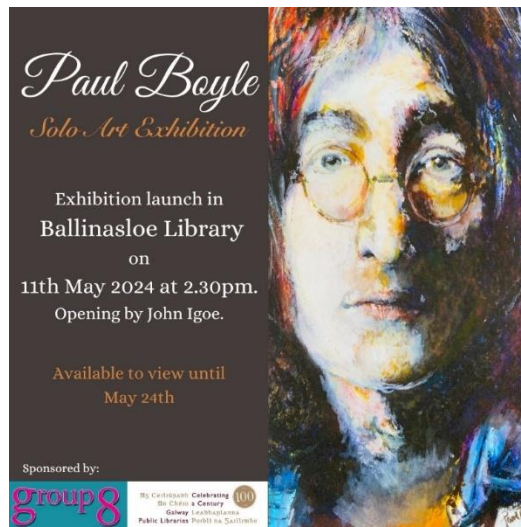
EUROPE DIRECT BALLINASLOE CELEBRATED EUROPE DAY ON WITH A VISIT TO ATU ATHLONE DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS





EUROPE DIRECT BALLINASLOE & MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ATU CAMPUS PRESENTED "IRISH AGRICULTURE IN THE EU"

PAUL BOYLE ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH



Europe Direct Ballinasloe hosted a visit from Sara and Stefanos, Eurodesk, Brussels. They learned about the work of the Irish Eurodesk multipliers, meeting and chatting with them about their work, any challenges, support required etc. Helen from Youth Work Ballinasloe and Malgorzata from Eurodesk Ireland also attended on the day.



EUROPE DIRECT BALLINASLOE PRESENTED A "FRAUD AWARENESS" EVENT

Emily and Steven from BOI's Fraud Group, Lorna from BOI, Sharon, and Helen from AIB, and David from An Garda Síochána presented information on fraud awareness and misinformation to a thoroughly engaged audience!



SPARKCATCHER EVENT

Tiny Mutiny ideas and information workshop was held at Ballinasloe Library, facilitated by Midie Corcoran and Jojo Hynes from Sparkcatchers.

Apply to Tiny Mutiny with your creative idea!

Are you a teenager aged 13-17yrs that has an artistic idea that would benefit from a mentor and funding?

Is your idea focused on a creative practice like theatre, visual art, dance, film, circus, writing, digital media, graffiti or music?

The selected young artists will receive a production budget, a mentor and support from Sparkcatchers! from June to October 2024. A showcase of the final pieces will be at an arts event in October.

**How do I get involved?**  
To attend a workshop, receive an application form or for more information, please email Jojo & Midie: sparkcatchers.info@gmail.com  
The closing date for applications is midnight on 14th June.

**TINY MUTINY**

COMHAIRLE CHOIRTEAR NA GALILLIBHE  
Galway County Council

FUNDED BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

**IDEAS & INFO WORKSHOPS**

- Tuam**  
Town Hall,  
The Square, H54 XD61  
Sat. 11th May 2:30-4:30pm
- Gort**  
Foróige Youth Service,  
George's Street, H91 DD43  
Sun. 12th May 2:30-4:30pm
- Ballinasloe**  
Ballinasloe Library,  
Society Street, H53 T320  
Sat. 25th May 2:30-4:30pm
- Oughterard**  
The Courthouse,  
Fough West, H91 CC96  
Sun. 26th May 2:30-4:30pm

Please note you must live in Co. Galway or the group applying must be based in Co. Galway. Applicants living or based in Galway City cannot apply.

Tiny Mutiny is a trailblazing initiative of Galway County Arts Office offering creative teenagers the opportunity to realise their artistic ideas with support from a professional mentor along with a production budget. Teenagers can apply with an idea focusing on creative practices like theatre, visual art, dance, film, circus, writing, digital media, graffiti, music etc.

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

Digital Pop-Up clinics every Tuesday from 10.00-1.00pm with Niall Dempsey from GRETB to help people having issues with their smart phones, tablets, and laptops. The Digital Pop-Up clinics will take a break for the summer months.

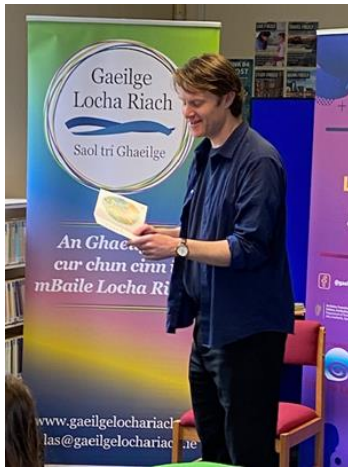
‘Go Purple Day’ for Domestic Violence Awareness organised by An Garda Síochána. Exhibition of information on resources and help related to issues of domestic violence.



Niall de Burca hosted a storytelling and local oral history and folklore workshop with members of Loughrea Men’s Shed, local historians and LARC group and the 6<sup>th</sup> class from St. Brendan’s Boys NS for the Bealtaine Festival.

VISIT BY RIVERSIDE MONTESSORI FOR STORYTIME, COLOURING AND SEED PLANTING ACTIVITY





DÉ SATHAIRN 25 BEALTAINE 11.30RN SCÉALTAÍOCHT AGUS AMHRÁNAÍOCHT DO PHÁISTÍ LE MACDARA Ó CONAOLA (GAEILGE LOCHA RIACH)

Loughrea Library monthly book club meeting takes place on the last Tuesday of the month.

Friday 31st May 10.00am-11.30am & 11.45am-1.20pm. Two Coding Workshops conducted by Corrib Coding and funded by Creative Ireland Galway for classes from Kilnadeema NS and Craughwell NS



WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library hosted 12 events for Spring into Storytime, this included storytelling with Beebots. Children were encouraged to tell stories using the BeeBot robots. These robots are a small, programmable device that resemble a friendly bee, capturing the imagination of young learners, and proving very popular with the children. The workshop was facilitated by staff member Saskia Schnauffer, who likes to encourage children to expand their digital literacy skills with easily accessible technology.







The winners of our Seanfhocail competition collecting their prizes in the library. Well done to everyone involved!

Westside Library was thrilled to welcome Helium Arts back for their exciting Saturday creative workshops. These workshops are thoughtfully designed for young people aged 8 to 12 who live with lifelong physical health conditions. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to explore their creativity and connect with others.



Westside Library hosted an event to celebrate 100 years of Galway Public Libraries. Former Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll, former Mayor Eddie Hoare, Acting County Librarian Jo Vahey, retired County Librarians Pat McMahon, and Bernie Kelly joined family members of the first County Librarian, Samuel Maguire, to honour his work.

Community group Kalyna, facilitated by the Galway City Ukrainian Response Team, recently took part in a creative workshop with Oksana Ermolieva. The group made beautiful Family Tree ornaments which are believed to have protective powers.

The group had a lot of fun making them in Westside Library and at the end everyone had their own masterpiece!



Class Visits to the library are always welcome. Dee Collins, staff member, warmly welcomes students from local schools to Westside Library. These visits are thoughtfully arranged in advance. Students step into the library, their eyes wide with curiosity. Dee guides them through the shelves, introducing them to various genres, authors, and literary treasures.

Galway Educate Together National School celebrated One World Week by honouring all the

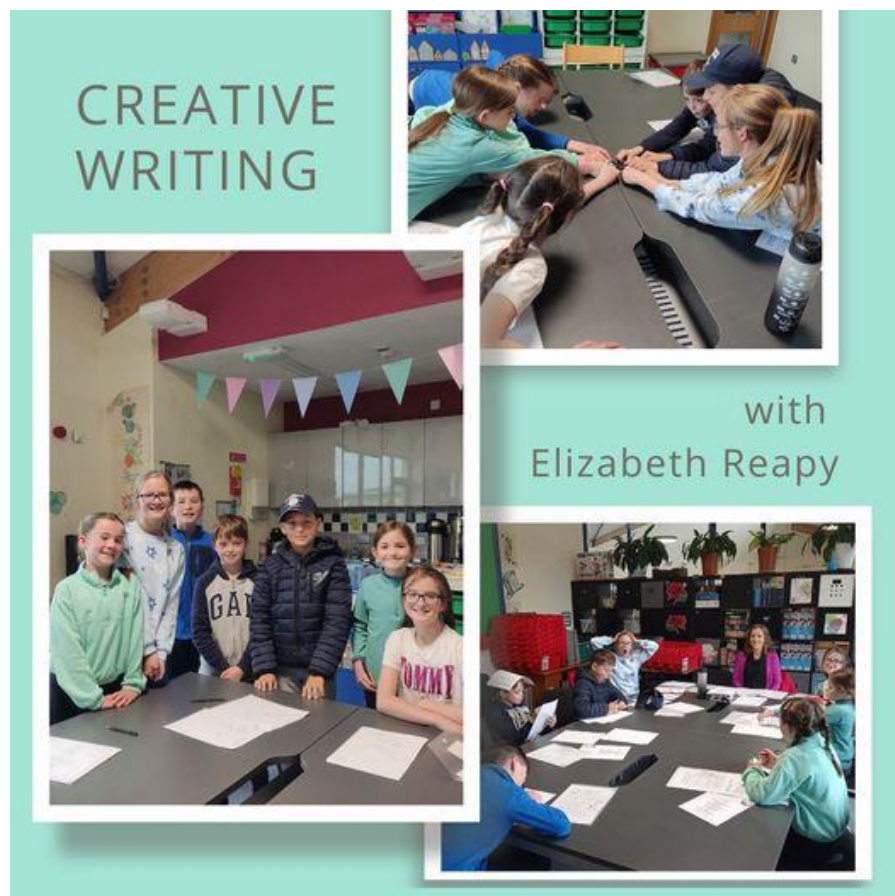


different faiths, culture, and diversity within their school community. For this special occasion, two 2<sup>nd</sup> classes visited the library for a special multicultural storytime with Dee. The children then collaboratively created a vibrant doodle representing all the different nationalities and faiths of the world.

The wonderful dance group "Speckled Egg" performed a fantastic show in Westside Library! The dance group has been rehearsing weekly in the library. The massive applause from the audience was well deserved. Well done to everyone involved and a special thank you to Rachel Parry who worked with the group choreographing the dances.



Acclaimed novelist Elizabeth Reapy's impact on the literary landscape is undeniable. Her dedication to fostering young talent and her own literary achievements make her a beacon for future authors. Whether through workshops, anthologies, or novels, she continues to



inspire and shape the next generation of writers. During a 6-week workshop she worked with a group of young writers in Westside Library. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the workshops, and the results are quite impressive.

## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY



Class visits take place weekly and here we have a photo of students from Scoil Chroí Íosa who visited the library for a storytime.

Brendan Smith, Education and Public Engagement Manager at the Insight SFI Research



Centre for Data Analytics at University of Galway gave a talk titled: From Romance and Sisterhood to War and Rebellion: An Eclectic History of the Bike. The talk used photographs from Insight's BEO project to illustrate the topic.

This was part of the national Bike Week activities in Galway.

A mechanic from An Mheitheal Rothar gave a demonstration to members of the public on bicycle care and maintenance. He showed the key parts of a bike and the small fixes which can be made to make bikes safer. The mechanic also answered many questions from members of the audience on the best tools to use, the frequency of maintenance, and the longevity of bikes.





This was part of the national Bike Week activities.

Author talk – Anne Hayden, author of *It's a Wrap* gave a workshop to 24 students from St. Joseph's Patrician College (The Bish) about the impact of plastic on our environment. This was a Biodiversity Week event.



Eddie Lenihan, storyteller and author, enthralled students, and teachers from Mercy Primary School with tales from Irish folklore., This was a Biodiversity Week event. Eddie also told stories in Ballybane and Westside Libraries.





The Moth and Butterfly tellers regaled an adult audience with songs and stories about nature and our Irish heritage as part of Biodiversity Week.

The Scrabble for Seniors club meets weekly in Galway City Library



The weekly Rhyme Time events, with Music Generation, are popular with toddlers and adults.

### INFORMATION EVENTS

Further to information events held throughout the County in previous months, the Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) attended information events in the Ionad Pobail in Inis Meáin on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May and in the Co-Op Office/Comhar Caomhán in Inis Mór on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, to



give information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan scheme, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. These information and consultation sessions were held as part of the Healthy Islands Project, in conjunction with Age Friendly Ireland and HSE Health

& Wellbeing. The VHO also presented at the launch of the Gort Streetscape scheme on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June to provide information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant and other schemes available for property owners. The information event was well attended.



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## THE CPO ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

The CPO Activation Programme requires a proactive and systematic approach by local authorities to the activation of vacant properties. It also includes guidance for local authorities to actively use their legislative powers to acquire vacant and derelict properties, where engagement with owners has been unsuccessful.

Under the Programme, there was an overall target of 4,000 properties to enter the Activation Programme in 2023 and a target for the compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions to commence in relation to 400 properties. As per Circular 14/2023, a property is considered as entering the CPO Activation Programme where it has been identified as being vacant or derelict by the local authority and where efforts are taking place to bring the property back into use. This includes attempting to identify the property owner and engaging with them regarding the schemes available to support bringing the property back into use. Approved applications for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant are also counted as entering the Programme.

The Programme set individual targets for each local authority for 2023, with a target for Galway County Council of:

- 300 vacant and derelict properties to enter the Programme, and
- 27 compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions to commence.

An overall total of 5,080 properties entered the CPO Activation Programme in 2023, exceeding the target of 4,000. A total of 242 compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions were commenced in 2023.

Galway County Council:

- entered 132 properties into the CPO Activation Programme in 2023 and
- that 0 compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions commenced.

Following a review of progress in 2023, new overall targets are proposed of:

- 3,500 properties to enter the Programme in 2024, and
- 250 compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions to commence.

The lower 2024 targets reflect the fact that the properties to enter the CPO Activation Programme in 2024 are in addition to many of the properties which entered in 2023, with work ongoing in relation to these by local authorities.

In relation to Galway County Council, it is proposed that the following targets be set for 2024:

- 175 properties to enter the CPO Activation Programme, and
- 5 compulsory purchases / compulsory acquisitions to commence.



## HOUSING SOCIAL HOUSING VACANT UNITS

There are currently 229 vacant properties that are available for letting. 177 of these properties are under construction, nearing completion. 19 of these properties are under offer to applicants and are awaiting key handover. The remaining 33 units are being shortlisted for potential tenants.

| PROPERTY STATUS                | Athenry - Oranmore | Ballinasloe | Conamara | Loughrea | No Eircode | Tuam | Total |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|------|-------|-----|
| <b>New Props Awaiting Keys</b> | 46                 | 5           | 36       | 21       | 10         | 21   | 38    | 177 |
| <b>Under Offer</b>             |                    | 1           | 5        |          |            |      | 13    | 19  |
| <b>Vacant</b>                  |                    | 2           | 6        | 4        | 5          |      | 16    | 33  |
| <b>Total</b>                   | 46                 | 8           | 47       | 25       | 15         | 21   | 67    | 229 |

Of the 33 vacant units being shortlisted, the social housing types are as follows: -

| Social House Type           | Units     |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Local Authority Housing     | 21        |
| Traveller Accommodation     | 8         |
| Approved Housing Body       | 3         |
| Rental Accommodation Scheme | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>33</b> |

There are an additional 131 units that are vacant but not available for letting. These are derelict, in the voids maintenance programme, undergoing major refurbishment or under construction at an early stage.

| LETTING STATUS                | Units      |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Available Unit(s)</b>      | <b>229</b> |
| <b>Awaiting Minor Repairs</b> | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>Derelict</b>               | <b>29</b>  |
| <b>Major Refurbishment</b>    | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Other</b>                  | <b>60</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>360</b> |

All of the above information is live on our website at <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/>

## HOUSING SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ONLINE DASHBOARD

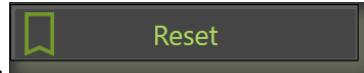
The Following web page contains Galway County Council's live statistics for 'Housing Supply' and 'Housing Demand'.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/>

Both dashboards are completely interactive and can be filtered in many ways to get the required information. This information is updated daily.



Don't forget to hold the CTRL key on your keyboard when selecting multiple filters and use the reset button when you want to do a new search.



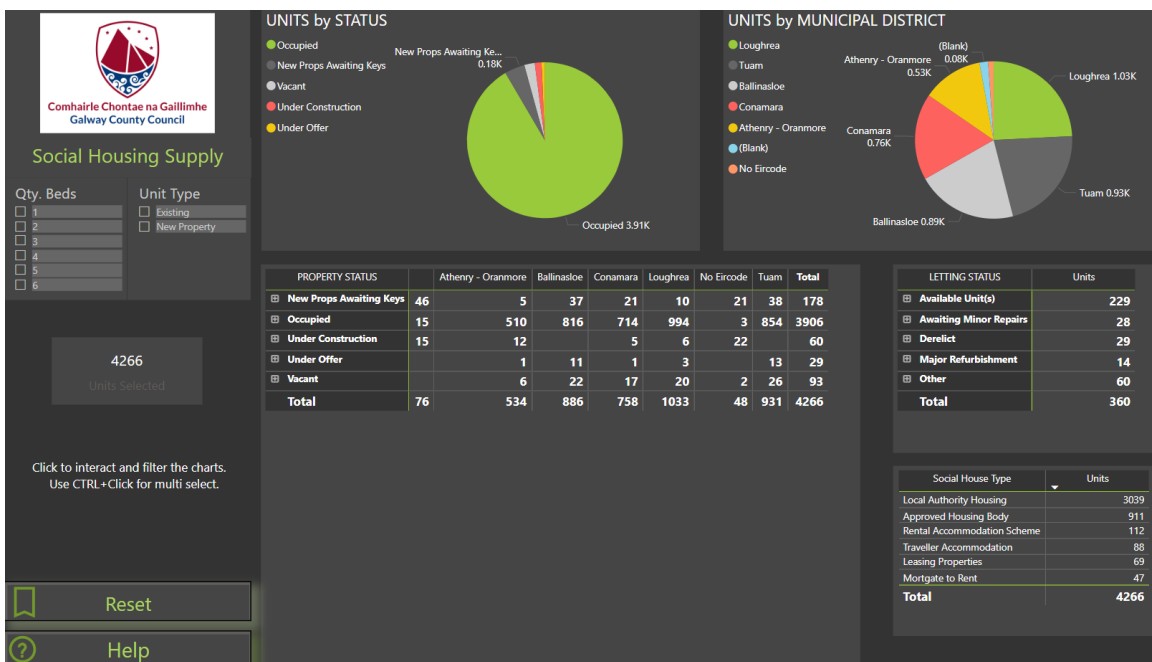
## SUPPLY

On the supply side, you can search by:

- Municipal District
- No. of bedrooms
- Property status
- New/casual vacancy
- Social housing type

This dashboard includes:

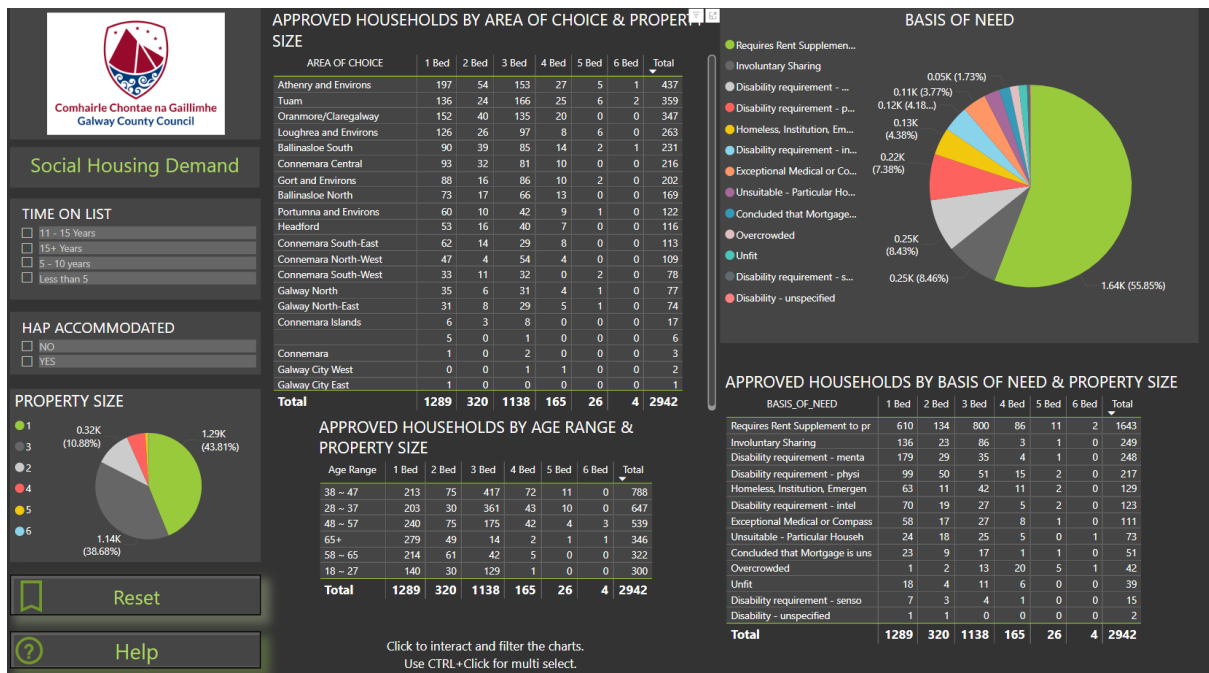
- Local Authority properties
- Approved Housing Body properties
- RAS properties
- Traveller accommodation units



## DEMAND

On the demand side, you can search by

- Applicant's area of choice
- No. of bedrooms required by the applicant
- Applicant's time on the waiting list
- Basis of need of the applicant's household
- Applicants currently accommodated via the HAP scheme



## HOUSING SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT (SSHA) 2024

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) brings together information provided by local authorities on households in their functional area that are qualified for social housing support but whose social housing need is not currently being met. The 2024 Summary continues the process of annual assessments of national social housing need, which began in 2016. It serves as an important tool for informing national housing policy. Here are some key points from the document:

### METHODOLOGY FOR 2024

The methodology for the 2024 Summary remains unchanged from previous years.

The form prescribed by the Social Housing Assessments (Summary) Regulations 2016 will apply for this year's exercise.

### NET NEED

The primary output of the Summary is the net need figure, representing the number of qualified households on local authority lists whose housing needs have not been met.

Only households meeting eligibility and need criteria (as set out in the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011) should be included on the list of qualified households.

Certain households (e.g., those on multiple lists, transfer lists, or in RAS or HAP accommodation) will be excluded from the figures.

### SUMMARY PROCEDURE

- Re-examine or re-interview households already approved for support.
- Ask households to confirm their ongoing need for support.

- Obtain additional information on household circumstances, including housing situation, composition, and income.

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## REVIEW OF FILES

Files requiring review are those not yet assessed for the first time or those that haven't been reviewed since July 5, 2023.

Households assessed and qualified for support or reviewed since that date do not need further review.

## SOCIAL WORK TEAM [HOUSING]

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### STRUCTURE:

- 3 Staff: 2 staff grade Social Workers and 1 Senior Social Worker
- Management of referred & prioritised Cases. Allocation of cases to Social Workers, monitor progress and intervention.
- Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker is the Child Protection Officer for Galway County Council.
- Kieran Keon is also the Sexual Offenders Liaison Officer for Galway County Council.

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### UPDATE:

#### Current Case Trends:

- Increase in referrals for South Galway and North Galway areas.
- Increase in referrals for Disability 'Physical' in particular.
- High volume of Disability referrals and Mental Health referrals.
- Increase in referrals/liaison work by SSW to Tusla under Child Protection Officer remit.
- Increase is the requirement for liaison work with the HSE Adult Safeguarding Team.

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### STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS:

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#### HOUSING DISABILITY STEERING GROUP (HSDG): NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY:

- Mental health Action Team - Nomination for Housing Awards during 2024.
- Physical & Sensory Action Team established with HSE Disability.
- Intellectual Disability Action Team established with the Brothers of Charity and Ability West now established.
- Links also made with the managers of the CDNT (Childrens Disability Network Teams).
- Processes and systems now in place for all HSDG Action Teams

- All meetings chaired by Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker
- A number of clients with complex physical disabilities have been housed with supports, including a number of clients who are inappropriately placed in Nursing homes.

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## AFTERCARE

- A number of young people leaving care have been appropriately accommodated in 'own door' units. Supports provided by Tusla Aftercare in conjunction with Galway County Council.
- Youth Homelessness project (under the Homeless unit) which caters for the short to medium term progression for youth homeless clients, not solely Aftercare clients.

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## CCMA / LGMA SW REVIEW

SSW – significant input and work completed to date.

Draft report is completed and with the CCMA.

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## SOCIAL WORK CASES:

Below does not incorporate short term interventions, duty cases and queries. Only referred and allocated cases.

| Carried Over from 2023 | Cases progressed / Closed in early 2024 | Remaining | New Referrals | Current Total     |
|------------------------|---|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 196                    | 48                                      | 148       | 73            | <b><u>221</u></b> |

## TENANT IN SITU

The Tenant in Situ Scheme enables Galway County Council to purchase properties where tenants are facing eviction when the landlord is selling the property.

The scheme applies to tenants with a valid Notice of Termination, deemed at risk of experiencing homelessness and who qualify for social housing support, including those in receipt of Rent Supplement, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), or in a RAS or long-term leased property. Circular 06/2024, issued in March 2024, outlines the revised arrangements for social housing acquisitions for the coming year. Similar to 2023, social housing acquisitions will continue to focus on priority categories and properties where a tenant is in receipt of social housing supports, including HAP and RAS, and has received a valid Notice of Termination (NoT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

The Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform advise the maximum number of social housing acquisitions permitted in 2024 cannot exceed 1,500 across all local authority areas and each acquisition must adhere to the criteria set out in the circular. Each local authority has been provided with an allocation for the number of acquisitions that may be funded in 2024. Given the level of demand being encountered by some local authorities, flexibility is being applied to enable local authorities to work to their allocation plus 50% (e.g., a local authority with an allocation of 50 can work to an overall pipeline of 75).

Working on this basis will ensure the full 2024 allocation is reached taking into account a number of acquisitions that may not complete due to various reasons such as legal issues noted at conveyance stage, lack of engagement from seller, unexpected repair works, boundary issues etc. Where local authorities remain within their allocation plus 50%, delegated sanction remains in place and acquisitions costs can be recouped from the Department. For acquisitions that are above the local authority allocation plus 50%, advance approval will need to be obtained from the Department.

As of the end of June 2024:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of enquiries for TIS acquisitions | 20  |
| Number under consideration / in train    | 5 have been completed<br>12 are at the sale agreed stage<br>3 are under consideration |

The table above details a breakdown of the TIS acquisitions that have closed in 2024. There are a further 12 sale agreed properties, and these are mostly expected to close in 2024.

## GALWAY HOUSING TASKFORCE

In 2018 to support and accelerate housing delivery in both the City and the County, a Galway Housing Delivery Taskforce was established; similar Taskforces are in place in Dublin and Cork. This Taskforce meets every quarter, taking place in County Hall or via Teams. The Galway Housing Taskforce is chaired by John McCarthy, former Secretary General; the current membership of the Taskforce includes the following:

- Chief Executives of Galway City Council and Galway County Council.
- Directors of Housing in Galway City Council and Galway County Council.
- Assistant Secretaries from the Social Housing Delivery Division and the Affordable Housing Division at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Delivery Principal Officers at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- 1 representative of the Approved Housing Body sector; and
- 1 representative of the Housing Delivery and Co-Ordination Office.

In addition to the targets set for build, acquisition, and leasing of social housing in Galway, targets have also been set for both local authorities in respect of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

Greater and faster progress is essential, as is greater co-ordination and sharing of services between both authorities. Funding is available to support delivery in both the City and County and the targets set are minimum targets. The most recent Taskforce met on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June in County Hall, a flavour of the items discussed were:

- A report on the broader planning and housing situation in Galway, key statistics on planning and housing activity nationally and trends in activity in the Galway Local Authority areas were addressed.
- Information was shared in relation to social housing delivery in both the city and county for 2024 and 2025.
- A briefing was provided in relation to Traveller Accommodation specifically detailing delivery under current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 and the process to prepare new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024-2029.

The next Taskforce meeting is due to take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

## PROPOSED SALE OF SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

There are a number of former social houses in the ownership of Galway County Council that are deemed to be derelict and because of issues such as access, services, extremely rural location and lack of demand; it is considered that these are not viable to return to social housing.

Five properties have been identified for this programme; it is expected that for sale signs will be erected shortly and the properties will be advertised. Subject to the identification of a potential buyer, these properties will be brought before the Council under the Section 183 process for approval, in due course. The point of contacts in Housing for further information are Angela Spelman, Kathleen Lohan or Brendan Kelly.

- Attigoddaun, Cleggan
- Ramore, Killimor
- Church Street, Dunmore
- Killeeneen Beg, Craughwell
- Cothill, Woodford

## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

### STAGE 1 APPROVAL FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT SUN STREET IN TUAM

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has granted Stage One approval for the provision of 40 new housing units in Tuam.

The proposed development is located on a 3.55-hectare greenfield site owned by Galway County Council at Sun Street and represents a Phase 1 development of these lands. The scheme will comprise 2 four-bed, 18 three-bed, 5 two-bed and 15 one-bed housing units.

The delivery of new homes on this greenfield site is in addition to recent announcements for 356 new build social homes delivered or planned for delivery under 'Housing for All' in Tuam town. A total of 80 of these units are to be delivered between now and the end of this year.

Galway County Council Housing Department is undertaking specialist advance surveys on this site and intends to appoint consultants from the new Design-Build Framework to progress design in coming weeks.



GREENFIELD SITE AT SUN STREET, TUAM

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#### CONTRACT SIGNING FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR 11 UNITS AT ST. BRIDGET'S, PORTUMNA.

Hassett Leyden Flynn (HLF), as Lead Architects, with an integrated design team comprising Lawlor Burns (QS) and Moloney Fox (M&E Engineers), were successful in an e-Tenders competition for providing consultancy services for a housing redevelopment at St. Bridget's Road, Portumna.

Galway County Council intends to provide 11 no. 2-bed housing units with universal design making them suitable for persons with a disability or older persons with reduced mobility.

A contract signing took place in Loughrea M.D. Boardroom on 29th May 2024 for the redevelopment of a Housing site located on St. Bridget's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway.





BACK L-R: MORIS MAFUNGA AND  
MICHAEL KERRIGAN, GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL AND SHRAAVYA  
SHREE, HASSETT LEYDEN FLYNN

FRONT L-R: CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM  
CARROLL (MAY 2024), MAX  
KRAUSS, HASSETT LEYDEN FLYNN  
AND EITHNE MURPHY, GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## PART X PLANNING APPROVAL FOR 88-UNIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BAILE CHLÁIR

Galway County Council received planning approval from An Bord Pleanála for a significant new housing development at Baile Chláir (Baile Chláir) including the first affordable homes to be delivered in County Galway under the Government's Housing for All programme.

The Local Authority, in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, is proposing to develop 88 new residential units divided into 39 houses and 14 apartment buildings on a 2.7-hectare site at Lakeview Road.

The development includes 2 four-bedroom, 19 three-bedroom and 18 two-bedroom houses and 14 apartment buildings made up of 15 three-bedroom, 21 two-bedroom and 13 one-bedroom units. The houses are proposed to be 2 storeys high, while the apartment buildings will range from 2½ to 3 storeys high.

The development further includes car parking, hard and soft landscaping, site clearance works, roads, footways, amenity facilities, public lighting, signage, connections to existing services, and all ancillary site development works.

The project, which also features a crèche and community playground, will now progress to detailed design before being tendered for construction. It is envisaged that construction

works will commence in 2025.



ARTIST IMPRESSION OF  
PROPOSED HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT AT  
DROIM NA GAOITHE,  
BAILE CHLAIR

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## PART 8 PLANNING LODGED FOR HOUSE AT BALLYGAR

Part 8 planning was lodged on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 for the construction of a single 4-bedroom dwelling, together with connection to existing services and ancillary site works in Ballygar.

The new dwelling is located on an existing site in Cloonlyon Crescent.

A Stage 1 'Appropriate Assessment' screening was carried out for the proposed development and Galway County Council has concluded that a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' [Natura Impact Statement (NIS)] is not required. Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection until Monday 08<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the closing date for receipt of submissions is Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

It is intended to bring this Part 8 before the elected members. at the September meeting of Ballinasloe M.D.

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## HOUSING PROPOSAL UNDER THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SECTION 179A) REGULATIONS 2023.

S.I. No. 101/2023 – Planning and Development (Section 179A) Regulations were published on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. These Regulations allow for accelerated delivery of social, affordable, and cost-rental housing by means of the introduction of a temporary time-bound exemption, in strictly defined circumstances, from the 'Part 8' process for the approval of Local Authority own development housing projects on Local Authority or State-owned lands.

Where a development is classed as exempted development under these Regulations, there is no public participation process. The notification process by means of site and newspaper notices which will notify interested parties of the intention to undertake the proposed development.

Documents and drawings are published on the Local Authority website for public viewing and are made available for inspection in the Local Authority offices during opening hours. A person may question the validity of any decision of the planning authority by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts within 8 weeks of publication of the site and newspaper notices.

All developments proposed under the Regulations are to be screened for Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the precautionary principle. The Local Authority shall make a determination on the screenings for EIA and AA.

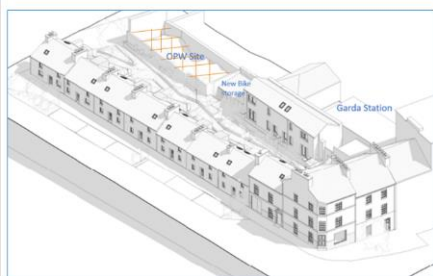
New article 81A in the Regulations requires the Chief Executive to formally notify the elected members of the proposed housing development prior to issuing a site notice and newspaper notice. In this regard, all elected members are advised that Galway County Council Housing Department has prepared a Section 179A package for development at Dunlo Hill, Ballinasloe and intends to publish the site and newspaper notice under these Regulations in July 2024.

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 16 HOUSING UNITS PLUS COMMUNITY CENTRE AT DUNLO HILL

Part 8 planning consent was granted last November (LA09/23) for development of 13 units plus community centre at this location.

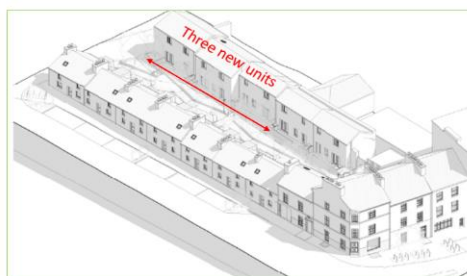
Galway County Council have since acquired a derelict site in the courtyard from the O.P.W. Acquisition of this site enables the provision of 3 additional housing units (1 x 1 bed and 2 x 2 bed).

### Part 8 (LA09/23) v's Section 179A proposals



| Beds  | Storey | Type               | Number |
|-------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 bed | 2      | Terrace            | 7      |
| 1 bed | 1      | Apartment          | 2      |
| 2 bed | 2      | Duplex             | 2      |
| 1 bed | 2      | Semi-d (courtyard) | 2      |

(13 units+ community centre)



| Beds  | Storey | Type                | Number |
|-------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 1 bed | 2      | Terrace             | 7      |
| 1 bed | 1      | Apartment           | 2      |
| 2 bed | 2      | Duplex              | 2      |
| 1 bed | 2      | Terrace (courtyard) | 3      |
| 2 bed | 2      | Terrace (courtyard) | 2      |

(16 units+ community centre)

The reconfigured layout (see figure) overlaps the existing Part 8 therefore new consent is required.

The development meets the criteria

for Section 179A (Part 8 exemption).

A screening assessment for EIA was carried out by Kerry Ecological Services and determined that *"...the limited nature and scale of the proposed development, the absence of any significant environmental sensitivity on site and the lack of any impacts on nearby Natura 2000 sites, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. **The need for Environmental Impact Assessment can, therefore, be excluded at this preliminary EIA Screening Examination**".*

An AA screening assessment was also carried out by Kerry Ecological Services and determined that *"...the proposed works, either individually or in combination with other projects and plans, will not have a significant effect on any designated Natura 2000 European Union site, notably the River Suck Callows SPA ". **A Natura Impact Statement is not required in this case.***

The Housing Department intends to publish notices under these regulations in mid-July 2024

## NEW DESIGN-BUILD FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ACCELERATED DELIVERY ESTABLISHED JULY 2024

A multi-operator framework for integrated design team services was set up further to a public competition on e-Tenders. The framework is active from 3rd July 2024 to the 2nd July 2026, with the option to extend for a further two years.

This framework allows for delivery of social and affordable housing developments through the accelerated delivery programme of Design-Build and promotes the use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC).

The integrated design team services element means that there is a single appointment for a project of an Architect Led integrated design team comprising all disciplines, rather than individual appointments of each discipline (Architect, QS, etc.) separately, therefore reducing tendering and associated administrative work.

The establishment of the framework means that a mini-competition can be run on e-Tenders for a new project, and it will be confined to the 6 pre-qualified participants only, again reducing the administrative burden of larger open competitions.

The initiative was discussed at an early stage with Galway City Council, and it was agreed that it would be a joint framework for use by both Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

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#### INITIAL CONTRACT AWARD ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAMEWORK

An initial competition was awarded on the establishment of the framework for the provision of Architect Led Integrated Design Team Services by Design Build for two new projects in Athenry.

The projects comprise of a development at, and extension to, the existing Gort Mhaoilir social housing estate and an infill development at the existing Curlibaun estate.

The successful Architect Lead was Studio PKA with an integrated design team comprising Mulcahy Mc Donough (QS), SDS Design Engineers (Civil & Structural Engineers), CBS Consulting Engineers (Mechanical & Electrical Engineers) and Fact Fire Consulting Engineers (Fire Engineering Services)

The contract was signed on 4th July in Galway County Council chamber.



BACK ROW L-R: ALAN BROGAN, MICHAEL OWEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, LIADHAN KEADY AND DAMIEN MITCHELL, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

FRONT ROW: ANGELA SPELMAN, EITHNE MURPHY, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CATHAOIRLEACH ALBERT DOLAN, PAUL KEOGH, STUDIO PKA AND ELLEN MATHEWS, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### NRPO

#### N59 OUGHTERARD FOOTBRIDGE

A public information event was held on the N59 Oughterard Footbridge project on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 in the Oughterard Community Centre. It is proposed to provide a safe and convenient crossing for vulnerable road users over the Owenriff River which will improve access and reduce severance in the local area.

On display were proposed location options for the footbridge and the public were invited to give their comments on the options.



N59 OUGHTERARD  
FOOTBRIDGE LOCATION  
OPTIONS ON DISPLAY AT  
THE PUBLIC EVENT

CONNEMARA GREENWAY

A delegation from the Morvan Natural Regional Park (Burgundy, France) visited the Connemara Greenway on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The group were on a study tour of Greenways as they propose to construct a similar greenway on an abandoned railway in their own region. The delegation consisted of the greenway project manager, technical staff and locally elected representatives.

The delegation was welcomed in Clifden by Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services, and the Connemara Greenway project team accompanied them as they visited areas of greenway under construction and then a section already operational at Ballynahinch.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May the delegation were given a presentation by Transport Infrastructure Ireland on national examples of Greenways including schemes built on old railway lines, and Greenway Design Standards.



A DELEGATION FROM THE  
MORVAN NATURAL  
REGIONAL PARK,  
BURGUNDY, FRANCE,  
VISITING THE CONNEMARA  
GREENWAY

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## GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project is being delivered as two separate schemes:

- Scheme 1 - Galway to Portumna - 114km in length: This scheme extends from Ballyloughane in Galway to the existing Waterways Ireland Greenway at Portumna Castle.
- Scheme 2 - Portumna to Athlone - 83 km in length: The scheme extends from the existing Waterways Ireland Greenway at Portumna Marina to Athlone Castle and includes a link to Ballinasloe.

Scheme 1 is being managed by Galway County Council and Scheme 2 will be managed by Westmeath County Council.

A framework competition to procure new consultants to deliver the schemes was published and five consultants have made submissions. An Assessment Board aided by the project team have assessed the submissions to determine the suitability of each of the applicants. Once this process is finalised and a framework has been established a call-off competition will be published to procure a consultant for each of the schemes. In the interim landowner liaison, updating of Section 85 agreements where required, assessments to determine the scoping of the contract brief and the preparation of the call-off tender documents will be progressed.

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## N83 BAILE CHLÁIR TRAFFIC CALMING

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Source Civil Ltd commenced the contract for the installation of the drainage attenuation pond. This contract will enable the traffic calming works to be commenced.



EXCAVATION OF  
ATTENUATION POND AT  
BAILE CHLÁIR

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## N59 KENTFIELD

A public notice was published on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for an application to An Bord Pleanála for approval of N59 Kentfield Road Safety Junction Improvement Scheme under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act. The scheme consists of a Compulsory Purchase Order and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement. The scheme is approximately 0.245 km

long and involves the online realignment of the N59 to improve the intersection with the L-5381. The scheme was identified as a Type B Road Safety Inspection Scheme (RSIS Scheme).

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## SAFETY SCHEMES

Junction Improvement works commenced July 2024:

- N59 Corcullen
- N59 Barna Road Junction



N59 CORCULLEN JUNCTION  
IMPROVEMENT

Junction Improvement works approved to commence July 2024:

- N84 Largan (near Shrule)
- N59 Laghtgannon
- N59 Cloonabinna
- N59 Derrynavglau

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS - GENERAL

Galway County Council welcomed the announcement on 31<sup>st</sup> May from the Minister for Transport that he is providing additional funding of just over €2,000,000 for road surfacing works in Co. Galway.

This is in response to the significant rainfall during the 2023/2024 winter season, which caused extensive damage to our road network.

This funding will provide additional support in the delivery of the annual road strengthening work and help to repair the damage caused by the persistent rainfall. Ensuring the maintenance and improvement of our road network is crucial for road safety and connectivity, supporting business, education, tourism, healthcare, agriculture, and essential services.



## 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 out progress to date.

Table A – Taking in Charge

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>                      | 4        |
| <i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>      | 3        |
| <i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i> | 2        |
| <i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>   | 1        |
| <b><i>Total</i></b>                                 | <b>7</b> |

In addition to the above, the following is position@ 05/07/2024

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge   | 3  |
| Estates – Works Complete –<br>Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement                       | 5  |
| Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand<br><br>This includes Bond Claim - Old Mill Road Estate, Ballinasloe | 15 |
| Estates – Developer led Estates –<br><br>List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion         | 37 |
| Bond Claims -   | 2  |

## ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME – ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJETS

Galway County Council Active Travel team, with funding from the National Transport Authority Active Travel Investment Team, continues to develop and progress a number of Active Travel Design Schemes. Some notable project milestones were met during May and June 2024.

### 1. BALLINASLOE ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEME - R446 BRIDGE STREET TO HARRIS ROAD JUNCTION

The proposed Active Travel Design Scheme project spans from Bridge Street junction to Harris Road junction along the R446 in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, covering a distance of 1.15 km.

#### The Objectives of the Scheme are to:

- Enhance public transport access.
- Create a strategic walking and cycling route in the town centre.
- Introduce traffic calming along the R446.
- Improve road safety.
- Ensure accessibility for all along the scheme.

The various options for the Ballinasloe Active Travel Design Scheme on the R446 continue to be assessed and considered. As part of this process, and in an effort to promote positive public engagement, a phase of non-statutory Public Consultation was successfully delivered by the Active Travel team. To achieve maximum engagement, this was delivered both on-line and in person.

An on-line consultation was set up on the consult.ie portal for Galway County Council. This remained open for 3 weeks and is now closed for submissions.

Similar updates were posted on

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/roads/activetravel/>.

This was coupled with an in-person public consultation event held at the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, on May 30, 2024. Four design options were presented, and these drawings are still available for viewing on consult.ie.

[Ballinasloe R446 Bridge Street junction to Harris Road junction - Active Travel Scheme | Galway County Council Online Consultation Portal.](#)

**Galway County Council Active Travel**

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

**Timeline**

Where are we at?  
Q2 2024: Phase 2 Concept Development & Option Selection

We intend to be at Phase 4 Statutory Processes in Q4 2024

Q2 2023: KTA Funding Secured  
Q3 2023: Tendered out the Design  
Q4 2023: Consultant Appointed  
Q1 2024: Phase 2 - Concept Dev. & Option Selection  
Q4 2024: Phase 4 - Statutory Processes

**Have Your Say!**

We invite your feedback on our proposal by **17th June 2024**.

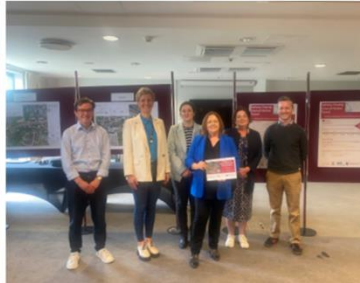
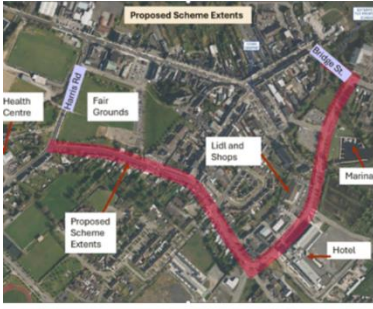
To share your thoughts and comments on this project, you can:

- Submit your feedback online on our consultation portal: [Ballinasloe R446 Bridge Street junction to Harris Road junction - Active Travel Scheme | Galway County Council Online Consultation Portal](#)
- Email us at: [activetravel@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:activetravel@galwaycoco.ie)
- Telephone: 091 509000

Active Travel website: [www.galway.ie/en/services/roads/activetravel/](http://www.galway.ie/en/services/roads/activetravel/)

Logos for Galway County Council, NTA (National Transport Authority), and Comhairle Chontae na Gallainne Galway County Council.

Any feedback will be carefully reviewed and considered by the Design Consultants team.



**SCÉIM TAISTIL GHNÍOMHAIGH BHÉAL ÁTHA NA SLUAIGHE R446 Ó SHRÁID AN DROICHID GO BÓTHAR UÍ EARCH8**

Cuireann Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe fáilte romhat  
**DO THUAIRIMÍ A CHUR IN IÚL!**  
 Tá Scéim Taistil Ghníomhaigh i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe beartaithe.  
 Tá an togra ina chéimeanna dearaidh tosaigh.  
 Beidh comhairliúchán poiblí neamhreachtúil ar siúl in  
**Óstán Shearwater, Béal Átha na Sluaighe**  
**Déardaoin, 30 Bealtaine 2024, 12pm – 8pm.**

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**BALLINASLOE R446 BRIDGE ST TO HARRIS RD  
 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME**

Galway County Council invites you to  
**HAVE YOUR SAY!**  
 An Active Travel Scheme is proposed in Ballinasloe.  
 The project is at the initial design stages.  
 A non-statutory public consultation will take place in  
**Shearwater Hotel**  
**Thursday, 30th of May 2024, 12pm – 8pm.**




## 2. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)



The NTA has funded Galway County Council to deliver a comprehensive Safe Routes to Schools programme across the county. It is intended to design and implement a series of road safety measures, in line with SRTS Design

Guidelines, to better promote road safety for students walking and cycling to school.



Fig. 1 – SRTS School Locations Round 1 and 2 for County Galway

NTA and An Taisce have already announced SRTS Round 1 and Round 2, in Co. Galway and funding is already allocated for each of these 12 schools.

Plans are actively progressing to deliver Safe Routes to School road safety measures, initially at 2 schools during the summer months, both of which are in the Conamara MD. The other schools will follow on a rolling basis.

**Scoil Bhaile Nua, Maigh Cuilinn** has been selected to be **one of the 3 schools to participate in a national Pilot programme for schools on high-speed roads** which is being funded by the TII in consultation with the NTA. This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> school in County Galway where SRTS measures will be introduced to ensure improved road safety for students walking and cycling to school.

The Design was completed in-house and proposed SRTS measures to be introduced at Scoil Bhaile Nua as part of this Pilot include:

- Definition of a School Zone area extending 150-200m either side of the school with distinctive SRTS branding
  - Implementation of a new road markings configuration consistent with SRTS Design Guidelines – bands of coloured road surfacing coupled with Sharks Teeth markings
  - Installation of pencil bollards to segregate walking and cycle routes into the school
  - Replacement of the dashed road centre line to a solid white line (no overtaking)

Pre-implementation Traffic surveys have been completed at the school as have Road Safety Audits 1 and 2 and an AA Screening report.



Fig. 5 – Artists Impression of ‘Sharks Teeth’ road marking and the ‘School/SRTS branding banner/totem.

The design proposal for Scoil Bhaile Nua has been formally approved by the TII and we are awaiting approval from the NTA teams. The next step is to go to tender for a Contractor to complete the works.

**SRTS Scheme, St Pauls, Oughterard** is a secondary school which is co-located with the local NS, Scoil Chuimin & Caitriona and they share facilities such as school bus parking. The proposed in-house design for SRTS measures at this location, is with the NTA for review and approval. Once this has been sanctioned, the project can proceed to construction.

### 3. BUS STOP/SHELTER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BSEP)

There are 2 programmes actively underway which will deliver a rolling series of Bus Stop and Shelter Enhancement upgrades at various bus stop locations across County Galway. This is a new and significant funding investment from the NTA in 2024 and it is anticipated that it will be available on a rolling basis to facilitate delivery of the bus stop enhancements and upgrades programme.

**Galway County Council BSEP team** has recently completed an in-house design project for multiple bus stops and shelters at a number of approved locations across the County, which include Ballymoe, Craughwell, Mountbellew, Moylough, Maigh Cuilinn, Headford and Labane.

This design and construction project will provide for upgrading bus stop infrastructure associated with accessing, waiting, boarding & disembarking a bus, such as:



- Wider & raised boarding area.
- Provision of a kerb with a higher upstand
- Line marked bus cages
- Installation of a bus shelter

Each location was assessed on a case-by-case basis and designed for accordingly.

The NTA BSEP team, with significant input from Galway County Council Municipal District and Active travel teams, has recently completed a comprehensive audit and site review of over 100 bus stop locations across Galway County.



It is intended that these locations will be upgraded in a similar manner, with enhanced boarding and shelter facilities provided at each of the locations.

This project will be funded by the NTA on a rolling basis of delivery.

## NOISE ACTION PLAN

### BACKGROUND

The European Community Directive 2002/49/EC (known as the Environmental Noise Directive or “END”) deals with the assessment and management of environmental noise. END was transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, SI No. 549 of 2018 (Regulations). The regulations both revise and revoke the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, S.I. 140/2006, & transpose Directive 2015/996. The Regulations were amended through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, S.I. No. 663 of 2021.

The aim of the Directive is:

*“to define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise”.*

And to that end an integrated noise management process is set out in three stages:

- Undertake strategic noise mapping to determine exposure to environmental noise.
- Ensure information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public.
- Adopt action plans, based upon the noise-mapping results, with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health and to preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.



INTEGRATED NOISE MANAGEMENT  
PROCESS WITHIN THE END.

Galway County Council are a designated “Action Planning Authority” under the Environmental Noise Regulations and are thereby responsible for the making and approving of action plans for

- Major Railways (threshold, a line with more than 30,000 train passages per year)
- Major Roads (threshold a road with more than 3 million vehicles per year)
- Major Airports (threshold an airport which has more than 50,000 movements per year)

within their functional area.

Noise Action Plans are to be made in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and the noise mapping bodies.

METHODOLOGY

The reference level for action in relation to environmental noise impact is based on the October 2018, World Health Organisation published “Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region”. The main purpose of the guidelines is to provide recommendations for protecting human health from exposure to environmental noise originating from various sources: transportation (road traffic, railway and aircraft) noise, wind turbine noise and leisure noise.

A summary of the WHO guideline levels is shown in the table below, for the sources of noise covered under the Regulations and the END

Summary of WHO Guideline Values

| Level of effect                  | Source | Level   | WHO Guidelines |
|----------------------------------|--------|---|----------------|
| No effects on sleep are observed | Any    | below 30 dB L <sub>night</sub> ,<br>inside<br>below 42 dB L <sub>Amax</sub> ,<br>inside | NNG 2009       |

|   |          |  |          |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| Lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) for night noise                                    | Any      | 40 dB $L_{\text{night, outside}}$                                    | NNG 2009 |
| Noise above these levels is associated with adverse health effects and adverse effects on sleep | Aircraft | 45 dB $L_{\text{den, outside}}$<br>40 dB $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ | ENG 2018 |
|   | Railways | 54 dB $L_{\text{den, outside}}$<br>44 dB $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ | ENG 2018 |
|   | Roads    | 53 dB $L_{\text{den, outside}}$<br>45 dB $L_{\text{night, outside}}$ | ENG 2018 |

The guideline levels for annoyance due to road traffic noise is therefore confirmed as 53 dB(A), representing daytime levels below which a majority of the adult population will be protected from noise becoming a moderate or serious annoyance.

Modelling carried out by the designated Noise Mapping Body (TII) provides for the development of noise contour maps, in the vicinity of the prescribed major roads, in 5dB bands from below 45dB to above 75dB.

The resulting noise maps are used to identify areas to be subject to noise management activities during the implementation phase of the NAP. There is a three-step approach to identifying priorities.

1. Important Areas (IAs) – these are locations exposed to environmental noise which exceed “any relevant noise limit” as established by the EPA in their guidance.
2. Most Important Areas (MIAs) – these locations are a sub-set of Important Areas where the health effects are highest, typically through a product of noise exposure levels and the number of people highly annoyed.
3. Priority Important Areas (PIAs) – between 5 and 10 Most Important Areas or group of similarly affected Most Important Areas, identified, through a prioritisation process, as those which will be evaluated and addressed during the implementation of the NAP.

It is considered appropriate that noise action plans consider locations above the WHO 2018 guideline levels as Important Areas (IAs), namely road traffic noise above 53dB  $L_{\text{den}}$  / 45dB  $L_{\text{night}}$ .

Annex III of the END establishes assessment methods for the harmful effects of environmental noise based on the dose-response relationship established in the WHO ENG 2018. The health impacts to be assessed and reported are number of people Highly Annoyed (HA) & number of people Highly Sleep Disturbed (HSD) for roads, railways and aircraft; and instances of Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD) for roads.

This statistical approach allows the number of people in the HA, HSD, and IHD categories to be calculated as a function of the environmental noise model output and the population



within the affected areas. This approach has been used to identify the Most Important Areas and Priority Important Areas for the NAP.

Most Important Areas are those Important Areas with the largest concentration of people highly annoyed due to noise. The EPA guidance has indicated a guidance criterion or 'HA Threshold' of 15 or more highly annoyed people per 100m<sup>2</sup>.

Priority Impact areas are a subset of the Most Important Areas with the EPA guidance recommending that APAs identify at least five and up to ten Priority Important Areas (PIAs) which will be included within the noise action plan, with a plan to undertake an assessment of noise mitigation measures for each PIA within the life cycle of the noise action plan.

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## GALWAY COUNTY NOISE ACTION PLAN

There are no railways or airports within the Galway County Council functional area that exceed the threshold for action to mitigate environmental noise impact. The NAP for Galway therefore concerns itself solely with major roads, defined as roads with vehicular traffic in excess of 3M vehicles per year.

There are 220km of road falling into this category, made up of; 105km of Motorway, 79km of National Road, 35km of Regional Road and 1km of Local Road. The individual road sections are summarised in the table below.

| Road         | Length (km) | Location Description   |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| M6           | 55          | From Jn 19 Oranmore to County Boundary at Ballinasloe          |
| M17          | 25          | From Jn with M6/M18 to Tuam                                    |
| M18          | 25          | From Jn 17 to County Boundary with Clare                       |
| N6           | 2           | From Jn 19 Oranmore to Galway City Boundary                    |
| N17          | 22          | From Jn with N83 to Mayo County Boundary                       |
| N59          | 8           | From Galway City Boundary to Maigh Cuilinn                     |
| N67          | 10          | From Carrowmoneash roundabout at Oranmore to Kilcolgan         |
| N83          | 27          | From Galway City Boundary to Tuam                              |
| N84          | 10          | From Galway City Boundary to Jn with L2119 Cor an Dola         |
| R336         | 12          | From Galway City Boundary to An Spidéal                        |
| R338         | 3           | From Galway City Boundary to Dublin Road roundabout Oranmore   |
| R339         | 4           | From Galway City Boundary to Jn with R381 Carnmore             |
| R381         | 5           | From Jn with N83 at Baile Chláir to Jn 19 with M6/N6           |
| R446         | 2           | From Galway City Boundary to Carrowmoneash roundabout Oranmore |
| R446         | 5           | From Dublin Road roundabout Oranmore to Derrydonnell           |
| R458         | 4           | From Kilcolgan to Jn 17 M18                                    |
| L4103        | 1           | From Jn with R338 to Jn with N67 at Oranmore                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>220</b>  |  |

Modelling output has identified the MIAs and PIAs associated with these major roads. A total of ten Priority Important Areas have been selected and they will be the focus of action over the implementation period of the Nosie Action Plan.

The table below confirms the location of the PIAs in the draft Nosie Action Plan.

| PIA Location                        | Total Pop | MIA Criterion (People HA/100 <sup>2</sup> ) | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Number of People |      |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|------------------------|------------------|------|------|
|                                     |           |   |                        | HA               | HSD  | IHD  |
| Maigh Cuilinn (Shopping Centre)     | 60.27     | 15  | 1,300                  | 12.53            | 4.08 | 0.01 |
| Maigh Cuilinn (Ballyquirke)         | 12.01     | 15  | 600                    | 4.63             | 1.57 | 0.01 |
| Barna (Creagan)                     | 67.53     | 15  | 4,900                  | 15.5             | 4.88 | 0.02 |
| Oranmore (Ashbrook)                 | 47.02     | 15  | 4,600                  | 10.77            | 3.59 | 0.01 |
| Oranmore (Tudor Vale)               | 29.93     | 10  | 5,600                  | 6.25             | 2.05 | 0.01 |
| Oranmore (Frenchpark)               | 226.91    | 15  | 21,300                 | 57.78            | 19.2 | 0.07 |
| Oranmore (Clochog)                  | 39.09     | 15  | 5,300                  | 9.87             | 3.31 | 0.01 |
| Oranmore (Clochog - behind Lidl SC) | 7.42      | 15  | 600                    | 1.32             | 0.42 | 0    |
| Baile Chláir (Cois Chlair)          | 78.42     | 15  | 4,800                  | 18.5             | 6.21 | 0.02 |
| Baile Chláir (An Mhainistir)        | 35.14     | 10  | 4,100                  | 5.42             | 1.7  | 0.01 |

A variety of approaches to reducing noise from major roads for existing dwellings in these locations will be investigated and acted upon during the implementation of the NAP (2024 – 2028).

The guidelines recommend that an assessment of cost-effective measures is undertaken for each PIA which will include noise monitoring, noise modelling calculations, cost benefit analysis.

In addition, while there is no statutory requirement under the Regulation for Galway County Council to identify quiet areas, it is the intention that consideration will be given to such designation over the lifetime of the plan.

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## STATUS AND TIMELINE

The draft Noise Action Plan has been completed and went out to Public Consultation on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The public consultation period lasts for eight weeks and will end on the Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

The approval of the draft Noise Action Plan is an Executive Function of the council. The development of the Galway County NAP has been undertaken in accordance with the timelines set out by the EPA. It is intended to present the draft NAP to the relevant Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) as part of the consultation process and the complete plan can be brought to the full Council via the relevant SPCs for information purposes.

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## WINTER SERVICE PLAN

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### WINTER 2023/2024 DELIVERY

The Winter Service period for 2023-2024 extended from the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to the week ending 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The service was successfully delivered across this period on fifteen designated routes covering a total of over 1,300km county wide.

Twelve of those routes were covered by Galway County Council spreaders and drivers with three routes the responsibility of procured private contractors. There were a total of 45 call outs over the period across 37 nights (double call outs on 8 nights). An aggregate volume of approximately 6,500t of salt was spread during delivery of the service.

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### ROUTE OPTIMISATION & PRE-WET TREATMENTS

TII have indicated that they are embarking on a programme to move to treating all national routes with pre-wet salt. Currently Galway County Council only engage in dry salt spreading and do not have the infrastructure carry out pre-wet spreading. Pre wet salting is considered a more efficient and effective method of treating roads, albeit involving a significant capital investment to make the transition.

There will be a requirement to install brine saturators and salt/brine storage at salt barns and also to acquire and/or adapt spreaders with pre wet spreading capacity. TII are committed to making funding available for this change.

To ensure a strategic approach to the endeavour TII are undertaking an optimisation review of salting routes and infrastructure. This review will include both National and Regional and Local Roads. The purpose of the output report is to identify resources needed (vehicles, salt/brine storage and brine saturators) to enable the move to pre-wet treatment.

## ACQUISITION OF WINTER SERVICE VEHICLES

As a first step in the move to pre-wet treatments TII have approved a funding request for the acquisition of 2 no. permanently mounted salt spreaders with brine spreading capability. A procurement process has been undertaken and delivery of the new vehicles is anticipated before year end 2024. The estimated cost is €400,000 ex VAT and this is 100% recoupable from TII.

Permanently mounted Pre wet salt spreader of the type being acquired by Galway County Council

Separately Galway County Council are progressing the acquisition of 3 no. 26 tonne tipper trucks to replace vehicles which are at end of life or have been recently removed from service. External funding is not available for this purchase.



These trucks will form part of the Winter Service Fleet, they will have pre wet spreading capability, and they will also service the Municipal Districts.

Further acquisitions are planned over succeeding years to modernise the fleet with significant savings on operation and maintenance costs offsetting an element of the capital investment. Delivery of the trucks is anticipated in early 2026.

## ROAD SAFETY

### ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION/ AWARENESS INITIATIVES



#### DRIVE ON LEFT

Due to numerous incidents of tourists driving on the wrong side of the road when leaving tourist attractions on the N59 Galway to Clifden Road, the 'Drive on Left' initiative continues to take place for the Summer of 2024. It involves the distribution of hundreds of wristbands and stickers with the 'Drive on Left' message on it to

tourists, car hire companies, visitors to Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park and local hotels.



The Council promotes this initiative, in conjunction with the Road Safety Officer, An Garda Síochána, Clifden and local Community Warden, Thomas O’Sullivan.

Road signage is also in place and part-funded by the Council’s Road Safety Budget.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL WARDEN SCHEME



The Junior School Warden service is designed to provide safe crossing facilities in the vicinity of national schools in towns and villages where a 50 km/h speed limit applies adjacent to the school.

There are three schools involved in the Scheme –

Ballygar, Mountbellew and Moylough. The Co. Council and RSA sponsor the scheme and provides the wardens uniforms, road markings, signage, etc., and training is carried out by members of An Garda Síochána.



A Certificate of Achievement was awarded to each Junior School

Warden in Mountbellew, Moylough and Ballygar National Schools on 24<sup>th</sup> May, '24.



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## ANNUAL COMPETITION

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, the 2024 Junior School Wardens Scheme Competition between St. Mary's National School, Mountbellew, St. Patrick's National School, Moylough and Ballygar National School took place in Mountbellew. The 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils took part in the Wardens Competition and Mountbellew proved to be the stronger team on the day. The event was organised by Deirdre Caulfield, Road Safety Officer with the Council, and Eamon Doyle, retired RSA and Barry Rogers, retired An Garda Síochána adjudicated on the day. Cllr. Liam Carroll, Mayor of County Galway, presented the prizes to the winners and two runner-up schools. After the event, lunch was provided in The Malt House Restaurant, Mountbellew. A great day was had by all involved!

Galway Co. Council would like to thank the school Principals, Teachers, An Garda Síochána Trainers and the pupils themselves who ensure a safe crossing to all each day at their school.



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WINNERS: MOUNTBELLEW NATIONAL SCHOOL

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## CYCLE TRAINING PROGRAMME



Galway Co. Council promoted the 'Cycle Right' Training Course in all national schools in Co. Galway, for the school year 2023/ 2024. From January to June, '24, a total of 592 pupils undertook the training – the Council provides subvention of €7.00 per pupil towards the course. The course is the National Standard for Cycle Safety Training in Ireland and is delivered by qualified trainers from the national register.

The course includes practical work outdoors covering cycling skills, safe cycling techniques, road safety, helmet wearing and correct fit, proper clothing, bike maintenance, tuition on correct positioning on the road including entering and exiting junctions, straight line cycling, shoulder checking and signalling, all of which will prove to be invaluable to the young cyclists in the future.



TRAINERS LEROY KULCZYNSKI AND RICHARD CLARKE WITH THEIR TEAM AND DEIRDRE CAULFIELD, ROAD SAFETY OFFICER

## WATER SERVICES

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME

### ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is expected to be completed in Q4 2024. Pipelaying is complete and the new pumping station at Pairc na hAbhann is substantially complete. The operation of the new pumping station will be handed over to Uisce Éireann next month. Road resurfacing works in the town will be completed in sections over the next two months and reinstatement works in private lands and estates are ongoing.

The project consisted of

- Approx. 3.9km of gravity sewer, which includes 3 no. railway crossings and 4 no. river crossings.
- Decommissioning of the existing Caheroyan PS.
- New pumping station at Pairc na hAbhainn.
- Approx. 460m of rising main.
- Project will facilitate decommissioning of 9 no. DPLs.



PÁIRC NA HABHANN PUMPING STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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## BALLYGAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

A planning application was submitted in April 2024 and a Further Information Request has issued. Land and wayleave acquisition is advanced and going through legal at present. Site investigation was carried out in 2017 and some additional investigation was completed by Irish Drilling at the end of 2023. The project is expected to be bundled with Mountbellew WWTP. Construction is expected to commence towards the end of 2025.

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## MOUNTBELLEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

A new planning application is to be submitted in July/August 2024. Land and wayleave acquisition is complete and site investigation is complete. The project is expected to be bundled with Ballygar and construction should start towards the end of 2025.

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## AN SPIDÉAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Wastewater Treatment Plant has been fully commissioned and results to date have shown that the plant is operating and providing an effluent well within its ELVs. An Spidéal is one of the 39 priority areas identified by the EPA where Uisce Éireann must progress new treatment to prevent wastewater discharges negatively impacting bathing water quality. The plant is 1,000 P.E design capacity, providing secondary treatment via Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs).

The 12- month contractor, (Coffey Water Ltd), operate phase commenced in October 2023. During the final months of this operate phase, Galway Co. Co./Uisce Éireann personnel will be trained to operate the plant, in preparation for its handover in October 2024.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF  
AN SPIDÉAL WWTP ON  
FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
2023.





AN SPIDÉAL WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT PLANT

#### AHASCRAUGH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Flows have been diverted to the new WWTP since 27<sup>th</sup> October. All works have been completed on site. Process proving has been completed on the plant and results received to date show that the plant is operating well within its ELVs. The contractor, (Coffey Water Ltd.), will now operate the plant for a period of 12 months.

The new plant at Ahascragh is 470 P.E. capacity and provides secondary treatment via RBCs.



AHASCRAUGH  
WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT PLANT

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## ROUNDSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The judicial review of the CPO for the preferred site is ongoing, and a hearing is expected to take place in early December 2024. In the meantime, Irish Drilling have completed site investigation on the foreshore for the terminal pumping station, (which will be required in any case).

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## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Similar to Roundstone, the preferred site for An Cheathrú Rua WWTP has been tied up with judicial reviews. Following a decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant planning permission for an alternative project on the preferred site for the proposed An Cheathrú Rua Wastewater Treatment Plant, Uisce Éireann commenced a review of its plans to end the discharge of untreated sewage in An Cheathrú Rua. As a consequence of this review, Uisce Éireann decided to withdraw its Compulsory Purchase Order for that site. A Strategic Assessment of options for the project is currently underway and it is hoped that a shortlist of options to progress the project will be available before the end of the year.



AN CHEATHRÚ  
RUA WWTP  
PREFERRED SITE

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## EYRECOURT

Budget approval has been granted to progress the planning and design of a new wastewater treatment plant at Eyrecourt. The options being progressed are for secondary treatment by either installing RBCs or an ICW. Both options will require a new greenfield site.

Ryan Hanley Stantec (RHS) were appointed to progress the project on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and the kick-off meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. RHS are currently assessing a shortlist of feasible options. It is expected that a preferred option will be selected to proceed to detailed design by August/September 2024.

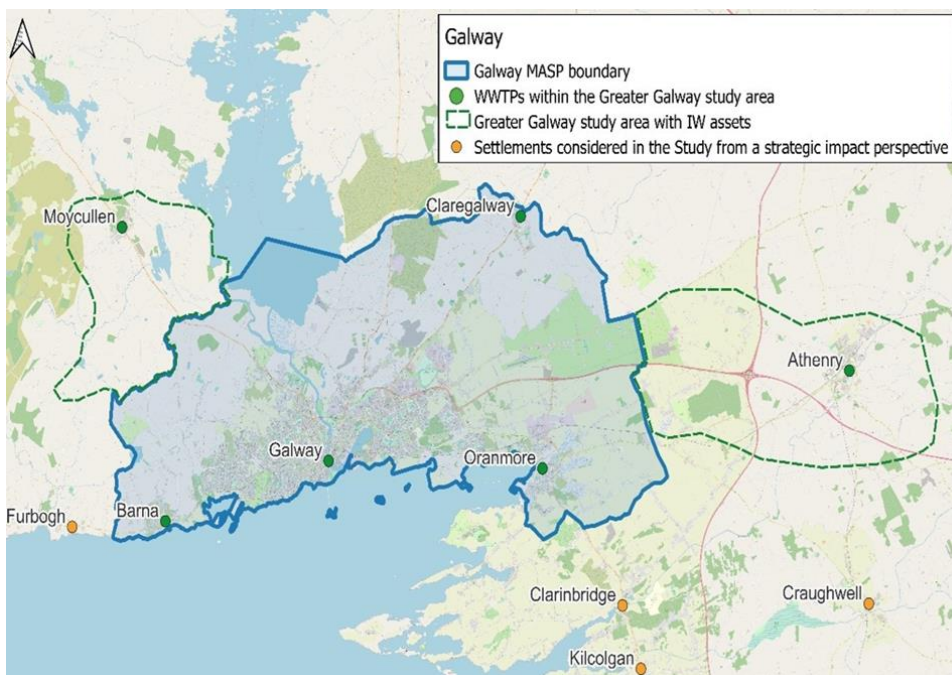
## GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY

The study area covers the Galway MASP catchment, (which includes Baile Chláir), Maigh Cuilinn, and Athenry and the existing unsewered agglomerations of Na Forbacha, Craughwell, Clarenbridge and Kilcolgan. The existing infrastructure consists of 10 networks and 4 WWTPs with an estimated current capacity of 190,000 P.E. The final Strategic Drainage Study Report will consist of the following deliverables:

- Communications Strategy & Plan
- Data Collection Review & Gap Analysis
- Population & Land Use Report
- Hydraulic & Marine Modelling Reports
- Optioneering Reports
- SEA Report

The consultants for the project are Ryan Hanley Stantec and to date they have delivered the Communications Strategy & Plan and Data Collection Reviews & Gap Analysis. The draft Population & Land Use Report has also been delivered and is currently under review.

A programme of 24 months, (June 2025), has been specified for the completion of the Galway report.



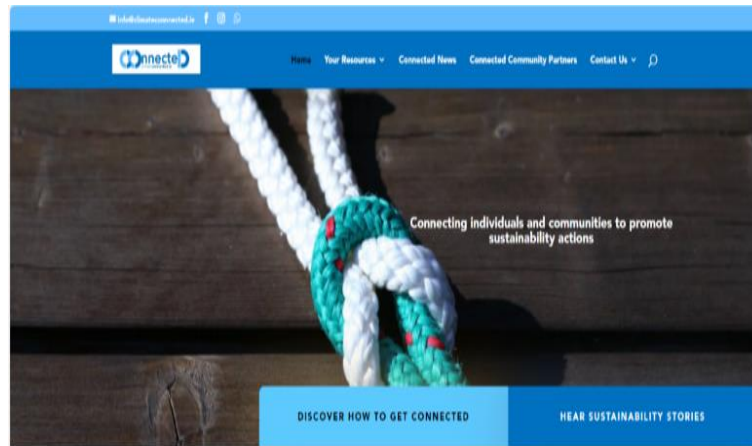
GREATER  
GALWAY  
STRATEGIC  
DRAINAGE  
STUDY  
CATCHMENT

### NATIONAL AND EU PROJECTS

Work is ongoing on a number of National and EU projects:

#### CONNECTED

This Northwest Region Decarbonisation Zone project is coordinated by the University of Galway and supported by Galway County Council and Partners, including local community groups in the decarbonisation zones in the region. It was awarded



funding under the Community Climate Action Programme administered by Pobal. Work is ongoing with the decarbonisation zone communities to develop tools and case studies for dissemination to other communities via <https://climateconnected.ie>

#### CE4EUI

The Clean energy for EU Islands secretariat is an initiative on behalf of the European Commission aimed at catalysing the clean energy transition on EU Islands. Galway County supported successful applications under the 30 for 2023 programme for the communities on the Aran Islands and Inisboffin. The aim of the programme is to provide technical support for the islands in their renewable energy goal and work is ongoing with the technical support providers in relation to a number of projects.

#### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

The internal evaluation committee completed their assessment of Community Climate Action Fund applications, and they were submitted to Department of Energy, and Climate Change for approval. A response is expected in July 2024. Following this we will work with the successful applicants to implement their projects.

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## CLIMATE ACTION CONVERSATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY



A very successful climate action conversation was held with the Oranmore Men's Shed, Oranmore Tidy Towns, Oranmore Heritage group and Oranmore Active in Age group on the 27th of May. We also had a successful event in Ballygar on June 25<sup>th</sup> with over 40 attendees including community groups and individuals. Ballygar Tidy Towns

group and Oranmore Men's Shed hosted the talks, which were given by Jacinta Barrins, the Chief Executive Officer of 60+ Climate Drive and former UN Resident Co-Ordinator.

Jacinta is providing training on a voluntary basis for individuals over 60 years of age on issues such as the causes of climate change, trends since they were born and positive changes they can make. These climate action conversations, which help contribute to changing habits, generate great enthusiasm and discussion. Educating individuals and groups on the link between daily actions and climate change enables people to contribute to positive climate action.

Denise Feeney, our Community Climate Action Officer, will work with Jacinta to roll out climate action conversations to other communities and voluntary groups across the county in the coming months.



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## SAND DUNES CAMPAIGN

Galway County Council has participated in the Protect Our Dunes Campaign since its inauguration in 2021. Sand dunes play a critical role in coastal protection and the 2024 public awareness campaign to highlight their importance and fragility was launched in Sligo on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Participating agencies include Leave No Trace Ireland, CARO and the University of Galway. As part of the event Community Groups from coastal communities highlighted work they are doing to protect their dunes and the barriers to action. There were updates on nature-based solutions being installed, and details of individual projects such as that in Grattan Beach in Galway City.

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## INTERNAL ENERGY USE

Work is ongoing to attain ISO 50001 energy management standard within the organisation to optimise energy use and attain our 2030 targets. There are a number of projects underway:

| Project / Deadline   | Current Status   |
|--|--|
| SEAI deadline for return of GCC Energy Data for 2023 – 5 <sup>th</sup> July.   | Currently gathering data for submission before closing date.                 |
| Development of Display Energy Certificates for GCC buildings                   | Contract Signed June 2024  |
| Provision of an automated Energy Data Collection and Management System         | Closing date 11 <sup>th</sup> May. Submitted tenders currently under review. |
| Design Team Consultancy Services for the Energy Pathfinder Programme 2024/2025 | Tender published 19 <sup>th</sup> June. Closing date 2 <sup>nd</sup> August. |

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### OPERATIONS

The information below is based on June data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 161 turnouts to 141 Incidents. That is an increase of 22 incidents on 119 the previous month. 58 were fire incidents, 81 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standbys either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 38.69% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 37.96% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 23.36% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 1.82 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.64 minutes.

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### FIRE APPLIANCE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

On 19<sup>th</sup> October Minister Darragh O'Brien announced the new allocation of Class B fire appliances for local authority fire services. GFRS has been allocated 2 new fire appliances under the programme. The Galway appliances are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> on the manufacture schedule of Emergency One, Scotland (the supplier that supplied our most recent new appliance in 2023). Fire service personnel went to Emergency One in June and the final specification agreed and the order has been placed. It is expected that the new appliances will be delivered in Q1 or Q2 2025.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is reaching the final stage. It is anticipated that the station will be completed by the end of July 2024, subject to ESB connection going ahead as planned. The station should be operational by the end of August once mobilisation equipment has been transferred and on-station training completed.



NEW FIRE STATION  
ATHENRY

### 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 commenced. It is hoped that a report will be submitted to the Loughrea Municipal District meeting in October for members consideration. A briefing for MD members is due on 08 July 2024.

### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Tender for Design Team is due to be issued by the second week of July 2024.

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

The preferred site has been identified with Galway City Council. A price for an initial independent planning assessment has been sought and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of July. 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.

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## PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the June figures. The Fire Authority received 27 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 8 applications. 10 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 6 applications. A total of 5 new licenses were issued and 14 inspections were conducted.

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## GRANT AID FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There is agreement that the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management will fund the following appliances and equipment, which have now proceeded to tender:

- €1.6m for a 42m High Reach fire fighting vehicle to cater for current and future tall & complex buildings.
- €650,000 to replace dated hydraulic cutting equipment with latest battery powered equipment.
- €450,000 to replace current dated hazardous materials unit with a new response vehicle.
- €150,000 to provide a midi sized fire appliance on Inis Mór to increase resilience on the island.

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## TRAINING

One new firefighter recruit has successfully completed the initial training Firefighting Skills course which commenced on 10th June and lasted three weeks concluding on 28th June last. This brings the total number of new recruits who have completed their initial training thus far in 2024 to 13. This newly trained recruit will be stationed at Ballinasloe fire station. There are a further four new recruit firefighters on a national training course being conducted at Carnmore Fire Training Centre where Galway Fire & Rescue Service is the lead authority. These additional recruits will be stationed at Inis Mór (x2), Portumna (x1) and Tuam (x1) Fire Stations. Once completed this will bring the total number of newly recruited firefighters thus far in 2024 to 17 which already exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters.

The current 3-week Fire Fighting Skills Course being conducted in the training centre on the Galway Airport Site brings a boost to the economy of County Galway over the 3-week period of approximately €50,000 between accommodation, dining, materials for the running of the course and miscellaneous expenditure.

1 no. retained fire service junior officer attended the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) “Managing Fire service Incidents – Module 2” training which took place in Sligo fire station.

1 no. member of the fulltime fire service attended the NDFEM Road Traffic Collision instructor training which took place at Nenagh fire station. The aim of this course was to enhance the ability of fire authorities to respond to road traffic accidents, and other



incident types, through the provision of a course for instructors who are actively involved in training provided locally to brigades.

2 no. members of the fulltime fire service attended the NDFEM Fire Services Management 1 training course. The aim of this training is to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services. This training develops the skills, knowledge and attributes necessary to effectively lead and manage people and teams in the fire service.

2 no. members of the fulltime fire service attended refresher training on Emergency Services Driving Standard training which was conducted locally in county Galway.



PHOTOS FROM GALWAY FIRE SERVICE LED QQI FIREFIGHTING SKILLS COURSE TAKING PLACE AT CARNMORE FIRE TRAINING CENTRE

### 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 will go for Public Consultation in July.

The table-top exercise was led by Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Michelle Hennelly and the GCC key appointment holders were:

- Rachel Lowe - On-Site Coordinator and GCC Controller of Operations
- Nuala Heffernan – Lead Information Manager
- Jean Brann – Lead Media Liaison Officer
- Anthony Travers – Rostered Senior Fire Officer and Incident Commander

Firefighters from Gort and Athenry participated in a practical exercise on-site in conjunction with the Colas emergency response team (ERT) and the National Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána.

During the Colas exercise, Galway Fire and Rescue Service unveiled their new Hazmat ROV Support Unit and remotely operated vehicle capability. This capability will significantly increase firefighter safety in high-risk areas including Control of Major Accident Hazard sites. The capability has been funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and local Control of Major Accident Hazard sites and Galway Port Company.



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COLAS EXTERNAL  
EMERGENCY  
PLAN(EEP) EXERCISE  
BEING LED BY ACFO  
MICHELLE HENNELLY

COLAS EXTERNAL  
EMERGENCY PLAN (EEP)  
EXERCISE – GFRS MOBILE  
ON-SITE COORDINATION  
UNIT



COLAS EEP EXERCISE – THE ON-  
SITE COORDINATION GROUP IN  
ACTION

COLAS EEP EXERCISE – NEW  
GALWAY FRS REMOTELY  
OPERATED VEHICLE  
CAPABILITY



TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

Tynagh Power Station is a lower tier COMAH site. Work is continuing the finalisation of the external emergency plan and an inter-agency training session on-site is planned for September 2024.

CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

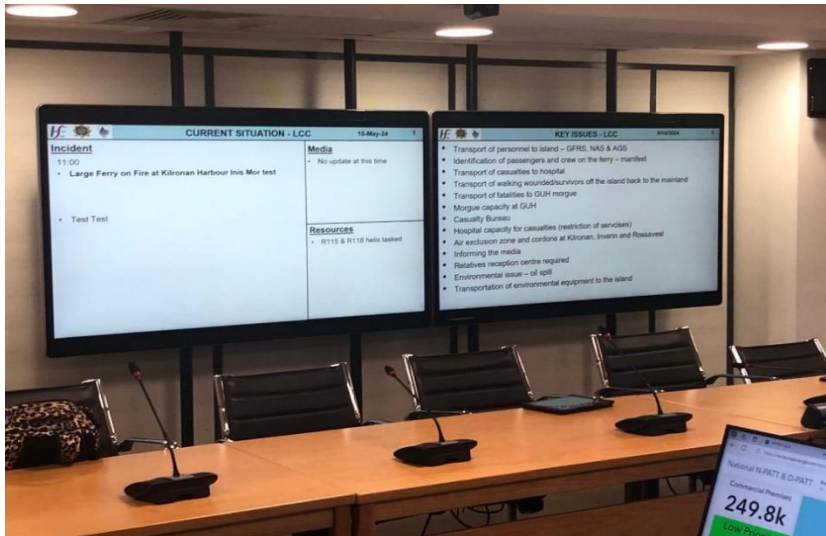
The Circle K terminal is an upper tier COMAH site. Work has commenced on the review of the external emergency plan which must be completed by 2025. An initial inter-agency

meeting led by Galway FRS is scheduled for October. It is planned to hold a table-top exercise and a large practical exercise in February 2025.

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## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The electronic information management system developed some years ago by Galway Fire and Rescue Service have now been replicated and are being used in the National Emergency Coordination Centre (NECC) by the Office for Emergency Planning (OEP) in Government buildings, Kildare Street, Dublin.



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTRONIC IMS BOARDS IN THE NECC KILDARE STREET

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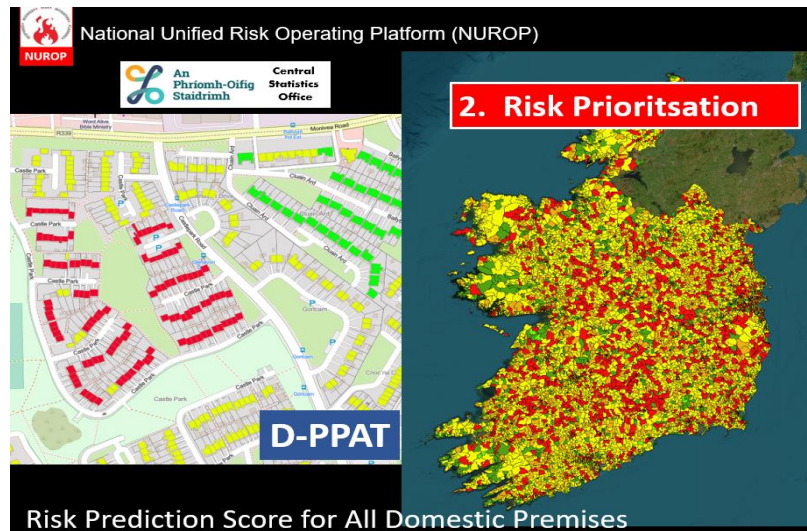
## NATIONAL UNIFIED RISK OPERATING PLATFORM (NUROP) PROJECT

The National Unified Risk Operating Platform project continues jointly with the Geographic Information System and Information Technology Section. The project team demonstrated its latest work at the Chief Fire Officers Association Conference in Trim on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Darragh O'Brien TD visited the NUROP stand and was briefed on the project.



NUROP – MACKENZIE BOLAND & BARRY DOYLE (GIS SECTION) BRIEFING MINISTER O'BRIEN

## NUROP – DOMESTIC PREMISES PRIORITY ASSESSMENT TOOL



The project team also briefed the Chief Executive of Galway County Council on the 26 June 2024 with a view to briefing the County and City Management Association over the next few months. Ground-breaking work, where the system can now predict a risk score for every domestic residence (in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office) and every non-domestic premises in the country was demonstrated. This will facilitate targeted interventions which can also be mapped. Major emergency hazards have also been mapped for the entire country and will be factored into the new automated Area Risk Categorisation (ARC) process. Finally, a new pre-incident planning process has been developed to streamline the process.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence members attended a VES (Voluntary Emergency Service) Day at Galway Racecourse on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This was organised by the Regional Major Emergency Management Steering Group to bring all voluntary groups from Galway, Mayo and Roscommon together to show what capabilities they can offer to the Primary Response Agents in the event of emergencies.

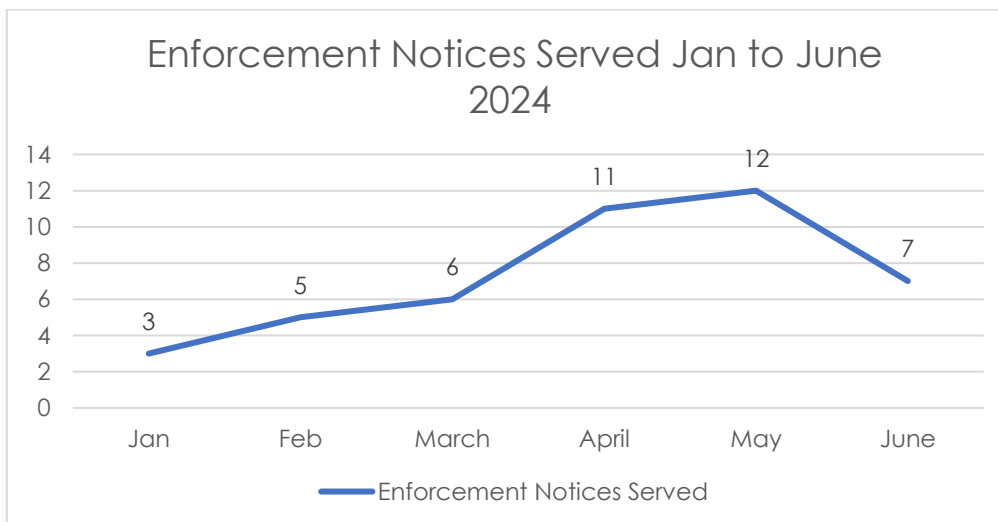
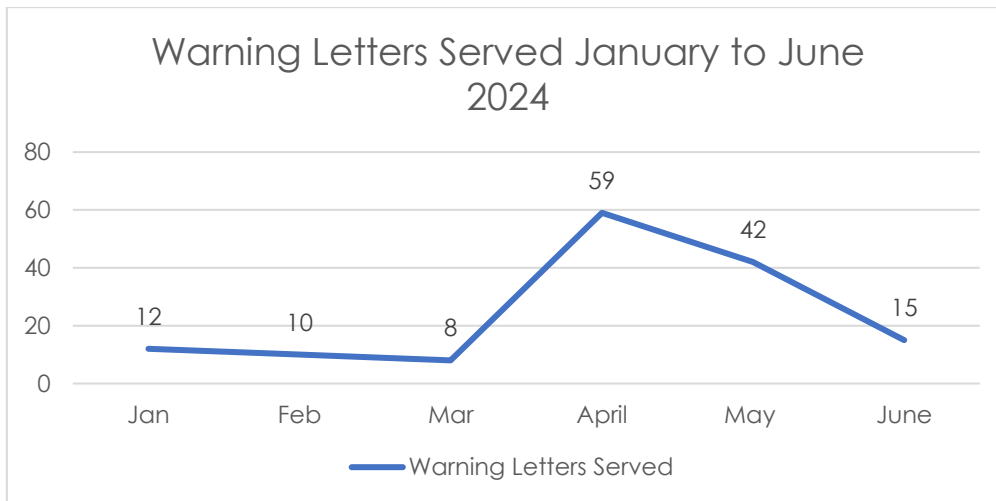
Galway Civil Defence also attended Community Awareness Days organised by An Garda Síochána in Galway City and Clifden, to promote the services within those communities.

In terms of training, Civil Defence Instructors attended recertification in Manual Handling at the Civil Defence College in Roscrea during the month of June.

Volunteers also provided ambulance/ first aid cover at various events around the county in Ballinasloe, Portumna, Tynagh, Loughrea, Mountbellew, An Spidéal, Dangan, Pearse Stadium and Galway Racecourse. In addition to this, boat crews provided Safety Boats on the River Corrib for charity swims.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 172 enforcement complaints have been received to the end of June 2024 and 122 file were closed. The number of court dates notified between January and June 2024 was 79.



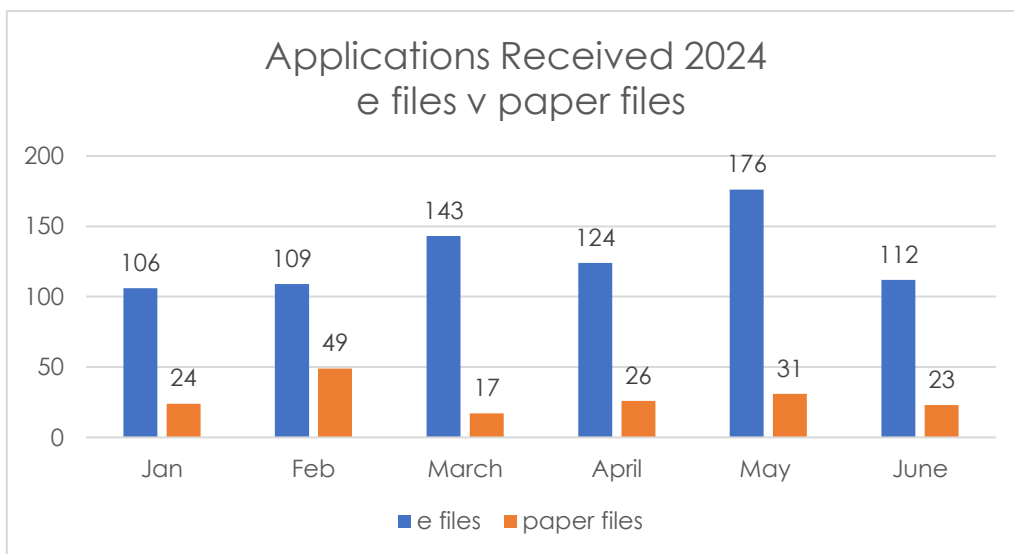
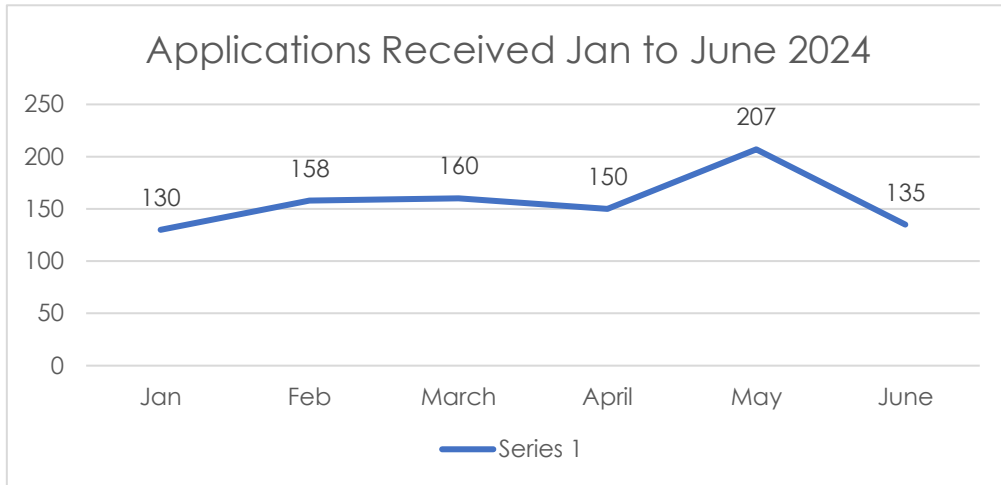
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

During June some of the major projects in the work programme included:

- 2 no. SID energy related applications lodged with ABP in June, with relevant reports required in due course.
- LRD planning application lodged in Cartron Oranmore for 171 residential units and creche.

- Permission granted for enhanced operational arrangements of the permitted processing & temporary storage of waste metal prior to onward transfer with an annual throughput of 60,000 tonnes per annum and associated development in Oranmore.
- processed FI on an upgrade to the Ballygar wastewater treatment plant.
- granted permission for the new multipurpose building at Coláiste Lurgan.
- issued FI on a mixed-use development with 43 units at Oughterard.

PLANNING TRENDS FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2024



**Total Number of decisions made between 01/01/2024 – 30/06/2024**

**DECISIONS GRANTED**

Approval: 0  
 Extension of Duration: 8

**DECISIONS REFUSED**

Approval: 0  
 Extension of Duration: 4

|             |          |             |          |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Outline:    | 3        | Outline:    | 1        |
| Permission: | 567      | Permission: | 93       |
| Retention:  | 144      | Retention:  | 22       |
| Permission  | 3        | Permission  | 0        |
| Consequent: |          | Consequent: |          |
| Temporary:  | <u>0</u> | Temporary:  | <u>0</u> |
|             | 725      |             | 120      |

## FORWARD PLANNING

The Chief Executive’s report on the submissions to the material Alterations was delivered to the members of the Loughrea MD on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. A workshop will be held with the members, the week beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> July with the final adoption of the plan by the members in Mid-July.

Notifications on submission with respect to the RZLT will also issue in the month of July. There were 9 submissions in total with 5 exclusion request submissions and 4 seeking rezoning made during the submission period which was from the 1<sup>st</sup> February to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

The Ministerial Direction was received on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 on the Athenry Local Area Plan, and this has been published on the website.

Galway County Council Planning Section have returned RSES Implementation survey to the NWRA last week. (21<sup>st</sup> June 2024)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### 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.

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### UPDATE

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.

These past two months, 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.

#### July SCHEDULE

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| July 8th  | Trading Online Voucher Seminar           |
| July 11th | 1:1 Website & Online Marketing Workshops |
| July 12th | 1:1 Website & Online Marketing Workshops |

### START YOUR OWNBUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO GALWAY organises a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The July programme SYOB evening programme commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> June to the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

## PAST EVENTS

### CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SHOWCASE

The CEED Showcase is took place on Friday 17th May and was attended by Eoin Connaire who took part on the judging panel.



CREW is focused on the empowerment of digital creatives in the West of Ireland to create, develop and scale. Their mission is to support increased enterprise development, innovation, and job growth in the CreaTech sector. This creative entrepreneurship start-up programme is designed to support early-stage entrepreneurs in

the creative technologies industries to turn their creative idea into a sustainable business.

CEED is supported by LEO Galway and is delivered in partnership with ATU Galway City (Wellpark Rd) and is an accredited postgraduate certificate (Level 9); this innovative delivery model provides participants with an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills through a theoretical and applied programme, bringing together academics, industry experts, and thought leaders.



Aim of the Event: The CEED Showcase was an opportunity for participants to reflect on their journey as entrepreneurs and the development of their venture over the past 8 months. There were 3 prizes awarded on the day - Sustainable Impact, Storytelling and Best Overall Pitch.

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### NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS



Celebrating over 25 years, the National Enterprise Awards was first introduced in 1998 to celebrate the contribution that small businesses make to the Irish economy. The aim of the National Enterprise Awards is to showcase, encourage and support a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship in our communities in Ireland, to promote entrepreneurship and to showcase, encourage and to celebrate the

achievement of clients of the LEOs. Previous participants have benefitted from increased publicity, networking and marketing opportunities.



The National Final took place in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Thursday May 23rd, 2024. Grainne Mullins from Grá Chocolates won the West Region Award at this year awards ceremony. Caroline McDonagh and Ann Marie Costello attended the awards from LEO Galway.

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### TAKE ACTION ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> ARD RI TUAM



The final of the Take Action business competition culminated in a pitching competition of the final eight businesses to a panel of judges which included Caroline McDonagh LEO Galway. The networking and awards ceremony also took place afterwards in the Ard Ri where the Chief Executive of Galway County Council, Liam Conneally addressed the audience. Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development & Planning was also in attendance.

The winners were: Heptagon Houses (1st Place); Go Manage (2nd place) and Precision Personal Training (3rd place). Each business received cash prizes/business supports and prizes from LEO Galway which included supports in mentoring and training.



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## ACTION TUAM PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

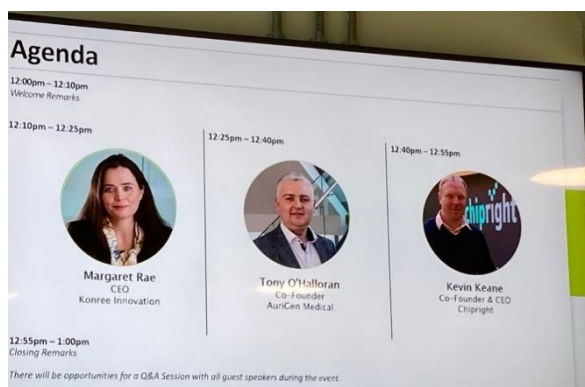
On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June the sponsors of the prizes for the Take Action business competition met with the winners to present the prizes. This was attended by Caroline McDonagh, LEO Galway.



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## ATU IHUBS SUMMER CLIENT EVENT

Caroline McDonagh attended the ATU iHub Galway Summer Client Event, on Wednesday 5th June. The event included the following guest speakers: Margaret Rae, CEO - Konree Innovation; Tony O'Halloran, Co-Founder - AuriGen Medical and Kevin Keane, Co-Founder & CEO – Chipright.



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## NETWORK GALWAY BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Network Galway Businesswoman of the Year Awards took place on Friday, 28th June in the Hardiman Hotel in Galway City. As a women's networking organisation their membership is diverse and they welcome women from the public and private sector, entrepreneurs, and employees, professionals, and artists in all sectors. Local Enterprise Office Galway was one of the many sponsors for this event. Noreen Donohue and Ann Marie Costello attended this event on behalf of LEO Galway.



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## DESIGN MINGLE

LEO Galway held their monthly Design and Mingle event in CREW on 20th June. Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs.



Our speakers were: Shane Cluskey and Taylor Dolan. Taylor is a full-time illustrator and author on all sorts of exciting projects from re-illustrating classics like "The Phantom of the Opera" (The Folio Society) to writing and illustrating her own series "Ghoul Scouts" (Guppy Books).

Shane Cluskey is an

award-winning Irish illustrator and designer based in Galway. He trained at the School of Visual Arts, New York and Illustration Academy, Kansas. His work has garnered recognition from the Society of Illustrators, American Illustration, and Communication Arts. Selected clients include: The New Yorker, The New York Times, Radio Times, The Wall Street Journal, Politico, The Washington Post, BBC History, Atheneum books / Simon & Schuster and Sony Music to name a few.



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## START100

The University of Galway nurturing student entrepreneurs from all disciplines through the Ideaslab. The Start100 is a competition for students throughout all of the various University disciplines. The students are mentored by the Local Enterprise Office and Caroline McDonagh and Noreen Donohoe attended the final of the pitching competition on June 20<sup>th</sup>.



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## INNOVATE AND GROW YOUR CREATIVE BUSINESS

This management development programme is aimed at business owners and managers who are looking to develop and grow a commercially sustainable creative business.

The workshop series concluded place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June in City Hall. There were 14 participants on the programme.

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## INTERTRADE IRELAND CLINIC

This event took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> June in the Galway Bay Hotel. Caroline McDonagh, Noreen Donohue and Eoin Connaire attended this event.

InterTradeIreland connects and helps businesses across the island to trade cross-border, collaborate, innovate, and attract investment. They fulfill a unique role to make connections across the island, facilitate collaboration, and to identify shared policy and all-island opportunities to accelerate economic growth.

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## WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN MEETING

The Regional Enterprise Plan for the West took place on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This is focused around six



Strategic Objectives that build on the region's strengths and address vulnerabilities; these include achieving further development and growth in life sciences, agri-tech, tourism, and the creative sector, as well as strengthening the regional ecosystem in relation to skills availability and enterprise space. Caroline McDonagh attended on behalf of LEO Galway.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### SALES AND EXPORT PROGRAMME

A meeting is planned between LEO Galway, LEO Mayo and LEO Roscommon and Full Circle Consulting to discuss key findings, outcomes, learning points from the Sales and Export programme.

The Accelerator Programme has just been completed with overseas sales trip with the clients taking place in June. Some significant wins were secured across the 3 LEO regions for sales and leads from Ireland; Northern Ireland; the UK and the Benelux regions.

Caroline McDonagh and Eoin Connaire will attend this meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July in Claremorris.

### REGENERATION SCHEMES

The Regeneration team has been successful in securing over €10 million in funding for Galway County Council regeneration projects since January of 2024. This is alongside managing several existing high profile regeneration projects across the county.

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### ATHENRY

An expression of Interest call was issued for members of the local community to join the Athenry Town Centre First (TCF) team, over 20 people applied to become members of the new Team. The Town regeneration Officer gave an online workshop to prospective members explaining in detail to process of Town Centre First plan development. The tendering process for a multi-disciplinary Design Team has been completed and the successful consultants have been notified to assist the new TCF Town Team and TRO in the delivery of the transformative plan for Athenry Town Centre.

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 will progress the project with the appointment of consultants and the programming of the construction to commence mid-2025.

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### LOUGHREA

Tenders for suitable works contractors for the redevelopment of Loughrea Town Hall have been sought through e-Tenders. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024.



HOARDINGS TO WINDOWS WAS REPLACED FOLLOWING RECENT STORM DAMAGE.

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long-Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. The project is progressing to the submission of a part 10 planning application expected to be lodged end of August 2024



## CLIFDEN

LUC are nearing completion of the Planning Package for the application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Community Park, and Beach Road Quay.

Works on Destination Towns initiatives funded by Failte Ireland are now completed at the Coach House Pavilion, The Ardbear Bridge (Greenway Readiness) and the Gateway Signage on the approach roads to Clifden. Contractors NUARK, O Malley's, and Kents Steel.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR NEW GATEWAY SIGN ON N59 GALWAY APPROACH.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR NEW GATEWAY SIGN ON N59 WESTPORT

CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR NEW GATEWAY SIGN ON R341 APPROACH



## PORTUMNA

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 groundworks unearthed a well in the courtyard of the building, circa 4.5m deep. The Regeneration Team have requested that the Consultants explore the possibility of enhancing this find as a feature to the space.



WELL OPENING  
IN COURTYARD  
OF PORTUMNA  
COURTHOUSE

The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme design is nearing completion and will be brought forward for a Part 8 planning application in the Q4 2024.

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## GORT

Gort received €250,000 in town and village funding thanks to an application by the Gort Town Team. The TRO in collaboration with the Town and Village administrators and the Gort Town team organised an information evening which was attended by over 90 people. The Regeneration team will again assist in the application process of over the coming weeks to explain the eligible works under the scheme and encourage applicants from the eligible properties to avail of the streetscape enhancement funding. This scheme will avail of the services of a colour coordinator to advise applicants and will provide a real lift to the town centre, making it an attractive place.



STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT LAUNCH  
EVEN IN GORT TOWN HALL

Consultants have been appointed to work with the Gort Town Hall Management Committee to avail of the project development funding to get all necessary drawings and statutory consents in place for the renovation of the Gort Town Hall under the Historic Structure funding received from The Heritage Council. This project will ready the building for a capital funding application next year.



CONSULTANTS WITH MEMBERS OF GORT TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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.

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## TUAM

Following a detailed funding application by the Regeneration team, Tuam Town Hall was granted CAT 1 funding of €3,679,200.00 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The project will involve internal renovations and reconfiguration of the main building to make way for the construction of new multi-functional spaces. The ground floor will be served with an attractive modern reception area leading to bright cellular offices and a meeting room which are subdivided with folding partitions to allow for a greater flexibility of the space on offer. Informal break out spaces are provided for on the ground floor in the form of partially enclosed pods.

The large open plan space on the first floor will remain relatively untouched except for necessary repairs / upgrades to the drylining system which will require opening-up works to deal with damp ingress. A smoke lobby will be created adjacent to the internal escape stairs and the external exit to the rear of the building will be relocated to improve the fire protection measures. The canteen and sanitary spaces will undergo internal renovations and fit out.

A detailed funding application by the Regeneration team was submitted for THRIVE funding to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of the design for the reuse of the Station House building as a remote working facility in partnership with Action Tuam and to prepare a Masterplan for the lands surrounding Tuam Station Quarter to deliver mixed use

development as well as a transportation hub for the Town. The application was successful with €199,310.00 funding granted.

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## BALLINASLOE

A detailed funding application by the Regeneration team was submitted for 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. The application was successful and €131,501.03 was granted to deliver the plan for the Town centre. The Regeneration team will prepare a tender for consultants to deliver the plan in collaboration with the local community and the Town Regeneration Officer.

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## URDF CALL 3 – VACANCY AND DERELICTION

Valuers 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.

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## PLANNING

### HERITAGE OFFICE

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## DIGITAL STORYMAPS BRING GALWAY’S HERITAGE TO LIFE

Students from the University of Galway are playing a key role in an innovative new digital project that brings County Galway’s unique heritage to life.



Spearheaded by Galway County Council in conjunction with Galway County Heritage Forum, The Heritage Council and local community and heritage groups, ‘Galway County Heritage Trails’ showcases the cultural and historical significance

of almost half of County Galway’s 4,556 townlands through meticulous research and the application of cutting-edge technologies.

One of the standout features of the project is the creation of StoryMaps, a series of interactive maps combining geographical data with multimedia elements to guide users through the historical landscapes of County Galway's townlands, towns, and villages.

In recent months, University of Galway students Dylan Reilly, Joseph Ennis and Natalie Cyrkle have been working with the Heritage and GIS teams of Galway County Council to convert historical data from sources, including O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters, Griffiths Valuation, the Down Survey, and the 1901 and 1911 censuses, into digital formats.

161 townlands in the civil parishes of Kiltartan, Kinvaradooras, Kilcolgan, Kiltomas and Killinny have recently been digitised while online StoryMaps also have been created for Oranmore, Mountbellew, Monivea and Ballyglunin, bringing to 2,000 the number of townlands now digitised through the project.



Placements such as those with the Heritage Office allow students from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies to develop important skills and broaden their horizons in terms of longer-term career options open to them. The positivity shown by students in their presentations at the event only serves to demonstrate the value of the experience and we look forward to collaborating with the Heritage Office going forward.

**Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Director of Services for Economic Development & Planning** added, "By combining academic rigor with local authority and community collaboration, this project underscores the power of digital technology in preserving and sharing local history. The digitised sources and StoryMaps not only honour the past but also pave the way for dynamic, future-oriented research and learning and are an invaluable resource for researchers, educators, the diaspora, and history enthusiasts."

**Marc Mellotte, Head of Engagement at the University of Galway** commented, "Our engagement with organisations and businesses is a very important part of our students' development and our own commitments as a university. Our B.Sc. (Social Sciences) graduates see their careers and futures in many different areas of work and the placements and internships offered by Galway County Council really help to broaden their perspective and allow them to see new opportunities for their future."

Meanwhile, Galway County Council is inviting members of the public to contribute to 'Galway County Heritage Trails' with the objective of digitising heritage information relating to all 4,556 County Galway townlands. To date, the Heritage Office has worked with community heritage groups, active retirement groups, Forum Connemara, Galway Rural

Development, schools, University of Galway students, and The Heritage Council in digitising 2,000 of the County's townlands.

“Making heritage more accessible to everyone is one of our main goals,” explained **Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council**. She added, “There are over 64,000 townlands in Ireland of which there are in the region of 4,556 in County Galway, Ireland’s second largest county. The townland is a uniquely Irish division and one of the oldest in existence. The boundaries of the townland have often been redefined to match borders with other divisions. It is the smallest notable division and is often the one with which people identify themselves.”

“In addition to the academic aspect of the project, there is a strong emphasis on community engagement. Galway County Council and the students have worked closely with local heritage and community groups to collect and present local heritage information that enriches the content of the StoryMaps. This collaborative approach ensures that the digital heritage trails reflect the authentic voices and experiences of the community,” Ms. Mannion concluded.

**Michael Mulherrins, Principal of Peterswell NS**, whose 5th and 6th class students collaborated with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council on mapping the townlands of the civil parish of Kiltomas, said, “The children spent time studying our school maps to decide on what townlands they could visit and then it was decided that each student would photograph a small number of townlands. Students worked hard to find suitable points of

interest to photograph in each townland and were thrilled to get the opportunity to visit every corner of our homeplace. Seeing their photographs now on the completed storyboards is fantastic recognition for our students.”

Meanwhile, **Eilish Kavanagh of Kinvara Heritage Group** said the new digital heritage resources have opened access to the rich heritage of Galway’s townlands and places for the ordinary person.

“This project not only aids in preserving local history but also serves as a model for other communities interested in digitising their historical records,” she added.

16 **communityexaminer**

## Digital StoryMaps Bring Galway's Heritage To Life

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One hundred and sixty-one townlands in the civil parishes of Kiltomas, Kinvara, Doossa, Killooligan, Kiltomas and Kiltway have recently been digitized while online

StoryMaps also have been created for Oronono, Mounsbellow, Mevina and Ballyquin, bringing to 2,000 the number of townlands now digitized through the project.

Clr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "StoryMaps is a simple yet powerful way to share information and enlighten, engage, and inspire people with stories that relate to locations of interest around us.

"Incorporating location and mapping into the content of a story, each StoryMap is designed to provide an immersive experience, shedding light on the cultural and historical significance of various locations."

Placements such as those with the Heritage Office allow students from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies to develop important skills and broaden their horizons in terms of longer-term career options open to them.

The positivity shown by students in their presentations in Arts as Thomas only serves to demonstrate the value of their experience in this project," added the Cathaoirleach.

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Director of Services for Economic Development and Planning added, "By combining academic rigor with local authority and community collaboration, this project underscores the power of digital technology in preserving and sharing local history. The digitized sources and StoryMaps not

only honor the past but also pave the way for dynamic, future-oriented research and learning and are an invaluable resource for researchers, educators, the diaspora and history enthusiasts."

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Meanwhile, Galway County Council is inviting members of the public to contribute to Galway County

Clr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway and University of Galway students Dylan Reilly, Joseph Evans and Natalie Cyrille pictured with 'Opening The Door To Ireland's Heritage', a Heritage Council publication which follows their work on the 'Galway County Heritage Trails' (Sean Lydon)

the digital heritage trails reflect the authentic voices and experiences of the community," Ms. Mannion concluded.

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"This project not only aids in preserving local history but also serves as a model for other communities interested in digitising their historical records," she added.

To view the StoryMaps and Townland research, visit [galwayccc.maps.arcgis.com](http://galwayccc.maps.arcgis.com).



Pictured on the next p. Arts on Creative advertising for involvement of University of Galway students in the 'Galway County Heritage Trails' project is Clr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Clr. Sean Lydon, students, Joseph Evans, Natalie Cyrille and Dylan Reilly (front), and officials from the Heritage and GIS sections of Galway County Council and University of Galway (Sean Lydon)

To view the StoryMaps and Townland research, visit [www.galwaycoco.maps.arcgis.com](http://www.galwaycoco.maps.arcgis.com).

Examples of Media Coverage of the StoryMaps and Townland Research launch:

<https://www.irishcentral.com/interactive-storymaps-bring-galway-heritage-to-life>

<https://techbuzzireland.com/2024/05/28/digital-storymaps-bring-galways-heritage-to-life/>

## TOBAR BEANNAITHE AN CHEANTAIR

Tá do chúnamh ag teastáil ó Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ó Chumann IFA na Gaillimhe. Táimid ag bailiú eolais faoi thobreacha beannaithe i gConamara Theas.



An bhfuil aon eolas agatsa faoi aon tobar beannaithe i do cheantarsa? An mbíonn lá pátrúin ar siúl gach bliain ag an tobar? Cén uair a dtugann daoine cuairt ar an tobar? An bhfuil aon seanchas agat faoin tobar? Seolaigí bhur gcuid scéalta, taithí agus grianghraf ar ríomhphost chuig [galwayholywells@gmail.com](mailto:galwayholywells@gmail.com)

Iniúchadh ar Thobreacha Beannaithe i gContae na Gaillimhe Tionscadal Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe.

## ÁBHAR TAIFEADTA Ó BHÉAL AS CONAMARA Á LORG FAOI THOGRA SPÉISIÚIL OIDHREACHTA

Cuimhní cinn, scéalta, ábhar béaloidis, seanchas, piseoga, nó cuimhne de chineál ar bith ar an saol mar a bhíodh i gConamara san am a caitheadh, sin atá á lorg mar chuid de thogra nua oidhreachta faoi stiúir Oifig Oidhreachta Chontae na Gaillimhe. Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting, saineolaithe maidir le seanchas béil, béaloideas agus an oidhrecht cultúir, a thabharfaidh an tIniúchadh i gcrích maidir le Seantaifeadtaí ó Bhéal faoi Chonamara. Tá iniúchadh den chineál céanna curtha i gcrích roimhe seo ag an gcomhlacht sin i nDún na nGall, i gCill Chainnigh, i gContae na hIarmhí agus i gCorcaigh. Thosaigh an comhlacht sa bhliain 2023 ag obair i gcomhar le Marie Mannion, Oifigeach Oidhreachta Chontae na Gaillimhe, i mbun tionscnamh trí bliana maidir le

The advertisement features a man in a white shirt and dark vest, smiling and holding a VHS tape and a CD. The background shows a stack of VHS tapes and a CD case. The text on the advertisement is: 'INIÚCHADH AR ÁBHAR TAIFEADTA MAIDIR LE LÓN CUIMHNE MHUINTIR CHONAMARA'. Below this, it says: 'Tá Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag tabhairt faoi Iniúchadh ar Bhailiúcháin Taifeadtaí ó Bhéal ionas go mbíonn eolas ar fáil faoina maireann d'ábhar taifeadta, i gConamara féin nó in áit eile, a bhaineann leis an tseanaimsir i gConamara. An bhfuil eolas agatsa faoi sheantaifeadhadh ar ábhar ó bhéal faoi dhaoine, áiteanna nó gnéithe den saol i gConamara? Tá tábhacht le gach taifeadhadh, más i gcartlann é a bhfuil tuairisc i gcatalóg cheana air nó más téip é atá i seabhosca bróg. IS CUMA FAOI FHORMÁID: Spól, Caisín, Miondiosca, VHS nó taifeadhadh atá digiteach ó thús. Cuir scéal chuig: Mac Conmara Heritage [macconmaraheritage@gmail.com](mailto:macconmaraheritage@gmail.com) nó ar +353 (0)87 916 0373 nó féach <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>. Tá clistocht á cur ar fáil don togra seo ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta agus ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Is tionscnamh é de chuid Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Logos for 'An Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe', 'An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council', and 'Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting' are at the bottom.

tuairisc a bhreacadh ar thaifeadtaí d'ábhar cuimhne a bhaineann leis an gcontae. Bhí iniúchadh na bliana seo caite dírithe ar Cheantair Bhardasacha in Oirthear na Gaillimhe (Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Baile Locha Riach, Baile Átha an Rí/Órán Mór agus Tuaim). Breacadh tuairisc ar **1035** mír taifeadta, agallaimh fhada agus agallaimh ghearra san áireamh.

Tá sruth oibre na bliana seo maidir leis an togra dírithe ar dhaoine nó ar ghrúpaí a thabhairt chun suntais a bhféadfadh bailiúchán a bheith déanta acu ar an lón cuimhne nó ar sheanchas staire faoi ábhar ar bith a bhaineann le ceantar Chonamara i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla. Breacadh tuairiscí in áiteanna eile ar chaisíní fuaimne, ar théipeanna spóil, ar mhiondioscaí agus ar fhoráidí níos sine ná aon cheann acu sin agus impítear ar dhaoine a mbeadh a leithéid ina seilbh scéal a chur chugainn ina leith. Tá eolas á lorg chomh maith faoin réimse fairsing d'ábhar digiteach a taifeadadh le tamall de bhlianta anuas.

Tosófar an mhí seo ag obair le grúpaí pobail, le staraithe agus le bailitheoirí ar mhaithe le liosta cuimsitheach a chur le chéile, den chéad uair riamh, de sheantaifeadtaí d'ábhar ó bhéal ionas go gcaomhnaítear scéalta agus seanchas faoi ré atá caite i gConamara. An Dr Tomás Mac Conmara, Stiúrthóir Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting agus údar clúiteach faoi chúrsaí stairsheanchais, a bheidh i gceannas ar an iniúchadh. Ag labhairt dó an tráth ar seoladh an togra, leag an Dr Mac Conmara béim ar a thábhachtaí a bhíonn fiú amháin taifeadadh amháin ar ábhar cuimhne mar bhealach chun tuiscint níos doimhne a chothú ar oidhreacht agus ar chultúr Chonamara.

*“Le roinnt blianta anuas, feictear drogall ar roinnt daoine a chur in iúl go bhfuil taifeadadh fuaimne acu mura mbíonn ann ach taifeadadh amháin. Is mian linn a chur ina luí ar mhuintir Chonamara nach gá bailiúchán de thaifeadtaí éagsúla a bheith i gceist, gur mór an fiúntas a bhíonn le fiú amháin taifeadadh amháin nó comhrá amháin le seanfhear nó seanbhean, a bhféadfadh an saol seo a bheith fágtha acu faoin tráth seo, go háirithe nuair is féidir sin a cheangal le hábhar ó dhaoine eile. Is ceantar é Conamara a mbaineann saibhreas mór leis maidir le cúrsaí teanga, cultúir agus oidhreachta agus is mór atáthar ag tnúth le liosta a chur le chéile de na taifeadtaí ar fad d'ábhar cuimhne a bhaineann leis an gceantar.”*

Mhínigh Mac Conmara gur coitianta le tamall anuas seanchas staire a bhailiú agus dúirt go bhfuil súil aige go gcuirfidh daoine a rinne taifeadadh ar ábhar le blianta beaga anuas sin a chur in iúl.

*“Le tamall maith de bhlianta anuas anois, tá níos mó daoine ag tabhairt faoin seanchas béil a thaifeadadh, deiseanna teicneolaíochta á dtapú acu chun taifeadadh a dhéanamh ar lón cuimhne a d'fhéadfadh imeacht gan tuairisc murach go ndearna. Is mian linn scéal a fháil ó aon duine a raibh baint acu le taifeadadh den chineál sin, cibé leibhéal a bhain leis an obair, ionas go gcruthaítear liosta de bhailiúcháin dá sórt,”* ar Tomás.

Mhínigh an Dr Mac Conmara nach é atá i gceist leis an togra na bailiúcháin a thógáil ar láimh. Is é atá i gceist eolas faoi na bailiúcháin a thiomsú, mar shampla an áit ina bhfuil an t-ábhar á choinneáil faoi láthair, formáid, ábhar etc.

Bhí Gaeltacht Chonamara ar cheann de na príomhcheantair ar dhírigh an Coimisiún Béaloideasa i rith bhlianta na 1930idí agus na 1940idí, agus is iomaí bliain a chaith an bailitheoir Proinsias de Búrca ag tógáil ábhair ó scéalaithe an cheantair. Labhair Marie Mannion, Oifigeach Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ag ócáid seolta an togra faoin tairbhe atá le hobair a rinne daoine deonacha le himeacht blianta móra fada agus a chuireann leis an stór a chruthaigh an Coimisiún Béaloideasa lena linn.

*“Is maith is eol dúinne, agus is géar a thuigtear gur trí shaothar oibrithe deonacha i gceantair éagsúla a cuidíodh leis an oidhrecht chultúir a chaomhnú le himeacht aimsire. Is eol chomh maith gur thug daoine cuairt, mar chuid den dícheall sin, ar dhaoine níos sine i measc an phobail agus go ndearna siad taifeadadh, i bhformáidí éagsúla, ar ábhar cuimhne, ar scéalta agus ar sheanchas a bheadh imithe le goath murach iad.*

*Beidh toradh saothair an togra sin ina acmhainn iontach ag na grúpaí sin uilig agus ag an bpobal i gcoitinne ar fud an chontae agus níos faide ó bhaile”, arsa Marie. “Tabharfaidh an t- iniúchadh agus an bunachar sonraí dá bharr tuiscint do dhaoine ar réimse na dtaifeadtaí atá ar fáil go dtí seo agus cuideoidh sin le socrú a dhéanamh faoin ord tábhachta maidir le hobair taifeadta san am atá romhainn. Ba bhreá linn cúnamh a fháil ó dhaoine maidir le taifeadadh nó bailiúcháin taifeadtaí d’ábhar seanchas béil atá ag grúpaí pobail nó ag daoine aonair a thabhairt chun suntais ionas gur féidir an léargas is iomláine is féidir a fháil ar oiread agus ar réimse an ábhair atá ar fáil faoi láthair”.*

Is cinnte go mbeidh toradh fóna ar an obair seo ina acmhainn thairbheach ag staraithe agus scoláirí, ag an gcóras oideachais agus ag an bpobal i gcoitinne. Má tá eolas ar bith agat faoi thaifeadadh ar ábhar ó bhéal a bhaineann le muintir Chonamara nó le háiteanna i gConamara, bheifí buíoch díot ach sin a chur in iúl do Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting ar an uimhir 087 916073 nó ar an ríomhphost ag [macconmaraheritage@gmail.com](mailto:macconmaraheritage@gmail.com). Tabharfar an obair ar an iniúchadh chun críche i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024 agus beidh a thoradh ar fáil ag an bpobal ar an idirlíon.

<https://galwaybayfm.ie/galway-bay-fm-news-desk/heritage-project-seeking-old-stories-and-folklore-recordings-of-connemara/>

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## ICAN NATIONAL MEETING IN MALLOW, CO. CORK



On Friday 24 May, Galway County Heritage members of iCAN (Irish Community Archives Network) travelled to Springfort Hall Hotel, just outside of Mallow, Co. Cork for the national annual meeting of iCAN. Conor Nelligan, Heritage Officer, Cork County Council opened proceedings and Cllr. Ian Doyle, Deputy Mayor of the County of Cork welcomed everyone, and his address emphasised the importance



and value of the work being carried out by the volunteer heritage groups who are, collecting, documenting, and sharing their local history and heritage. The meeting also saw the launch of iCAN's first publication 'The possession of his every neighbour': a guide to researching & writing Local History, written by Tomás Mac Conmara, award-winning author, and oral historian. In addition to this the iCAN resource: Succession Planning: A Guide for Community Archives & Heritage Groups was launched. Galway County Heritage Office organised a bus to bring members of Galway iCAN groups to the meeting in Mallow.

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## HARVESTING OUR HERITAGE: EXPLORING GALWAY'S RICH AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY LEGACY

The heritage of Galway's agricultural and veterinary development will be celebrated and explored in-depth at the upcoming conference titled "Harvesting our Heritage." This

FREE ENTRY

# Harvesting Our Heritage

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
Mountbellew Agricultural College, Galway  
H53 WE00



insightful event will take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, at Mountbellew Agricultural College, Mountbellew, Co Galway (H53 WE00).

This conference will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Hely Dutton's Statistical Survey of County Galway as well as celebrating the life and legacy of Aleen Cust, a true visionary whose impact resonates to this day in the veterinary community. In addition to this the conference is a tribute to the enduring legacy of the Franciscan Brothers in the fields of education, agriculture and

sustainable development especially their invaluable contributions to Mountbellew since 1820. Notably, in 1904, one hundred and twenty years ago, they established the pioneering residential Agricultural College in Mountbellew, a beacon of education and sustainable development.

Dr Edna Curley, Principal, Mountbellew Agricultural College stated, "This year marks the commemoration of 120 years since the establishment of the prestigious Mountbellew Agricultural College, a testament to the dedication of the Franciscan Community and impact they have made in shaping future generations".

Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian, James Hardiman Library, University of Galway said “As we mark the 200th anniversary of Hely Dutton's seminal Statistical Survey of County Galway 1824, we are pleased to invite scholars, historians, and enthusiasts to a conference that will bring a focus on this remarkable achievement. Hely Dutton, a renowned nurseryman, and landscape gardener, holds a significant place in Ireland's history as one of the principal landscape gardeners of his time”.

Donal Connolly, Aleen Cust Society said “Aleen Cust’s perseverance and trailblazing spirit continue to inspire generations of aspiring veterinarians, particularly women, to break barriers and pursue their dreams. Join us at the conference as we celebrate the life and legacy of Aleen Cust, a true visionary whose impact resonates to this day in the veterinary community”.

The lectures and key topics include the following: *Improving landscapes: A brief examination of estate improvements in East Galway* by Dr Christy Cunniffe; *Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and the transatlantic influence of Galway’s demesnes* by Professor Finola O’Kane, the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin, and *Galway Agricultural Statistics and Farming Since the Famine* by Sophie Emerson, Statistician, Agriculture Surveys, CSO.

In addition to this Dr John Flaherty will deliver a lecture entitled: ‘They were never as flush with money, and they were buying Mercedes’. The advancement of the Irish veterinary profession during the first half of the twentieth century. While Dr Joanne Perry will speak about *Galway’s first and last? Local Authority (Veterinary) Inspector 1905-2024*

This will be followed by the launch of a booklet on Aleen Cust by Chief Veterinary Officer Martin Blake. There will also be local heritage exhibitions and displays to be seen during the day.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council said “Harvesting our Heritage” promises to be a comprehensive examination of the key developments that have shaped the landscape of Galway. It is an event aimed at anyone with a keen interest in the region’s rich heritage”.

This conference funded by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council, Atlantic Technological University and University of Galway and is assisted by the Aleen Cust Society, The Franciscan Brothers and various heritage organisations, vintage clubs and community groups in the county of Galway.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 17-26TH MAY 2024

**Galway County Council**  
National Biodiversity Week 17 - 26 May 2024

**For more information:**  
www.biodiversityweek.ie  
Email: biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie  
Galway County Biodiversity Office  
Portumna BioBlitz: www.mkoireland.ie

**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
Seachtain Náisiúnta Bithéagsúlachta 17 - 26 Bealtaine 2024

**Tuilladh Eolais:**  
www.biodiversityweek.ie  
biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie  
Galway County Biodiversity Office  
Bhlíosta Bithéagsúlachta Phort Omna:  
www.mkoireland.ie

Galway County Council Biodiversity Office ran a full programme of events, morning, noon, and night, over the course for the 10 days of National Biodiversity Week.

TALK ON THE BREEDING BIRDS OF CONNEMARA AND DAWN CHORUS WALK

As part of the Local Biodiversity Action Fund Project on Connemara Bogs Biodiversity Awareness and Engagement, two events were held in the Roundstone/Ballyconneely area with BirdWatch Ireland. The events formed part of the Roundstone 200 annual programme and saw locals and visitors attend a talk presented by John Lusby on the research on

breeding birds such as Merlin, Golden Plover, and Skylark in the nearby bogs. This was followed by a 4.30am Dawn Chorus walk on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Derrigimlagh Bog, which featured 3 cuckoos calling from distinct locations, grasshopper warblers, the drumming of snipe, meadow pipets, a hunting sparrowhawk, and many other bird species. These events allow for the sharing of scientific research sponsored by Galway County Council with the communities that live and visit the area. They create a greater appreciation of the habitats and species found in Connemara and the pressures and threats they face.



THE SUNRISES OVER THE CONNEMARA BOG COMPLEX SAC TO THE SOUND OF BIRDCALL FOR A DAWN CHORUS WALK AS PART OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2024

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## WILDFLOWER TALK AND WALK AT BRIGIT'S GARDEN



PARTICIPANTS OF THE WILDFLOWER TALK AND WALK AT BRIGIT'S GARDEN MAY 2024



Following on from a hugely successful Wildflower Talk and Walk in Brigit's Garden as part of Biodiversity Week last year, this year saw the event book out very quickly. Participants came from local Tidy Town groups and CE schemes as well as keen gardeners and botanists. The setting allowed for exchanges of knowledge and ideas with the bonus of being able to see many of the species in flower around the grounds. Kay Synott from Living Gardens presented the talk and Jenny Beale from Brigit's Garden led the walk.

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## WEED OR WILDFLOWER SWATCH VOLUME 2 LAUNCH



KAY SYNOTT (CENTRE) AUTHOR OF WEED OR WILDFLOWER VOL. 2 AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW RESOURCE WITH JENNY BEALE (LEFT) AND ROSINA JOYCE (RIGHT)

Kay Synott wrote and provided images for Galway County Council's Weed or Wildflower swatch Volume 2 which was launched during Biodiversity Week. This bilingual booklet provides the reader with information on common wildflowers found in Co. Galway and outlines the wildlife value of each. The booklet also outlines way to manually control the plants in settings that require removal, without the use of pesticides. This will be supplied to Tidy Town groups around the county.

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## SUSTAINABLE GARDENING COURSE GLENAMADDY COMMUNITY GARDEN



Following on from the Tidy Towns networking event in Kinvara in March, Glenamaddy was selected to host a sustainable gardening workshop with horticulturist Aoife Munn. This workshop is jointly supported by the Community & Enterprise Tidy Towns Coordinator Mary McGann and the Biodiversity Office. The event was booked out

and brought together members of other Tidy Towns groups and Community Gardens. Preparations are underway for another sustainable gardening workshop as part of National Heritage Week in the south of the county.

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## INVASIVE SPECIES WEBINARS

The Local Authorities Biodiversity Officer Network hosted two webinars on Invasive Alien Species during National Biodiversity Week. The first was targeted at Local Authority Staff nationally and was by a cross section of 28 Galway County Council staff. Through the support of the Community Warden Service, invasive species on public land are mapped and the data is made available to staff through a dedicated dashboard so that it can included in treatment schedules by the Local Area Offices.

The second webinar was targeted at Community Groups and the public and was well attended.



BAT WALK AT THE IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE LED BY ECOLOGISTS FROM MKO AS PART OF THE PORTUMNA BIOBLITZ

KATHERYN FINNEY OF BIRDWATCH IRELAND PRESENTING DATA ON THE BREEDING BIRDS OF THE SHANNON CALLOWS



The Portumna BioBlitz and Biodiversity Festival took place over 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May with the Biodiversity Office in partnership with MKO, BirdWatch Ireland, Coillte, Portumna Community College, OPW and NPWS. It consisted of a series of outreach events to document and record all the species of the area in a 24-hour period. A number of walks and talks were also held to raise awareness of some of the key species of the area. As part of Galway County Council’s Shannon Callows Local Biodiversity Action Fund Project, a talk on the Birds of the Shannon Callows was held in The Irish Workhouse Centre and was delivered by Kathryn Finney of BirdWatch Ireland. A total of 521 species were recorded, despite poor weather conditions for the moth trapping.

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#### BIRD CALL WORKSHOP AND THE BIG BIODIVERSITY TABLE QUIZ FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Over 50 students from local primary schools attended a Bird Call Workshop at OPW’s Athenry Castle. The students learnt how to identify 14 different bird calls that can be heard in the Athenry Oranmore Municipal District. This was followed by a table quiz on biodiversity general knowledge. Prizes were presented to the winning team from Gaelscoil Riada by Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll and the newly appointed Biodiversity Officer with the OPW Lórcán Scott.



STUDENTS OF RANG 4, GAELSCOIL RIADA WINNERS OF THE BIG BIODIVERSITY TABLE QUIZ 2024 WITH CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROL (, ROSINA JOYCE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND LÓRCÁN SCOTT, OPW'S BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

STUDENTS AFTER TAKING PART IN A BIRD CALL WORKSHOP AND THE BIG BIODIVERSITY TABLE QUIZ IN ATHENRY CASTLE



## PABHSAEIR INIS MEÁIN

A new, unique collection of folklore and flora was launched on the final day of National Biodiversity Week on the Aran Islands, celebrating the richness of the wild flora and of the local dialect of Inis Meáin.

The booklet, *Pabhsaeir Inis Meáin* was compiled by folklorist and writer Aedín Ní Thiarnaigh, following field work conducted on Inis Meáin which focused on the folklore and local names for many of the island's wildflowers. The project was co-funded by Pleanáil Teanga Inis Meáin and the Galway County Council Biodiversity Office. The launch was attended by 70 local people and visitors to the island. Galway County Council followed the launch with a guided walk around the island with Aedín Ní Thiarnaigh identifying the flowers featured in the publication.



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## SIÚLÓID BLÁTHANNA FIÁINE AGUS SEOLADH PABHSAEIR INIS MEÁIN

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### LESSER HORSESHOE BAT TRAINING FOR STAFF

Galway County Council Biodiversity Office partnered with Galway City Council Biodiversity Office to hold a joint training session for staff on Lesser Horseshoe Bats which was delivered by Dr. Kate McAney from Vincent Wildlife Trust and Margaux Pierrel NPWS Ranger for South-East Galway. This training is an action of the Species Action Plan for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat which is an Annex II species with its Irish distribution is limited to Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, and Cork. Staff visited a roost site and the Green Bridge over the M18 motorway which accommodates the bats in their movement from winter and summer roosts.



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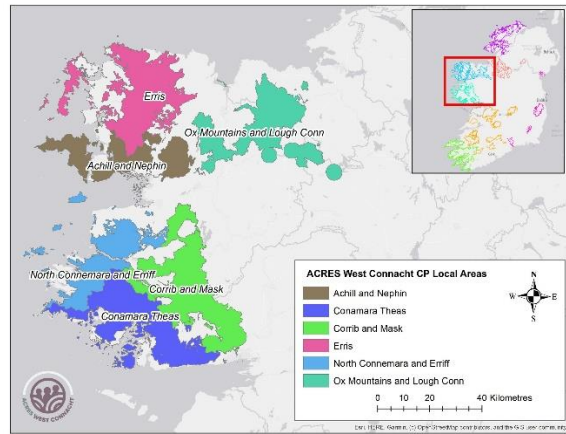
STAFF FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND GALWAY CITY COUNCIL JOIN TOGETHER FOR LESSER HORSESHOE BAT TRAINING BY THE VINCENT WILDLIFE TRUST AND NPWS, HOSTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY OFFICERS

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### COLLABORATION WITH ACRES

Galway County Council Biodiversity Office has taken a position on the Steering Group for ACRES West Connacht Cooperation Project Programme. This will allow Galway County Council to provide strategic direction to the Cooperation Project Team and provides a link with farmers and farm advisors of areas of high biodiversity value in the west of the county.





LEFT: ACRES WEST CONNACHT STAKEHOLDER TRAINING IN DEPHI, CO. MAYO

RIGHT: MAP OF ACRES WEST CONNACHT CP AREAS.

Galway County Council in collaboration with ACRES CP Breifne, Leinster, & Munster South Connacht and BirdWatch Ireland will host a Barn Owl Conservation talk on the 9<sup>th</sup> July in Ballinakill Hall with

John Lusby. The event will also see the launch of a new video on best practice of Rodenticide Use that was produced through the support of Galway County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. Rodenticides present a serious threat to our raptors through secondary poisoning and by highlighting measures that can be taken to prevent this, we can reduce the negative impacts on wildlife in the county.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

The local media outlets were very supportive in the lead-up to National Biodiversity Week and with the post event coverage. The Connacht Tribune and the Galway Advertiser ran full-page features over two weeks and The Tuam Herald and the Clare Herald featured photos from our events over a number of editions. The Irish Independent ran a story as Gaeilge on the launch of the booklet *Pabhsair Inis Meáin* with several images of the event. The Biodiversity Officer did a series of live interviews on Galway Bay FM and Connemara

# Community Radio and the launch of *Pabhsair Inis Meáin* was promoted on Radio na Gaeltachta.

## County Galway prepares for a walk on the wild side over the next week

**BY SHARON HARTNETT**  
County Galway is preparing for an active week in celebration of National Biodiversity Week, from the weekend of May 25 to the weekend of May 31. The week is dedicated to the wild side of the county, with a focus on nature and the environment. The week is a chance for the public to learn more about the natural world and the importance of biodiversity. The week is a chance for the public to learn more about the natural world and the importance of biodiversity.



**Big's Garden in Rosneath is the best venue for a Wildflower Walk & Talk on Monday 29th May as part of National Biodiversity Week. Photo: Angela Sheehy**

**McDonnell**  
DECLAN, Cllr  
**Your Independent Voice**  
VOTE NO. 1 on 7th June  
4 Tara Grove, Westpark, Galway. Tel: 086-2432022  
E-mail: mcdonnelld@eir.com

**THE GALWAY DENTAL LABORATORY**  
Continuing to serve the people of Galway  
Cllr. Michael Crowe  
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Contact us for a free consultation  
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Tel: 091-7574758

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**WALK ON THE WILD SIDE**  
Galway hosts loads of events across county to mark Biodiversity Week

Galway is set for a packed week of events celebrating County Galway's biodiversity and natural heritage over the next week. The week is a chance for the public to learn more about the natural world and the importance of biodiversity. The week is a chance for the public to learn more about the natural world and the importance of biodiversity.

### Conamara marks Biodiversity Week with seashore event

The community of Conamara is invited to participate in a Seashore Biodiversity Week event on Friday, May 24. Organised by Galway County Council, the event will focus on the local environment and the importance of biodiversity. The event is a chance for the public to learn more about the natural world and the importance of biodiversity.



Participants at the Seashore Biodiversity Week event in Conamara. Photo: Angela Sheehy

## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK



John Lundy from Binnion Island leads a Forest Garden tour during the week. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Horticultural Aide team leading a sustainable gardening workshop in the community garden. Photo: Angela Sheehy



A wildflower walk with Anne N'Diaye in Thurgart to celebrate the launch of Pabhsair Inis Meáin. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Students from Scoil Mhic Dána, An Caobh Rua discussing Galway's Blue Flag Beaches at Tara Grove with Cllr. Declan McDonnell. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Students and teachers from Althayn Bryn School, Carrick Roads and Scoil Croí Mhuirí with Cllr. Liam Carroll, Roslin Lambert Ashmore Castle OPR Cllr and Cllr. Eoin Farrell. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Business from Scoil Mhic Dána, An Caobh Rua discussing Galway's Blue Flag Beaches at Tara Grove with Cllr. Declan McDonnell. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Marking the launch of the new Maspheen Bog, staff members of the Maspheen Bog Group (left to right) Mary O'Donnell, Joe Loughran, Walter McDonagh, Niamh Murphy, Mary Anne Purney and Eoin Jordan with Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer Roslin Lambert Ashmore and Cllr. Liam Carroll. Photo: Angela Sheehy



A wildflower walk with Anne N'Diaye in Thurgart to celebrate the launch of Pabhsair Inis Meáin. Photo: Angela Sheehy

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## GOING WILD!

Galway Celebrates National Biodiversity Week with events across the county



An all-terrain packed week of events celebrating County Galway's biodiversity and natural heritage over the next week. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Students and teachers from Althayn Bryn School, Carrick Roads and Scoil Croí Mhuirí with Cllr. Liam Carroll, Roslin Lambert Ashmore Castle OPR Cllr and Cllr. Eoin Farrell. Photo: Angela Sheehy



John Lundy from Binnion Island leads a Forest Garden tour during the week. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Business from Scoil Mhic Dána, An Caobh Rua discussing Galway's Blue Flag Beaches at Tara Grove with Cllr. Declan McDonnell. Photo: Angela Sheehy



Marking the launch of the new Maspheen Bog, staff members of the Maspheen Bog Group (left to right) Mary O'Donnell, Joe Loughran, Walter McDonagh, Niamh Murphy, Mary Anne Purney and Eoin Jordan with Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer Roslin Lambert Ashmore and Cllr. Liam Carroll. Photo: Angela Sheehy



A wildflower walk with Anne N'Diaye in Thurgart to celebrate the launch of Pabhsair Inis Meáin. Photo: Angela Sheehy





ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 2024

**1. Restoration Improvement –2024 Contractor on Site**

- a. Coast Road
- b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane)
- c. Old Church St, Athenry
- d. School Road, Carnmore
- e. Knockdoemore (Tinkers Lane) - Complete
- f. Polkeen -SD to complete.
- g. Gurraun North -SD to complete.
- h. Kiniska -SD to complete.
- i. Caherteenmore (Coolarne) - Complete
- j. Carnaun (Baunmore NS road) - Complete
- k. Slievefinn - Complete
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches) 50%
- m. Sheeaun -SD to complete.

**2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**

**a. Surface dressing –**

- R339 Newford
- 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. Works completed by direct labour crews.**

- i. Flood Relief at Madge Burkes in Knockdoe
- ii. Tree Pruning at Abbert Demense
- iii. Upgrade Works to Footpaths in Caheroyne Park, Athenry
- iv. Digital Signage at Cregmore
- v. Felling Of Trees in Lagkaghmore
- vi. Lights And Path at Prospect Athenry 2020
- vii. Infill Lighting at Park Rd, Raheen
- viii. Tobar Padraig Bg
- ix. Drainage Adjacent to M. Cooke
- x. Road Lining at Bluebell Woods
- xi. Tree Pruning at Abbert Demense
- xii. Footpath in the Ardan Estate

- xiii. R. Divilly Carrowntarmuis Surface Water
  - c. **Recycling Contract** – Planning works for August
    - i. Cormachugh
    - ii. Lisheenoran
    - iii. Carnaun
    - iv. Waterdale
- 3. Safety Improvement Works**
  - a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction      Section 38 and Tender documents for contractor.
  - b. Oranbeg (Furey’s Cross)      Section 38 and Tender documents for contractor
- 4. Climate Change**
  - a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions
  - b. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – Contractor Tender
  - c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508
  - d. CC2024 L2119 Cor an Dola GC/24/35508
- 5. Community Involvement Scheme**
  - Maree Road @ Church – Contractor on site
  - New Line Junction – Design issues
  - Ryehill Church – Road widening
  - Coolarne no 1 – Road widening
  - Coolarne no 2 – Road widening
  - Caraun – Road bend
  - Ballyboggin – Edge drainage
- 6. Local Improvement Schemes**
  - a. LIS/258/21 Carnakelly North 2024
  - b. LIS/264/21 Stonepark, Abbeyknockmoy 2024
  - c. LIS/200/21 Frenchfort Oranmore 2024
  - d. LIS/184/21 Rock Road 2024
  - e. LIS/31/21 Derrydonnell North 2024
- 7. Other Items**
  - a. Belville Road realignment      Issuing Planning consent forms for Landowner agreement, working towards Part 8 planning.
  - b. Hydrological study Clarin River Funding Approved by OPW – Hydrological Pre-feasibility report review ongoing.
  - c. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore      Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design, Site investigation to be completed, GCC Active travel team.
  - d. Monivea Pedestrian Crossing      Awaiting ESB connection, Cert with ESB
  - e. Raheen Woods Crossing      Awaiting ESB connection, Cert with ESB

## 8. Figures and Pictures



MONTAIGH, BAILE CHLÁIR  
SURFACE DRESSING



KILTROQUE, SURFACE  
DRESSING



BALROBBUCK DRAINAGE  
WORKS



BALROBUCK  
DRAINAGE WORKS



CAPPAMOYLE  
OVERLAY



SLIEVEFINN OVERLAY  
WORKS



MAREE ROAD –  
COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT  
SCHEME



MONIVEA  
PEDESTRIAN  
CROSSING

## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The primary focus of works in the MD during May and June was the delivery of the 2024 roadworks programme. This programme is made up of Restoration Improvement (RI) Bituminous Overlay and Inlay projects, Restoration Improvement (RI) Unbound and Recycling projects, and Restoration Maintenance (RM) Surface Dressing. In all cases, Ballinasloe MD direct labour roads crews undertake extensive preparatory works to each road section, followed by road resurfacing contractors works. To date, 28 of 48 RI (~60%) projects are complete, while 15 of 23 RM projects (~65%) are complete. This programme is ongoing and is being delivered successfully, however its progress is heavily dependent on contractor availability and weather conditions.



Separately throughout the MD, Community Wardens are continuously dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, and various inspections including ring buoys and playgrounds. Grass cutting is being undertaken primarily within Ballinasloe Town, with an increased focus on areas for biodiversity. The following images present a flavour of the works undertaken during this period.



COLAS CONTRACTORS - RM SURFACE DRESSING, AT KILLUREMORE - 2024 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME BALLINASLOE MD



ROADSTONE CONTRACTORS - RI RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT, AT ARDEEVIN R364 - 2024 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME BALLINASLOE MD

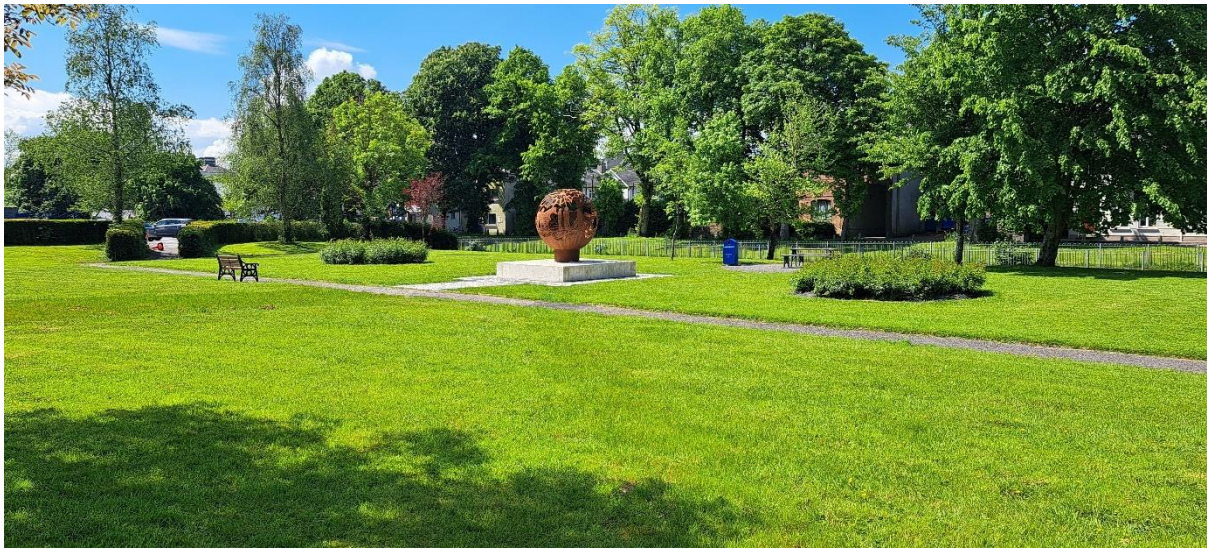




ROADSTONE CONTRACTORS - RI RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT, AT ARDAGH ASHBROOK - 2024 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME BALLINASLOE MD



ROADSTONE CONTRACTORS - RI RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT, AT ARDAGH ASHBROOK - 2024 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME BALLINASLOE MD



GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE OF AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY AT SLI NA HABHAINN PARK, BALLINASLOE



FOOTPATH REPAIRS BEING UNDERATKEN BY BALLINASLOE MD DIRECT LABOUR CREWS AT PINEGROVE MOUNTBELLEW



EXAMPLES ABOVE OF THE 7 NO. DISABLED PARKING BAYS ON MAIN STREET, DUNLO STREET & JUBILEE STREET, BALLINASLOE HAVE HAD UPGRADED MARKINGS APPLIED



THE UKRANIAN  
RESPONSE  
MODULAR HOME  
DEVELOPMENT SITE  
IN BALLINASLOE  
HAS BEEN  
PROGRESSING  
WELL AND IS  
NEARING  
COMPLETION





DUNLO RUNNING TRACK IN BALLINASLOE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE SURFACE CLEANING AND LANE REMARKING, UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR

## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – JULY 2024

- The Restoration Improvement Works, Restoration Maintenance Works and Discretionary Grant works are on-going
- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mor, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr has been submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Substantial funding was granted in 2023 and a decision on 2024 funding is expected shortly.
- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Lounge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €35,000 has been granted to refurbish the traffic signal heads and push button units in Maigh Cuilinn. Tender has been awarded with works due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Climate Change Projects €305,000 (4 projects) has been allocated.
- Outdoor staff principal concern is the undertaking of the roads programme.

- Community Wardens – 3 positions – (1No. Vacant) dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ring buoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Implementation of Summer Ready 2024.



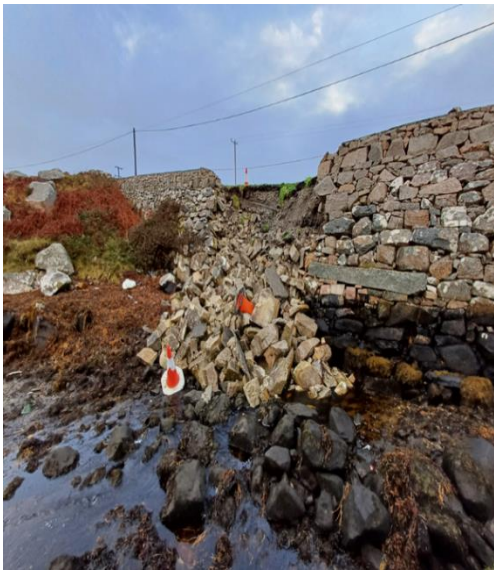
DRAINAGE WORKS RECENTLY COMPLETED ON LP-1320 AN SPIDÉAL/MAIGH CUILINN



A RECENT RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT BEFORE AND DURING WORKS



A RECENT RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT BEFORE AND DURING WORKS



CNOC, LEITIR MEALLÁIN CAUSEWAY REPAIR – PRE AND POST WORK PHOTOS



CLIFDEN SQUARE CLEANING – PRE AND DURING WORK PHOTOS



PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The delivery of the 2024 Road Programme is currently the primary focus of all activity.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 14/22 (64%) Bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 14/45 (31%) Unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 10/28 (36%) Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects completed.
- 5No. Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) – Land Dedication Agreements currently being drafted and signed.
- 6No. Climate Change Projects. 1 No. Complete.
- 8No. Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) – Yet to commence.
- 4No. Severe Weather Projects – A specialist conservation contractor is currently being appointed to Tawnagh Causeway.
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) Schemes. 1No currently underway.
- Kiloran Graveyard – Works recently complete.
- Dunkellin and Kilchreest Drainage District Maintenance. Minor works complete. Main maintenance project scheduled for later this year.

A sample of the projects completed is as follows:



OVERLAY  
WORKS  
BEING  
CARRIED  
OUT BY  
LAGAN  
ASPHALT  
LTD



STABILISED ROAD RECYCLING AT DERREW, KILLIMOR



SURFACE DRESSING WORKS



NEW ROAD LINING ON THE L4300, KILRICKLE TO MULLAGH ROAD FOLLOWING SURFACE DRESSING

OTHER MINOR PROJECTS COMPLETED – LOUGHREA MD



PLANTING OF SUMMER  
BEDDING FLOWERS IN  
LOUGHREA





BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES OF CLEANING AND REMOVAL OF WEEDS



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ONE OF TWO NEW ROBOTIC MOWERS IN ACTION AT THE FIARGREEN, LOUGHREA

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2024 BLUE FLAG FLYING AT THE LONG POINT LOUGHREA



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CLEANING AND MAINTAINING THE LOUGHREA DISTRICT OFFICE



LITTERING AT THE LONGPOINT, LOUGHREA CONTINUES TO BE AN ISSUE



CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE BASE FOR NEW LIFEGUARD HUT AT PORTUMNA SWIMMING AREA



KILLORAN CEMETERY  
– FOOTPATH  
UPGRADES



MILESTONE UPGRADE WORKS AT KILTARTAN



RENVILLE FOOTPATH

TRAUGHT BEACH - CLEAN-UP AHEAD OF SUMMER SEASON





BLACKWEIR PIER AND RENVILLE PIER – PRE AND POST WORKS



RENVILLE JUNCTION –  
ROAD SAFETY WORKS



## TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The focus of work in the Tuam MD in May was the commencement of road recycling schemes and surface dressing schemes contracts by Colas Contracting along with the continuation of direct labour roads programme schemes in the three General Service supervisor areas. 15 of the 19 Surface dressing schemes from the 2024 programme were completed at a length of 24km in total.

16 direct labour road overlay works were completed in the MD during the month at a total length of 20km.

### WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

#### SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME WORKS COMPLETED

| Project Name                  | Road Name | Treatment Type   |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| TRM 01 R347 Athenry Rd        | R-347     | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 02 L 7207 Coolorty        | L-7207    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 03 R332 Barnaderg         | R-332     | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 04 L2115 Killereerin      | L-2115    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 06 Fortbrown              | L-2223    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 07 L 2302 Horsleap        | L-2302    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 08 L2225 Kilgarriff South | L-2225,   | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 09 L6166 Cloughanover     | L-6166    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 11 L61661 Lisheennageeha  | L-61661   | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 14 L-6447 Kilshanvey      | L-6447    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 15 L -6483 Tobberoe       | L-6483    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 16 L-2220 Kilconly        | L-2220    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 18 L-2104 Abbeytown       | L-2104    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 20 L-6473 Brackloon       | L-6473    | Surface Dressing |
| TRM 21 L2221 Glen rd          | L-2221    | Surface Dressing |



TRM 08 L2225 Kilgarriff South



TRM 18 L-2104 ABBEYTOWN



TRM 21 L2221 GLEN RD

ROAD OVERLAY PROGRAMME WORKS COMPLETED

| Project Name                       | Road Name | Treatment Type      |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| TRI 15 L 6486 Cloonkeely Kilbannon | L-6486    | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 16 L 6483 Ironpool             | L-6483    | Road recycling      |
| TRI 28 L 6482 Kilshanvy A          | L-6482    | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 26 L-6446 Kilshanvy B          | L-6446    | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 33 L-6484 Tobberoe             | L-6484-0  | Road reconstruction |

|                                 |           |                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| TRI 41 L-6414 Cloonbrush        | L-6414-0  | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 42 L-22044 Cloondeargan     | L-22044   | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 44 L-6504 Corskeagh Beg     | L-6504-0  | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 50 L-22301 Meenlena         | L-22301-0 | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 52 L-6457 Louthlodge        | L-64661-0 | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 53 L-6506 Parkroe           | L-6506    | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 57 L-64631 Ballymoney South | L-64631   | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 58 L -62273 Cloonmore       | L-62273   | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 64 L-6141 Ballybannagher    | L-6141    | Road reconstruction |
| TRI 66 L-6187 Ballina Bog Rd    | L-6187-0  | Road reconstruction |



TRI 44 L-6504 CORSKEAGH BEG



TRI 15 L 6486 CLOONKEELY KILBANNON



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BEFORE WORKS



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DURING ROAD RECYCLING  
WORKS TRI 16 L 6483  
IRONPOOL



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## CLIMATE CHANGE

### ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE WORKS

As the impact of climate change on the road network is becoming more apparent, the Department has introduced a Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Grant. Drainage Works commenced on a number of these schemes during the month of May.



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CLIMATE ADAPTION WORKS  
BALLYGADDY ROAD TUAM

DRAINAGE  
WORKS  
CORTOON



MAINTENANCE WORKS

There was ongoing maintenance and renewal works continuing throughout the month with repairs to the road network, felling of dead trees on the regional roads, linemarking, and improvement of sightlines on road junctions.



LINEMARKING AT  
CLOUGHANOVER AND  
KNOCKROON NATIONAL  
SCHOOLS



IMPROVING SIGHTLINES AT KILCONLY

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TREE FELLING ON R360



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NEW WALL AND CRASH BARRIER ON  
N84 AT CLOUGHOWER

Mise, le meas,

Handwritten signature of Liam Conneally

**Chief Executive**

**Galway County Council**

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**