



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Samhain 2024

November 2024

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

Submissions on the Local Economic and Community Plan are currently being sought from the Municipal Districts and Regional Assembly. Following this, an LCDC meeting will take place on the 3rd December to discuss the draft LECP Implementation Plan before it is presented to Plenary Council at the December meeting.

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities Joe O'Brien recently announced €7 million in funding under the "Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2025".

This funding will consist of €6 million in capital supports essential for the many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas. A further €1 million in current funding is available for Community Groups, including Men's Sheds and Women's Sheds, to assist with their energy and running costs, to help them continue their important work within the community.

Galway County Council is being allocated €183,086 in capital funding and €30,514 in current funding. It is intended that the Local Enhancement Programme will be advertised in January 2025, with funding recommendations to be returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development by end March 2025, with formal announcements thereafter by the Department.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, so as to improve and enhance community facilities for all. All funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including but not limited to Men's and Women's sheds/groups, community centres, parish halls and other local voluntary groups.

HEALTHY IRELAND

The Healthy Islands initiative continued its Health & Wellbeing events throughout October, culminating in final events being rolled out on Inis Oírr and Inis Bofin. Each island hosted a schedule of talks, attracting both the community and local school children. Attendees were pleased to receive merchandise and healthy foods and refreshments on the day to model

what Healthy Eating entails and to receive advice from the many agencies who attended with their information stands. Healthy Ireland Galway looks forward to returning to the offshore islands to offer future targeted Health & Wellbeing events for men and women within the community.



Our Health & Wellbeing event hosted in Leitir Mealláin for Mental Health Day was a tremendous success! We had a fantastic turnout from the local community, who attended our information talks beginning with Pdraig Fahey representing Parkrun to host the first talk on the benefits of Physical Activity for Mental and Physical Wellbeing. Anita Murphy impressed the audience with a talk on Women's Health and Menopause; Thrive Conamara gave a talk on Mental Health and the purpose of 'Thrive Conamara' in supporting mental health in the community. To finish there was a brief outline of how Mindfulness can be incorporated into our daily lives followed by a mindfulness practice by Caitriona Ni Ghiollaphádraig. The health checks conducted by Croí and Foot Health Podiatry, Baile Chláir, were a big success, and



there was an abundance of valuable information shared on Health & Wellbeing throughout the event.



To conclude Mental Health Month, we hosted a '5 Ways to Wellbeing' event coordinated by Healthy Galway City and County in partnership with the Integration Teams for Galway City and County. This was a great opportunity to celebrate Mental Health Month with the migrant and refugee populations of Galway and raise further awareness of positive mental health and wellbeing. The theme of this event was 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'; which alludes to simple actions to practice each day to maintain or improve everyday mental health and wellbeing through connection, learning, being active, awareness and the practice of giving. The event was well-attended, drawing participants from across Galway with a diverse mix of cultural backgrounds, including Ukrainian, Muslim, Somali, and other nationalities.



The day featured a variety of activities such as cooking demonstrations, barber cuts, hand massages, face painting, and balloon animals. Additionally, Galway Community Circus participated with two trainers to support guests and facilitate activities. The event also included live music, Afro-Brazilian dance workshops, and guided walks in Merlin Woods. Refreshments and healthy snacks were provided to further enrich the event and encourage healthy eating.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

County Galway has continued its track record of success in the IPB Pride of Place Competition with Kinvara and Williamstown both named Runners-Up at the All-Island Pride of Place Awards Ceremony in Monaghan on 2nd November. Each year, the local authority selects 2 communities to represent County Galway in these "Oscars of the Community Sector" to showcase and celebrate their achievements. The Kinvara and Williamstown communities were visited by IPB Pride of Place judges in September when their group representatives made formal presentations before bringing the judges on a tour of their locality highlighting the elements of their voluntary efforts of which they are most proud.

Kinvara Tidy Towns were nominated in the "Climate Action & Biodiversity" category and showcased their collaborative efforts including the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan; planting of more than 9,000 native trees of local families, landowners, schools & community groups; and collaborative projects with Kinvara Hockey, Kinvara GAA and residents to develop habitat mapping, a biodiversity trail, and a series of wildlife and biodiversity citizen science exploration projects with local schools and ecologists.



REPRESENTATIVES OF
KINVARA TIDY TOWNS WITH
THEIR RUNNER-UP AWARD

Williamstown were nominated in the “0-300 population” category and showcased their continued restoration and development of Williamstown Mill and Millers Cottage, the delivery of a 3.3km walkway with biodiversity signage and boards on the Bog Road, and a safe walkway linking the primary schools to the GAA Grounds, in addition to other collaborative Tidy Towns projects with local schools.

REPRESENTATIVES OF
WILLIAMSTOWN
COMMUNITY GROUPS WITH
THEIR RUNNER-UP AWARD



TIDY TOWNS

The results of the National Tidy Towns Competition 2024 were announced on 1st November, with Galway communities doing the County proud. In announcing Ballincollig as the National Winner, Minister Heather Humphries acknowledged the role of Tidy Towns Volunteers saying, “You are truly an inspiration, and the embodiment of everything that is good in our communities”. Galway County is fortunate to have 45 towns and villages who enter the Tidy Towns Competition and invest huge time and effort to organise clean-ups, biodiversity and sustainability initiatives, environmental awareness workshops, and general improvement projects in town and village centres, housing estates, local amenities, and approach roads. Overall, our Groups were successful in achieving 10 Special Awards and Medals as follows:

- Milltown successful retained their Gold Medal and 1st place in the County.
- Huge congratulations to the community of Abbey who have become the second area in the County to achieve a Gold Medal and retained second place in the County.
- Huge congratulations also to the community of Tuam who become the first town in County Galway to achieve medal status, being awarded a Bronze Medal in 2024.
- An Spidéal have consolidated their excellent progress over the last number of years and retained 3rd place in the County.
- For the second year in a row, Tullycross Village has received the Endeavour Award, which is awarded to the group who have achieved the highest increase in marks since the previous year's competition. In the process, Tullycross have increased their marks in the competition by an unbelievable 69 points!
- Cuan Beo Environmental Group Kinvara were one of 4 National Winners of the Waters and Communities Award
- Oranmore Tidy Towns were the Regional Winner of the Pollinator Award for Large Towns.
- Kinvara Tidy Towns were one of 2 areas in the country who were Highly Commended under the EPA Circular Economy Award.
- Abbey Tidy Towns were the national winner of the Circular Economy Award.
- Abbeyknockmoy Parish Society were the national winner of the Gum Litter Task Force Award Village/Small Town Category and also won the overall award in this category.

NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Galway County Council was honoured as a National Award Winner at an Awards Ceremony on 7th November to celebrate age friendly initiatives across the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Themes.

The Council's innovative project, the Cnoc (Indreabhán) and Casla Bus Shelters, won the overall national award under the Age Friendly Transport Award category, sponsored by the Department of Transport. The Age Friendly Transport Award category celebrates initiatives that enhance mobility for older adults, supporting them in reaching their desired destinations safely and conveniently. The Award Category recognises that access to high-quality and reliable transport options significantly improves the quality of life for older adults, helping them maintain their independence and active engagement with the community.

Having been nominated by the Roads & Transportation Unit, the competition Judges visited the project in September, receiving a presentation on the project and meeting local residents who have been impacted positively by these vital infrastructural projects. The project was recognised for its thoughtful planning and design of the bus shelters, which specifically accommodate the needs of local people with disabilities and older adults. This was done by re-orienting the shelters to protect the users from the prevailing westerly winds and the judges praised the Council's inclusive approach and its meaningful impact on

the local community which was demonstrated through the personal stories of local users. The Council also worked closely with local residents and Elected Members, collaborating on elements such as land dedications to ensure the bus shelters were convenient to all local amenities and services.



STAFF FROM THE ROADS & TRANSPORTATION UNIT & COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT WITH GALWAY COUNTY OPC MEMBER RECEIVING THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT AWARD

The mission of Age Friendly Ireland is that Ireland will become a great place in which to grow older and the other award-winning projects demonstrate how similar initiatives can be replicated across communities:

- Age Friendly Community Innovation Award: Creative Cafes, Monaghan County Council
- Age Friendly Communication Award: Directory of Health and Social Care Services for Older People, HSE with Laois & Offaly County Councils
- Age Friendly Housing Award: Infill Age Friendly Housing at Brady's Court, South Dublin County Council
- Age Friendly Environment Award: Joint Winners were Ballymore Eustace Age Friendly & Climate Friendly Village – Kildare County Council & Creating Age Friendly & Inclusive each Access in Donegal – Donegal County Council & Community Groups
- Age Friendly Safety & Security Award: Halloween Safety Door Hanger Initiative, An Garda Síochána Kerry
- Age Friendly Business Innovation Award: Ae Friendly Care from Eir
- Age Friendly Active & Healthy Ageing Award: Rosemount GAA Social Initiative Westmeath

Other activities by Galway County Age Friendly Programme during the month were:

- Attendance at an Information Evening to establish a Men's Shed in Clifden.
- Work on reviewing the Directory of Services for Older People to issue a reprint.
- Attendance at Age Friendly Walkability Training & Business Recognition Training.

- Two “Putting your house in order” sessions have been arranged for County Galway, in partnership with the Irish Hospice and the Decision Support Service. These will provide important information for older people on planning legal, medical, financial, and personal affairs for the future.
 - Church Gallery Ballinasloe: Thursday 28th November 2.15 p.m.
 - Courthouse Oughterard: Friday 29th November 10.30 a.m.
 The Decision Support Service will be on-site to help attendees open an account on their portal.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Comhairle AGM took place on Wednesday 30th October in County Hall. Students from around the county represented their schools at the AGM. The students progressed on their topic of Mental Health with a number of break-out rooms taking place. A Steering Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th November at 4.30 p.m. to close off work on the 2024 topics which are Mental Health and Transport and confirm the chosen topics for 2025.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL COMHAIRLÍ ATTENDING THE COMHAIRLE NA NÓG AGM HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER ON WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2024

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

Galway County PPN circulated a Bi-Monthly e-Newsletter on the 1st and 15th of the month to all 1,341 member organisations, Elected Members and Council staff, which is also available to the public on the PPN website (<https://www.galwaycountyppn.ie/>) and PPN social media. The newsletter contains information relevant to PPN Members, Community Groups and Non-Profits in County Galway, under the following heading: PPN News, Council & Government News, Consultations & Public Engagement, Funding & Grants, Training &

Development, An Cúinne Gaeilge (Irish Corner), Supports & Resources, Notice Board & Events. Any submissions from Council Departments or other agencies for future newsletters should be sent to ppn@galwaycoco.ie. The PPN continues to distribute multiple consultations and funding opportunities from the Local Authority and other sources, training opportunities, and events for the community sector, via email to our members database, and on our social media.

BUILDING CAPACITY:



Lionra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chontae na Gaillimhe
Public Participation Network Galway County

REGISTER NOW:
<https://forms.office.com/e/HEANySakWg>

**GALWAY COUNTY PPN
WINTER PLENARY EVENT**

Connemara Coast Hotel
Na Forbacha (Furbo) Co. Galway **6pm - 8:30pm**

**Tuesday
19th November 2024**

REPS FROM ALL PPN MEMBER GROUPS INVITED!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Funding & Financing Opportunities
- Information Tables
- Guest Speakers
- PPN Updates
- Community, Environmental & Social Inclusion Pillars
- PPN Secretariat, Reps & Staff
- Members Votes, Approvals & Survey

Registration, Refreshments, Exhibitors **6:00pm**
Guest Speakers & More: **6:30-8:30 pm**
Contact: ppn@galwaycoco.ie | 087 233 0720

#GALWAYCOUNTYPPN
WWW.GALWAYCOUNTYPPN.IE

The PPN Workers disseminated information on multiple PPN Members Training being provided online by and for PPN's in the North-West Regional PPN Network.

The PPN Winter Plenary Event is taking place on Tuesday 19th November 2024, in the Conamara Cost Hotel, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. The Plenary (all member groups) is the key decision maker of the PPN on operational issues and local policy focus for the PPN, meeting at least twice a year. Their role is to direct the operation of the PPN, setting overall PPN policy and processes, for example agreeing the annual Workplan, the Budget and so on. Decisions made between Plenary meetings must be presented for ratification (that is, approval) to the following meeting. The Winter Plenary will include

exhibition stands on a variety of topics in addition to presentations on the workplan and budget 2024, ratification of PPN representatives from recent nomination & election processes, and a presentation on the Community Support Schemes 2025.

Galway County PPN Delegates attended the PPN National Conference in Limerick on 17th and 18th October 2024, organised by Limerick PPN to celebrate 10 years of the Public Participation Networks. Reports from the Conference and workshop presentations are available at <https://www.limerickppn.ie/national-ppn-conference-2024/>. Video from the Conference is available at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWHnW7hn8WE>





PPN SECRETARIAT MEMBERS
ATTENDING THE NATIONAL PPN
CONFERENCE:

L - R: VINCENT LYONS, MARTINA FINN,
MARIA HENEGHAN, AODÁN
MACDONNACHA

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION

The PPN has recently filled 10 of the 11 PPN Representative posts on the newly formed Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's), and a PPN election is underway to fill the remaining seat.

ARTS OFFICE

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION CRAUGHWELL – TURLOUGH WALK

Galway County Council and the OPW - Office of Public Works have been collaborating on "A River Runs through it", a Per Cent for Art Commission for Craughwell, Co. Galway.

Following the Stone Carving Festival held on Craughwell bridge in May, the stone sculpture by commissioned artist Stephen Burke is well underway. The artwork will be forming a sculptural stone seating with carved details



inspired by the Dunkellin river and Rahasane Turlough on the Bridge in Craughwell.

As part of the Artist's engagement with Craughwell, we hosted a Turlough walk on Saturday morning 2nd November at 11 a.m. led by the sculptor Stephen Burke, environmental scientist Gordon D'Arcy and Turlough shareholder Maura Lyons. , for an informal walk on the Rahasane

Turlough. The morning featured a talk on the inspiration behind the sculptures from the artists and wildlife and local history from Gordon and Maura.

GALWAY COMMUNITY YOUTH CIRCUS TUAM

After a very successful pilot programme of circus classes in Tuam in 2022, Galway Community Circus is continuing to run Youth Circus classes in Tuam with the support of



Galway County Council Arts Office. In 2024 the Circus is committed to taking a further step towards a permanent second space for Galway Community Circus in Tuam. They continue to offer limited classes while they work on a suitable space for our members.

Flea Circus in Tuam: The Flea Circus introduces children aged 5 to 7 years to circus arts through a variety of fun games and activities. At this young age, the principles of teamwork, self-belief and understanding can have their foundations, paving the way for further development as they grow older.

Junior Circus in Tuam: The Junior Circus classes are designed for young people aged 8 to 11 years. We engage in the various disciplines of circus, including aerial, manipulation, balance, acrobatics, clowning, as well as stage presence.

Classes are held at The Family Centre (TUSLA Building) Sports Hall, Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway H54 AH75 and subsidised places are offered with the support of the Arts Office.

SPARKCATCHERS TINY MUTINY

The young Artists who were successful in their applications for the 'Tiny Mutiny Project Awards' are about to embark on a journey with their mentors working towards a public showcase of new work from across the arts in the spring of 2025. The selected young artists and mentors are being guided throughout the project by Tuam based Sparkcatchers Jojo Hynes and Midie Corcoran.

The Tiny Mutiny Project Award funded by Galway County Council recipients are:

- Lauren Caine & Eske Walsh Olesen from Oughterard being mentored in Animation.
- Thomas Roche and A.N. Saville from Tuam being mentored in Graffiti.
- Ciarán Mahony from Athenry being mentored in Filmmaking.
- Cian Geraghty, Liam Carroll, Ultan Krause, Adam Nagajek who are TaLLLon, a Rock Band from South Galway being mentored in Music.



Tiny Mutiny 'First Sparks' recipient Breandán Ó Donnacha from Inis Oírr with his Graffiti mentor Garreth Joyce during their masterclass in Inis Oírr Co. Galway

Tiny Mutiny - 'Project Awards' & 'First Sparks' are trailblazing initiatives which offer creative teenagers from across the county the opportunity to realise their artistic proposals with support from professional mentors.

ART WORKSHOPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN AN SPIDÉAL

Free Art Workshops

Join us for three creative art workshops in felt making, candle making and ceramics.

Our Community Art Project aims to bring older people in the community and Ukrainian residents together for an enjoyable morning of creativity and chat.



In Park Lodge Hotel, Spiddal, H91 ETW1

Wednesday 27th November

Wednesday 4th December

Wednesday 11th December

10:00am-12:00pm

To book your place please email integrations@galwaycoco.ie by Wednesday 20 November

This project is a collaboration between the Arts & Integration teams in Galway County Council and Forum Connemara.



The Arts Office in collaboration with artist Ceara Conway and the Integration Team and Forum Connemara have put together a series of workshops for older members of the community to include Ukrainian Residents in An Spidéal.

Workshops will include Candle making with Emma Hyland, Felting with Bernie Dignam and pottery with Jacqui Ryan.

The aim is for the women to enjoy learning new creative skills and for them to have the opportunity to engage with artists and connect and integrate with the volunteer group.

CONNEMARA SEA WEEK YOUTH PROJECT

Once again, we were delighted to collaborate with the festival on a number of youth arts projects over the festival. Supporting After the Light Parade and engaging with young people to develop and arts programme that responds to climate change on a local, regional and national level.



AFTER THE LIGHT PARADE,
LETTERFRACK

YOUTHREACH GROUP
LETTERFRACK



CREATIVE IRELAND

DRAWDOWN

November is Drawdown month for Creative Ireland, which means that we have a lot of projects across the county coming to a close. It has been wonderful to see all the reports coming in and to see what a difference this funding makes to our communities all over Galway County.

CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES

The Creative Ireland Bursary Scheme gives community groups the opportunity to engage with a creative practitioner and get involved in a creative project. This year's bursaries were extremely popular. We had an over ask of €300,000. Sadly, we cannot fund everyone, but the ones who were successful really showed their value and proved to us that the panel made the right choice. The following are a few examples of the 2024 Creative Ireland Bursary Awardees.

BRÚ BHRÍDE – ENGAGE CIRCUS PROJECT

This was Brú Bhríde's second year being awarded Creative Ireland funding for this project. Each week, between 30 and 50 children attended the classes where they learned circus skills, built confidence, and made new friends. Both participants and parents reported being thrilled to have such an exciting project taking place in the town. The ages ranged from very small children up to older teens. The project was also one of the longer running ones, taking place from May until mid-October. Projects of this type are important as they give the children and young people a great opportunity to engage with creativity in a meaningful way while also allowing shyer children the time needed to warm up to a new environment and come out of their shells.



COIS CLADAIGH – AISTEAR AN TSAOIL

Cois Cladaigh are a Brothers of Charity Arts Group based in Casla, in Conamara. They carry out all of their workshops through Irish. In 2023 they ran a Creative Ireland funded project which saw the participants create self-portraits. Many of the pieces utilised found objects from the seashore. This year's continuation of this project involved a deeper dive into the participants' connection to the sea as



members of a community that was traditionally built on fishing. Using this as inspiration, the participants created beautiful ceramic boats as an expression of their identity as members of a coastal community. They also created collages on boat sails. These pieces were exhibited as part of the Clifden Arts Festival. They are currently on exhibit in Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc. This exhibition was launched by Éamon Ó Cuív who spoke very highly of the contribution of Galway County Council to this important and impactful body of work. Attendees were also treated to piece of trad music which the group had written with their teachers, and there was even some impromptu dancing!

GALWAY TRAVELLER MOVEMENT – RECLAIMING CULTURAL SPACES

For 2024, Galway Traveller Movement ran a large-scale programme of cultural events as part of the Ballinasloe Horse Fair and the Misleór Festival. Reports on the day were that they were the best part of the festival. GTM showcased local talent and got great participation from the Traveller community on the day. They presented a display of Beady Pockets and the artwork of the young people who engage with the Ballinasloe Traveller Women’s Group. Over 500 people were engaged throughout the day. Tom McDonnell gave a live demonstration of tin smithing and Margaret Carr and Francis Ward entertained the crowds with their music. Show Time Media also showcased 10 short films promoting Traveller and nomadic cultures.

GORT ARTS GROUP – FITE FUAITE 2: EXPLORING CREATIVITY IN GORT



Gort Arts Groups are truly going from strength to strength in their creative programming. Over the course of 2024, they held workshops in Print Making, Lantern Making, and Eco Art. They also held workshops in specific locations to target harder to reach groups. These were a Movement and Expression workshop with the Brothers of Charity, Painting for Wellbeing

with the Gort Cancer Support Centre, and Live Music at Rosemount Nursing Home. In total almost 100 people engaged with these free to attend workshops. The variety of areas covered and commitment to ensuring that Creativity is accessible for everyone is a true testament to the ethos of the Creative Communities programme and one that we are proud to support.

LIMELIGHT CREATIVE ARTS – SENSORYSCAPE

Last, but by no means least, we have Limelight Creative Arts. This is a Brothers of Charity Arts Centre based in Oranmore. The service users of Limelight are no strangers to creativity. In recent years they have produced a stop motion animation film, exhibitions of paintings, and even an original piece of theatre. This year, with funding from Creative Ireland and Galway County Council, the 20 service users at Limelight attended a series of 24 pottery workshops. During these sessions they had the opportunity to experiment with several different ceramic techniques, including surface design, glazing, printing, and firing in the kiln. They then installed a large metal plate in the sensory room. The students attached magnets to the objects they created so that they can arrange them into a decorative mandala on the metal sheet. We have been informed by Limelight that the participants showed such an interest in the medium that they will be continuing the project over the

next year adding to the sculpture and allowing them to rotate the design through the seasons.

LOOKING FORWARD

As the 2024 Season of Creative Ireland funding draws to a close, we are looking forward at our 2025 programme. Planning has already begun on how to utilise this stream of funding to its fullest potential. The 2025 Creative Ireland Bursary Programme will be opening for applications in mid-December 2024 with a view to allowing awardees to begin their projects as early as February 2025. As this programme continues to grow, it is incredibly exciting to see the creativity of our communities shine through in such a wide variety of ways. We are looking forward to seeing what creative ideas the people of County Galway come up with for 2025.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

COUCH TO 5K

Galway Sports Partnership through HSE Funding is running Couch to 5k programmes in Clifden, Loughrea and Westside.

These 6-week programmes are suitable for beginners/ walkers and those new to running at three locations in November: Loughrea, Westside and Clifden.

The couch to 5km programme starts with a series of run-walk intervals to get participants moving gradually with a progressive six-week plan that brings participants from walking to jogging and running. This highly popular programme works as it gives participants an element of accountability, support and confidence, under the supervision of an experienced coach.



INCLUSIVE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Galway Sports Partnership through Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub in partnership with Coral Leisure Ballinasloe started an Inclusive Swim Programme for Children with additional needs. The programme had 8 participants with an age range of 5-14 year of age and all were supported throughout the programme by a parent/guardian to help build the confidence of both the participant in the water and also the parent/guardian. This programme was available free of charge through Dormant Account and HSE Funding. Due to demand another programme is scheduled for early 2025 and it is also hoped to extend this programme to more areas in 2025.



SCHOOLS WATER SAFETY

Galway Sports Partnership worked in collaboration with Water Safety Ireland's Rosie Reid under the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub initiative to deliver a practical Water Safety programme to 154 first year's students of Garbally College and Ard Scoil Mhuire in support of the Junior Cycle Physical

Education aim to meeting the Junior Cycle PE Curriculum strand 2 learning outcome 2.9.

Demonstrate an understanding of personal survival and water safety considerations. The students had a great time learning in a practical fun environment with lots of physical activity incorporated.



PRIMARY SCHOOLS BASKETBALL PROGRAMME

Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub initiative in partnership with Basketball Ireland commenced an 8-week programme in Ballinasloe's four primary schools - Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh, Creagh N.S. and Newtown N.S. The programme supplied the schools with 102 basketballs and a professional Basketball player from the United States who is playing with University of Galway and working with Basketball Ireland coaching. 501 students will get the opportunity to learn the skills of basketball with improving their fundamental movement skills concurrently.



BALLINASLOE MID TERM ATHLETIC CAMP

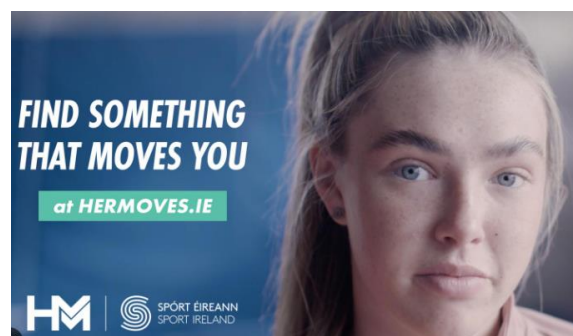
Galway Sports Partnership through the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub initiative in collaboration with Ballinasloe and District Athletics Club, Involve Youth Services and JK Fitness delivered a very enjoyable FUN-damental Movement Skills “Pilot” Halloween Camp in the Dunlo Recreational Athletics Track on 29th & 30th October to 46 children over 4 hours



split between the two days. The improvement in fundamental movement skills over the 4 hours was outstanding proving the effectiveness of this programme.

WOMEN IN SPORT

A new HER Moves campaign was launched by Sport Ireland to focused on teenage girls with the launch of their new film on October 11th, the International Day of the Girl. It aims to amplify girl’s voices and spark discussion around the complex issues they say contribute to them dropping out of sport.



Galway Sports Partnership was successful under a Dormant Accounts application through Sport Ireland for a specific HER Moves initiative which will be starting in 2025.

TEENAGE GIRLS IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY – MYTHS, STRENGTH TRAINING & NUTRITION

Orna Murray will return for her second online workshop on Thursday 14th November at 7pm, this time covering topics that were chosen with the feedback from our last webinar in May 2024. Orna is co-founder of Move2B, a



platform that aims to provide information and evidence-based solutions to prevent teenage girls from disengaging or dropping out from sport and physical activity. These workshops are extremely insightful and are a great avenue for people working with teenage girls to learn how they can better cater for this cohort.

SPORT IRELAND COACHING TEENAGE GIRLS WORKSHOP

Galway Sports Partnership will deliver Sport Ireland Coaching “Teenage Girls Workshop” for the first time in Galway on December 11th at 6.30-9.30pm. The workshop aims to support and educate coaches to specificities of teenage girls and sport. It will be co-delivered by Galway Sports Partnership staff who are trained tutors.

The interactive format will offer opportunities for experience sharing while equipping

Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport Workshop

coaches with best practice solutions they can adapt to their own setting.



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



Designed specifically to support coaches of girls aged 12-17 years of age in all sports

WOMEN AND GIRLS GYM PROGRAMMES

Funded through Sport Ireland women in Sport Funding Galway Sports Partnership is running this programme in Letterfrack, Loughrea, Tuam and Ballinasloe.

The 6-week programme in a gym environment

encourages women & teen girls to be more comfortable and confident to exercise on their own and to train effectively towards their goals. Fun is central to the programme, with each session delivered in a positive and empowering environment. These classes are suitable for all levels of fitness and designed to engage women and girls back to exercise with an opportunity to learn and improve their fitness.

RURAL FUNDING SCHEMES

CLÁR

The annual Clár programme allocations were announced for Co Galway on 7th October and all 15 projects submitted by Galway County Council to the Department of Rural and Community Development were awarded funding, giving a total allocation of €724,755 in the County. This investment marks continued support for rural communities to sustain community meeting places, amenities and infrastructural upgrades.

Community Group/Facility	Project Description	Amount awarded
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal - Ballygar National School	New Multi Use Games Area surface, upgrading the currently 39-year-old tarmac play area. This addresses several critical needs within Ballygar's community: delivering high-quality all-weather training and playing areas for local sports teams who currently travel elsewhere, as well as serving as an inclusive hub for	€50,000.00

	community events - supporting Tidy Towns, Ballygar Carnival, and Ballygar Heritage Group - all in the heart of the village.	
Kilchreest National School Board of Management	This project by Kilchreest National School Board of Management will deliver a 700m walking track providing an accessible, safe facility next to the National School, accessible to families, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The hill to rear of the site will be removed in preparation for new astro turf pitch location, opening views of natural surrounds. Picnic benches and Age Friendly seating will be installed to perimeter of track with development to enhance existing flora and fauna.	€50,000.00
Roundstone Community Development Council Ltd (Playground Committee)	This project managed by Roundstone Playground Committee will enhance the playground in the village centre of this Coastal Conamara spot, which attracts a high volume of visitors. Current timber fencing blocks views and is in a state of disrepair, as is kerbing and wet pour. Upgrades to these will maintain the safety of visitors, including an appropriate steel fence, hedging to act as a wind barrier and contribute to biodiversity, and new play equipment reflecting Risk Assessment requirements.	€50,000.00
Williamstown Development Company CLG, Supported by Williamstown GAA Club & National School	This project will complete the two-acre field adjacent to Williamstown National School and the local GAA club purchased in 2019, improving access for walkers/runners, parents with buggies and wheelchair users by installing smooth tarmac and kerbs. Among installations are; upgrades to playing pitch and playground for senior students, sensory garden to engage children with plants. Landscaping will enhance the green area with seating and picnic facilities, promoting beauty and biodiversity.	€50,000.00
Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd & SNO Club (Special Needs +Others)	This community-led project will enhance the existing inclusive playground by adding equipment for teenagers, adults and retired people, addressing the needs of the ageing community. This will introduce additional sensory seating, planting, a boules area, an age and disability inclusive swing, a sensory path with tactile surfacing, and more. An 'adult' playground will enable inclusive	€50,000.00

	participation, particularly for local adults with intellectual disabilities and nursing home residents.	
Moylough Parish Sports Field	The project driven by local volunteers will upgrade the playground at Moylough Parish Sports Field, replacing existing 21-year-old equipment and ground cover. The scope of the works involved include; Installation of new Multi Play Area, Swings, Swing Basket, Butterfly Game Station, Inclusive Springer, Zip Line Repairs, surfacing (coloured Wetpour), and improved security fencing along with Independent Safety Inspection and bedding area for wildflowers to enhance biodiversity.	€50,000.00
Leenane Development Association CLG	This will enhance the existing community park developed by Leenane Development Association CLG in 2023 by installing sensory play equipment known to improve cognition, emotional regulation, and social skills in children. The park has been a success for the area, attracting visitors across Conamara to walk and explore while enjoying spectacular views of the Killary Fjord. The improvements will appeal to children and make the walking trail more exciting for the local community and visitors.	€45,000.00
Dunmore Tidy Towns & Galway County Council	This project delivered by Dunmore Tidy Towns & Galway County Council will enhance the safety, accessibility and biodiversity features of Dunmore River Walk, a popular Community Park linking the town centre to key community facilities and used on a daily basis. Improvements to infrastructure include; replace fencing which has become dangerously deficient in places, improve the width and condition of walkways for accessibility, provide bins, and plant native species to enhance visual appearance.	€50,000.00
Clontuskert Community Development Group	This project managed by Clontuskert Community Development Group will further upgrade the community hub built in the 1980s to a standard which will attract more community events. Insulation, electrics, plumbing, bathrooms, windows, entrance gates will all be replaced, with installation of baby change facilities in the disabled bathroom, larger vehicle gates, secure lock system and storage heaters. This will increase use by local groups: Heritage, Crochet, IFA, Hurling, and Camogie.	€45,000.00

Killimordaly Community Centre CLG	This project managed by Killimordaly Community Centre CLG will replace and insulate the Community Centre roof, which is leaking and contains asbestos, allowing the roof to retain heat and make the community space more inviting. This investment will facilitate an increase in public events, events targeted at our older and younger generations, including use by Foróige club and Community Alert Group. This upgraded community hub will increase participation and inclusion among a large catchment area.	€50,000.00
Killererin Community Council	This project will deliver critical roof repairs for Barnaderg Community Centre. The upgrades to slates, lighting, vents, and guttering will ensure a safe space for the events enjoyed by the community, ranging from senior citizen gatherings, dance classes for 4/5-year-olds, and Foroige youth clubs. Once fit for purpose again, Killererin Community Council plan to refurbish the centre's polytunnel, plant flowers, and make a 'bee hotel', to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity.	€49,455.92
Woodford Parish Development	This project managed by Woodford Parish Development will upgrade the community playground based on feedback from users of the playground including local primary and secondary schools. Wood fibre will be upgraded to tiger mulch for safety, sensory equipment and accessible picnic benches will be installed, and maintenance equipment including leaf blowers and hedge cutters will be purchased for playground volunteers. This will maximise its use as a vital community asset in the village centre.	€50,000.00
Esker Community Centre	This project managed by Esker Community Centre will replace windows and doors, upgrade toilets, and replace kitchen and all internal/external lighting with energy-efficient lights. Esker Community Centre, where no works have been carried out since 1990, is central to all community activity in this rural population of approx. 750 people, where local voluntary, sporting, recreational, farming and cultural groups meet on a regular basis.	€48,261.82

Kilconly Community Recreational Group	This project will add Tennis and Basketball Courts to the now well-known multi-use outdoor recreation facility managed by Kilconly Community Recreational Group, diversifying facilities beyond Soccer, GAA, and walkways, widening possibilities for all ages and abilities. These courts will allow for Tennis and Basketball clubs and annual camps to be set up, encouraging new members of the community as well as visitors from further away to join the activity at Fitz's Field.	€44,730.00
Gort Community Playground	This volunteer-driven project will install a net climbing frame in the Playground opposite Gort Community School, appropriate for ages 5+ and can cater for up to 38 children, filling a gap in age-appropriate equipment. The project will also replace no longer functioning equipment with new accessible alternatives which will allow independent, exciting free play for a larger number of participants. Investment will give the children of Gort access to more enjoyable facilities.	€42,307.20

2024/2025 ORIS (OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME)

Applications are currently invited for the 2024/2025 ORIS (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme) which has been launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement, or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme is funded under “Our Rural Future” which specifically prioritises the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as part of a long-term vision for a vibrant and sustainable rural Ireland. In line with Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors, outdoor recreation is defined as activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming. It does not include activities that take place outdoors on confined courses or pitches (such as golf, football, and showjumping) or motorised activities (such as quads/scramblers). Consequently, such activities are not eligible for funding under ORIS.

Projects must be shovel-ready with Planning Permission in place (except Project Development Measure). All landowner consents must be in place. It is a requirement for all ORIS measures that planning permission (if required) must be obtained in advance of submitting the application. If the project has not yet secured planning permission, the submission of an application should be postponed. Funding available under the 2024/2025 scheme and deadlines are outlined below:

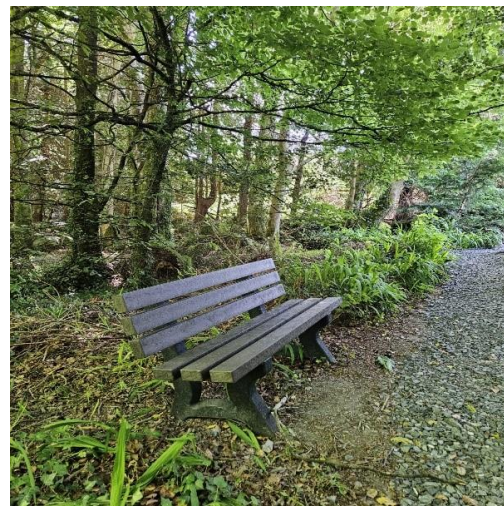
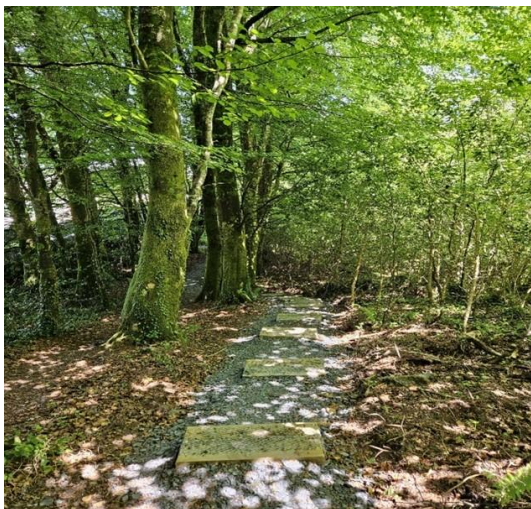
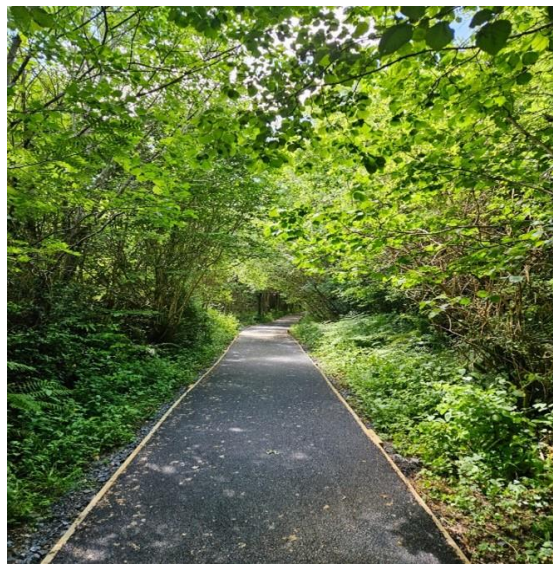
Measure	Application Deadline to Galway County Council	Approval Date (Indicative)	Timeline for Project Completion
Measure 1 – €40,000 Small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing	4.00 p.m. January 10 th 2025	Qtr. 2 2025	18 months
Measure 2 – €200,000 Medium scale repair/upgrade and new trail/amenity development	4.00 p.m. February 21 st 2025	Qtr. 3 2025	24 months
Measure 3 – €500,000 Large scale repair/upgrade and new strategic trail/amenity development	4.00 p.m. February 21 st 2025	Qtr. 3 2025	24 months
<p>Project Development Measure - €50,000</p> <p>Eligible Activity:</p> <p><i>A Pre-Planning (GCC Planning Dept) meeting must have been undertaken to determine the viability of the Project.</i></p> <p>Eligible Activity: This Measure will provide funding for the detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or 3 of ORIS. Such work might encompass detailed design, preparation for planning and/or procurement, appropriate assessment, ecological surveys etc.</p>			

Links: [ORIS 2024/205 Scheme Launch](#)

MAIGH CUILINN, (MAIGH CUILINN) KILLARAINY WOODS TRAIL – ORIS SCHEME OFFICIAL OPENING

Senator Sean Kyne recently attended the official opening of the Killarainey Woods Trail in Maigh Cuilinn. The trail received €103,950.00 in funding under the Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022.

ORIS SCHEME OFFICAL OPENING - PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEAN LYDON PHOTOGRAPHY



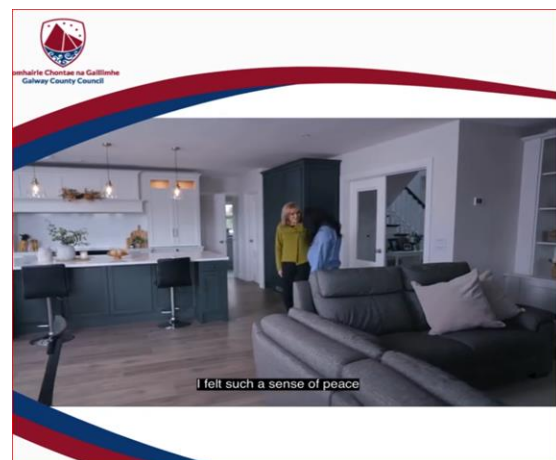
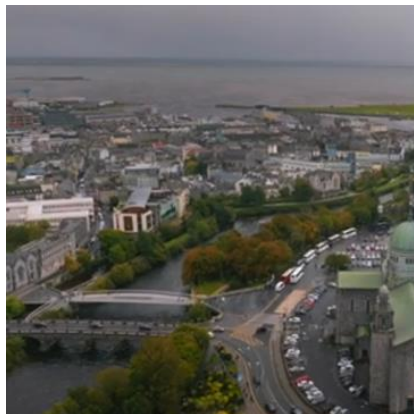
MOVING WEST – GALWAY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The 'Moving West' series showcasing County Galway as a viable and exciting destination for those who may be considering relocating aired on Tuesday 29th October on TG4. Funded by Galway County Council, in partnership with Galway City Council, Western Development Commission and TG4. (Atlantic Economic Corridor). The third episode of the series focused on Galway County and City with over 1,612 views on Facebook.

Links: [Moving West - Galway promo](#)

[Galway Advertiser - Moving West article](#)

Liam Conneally, chief executive of Galway County Council said: *"We are delighted to partner with the WDC in promoting the benefits for those relocating to County Galway and highlighting how such a move delivers an enhanced quality for life for the individuals concerned and injects new life into our rural communities. Galway's vibrant culture, balanced lifestyle, stunning landscapes, quality local services and sense of community makes the County an attractive location for families and individuals to relocate to."*



TOURISM

DESTINATION AND EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EAST GALWAY (DEDP)



As part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Development Tourism Strategy there is currently a DEDP in progress for East Galway.

The purpose of the DEDP is to prioritise and coordinate all tourism development activity in the destination around a single

five-year sustainable vision which is prepared and owned by both public and private sector stakeholder. The ultimate goal is to motivate visitors to stay longer and spend more in the destination.

The Tourism Officer and EU Just Transition Activator are working closely with Failte Ireland to highlight positive opportunities in the region. Additionally, they are recruiting a working group to collaborate with Galway County Council and Failte Ireland on completing the DEDP

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

Following on from Octobers update there is now a total of 23 EOIs that have been approved for application stage. The focus is now on preparing full applications, with a submission deadline of 13th January 2025. Projects that require planning permission must have it in place before the application submission.

To date, two applications have been submitted with five more expected next week. Work continues on the other applications, with some pending planning approvals. Two applications have been approved. The Activator will continue supporting applicants to help as many as possible meet the deadline and will provide ongoing support and guidance for successful projects.

TOURISM – ADVERTISING



The Tourism Department continues to invest in a County based marketing spread with *'This is Galway'* magazine, we published in all editions for 2024, and now the final Nov/Dec edition. We focused on promoting our Christmas Markets that are happening around the county and highlighting all that there is to offer. Hotels and businesses use the magazine on an ongoing basis and the Tourism

Department has received very positive feedback.

TOURISM POLICY FRAMEWORK – FAILTE IRELAND

Failte Ireland has welcomed the publication of the new Tourism Policy Framework for the period to 2030 by the Minister Catherine Martin TD.



The framework aligns with Failte Irelands ambition to foster and develop a sustainable visitor economy that channels tourism revenue into communities across the country, enabling them to flourish and thrive, and making them better places to

live and visit.

It is an exciting time to be part of the tourism industry in Ireland. This document has 61 recommendations with 5.6% revenue growth each year to 2030. The Tourism Department will continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GLENAMADDY SHOW



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WAS REPRESENTED BY STAFF FROM THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION AND THE LIBRARY SERVICE AT THE GLENAMADDY AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN SEPTEMBER.

ANTI-LITTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

COUNCILLORS FROM TUAM MD SIGNED UP TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-LITTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



SOCIAL MEDIA



SCHOOLS



All schools in the county have been invited to take part in the WEEE Ireland battery recycling competition. There are prizes to the value of €2000 for sports equipment.



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN BASED ON MYWASTE.IE ASSETS

BURIAL GROUNDS

Part 8 submissions for the extension of burial grounds in Leitir Moir and Kilconieron were submitted in October.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Galway County Council continued to provide interim emergency veterinary services assistance to Mayo County Council. The primary duty being antemortem and postmortem inspections in 5 abattoirs approved by Mayo County Council. This assistance was provided for in a Section 86 agreement between both local authorities which runs from 1st September 2024 to 31st October 2024.

So far in 2024: 943 bovines, 5,912 ovines and 92 poultry have been processed through local abattoirs.

DOG CONTROL

On October 1st, 2024, regulations came into force prohibiting the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bullies.

A new system of certification for existing owners of XL Bully dogs is now in place and over the period 1st October 2024 to 1st February 2025 all existing XL Bully owners will have to apply for a Certificate of Exemption.

Certificates of Exemption will be issued subject to strict criteria, including a requirement for licensing, microchipping and neutering.

After 1st February 2025, any owner not compliant with the new regulations will have their dog seized and euthanized.

Three applications for certificates of exemption have been received by Galway County Council to date.

Galway County Council dog warden and veterinary personnel attended a further training programme on the identification of XL Bully Type Dogs which was held in Dublin on the 20th of October. An initial training programme was also completed by the service in September.

The Department of Rural and Community Development has committed funding under the Dog Control Support Initiative to the local authorities again in October 2024 with Galway County Council receiving an allocation of €67,967 in capital funding. This amount was also received in 2023.

It is proposed to use a substantial part of the funding allocated to carry out upgrade works to the shelter which will help futureproof the service in respect of the health and wellbeing of the dogs in our care as well as assisting in improving health and safety for the dog wardens, shelter keeper and veterinary personnel on site.

851 dog licenses were purchased for the month of September, 306 of which were purchased online with the balance purchased through the local post office.

5 fixed penalty notices were issued to dog owners during the months of July and August for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

2 sheep attacks were reported to the service during October 2024, in the Kilasolan and Kilconnell areas of the County.

Galway County Council have partnered with MADRA regarding rolling out a pilot programme, MADRA'S Talking Dog Workshops, to schools in the county. This program had been trialed initially in Galway City. These are educational and fun dog-focused workshops and will be provided to 3rd and 4th class students. This programme will commence in December 2024.

WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

AGRICULTURE

A meeting was held with LAWPRO in relation to planning Agricultural inspections in November and December 2024. A number of waterbodies have been chosen in at risk areas and in protected areas. Inspections will be carried out in the following waterbody areas:

- Kilcolgan_020
- Owenriff (Corrib)_010
- Glennamucka_010

The council received a red dot notification from the EPA in relation to an EPA monitoring point near Gurteen village in east Galway. A red dot notification is where a monitoring point has dropped 2 or more classes since the previous time it was sampled. It dropped from satisfactory in 2021 to poor in 2024. This monitoring point is in the Glennamucka_010 waterbody. Water sampling has been carried out recently by environment staff in this waterbody, upstream of the EPA monitoring point.



Testing included checks for presence of pesticides and herbicides. This testing reported satisfactory results. 16 farms have been inspected with high GAP compliance rates recorded. 3 more farms have yet to be inspected.

EPA MONITORING POINT FOR GLENNAMUCKA_010 WATERBODY

Environment section staff presented to two different groups of farmers on the 21st of October in the Ard Ri hotel in Tuam. The main part of the presentation was on water quality protection and farming. The talk outlined the planned increase in farm inspections that will be carried out by Galway County Council.

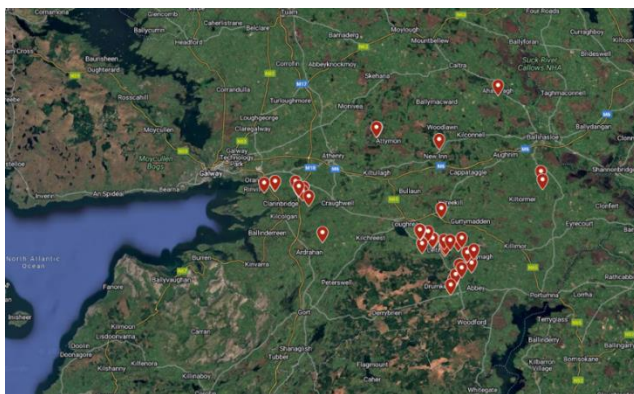
Galway County Council is required to carry out 38 planned inspections in 2024, with this doubling to 76 in 2025. There was also a presentation on septic tanks and the national inspection plan. The talk presented the downward trend of water quality across the country and that agriculture has the greatest impact on a number of water bodies and these areas are where the inspections will be focused, i.e. poorly draining soils, etc.

SCREENSHOT FROM FARMERS JOURNAL



NATIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAMME

Septic tank inspections for 2024 were completed in October with a total of 235 for the year. This is a very large increase compared with 2023. Staff are busy at present issuing certs of



compliance or advisory notices and following up on previous advisory notices issued.

LOCATIONS OF FAILED 2024 SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

TRAINING

Training took place in Castlebar on dealing with Aggressive Behaviour. Administration and technical staff often must deal with this kind of behaviour from members of the public and so this training is important for health and safety and gaining positive outcomes to problems encountered.

Oil Pollution incident command training also took place in Limerick. Two members of water quality team attended.

Environment Inspection Skills training took place in Castlebar. A solicitor with 30 years' experience in this area presented. Valuable information was gathered here on various aspects of taking enforcement cases, such as keeping contemporaneous notes, interviewing, gathering evidence and statutory time frames for taking cases for different legislation. Five members of the water quality team attended.

PLANNING

Staff attended a number of Large Residential Development pre-planning meetings, most of which were proposed housing developments. There was also a meeting in relation to Sceirde Rocks Off-shore wind farm. This was the last meeting with Galway County Council pre-submission of planning application.



SCEIRDE ROCKS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

12 litter fines were issued by the Community Warden service during the month of October.



We had several cases before the District Court in October all of which were adjourned.

One case to note is a prosecution under the Waste Management Act against an individual who is responsible for an unauthorised scrap yard. This individual is renting his yard to third parties who are breaking cars and exporting containers of car parts to Africa. As part of our investigations a multi-agency inspection was carried out with the TFS. As a result of this, 3 containers were stopped from leaving the country as they

contained waste car parts and engines that were not depolluted. The TFS is taking separate legal action against the owner and operators of the site.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

4 warning letters, 3 Section 18 Notices and 2 Section 55 Notices were issued under the Waste Management Act in October.

7 files were sent to the Law Agents for prosecution.

AIR POLLUTION / SOLID FUEL REGS

A meeting was held between Galway County Council, Galway City Council and the Revenue Commissioners relating to ongoing investigations into fuel suppliers that are placing unauthorised coal on the market. Following this meeting GCC staff carried out some surveillance on some of the alleged offenders.

Staff will attend the annual EPA clean air conference in November. Following on from this we hope to have more guidance as to how best to approach these investigations.

WERLA

Management attended the CUWERLA Steering Group meeting, and the Operations Team meeting. Members of the waste enforcement team attended the quarterly Waste Enforcement Officers WERLA meeting at their offices in Carrick on Shannon

A meeting was facilitated between CUWERLA and Barna Recycling relating to the roll out of Brown Bins/ food bins to the entire County. Both Barna Recycling and Panda will not meet the deadline of end of year for complete roll out of food bins to all their customers. These are the 2 biggest collectors in the Connaught region, therefore if they are not meeting targets the entire region is falling short. WERLA have indicated that they intend to take legal action in the new year in relation to this matter.

ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE 2024

A Bulky Goods collection was carried out in Loughrea in October, approximately 10 tonnes of bulky items were collected.

Total amount claimed for 9 projects was €100,035.81.

1. CCTV Equipment
2. Bulky Goods Collections - 84 tonnes collected
3. Clean up - Ballinasloe – 115 tonnes of waste removed
4. Anti-Litter Radio Adverts
5. School Uniform Reuse
6. Clean up – Tuam – 6.5 tonnes of waste removed
7. Clean up – Abbey Bog – 5 tonnes of waste removed
8. Bulky Goods / Paint Collections Inisboffin

9. New GDPR compliant CCTV Signage

CCTV PROGRESS

DPIA is nearing completion. We had several productive meetings with the consultants, and we hope to have all relevant documentation in place by quarter one 2025.

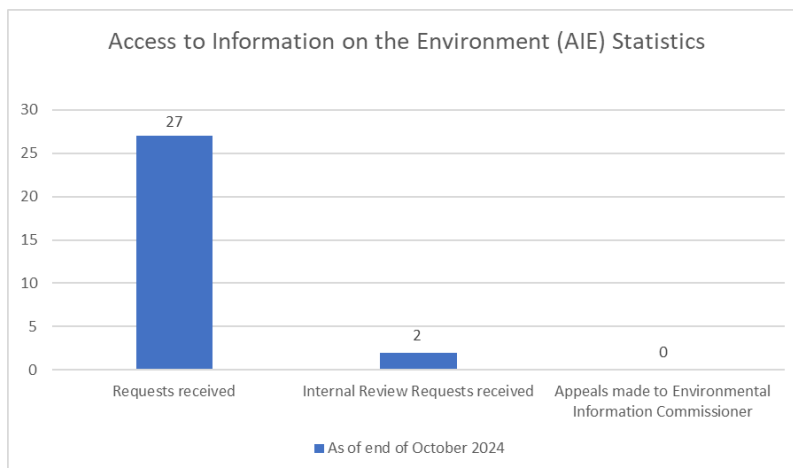
CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

CORPORATE SERVICES

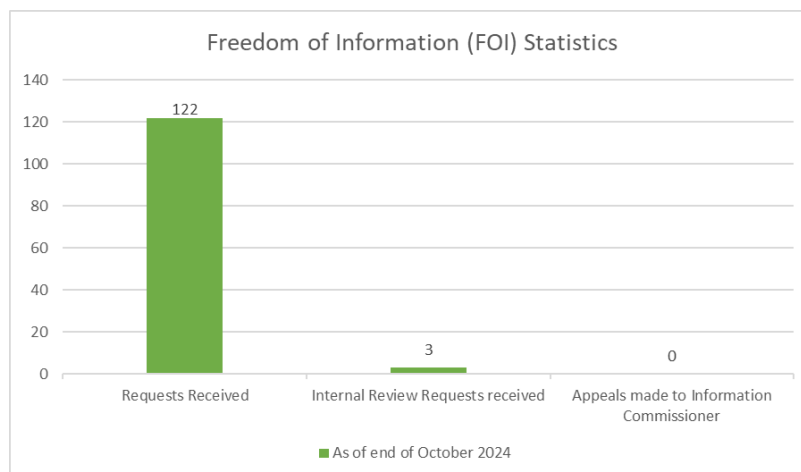
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.10.24

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.10.24

- **21 Data Access Requests**

- 15 Data Subject Access Requests
- 6 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 Q1
- GDPR Induction Workshops provided for Lifeguards and Community Wardens
- Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletters circulated to all Staff
- Online Data Protection/GDPR Training facilitated for the Elected Members of GCC
- Cyber Security Training Videos & Quiz assigned to all Staff Q4

LOCAL AUTHORITY CORPORATE PLAN 2025-2029 AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DUTY

The public consultation period for our draft Corporate Plan 2025-2029 was conducted last month for a period of three weeks. The final Public Sector Duty assessment and reviews of the draft Plan were completed thereafter, and it is now being presented to yourselves, the Elected Members, for your consideration and if deemed appropriate, adaptation of same.



AUDIT COMMITTEE

The inaugural meeting of newly appointed Audit Committee was held on Tuesday, November 5th in the Council Chamber. Dr. Martina Moloney, former Chief Executive of Galway County Council and former member of National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) was elected Chairperson of the Audit Committee for the current term. Also on the committee are Ms. Sarah Roarty and Mr. Séamus Duffy who sat on the previous committee,

accompanied by elected members Cllr. Ollie Turner and Cllr. Mary Hoade. The committee were welcomed by Mr. Liam Conneally Chief Executive and by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Albert Dolan. The Audit Committee is an integral component of Galway County Council's Corporate Governance framework. It serves an independent advisory role to the Council, focusing on financial reporting processes, promoting sound accounting practices and enhancing internal control and risk management. Additionally, the Committee supports the Internal Audit Unit and maintains a strong emphasis on value for money across the organisation. The meeting was facilitated by the Ms. Eileen Ruane Director for Corporate Services, along with the committee's secretary Ms. Eibhlín Curran, Head of Internal Audit. The members had a productive meeting setting out their approach and objectives for the forthcoming term.



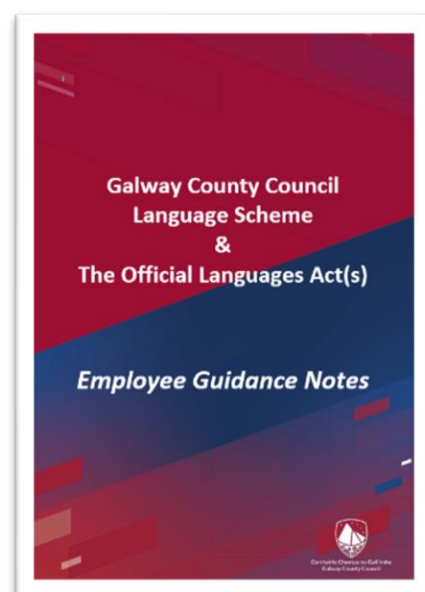
LEFT TO RIGHT: LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. OLLIE TURNER, CLLR. MARY HOADE (AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS), LIAM CONNEALLY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DR. MARTINA MOLONEY (AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON), CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. ALBERT DOLAN, MS. SARAH ROARTY (AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER), MS. EILEEN RUANE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, MS. EIBHLÍN CURRAN HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT & MR. SÉAMUS DUFFY (AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER)

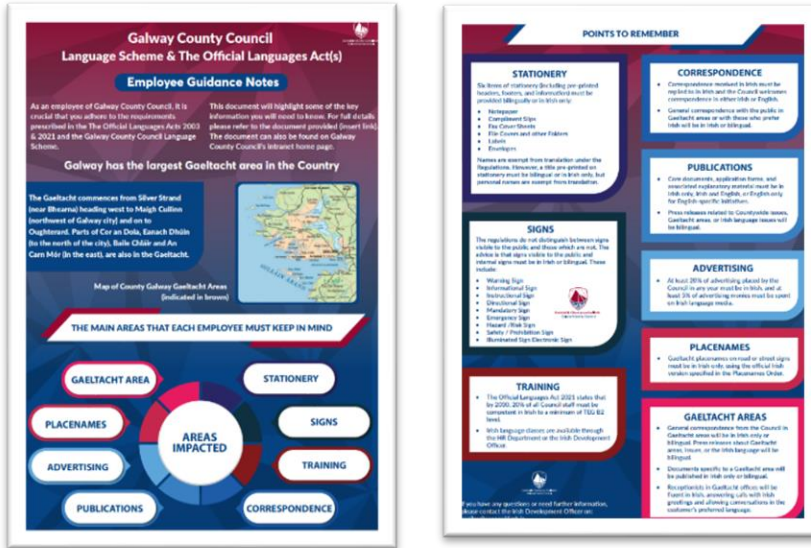
IRISH OFFICE

LANGUAGE SCHEME AND THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT(S) - EMPLOYEE GUIDANCE NOTES

As part of improving our own internal communications within Galway County Council both for new employees being onboarded and indeed, to refresh the knowledge of our existing employees, we are launching new Employee Guidance Notes covering our Language Scheme and The Official Languages Act(s).

The purpose of these documents are to address frequently asked questions and pay particular attention to the key areas impacted such as stationery, signs, training, correspondence, publications, advertising, placenames and Gaeltacht Area.





It is expected that the Guidance Notes will be well received.

IRISH CLASSES FOR STAFF AND COUNCILLORS

As we continue our preparations in the lead up to 2030 to have 20% of our staff proficient in the use of Irish, we have rolled out Irish classes for staff with a new term having commenced on November 12th for a period of 10 weeks. Classes for Councillors will commence in January post the General Election period. The staff classes commencing this month had 64 employees registered alone for this new term.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

 www.facebook.com/galwaycounty

 www.twitter.com/galwaycoco

 www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

Overview of Social Media Activity

40,046
 **1.7%**
from 39,371
Fans & Followers

483
Total Posts
Irish 47.6%
(230 posts)

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 169 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page, with a reach of 82.7k. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 81 times this month with followers and had a reach of 4.4k. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 214k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council Facebook follower count was 19,219 as of October 31st, 2024, with age ranges between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 20.9% of this age group are women and 10.6% are men. The second largest audience group are those aged between 45-54, with 20% women and 8.3% male.

In total, 35% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 65% are female.

OCTOBER’S TOP THREE POSTS

<p>1 Galway County Council Oct 20</p> <p>⚠ Fógra / Notice - #StormAshley Update ⚠ Severe Weather Road Closure...</p> <p>Severe weather Road Closures</p> <p>ALL SEVERE WEATHER ROAD CLOSURES CAN BE SEEN ON OUR PUBLIC INFORMATION PORTAL LINKED BELOW OR IN OUR INSTAGRAM BIO.</p> <p>Galway County Council would like to remind members of the public to not travel during the current weather warning</p> <p>10K Post impressions</p>	<p>2 Galway County Council Oct 8</p> <p>The Author Nuala Farrell-Griffin, M.A., genealogist, and historian, visited the lo...</p> <p>7.5K Post impressions</p>	<p>3 Galway County Council Oct 19</p> <p>⚠ Fógra / Notice - #StormAshley Update ⚠ Possible Flooding / Waves Ov...</p> <p>POSSIBLE FLOODING / WAVES OVER TOPPING SEA WALL</p> <p>HIGH TIDE AND STORM SURGE PREDICTED FOR THE RESS COAST ROAD BELTWEEN CRANMURLE AND ROSCAM PLEASE USE R156 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY DURING CURRENT TYPICAL WARNING.</p> <p>7.3K Post impressions</p>
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X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 80 tweets with 22.2k impressions. Galway County Council’s account gained a total of 6 followers, bringing the total following as of the 30th of September 2024 to 16, 939.

OCTOBER’S TOP THREE POSTS

<p>1 @GalwayCoCo Oct 19</p> <p>⚠ Fógra / Notice - #StormAshley Update ⚠ Possible Flooding / Waves Ov...</p> <p>POSSIBLE FLOODING / WAVES OVER TOPPING SEA WALL</p> <p>HIGH TIDE AND STORM SURGE PREDICTED FOR THE RESS COAST ROAD BELTWEEN CRANMURLE AND ROSCAM PLEASE USE R156 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY DURING CURRENT TYPICAL WARNING.</p> <p>3.3K Post impressions</p>	<p>2 @GalwayCoCo Oct 20</p> <p>⚠ Fógra / Notice - #StormAshley Update ⚠ Severe Weather Road Closure...</p> <p>Severe weather Road Closures</p> <p>ALL SEVERE WEATHER ROAD CLOSURES CAN BE SEEN ON OUR PUBLIC INFORMATION PORTAL LINKED BELOW OR IN OUR INSTAGRAM BIO.</p> <p>Galway County Council would like to remind members of the public to not travel during the current weather warning</p> <p>3.3K Post impressions</p>	<p>3 @GalwayCoCo Oct 19</p> <p>#StormAshley - For severe weather-related issues, such as fallen trees, flooding etc,...</p> <p>NUASHONRÚ RABHAIDH AIMSIRE</p> <p>2.5K Post impressions</p>
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INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 118 posts to Galway County Council’s Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function 37 times this month

with followers as well as sharing 12 reels. Galway County Council's overall reach for this period was 8.1k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page. Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 71.8% being female and 28.2% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 36.6% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 27.1% women and 9.5% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 1308 in August 2024 to 1368 followers by the 30th of September 2024.

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS



LINKEDIN

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 372 new followers, bringing the total following to 2,374 as of the 31st October 2024.

Galway County Council shared 20 posts with a total of 20.2k impressions this month.

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

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

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS



YOUTUBE

AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

During this period on YouTube, Galway County Council's account has 33 subscribers as of 31st October 2024. Customer Services utilised the 'Shorts' function 1 time this month with followers as well as sharing 3 new videos on Galway County Council's YouTube channel, with a total of 267 views over this period.

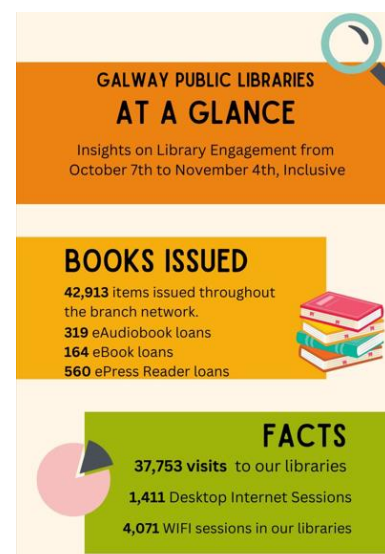
LIBRARY SERVICES & ARCHIVES

Galway Public Libraries provide an extensive array of services to the community and fulfil the key actions set out in national policy on the provision of an inclusive library service.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MOBILE SERVICES

Outreach events provide an opportunity for Galway Public Libraries to promote our services and engage with people across the county. We provide a vital role in supporting rural and isolated communities. Some of our patrons may be impacted by mobility, visual or auditory challenges or have limited access to transport. Outreach can play a significant role in helping overcome these barriers.

Our outreach team looks to support people, build connections, and develop relationships with people in their communities. We do this by working with partners and groups across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors, to talk about the services we offer and showcase our work. In September and October, we attended several events where we brought along a pop-up library, signed up members, demonstrated our digital resources and engaged with many diverse community groups.

On the evening of Monday 2nd September, we travelled to Mountbellew to deliver a talk to Mountbellew Active Retirement Group. We talked about the general library services, digital services, Healthy Ireland at Your Library and our local history and archive collections. The talk was attended by 40 people. Nine people who were not already members signed up at the end of the evening.

On Thursday the 5th September we attended the Make the Link Roadshow in Loughrea. The main event was hosted by Galway Rural Development and as a participant in the full day event, we brought along our pop-up library and showcased our library services. Twelve people signed up to the library on the day.

The Monivea Agricultural Show took place on Sunday the 8th September and the outreach team attended. We showcased our library services and the services provided by Ballinasloe Library and Europe Direct. We also had a children's storytime in the library tent and distributed Little Library Book Bags to the children who attended. Fourteen people signed up to the library on the day.

On Tuesday the 10th September we attended the Make the Link Roadshow in Gort. The main event was hosted by Galway Rural Development and as a participant in the full day event, we brought along our pop-up library and showcased our library services. Fourteen people signed up to the library on the day.



The Glenamaddy Agricultural Show took place on the 29th September. Our outreach team attended to bring information on the library and its services to people living in rural north Galway. Information on Europe Direct services from Ballinasloe Library was also showcased. Sixty Little Library Book Bags were distributed.

On the 2nd October we attended the Positive Ageing event in Loughrea as part of Positive Ageing Week. Again, we brought along a pop-up library, signed up members and showcased our resources and Healthy Ireland at Your Library. Six people signed up on the day.

We attended a Menopause Symposium hosted by the HSE on Thursday the 17th October. This was an event for health care professionals and was a great opportunity to showcase our general library services to health care workers, particularly our Healthy Ireland at Your Library Resources.

On October 25th, a library staff member hosted a stand to showcase library services, particularly Healthy Ireland at Your Library, at Galway Rural Development’s Health and Wellbeing event. The event took place in Athenry and provided an ideal opportunity to reach a large audience. Several people signed up for library membership.

RIGHT TO READ

‘Right to Read’ is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It currently includes four national programmes that are designed to promote children’s reading and literacy. This season’s programme is the Children’s Book Festival.

The ‘Book it!’ Festival is a strategic partnership between the County Arts Office under their funding programme and is co-funded by the Arts Council along with support from the city services.

The aims of the programme are to encourage children to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reading development along with the promotion of children’s books, stories and to increase engagement with families and schools.

BOOK IT! CHILDREN’S BOOK FESTIVAL 2024

Book It! is Galway’s very own annual Children’s Book Festival that runs every October. It is a great opportunity for young people, parents, teachers, and libraries to celebrate books and reading.

As a central tenet of the Right to Read initiative, the festival aims to encourage children and young people to enjoy the experience of reading and support their reader development through activities and events in collaboration with writers, artists, and storytellers.

This festival endeavours to encourage and share the joy of reading with as many children as possible in County Galway. This festival also fosters the promotion of literacy and education; community engagement; cultural enrichment as well as inspiring creativity and highlighting local talent.



The 2024 festival saw activities in 17 branches with over 500 children participating in the County. Branches that hosted events were Loughrea, Oranmore, Ballygar, Gort, Dunmore, Killimor, Portumna, Ballinasloe, Woodford, Tuam, Oughterard, Leenane, Leabharlann an Spidéil agus Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua.

The over-riding aim of this festival is to foster a love for reading and learning while strengthening community bonds.

Programming for this year's festival showcased local authors such as Serena Molloy, Julie Anne de Brún and Maebh McDonnell as well as workshops on book creation with Kids' Own publishing, superhero development with the Learning Garden and visits from author and illustrator Wayne O'Connor bringing the stories of Roald Dahl to life. Mary Murphy delivered two wonderful sessions on book development, the printing process and showed children how to use perspective in their illustrations. The festival also included talks and



presentations by Michael Smith on the Irish seaman and Antarctic Explorer Tom Crean, discussions with authors on story creation and how they started their careers in writing along with visits from internationally renowned Irish storyteller Niall de Búrca.

KIDS OWN PUBLISHING IN BALLINASLOE AND TUAM LIBRARIES HELPED CHILDREN TO CREATE THEIR OWN BOOK.



SCÉALAÍOCHT AGUS CEOL LE JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN I LEABHARLANN AN SPIDÉIL AGUS LEABHARLANN AN CHEATHRÚN RUA



The Learning Garden helped children in Woodford library design their own superhero, while in Killimor and Portumna they made Harry Potter wands and explored all aspects of their favourite Harry Potter books. In Loughrea and Ballinasloe they worked on paper folding, the art of calligraphy, crest and motto design.



The sharing of stories, improvisation and theatrics abounded with storytellers Niall de Búrca in Tuam library and Sarah Sparkles in Ballygar library.



Wayne O'Connor brought the stories of Roald Dahl to life in Gort Library, for a younger audience, while the older children got to explore the fantastical world of mythical beings and old Irish legends.



Irish seaman and Antarctic Explorer Tom Crean was the subject of talks and presentations hosted by former award-winning journalist with *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, Michael Smith. Michael met with local schools who visited Loughrea library for these very informative sessions and visited Kilnadeema National School.

In Oranmore and Portumna, author Eve McDonnell talked about her new children's novel *The Last Boy* and introduced its main character, Brewster – a chimney sweep. With help from the audience, they sang the Sweep-O song as they demonstrated climbing through a chimney-sized prop.



Children's author, Mary Murphy undertook a tour of the county, stopping off in Dunmore, Leenane and Oughterard libraries, reading from her books and creating wonderful pieces of art with the children.



HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

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

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

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

TALK ON MANAGING STRESS FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENTS



Michael Ryan, Psychotherapist, visited Clarin College in Athenry, where he met with a large audience of Leaving Certificate pupils. The event was a great success, and the students had lots of questions for Michael.

CARING FOR CARERS

Colette O'Flynn gave a talk on supporting carers and encouraging them to look after their own health. The talk took place in Portumna Library and was well received.



FUTURE YOU



Colette O’Flynn hosted a workshop on maintaining good health throughout the lifespan using exercise, nutrition and good quality sleep. The workshop was held in Oranmore Library.

BABY WEANING & CHILD NUTRITION

Lisa Corbett, Senior Community Nutritionist, HSE West, delivered an informative presentation in Ballinasloe Library. Parents had lots of questions for Lisa and the audience included toddlers and babies!



CULTIVATING SELF-COMPASSION FOR HEALTHY AGEING

Dr. Malie Coyne, Clinical Psychologist, Author and Lecturer, spoke to the Newcastle Active Retirement Association on building healthy frameworks to enable a healthy and happy retirement.



The workshop explored why compassion is crucial for navigating the many transitions of ageing, including mental and physical well-being, engagement, activity, and social connectedness. The event was held in Westside Library and was well attended.

CANCER: SURVIVING AND THRIVING

Elaine Corcoran, Senior Oncology Nurse with Cancer Care West, spoke to an engaged audience in Loughrea Library and in Ballybane Library.

MANAGING STRESS AND BURNOUT



Megan Casey, Mindset Consultant and Pharmacist of Meon Nua Consultants, spoke with a captive audience in Gort and Westside Libraries. She shared helpful suggestions to combat the risk of burnout and tips on managing stress.

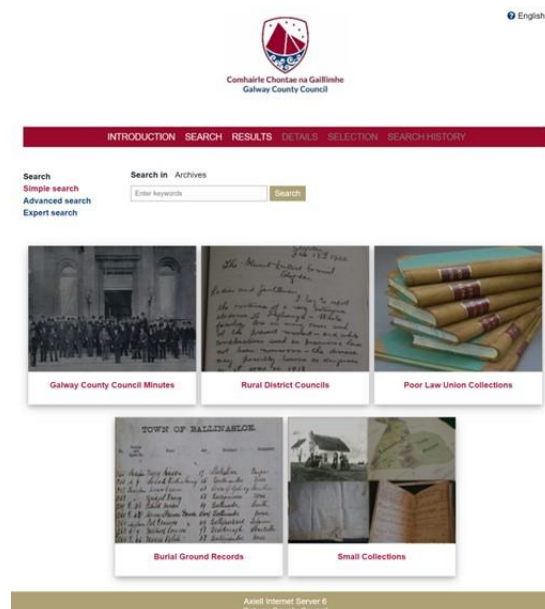
ARCHIVES

The project to upgrade the Archives' electronic collections management system (CMS) (i.e., transition from Adlib to Axiell Collections, a web-system) has been completed, with an updated version of the on-line catalogue now also available at www.galway.ie/archives/collections. The transition from Adlib to Axiell has been a long and complex process. The Archives wishes to acknowledge and thank its IT colleagues for their assistance throughout the process.

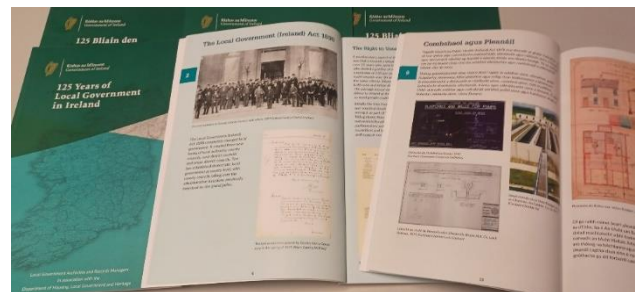
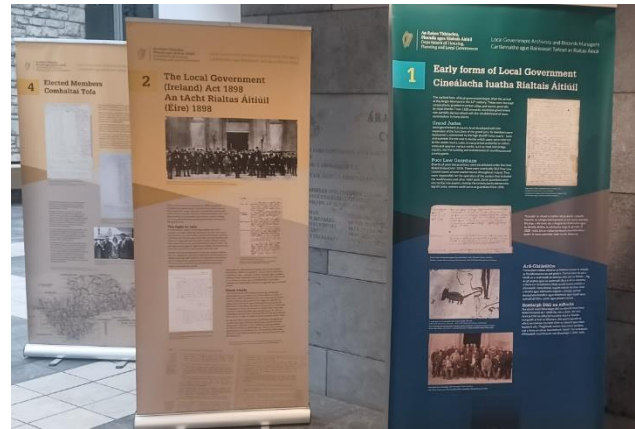
The online [catalogue](#) provides public information on Galway County Council's wonderful archival holdings, comprised of a fascinating array of collections, dating from the early 1600s to the present day. Access to the Archives is by appointment in the Reading Room in Island House (email archivist@galwaycoco.ie).

As part of celebrations to mark 125 years of local government and Galway County Council, the [Archives](#) section produced a double-sided exhibition panel with a small section of images spanning the decades.

This was displayed in Áras an Chontae in October together with the exhibition produced by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in association with Local Government Archivists and Records Managers in 2019, to mark 120 years of local government.



The publication, *125 Years of Local Government*, featuring contributions from Galway County Council Archives, together with a slightly updated [online](#) version of the 2019 exhibition was [launched](#) by the Department in October.



LOCAL STUDIES

The Local Studies department at the County Library HQ specializes in providing information on a variety of topics, with a focus on local history, genealogy, and general reference queries. It serves as the primary repository for the library's local history materials, which include books, newspapers, and maps.

The department plays a crucial role in preserving and providing access to information about the locality. Key functions include historical research, genealogy, community information, preservation, educational support, and digital access.

ONLINE LOCAL STUDIES QUERIES FROM 8TH OCTOBER TO 7TH NOVEMBER.

- 1) A researcher from Galway Museum requested access to a Journal Article by Jane Conroy, on Archdeacon Mark D. Conroy, (1858-1947), uncle of Pádraic O'Conaire.

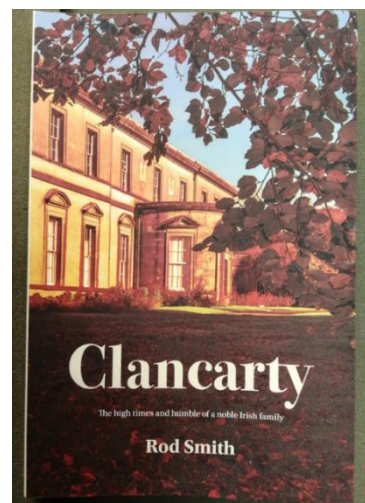
The information was in "The O'Malley Journal", (929.2) Researcher visited Local Studies to read the journal and got a photocopy of the article. (8/10/24)

- 2) Query by Mac Conmara Consulting on information submitted to them on the Oral Heritage Collection held by Local Studies, for a project they are undertaking in conjunction with the Galway County Council Heritage Officer. (17/10/24)

- 3) Genealogy request about an English Captain, Jeremy Lister, who served in a regiment stationed in Galway in the early 1800's. Searched on Irish News Archive, and in the Parish Record of St Nicholas. (8/10/24)
- 4) Enquiry about where any Records for Clifden Industrial School might be kept. Forwarded this query to the Archivist. (15/10/24)
- 5) Query about the Estate of William Roche, who owned a house leased to Richard Martin, who owed him 500 pounds rent arrears. (Pre 1815) (Nothing found on Irish News Archive search).
- 6) Query about access to valuation records that are held on a PC for use in the microfilm room. (18/10/24)
- 7) Request for copy of the Front Page of a Galway newspaper from 2012.
- 8) Email query about locations of World War 1 records of Irish soldiers, who served in the British Army during World War 1. A leaflet produced by Galway County Council Archives, on researching a soldier, sailor, or airman, who served in World War 1, was sent to the enquirer and in addition they were recommended some books containing relevant information, such as "Galway's Great War Memorial Book, 1914-1918", and Victor Whitmarsh's 'Shadows on Glass-Galway 1895-1960', The enquirer was also advised on which branch libraries have access to the database 'Find My Past', as some Military Records are available there. (24/10/24)
- 9) Email request for visit, and access to the Books of Survey and Distribution, Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, and books on County Galway. Researcher visited on 17/10/24.

AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN VISIT

New Zealand Historian and Author, Mr. Rod Smith, visited the Local Studies Section of Galway Public Libraries on October 18th to present the library with a copy of his new book, "Clancarty, the high times and humble of a noble Irish Family". This book is a product of years of research by Rod on the history of the Trench Family, Earls of Clancarty, and spans nine generations and 220 years, from their life at Garbally House, to their eventual retreat to England. It is a very valuable addition to the library. It traces the family lineage from Frederic De La Tranche, a Huguenot exile in the late 1500's, and includes biographies of all the various Earls, down to the present time. Rod's wife Glennis is a direct descendant of Rear Admiral William Le Poer Trench, a son of the first Earl, William Power Keating Trench. Another son of the first Earl was the last Anglican Archbishop of Tuam, Power Le Poer Trench, (1770-1839).



The photo below shows Rod and Glennis presenting the book to the County Librarian Elizabeth Keane, and to Marion Nikolakos in the Local studies section. The book which Glennis is holding is a first edition (1845), memoir of her relative, "The Honourable & most Reverend, Power le Poer Trench", by the Rev, Joseph D'Arcy SIRR. This book is part of the special collection held by the Local Studies Section. Rod also signed his book, and there will be Reference copies in Local Studies in County Library HQ, and in Ballinasloe Library.



ROD & GLENNIS SMITH PRESENTING A COPY OF 'CLANCARTY, THE HIGH TIMES AND HUMBLE OF A NOBLE IRISH FAMILY' TO COUNTY LIBRARIAN, ELIZABETH KEANE AND TO MARION NIKOLAKOS, LOCAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT.

A delightful early guidebook held by the Local Studies section of Galway Public Libraries is "Connaught" by Stephen Gwynn, published in 1912, and illustrated with beautiful paintings, by the artist Alexander Williams, R.H.A. An interesting feature of this copy is that it is signed by Alexander Williams, a notable Irish Artist, whose paintings are currently in the National Gallery of Ireland, and the Hugh Lane Gallery, amongst others. Reading the book gives a vivid glimpse into Connaught as it was in 1912, and a way of life that has since disappeared. One example is Tuam, described as having a "long street of thatched houses, its marketplace crowded with Irish speaking men and women, all in characteristic western dress". Galway town is described as "Depressing beyond words, but also more picturesque than any town in Ireland".



BALLYBANE LIBRARY

EASTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL

The library was one of the strategic partners in the foundation of a new community Arts festival in Galway City. Ballybane Library partnered with the Cumasú Centre in Doughiska, the Ballybane Resource Centre and Creative Ireland Galway City Council, with the aim of

enriching the lives of local residents and giving them pride of place and community through a display of the richness of creative talent in their areas.

The development and delivery of this festival utilized a human centred design approach with extensive public engagement and community outreach by the steering committee. Many events were hosted in the library with staff attending all events over the two days.

The team also looked to the artists of the wider community of Galway to showcase the wealth of creativity that can be aspired to and indeed to inspire.

The success of the festival was noticed through the positivity that has come through the library doors and extensive community connections will allow the library to further embed itself in the community.



STORY TELLING

Galway County Libraries supported the festival by having story sessions in the six primary schools on the east side of the city.

Niall de Búrca the renowned storyteller, entertained in 4 schools whilst the Ballybane library staff covered the other two schools.



MERLIN WOODS PARADE

On Saturday morning Friends of Merlin Woods led a festival parade with pop up dramatics in the local woods.



Library staff and Creative Ireland, Galway City Partnership and Cumasú staff were on hand to help.

ONGOING EVENTS

Over the months of September and October, the Ballybane library hosted its usual monthly book clubs for adults, children and teenagers. The two adult book clubs catered for 22 adults who come from estates on the east side of the city. The adults who attend are delighted to have somewhere to go where they have company and are welcomed.

The teen book club caters to a diverse group. All are delighted to have found a welcoming refuge in Ballybane library. The two children's book clubs are relatively new and host approx. 20 children. These book clubs bring accompanying adults and siblings into the library on a Saturday afternoon.

Our lively parent and toddler mornings in conjunction with Music Generation Galway continue to draw a large group of local young parents who are delighted to find a welcoming safe space to relax and meet other young parents.

In cooperation with the HSE, on the first three Tuesdays of each month, in our Maker Space, new mothers and their babies meet with local Public Health Nurses who discuss issues that may affect new mothers and how to cope with them.

In conjunction with the GRETB we continue with our basic computer and smart phone classes attended by approx. 25 adults each week, led by Ruth Kelly.

Each Thursday morning the Maker Space hosts lively classes for parents of pupils attending the DEIS schools on the east side of the city. The funding of tutors is organized by the HSCL teachers at each school.

Our Saturday morning Storytime and Feed the Fish is attended by on average 10 local families each week, the theme of the most recent story time was Self Esteem.



The Ballybane library craft group is attended by 12 local women from diverse communities and their present project involves each person knitting a figurine for our Christmas crib.

Their last project culminated in a beautiful patchwork quilt which is used by the new mothers and babies at their meetings.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

During Positive Ageing Week, Ballinasloe Library launched their new accessible keyboard.



The keyboard features clear and large font keys, making it ideal for seniors or individuals with visual impairments who may have difficulty reading small print.

This was funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund and is part of a suite of accessible equipment and furniture that is being distributed throughout the libraries to address issues of mobility and access.

FÁILTE ISTEACH ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Every Tuesday at Ballinasloe Library, local volunteers provide group conversation classes to Ukrainian, Polish, Malaysian, Brazilian and Arabic communities living in or near Ballinasloe. Ballinasloe Library partner with Fáilte Isteach and Third Age Ireland to facilitate these classes, which address social inclusion and provide integration support.

Attendance: 58 (8th October to 7th November inclusive).

WRITERS' NETWORKING EVENT

The Irish Writers Union hosted their regional Writers Networking Event at the Church Gallery, Ballinasloe Library on October 8th. This well-attended event provided support and advice for writers from the area. This event allowed writers to read from their own work and to meet and mingle with their peers.

READ, PLAY, CREATE

Sensory Art Workshops were held on 9th and 16th October. Read, Play and Create! was an exciting and unique collaboration between the artist and educator Kate Kelly of Art Room 109 and Ballinasloe Library. The 'Read, Play and Create' programme was especially designed to help parents and caretakers to connect with their local community, engage with their children, and to incorporate bookish play in a creative way.

The workshops were targeted at parents and



walking toddlers aged between 1 and 5 years, with a focus on the importance of creativity and play in the development of children. Each week, parents and toddlers engaged in new reading and simple sensory art activities, which could also be easily recreated at home. Sensory materials were freshly homemade, taste-safe and made from natural ingredients.

Staff at Ballinasloe Library applied for funding from Creative Ireland and the workshops ran for four weeks over September and October.

Additional workshops were offered to Tuam and Oranmore Libraries, also coordinated by staff at Ballinasloe

Library.

95 participants were recorded for this programme of events.



ACTIVE RETIREMENT BOOK CLUB

The Active Retirement Book Club met on 9th October. This book club is aimed at retired older adults and is promoted through the Active Retirement network. Branch librarian Bríd Grehan chooses and orders the monthly book for reading.

SEWING GROUP

Ballinasloe Library's Sewing Group meet every Thursday in the gallery space. This creative group have over 25 people attending, learning new skills, and sharing insight into different techniques.

BINGO

St Joseph's local centre for adults with additional needs meets every Thursday and plays bingo in Ballinasloe Library's reception area. This is a wonderful social activity that is enjoyed by 32 participants over the month.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY CHURCH GALLERY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

'Earth Tales', a wonderful joint exhibition by Ness Porter-Kelly and Emma Shaw-Smith was launched. Emma Shaw-Smith gave a talk to some local school children about working as an illustrator.



CONNAUGHT RANGERS' EXHIBITION



Ballinasloe Library are hosting an exhibition on the Connaught Rangers called "Ranging Memories". It was launched by PJ Maloney and Joe Loughnane on Tuesday, October 15th. The panels were available for viewing in Ballinasloe Library until mid-November.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY HOSTED THREE EVENTS AS PART OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL IN OCTOBER.

Make your Own Book on October 10th with Kids' Own Publishing, which 3rd and 4th class from Scoil Croí Naofa attended; 'Using Music and Sounds to tell a Story', which 5th class in Gaelscoil Uí Cheithearnaigh attended. The children used various musical instruments and flash cards to create, improvise and conduct their storytelling through music, on October 18th. 'Traditional Paper



FREE WORKSHOP

Ballinasloe Library, Saturday 19th October - 3 to 4pm
Places limited - Booking essential
call: 091509551 - Age 10 to 14

Traditional Paper Folding Games - (writing & crafts)

Folding Games' was held on Saturday, October 19th with Laurie Legrande from the Learning Garden, an education, art and language school based in Killimor. Children's Book Festival is funded by Galway County Council's Arts office and 61 children attended the events.

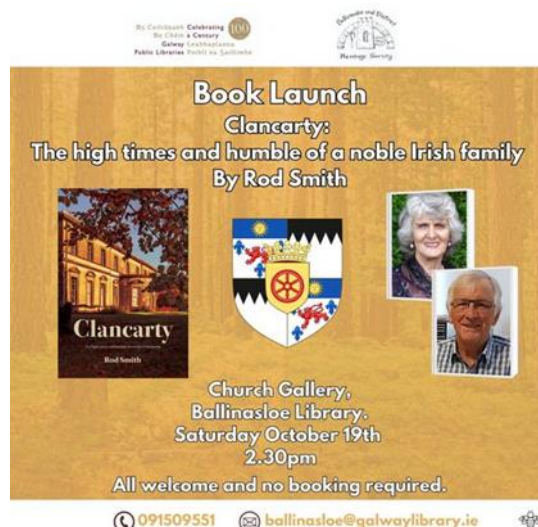
On Friday, October 18th, to celebrate **Bioeconomy Ireland Week**, Ballinasloe Library hosted a workshop for 5th class primary schoolchildren at Scoil Croí Naofa.

This event was a collaboration between the Marine Institute, the Explorers Programme at Galway Atlantaquaria (the National Aquarium of Ireland) and Ballinasloe Library to raise awareness of the blue economy and the transition to a sustainable and climate-neutral society through waste reduction and sustainable practices.



BOOK LAUNCH

On Saturday, October 19th, Rob Smith came all the way from New Zealand to launch his book *“Clancarty: The high times and humble of a noble Irish Family”*. There was huge interest in this book and in the talk presented by the author. Approximately 70 people attended.



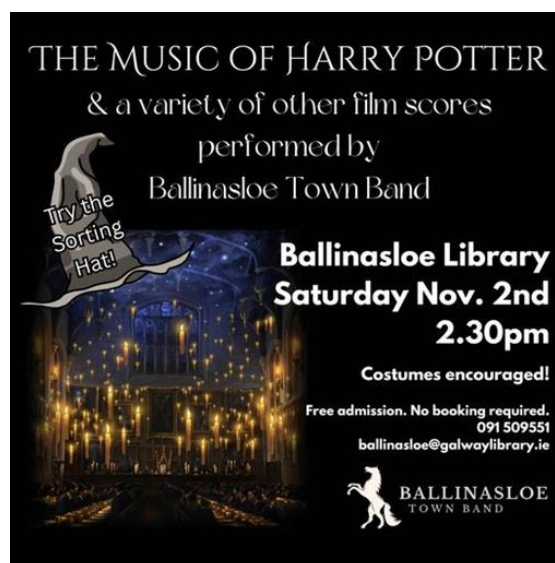
HALLOWEEN

Ballinasloe Library Staff held a Halloween Arts & Crafts session on October 31. Ballinasloe



Town Band held a performance in the Church Gallery on Saturday November 2nd. The band performed music from the Harry Potter series of movies, along with Halloween-themed favourites. Library staff facilitated ‘the sorting hat’ activity.

Attendance: 150+





WOMEN'S GROUP

Ballinasloe Library's Women's Group meet every Thursday and are busy prepping for their visit to Belfast as part of the cross border Creative Ireland project that Galway Public Libraries is delivering in conjunction with Clare County Creative Ireland. The upcoming visit



to Belfast concludes the first year of this programme aimed at building and strengthening community bonds through the exploration of craft.

Attendance: 20 members

EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Europe Direct at Ballinasloe Library were invited by Galway Rural Development to



participate in their local Health, Wellbeing and Physical Activity Event at the Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe. Abbie McGowan, Library Assistant, attended to highlight the services offered by Europe Direct and Galway Public Libraries. Attention was drawn to our

Healthy Ireland collection of books, our Age Friendly services and all our amenities.

EURES ROADSHOW



On October 22nd, Europe Direct Ballinasloe hosted the EURES Roadshow, who were celebrating their 30th anniversary, in conjunction with Eurodesk and Youth Work Ballinasloe. EURES presented information on the supports available to EU citizens who wish to relocate to work in another EU country, while Europe Direct Ballinasloe and Youth Work Ballinasloe provided information and guidance on studying and

volunteering in EU countries. This collaboration between Europe Direct Ballinasloe, Eurodesk Ireland and Youth Work Ballinasloe raises awareness and promotes Eurodesk Ireland's annual Time to Move programme. The transition year class at Coláiste an Chreagáin, a secondary school based in Mountbellew attended the event, along with other member of the community.

Attendance: 45



GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Galway City Library hosted a **Baboró** event with artist Laura Angell where she taught children the art of Bargello embroidery. Bargello is a traditional needlepoint technique that creates colourful geometric patterns. Five participants attended on the day.

Book it! Festival – author Serena Molloy ran poetry workshops with two 6th classes from Claddagh National School.

Author and illustrator Mary Murphy delivered two wonderful sessions to 3rd and 4th class children from Mercy Primary School as part of Children’s Book Festival. Mary taught the children about how books are made from developing your first draft, through to the printing process, and getting your books into shops. She also showed the children how to use perspective to draw pictures where something looks up close or far away.

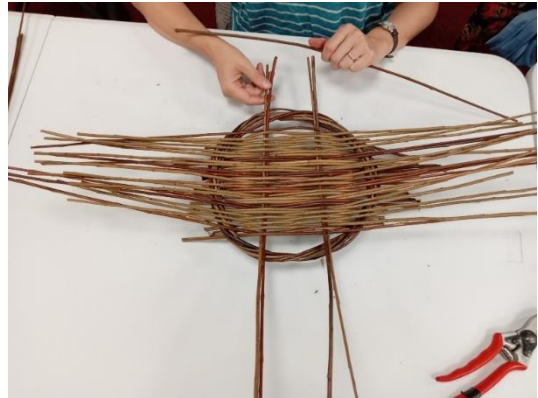


Galway City Library staff ran Family Storytime as part of Children’s Book Festival month, for three Saturdays in a row.



WILLOW WEAVING

Willow-weaver Sarah Jenkinson taught participants how to make a fruit platter from willow rods. Each participant got to take home their finished work and the excitement from the adult participants was evident, as was the pride in their finished pieces. This project was funded by Creative Ireland city.



BIOECONOMY IRELAND WEEK

Bioeconomy Ireland Week took place from 14-18 October this year. Galway Public Libraries were well-represented, as can be seen from the story map <https://arcg.is/OrinOy0> Dr Joao Frias from ATU gave a talk to a group of Transition Year students from Scoil Iognáid, on ocean pollution.



POETRY MAGAZINE LAUNCH

Poetry magazine Skylight47 held a launch event and poetry readings at Galway City Library.



FIGHTING WORDS GALWAY

Galway City Library hosted two Fighting Words Galway Creative Writing Workshops – one for adults and one for teenagers. The participants created characters and a scenario and then wrote their own independent story which was shared with the group. The teen session focused on writing screenplays.



ANYONE4SCIENCE

Galway City Library hosted Anyone4Science workshops for children from 6-12. With erupting pumpkins, and potions, there was plenty of excitement to get our young participants enthused about science. There were 40 participants booked for the 4 workshops throughout the day.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

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

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

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

DIGITAL SKILLS

The GRETB digital pop-up clinics with Niall Dempsey take place every Tuesday between 10.30am-1.00pm. These are proving to be very popular in Loughrea with people waiting for Niall and availing of the 1-2-1 sessions.



CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL



Calligraphy workshop with Laurie Legrand on Saturday 5th October 2024 at 2.30-3.30pm

Author Michael Smith delivered three sessions with local schools discussing 'Tom Crean – Ice Man'

LEGO free play is also popular with the children and the team delivered some amazing arts and crafts activities including the popular 'wand' making session.



Class visits were scheduled throughout the month to encourage children to explore the world of books and reading.



CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

The highlight of October is always the Children's Book Festival. October is one of the busiest months in Westside Library's event calendar. We had over 500 children attend the following events: storytelling by Wayne O'Connor, Julie Ann De Brun, Maebh McDonnell, Mary Murphy, and the Tallest Smallest BFG; "Secret Life of a Superhero" and "Make Your Own Comic Book" workshops; Anyone4Science workshops; Halloween craft events by staff; and a flash fiction workshop with acclaimed author Elizabeth Reapy.



FORÓIGE WORKSHOPS AT WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library recently hosted two workshops by Foróige. The first workshop, aimed at primary school children, introduced basic coding concepts and provided hands-on experience with coding tools and platforms. It highlighted STEM activities using equipment from our MakerSpace, including VR headsets and Oculus devices. The second workshop was conducted with teens from a local African Youth Group.

BOG OAK EXHIBITION BY ABILITY WEST

The launch of Ability West's Bog Oak Exhibition, funded by Galway Rural Development, featured stunning sculptures by several talented artists.



PORTUMNA LIBRARY

POETRY WORKSHOPS 'CELEBRATING A CENTURY'

10th October - We had our third & final in the series of three Poetry Workshops with local Portumna Pen Pushers writing group. It was facilitated by both Noelle Lynskey (Strokestown Poet Laureate & Director of Shorelines Arts Festival) & visiting Artist Maeve Clancy

BOOK IT! FESTIVAL

For Children's Book festival, on the 16th October, Storyteller/Author Eve McDonnell hosted two sessions for the local 5th & 6th classes of St Brendan's National School and a workshop on how to make Harry Potter Wands with Laurie from 'The Learning Garden' was a big success.



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL TARGETS VACANT AND DERELICT PROPERTIES

Galway County Council has identified 40 derelict buildings in County Galway for inclusion in the first phase of a nationwide programme to address vacancy and underutilisation of residential properties to help contribute to the supply of housing.

The registered owners of the properties have been directed to bring them back into use within a set timeframe or risk having the buildings compulsorily acquired by the Local Authority.

Located in Tuam (9), Loughrea (7), Ballinasloe (7), Conamara (9) and Oranmore/Athenry (8), the properties have been targeted as part of the CPO Activation Programme through which local authorities are required to adopt a proactive, planned and systematic approach to the identification and activation of vacant and derelict properties.



STOCK PHOTO DERELICT SITE FROM VACANT HOMES UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE

In a GeoDirectory Vacancy Data Survey undertaken by Galway County Council, 817 properties were deemed vacant and/or derelict, of which 773 were deemed to be vacant and 44 properties were deemed to be vacant and derelict. In a written communication issued this week, Galway County Council has requested the registered owners of 40 derelict properties to outline how they intend to bring the buildings back into use.

Councillor Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway commented, “The CPO Activation Programme will be welcomed by those who want to access home ownership and wish to be given the opportunity to access those properties lying vacant in their communities.”

“This initial activation will give owners opportunities to revitalise their own properties within a defined timeframe with access to various funding support schemes being provided, but, importantly, also gives Galway County Council the authority to compulsorily acquire properties in order to bring them back into use,” added Councillor Dolan.

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council described the CPO Activation Programme as “a dynamic programme and an opportunity to drive change and progression in the development of town and village centres.”

He continued, “Advice and support schemes are available to those owners who are willing and able to bring their properties back in to use but Galway County Council is equally keen to tackle the issue of properties lying idle in our county.”

According to **Michael Owens, Director of Services for Housing**, “The Vacant Homes Team is available to advise and assist in bringing these properties back in to use which has been successfully exhibited through the use of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. The CPO Activation Programme supports Galway County Council’s aim for every household that has a need to be able to access quality and affordable homes. Bringing vacant homes back in to use will assist in achieving this objective either by supporting owners or the acquiring of properties through legislative means.”

Meanwhile, Galway County Council confirmed that significant interest has been received throughout the county in relation to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe) Scheme, which facilitates the transformation of unsightly and vacant properties into dwelling houses over a reasonably short period of time.

465 applications have been received to date of which 283 have subsequently been approved to enter the Vacancy/Dereliction Activation Programme. The 283 applications that have received initial approval to date are located in Athenry / Oranmore (31), Ballinasloe (60), Conamara (61), Loughrea (71) and Tuam (60), and have been approved for €15,836,250.62 to carry out refurbishment works to their vacant and derelict properties.

Further information on the CPO Activation programme and the schemes offering assistance to property owners to turn vacant or derelict building into a home is available from www.galway.ie or from the Vacant Homes Office of Galway County Council at vacanthomes@galwaycoco.ie / 091-509329.

SOCIAL WORK [HOUSING]

IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (IASW) CONFERENCE

Two team members attended the above conference on the 18th October 2024. The theme was “Human Rights, Social Work Responsibilities: Challenging Inequality, Injustice and Discrimination”. The conference was very informative and beneficial for local authority social workers to be up to speed on good practice in other sectors.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Child Protection Officer role for the organisation is held by Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker. This involves ensuring the organisations is adhering to Children's First legislation, responding to referrals, liaison with Tusla on behalf of Galway County Council and responding to and supporting staff regarding concerns for child welfare. Should staff, public representative have any queries, they can contact the Social Work team in Galway County Council. If they witness any incidents, they can also liaise with us, but they will need to make their report directly to Tusla.

CASELOAD MANAGEMENT (HOUSING)

Carried Over from 2023	Cases closed during 2024	New Referrals in (2024)	Current Total / Active cases
221	132	182	<u>271</u>

The above includes full referrals and case allocations. It is not possible to capture all cases where calls are responded to, advice is provided etc.

SEX OFFENDER ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

The CCMA are establishing a Sex Offender Accommodation Network to provide a forum for collaboration, information sharing, and feedback contribution to the CCMA Housing Committee. The Network will likely be chaired by the CCMA/LGMA SORAM representative (Director of Service) from a local authority. Kieran Keon, Senior Social Worker, Galway County Council has contributed to the development of this network and terms of reference via the Local authority lead in the SORAM office. The development of the network is welcome in supporting the role of SOLO (Sexual Offences Liaison Officer), which is part of the Senior Social Worker’s role in Galway County Council.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

The 30th Annual Social Work and Welfare Officer Conference 2024 takes place during November, hosted by Wexford County Council. The conference will deliver presentations and shared learning on many aspects of Social Work, both within the local authority setting

and learning from stakeholders. The National Review of LA Social Work which is not finalised yet will also be discussed.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On October 24th, senior officials from Galway County Council and Galway City Council met with property developers, planners and key stakeholders to explore opportunities for delivering new affordable housing projects across Galway. The briefing at the Menlo Park Hotel highlighted the significance of incorporating affordable housing into the Galway City and Galway County Development Plans and the growing need to find solutions-based approach to the housing crisis. The developers in attendance were encouraged to collaborate with the local authorities on future housing schemes and were informed about the latest regulatory frameworks and funding mechanisms supporting affordable housing initiatives.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE LIAM CONNEALLY ADDRESSES DEVELOPERS AT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BREAKFAST BRIEFING AT THE MENLO PARK HOTEL.



OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BREAKFAST BRIEFING AT THE MENLO PARK HOTEL

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL OPEN



Galway County Council invited prospective homeowners to apply for the new affordable houses at Garraí na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir, County Galway. There is a total of 17 affordable homes been offered in phase 1 of the development, consisting of 2 No. 2 bed, 9 No. 3 bed, and 6 No. 4 bed houses. Applications were accepted online on Galway County Council's website from 14th October 2024 to November 11th November 2024. A total of 165 applications were received for Phase 1.

Galway County Council are currently reviewing and assessing applications against Galway County Council's scheme of priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.

ENERGY RETROFITS

Galway County Council continues to carry out the energy retrofit of Council houses to a minimum B2 Building Energy Rating (BER) standard. It is anticipated that we will have completed retrofitting on 73 properties in 2024, an addition to the 207 which were retrofitted between 2021 and 2023. The properties retrofitted are a mix of house types, in accordance with the requirements of the Programme.

TENANT IN SITU

As of the end of October 2024:

Number of EOIs for TIS acquisitions	10
Number under consideration / in train	23

Power BI Reports

PART 8 FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT COSMONA, LOUGHREA

On 11th October, notice was given (under the Part 8 process) that Galway County Council proposes to carry out a housing development at Cosmona, Loughrea.

The residential development consisting of: 56 new housing units - 44 no. houses and 12 no. apartments comprises:

- 16 no. 2 bedroom houses
- 25 no. 3 bedroom houses
- 2 no. 4 bedroom houses
- 1 no. 5 bedroom house
- 6 no. 1 bedroom apartments
- 6 no. 2 bedroom apartments

The development includes varied boundary treatments and landscaping works; all ancillary site development works and site services necessary to facilitate the proposed development including an Irish Water pumping station and parking for the existing graveyard adjacent to the west of the site (adjacent to a Burial Ground which is a national monument NIAH GA105-066).

In accordance with the Habitats Directive, Appropriate Assessment Screening has been carried out on the project. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and concludes that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.

Plans & particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection. Submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning & sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be submitted no later than Monday the 2nd of December 2024.

CONTRACT SIGNING FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DB DESIGN TEAM - ST. JOSEPH'S RD. PORTUMNA

A mini competition was advertised on Galway County & City Design Build Consultants Framework for: Architect-led fully integrated design team services for the provision housing on a 1.58 Ha. site at St. Joseph's Rd., Portumna, through the accelerated delivery programme for delivery by Design and Build, with a closing date of 23rd September 2024.

A Tender assessment was undertaken and the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer (MEAT) was Simon J. Kelly & Partners, as Lead Architects, with an integrated design team

comprising: TC Estimating Services (Quantity Surveyors), Coyle Kennedy Limited (Civil & Structural Engineers), Varming Consulting (Mechanical & Electrical Engineers) and ORS Limited (PSDP).



A contract signing for engagement of this integrated design team took place on 5th November in the Council Chamber.

BACK ROW (L-R) MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES GCC, EITHNE MURPHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GCC, MORRIS MAFUNGA, ASSISTANT ENGINEER GCC AND MICHAEL KERRIGAN, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GCC.

FRONT ROW (L-R) DERMOT MCCABE, LEAD ARCHITECT SIMON J. KELLY ARCHITECTS, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE GCC AND ALBERT DOLAN, CATHAOIRLEACH GCC.

HOUSING LANDBANK

Housing Circular 33/2024: National Social Housing Data Map – Annual Assessment of Land Available for Housing Delivery, was issued on 15th October.

This Circular advised Local Authorities of the requirement to update relevant information on the G.I.S. Mapping Database known as the National Social Housing Data Map.

In addition to this requirement, Local Authorities are required to return two reports to the Housing Delivery Co-ordination office by 27th November - detailing the remaining landbank and Social & Affordable Approved sites.

Galway County Council Housing Capital section are currently compiling this information.

In conjunction with this exercise, a presentation on the housing landbank was prepared and given by Eithne Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer at the Housing SPC Meeting on 14th November.



No.	Location	Area (Ha.)
1	Courtney's Lane, Gort	1.44
2	Station Rd., Oughterard	7.27
3	Cill Rónáin, Inis Mór	2.16
4	Forest View, Mountbellew	0.47
5	Raheen, Athenry	1.13
6	Fairgreen, Roundstone	0.50
7	Oranhill, Oranmore	0.83
8	Dunkellin, Craughwell	2.73
9	Sun St., Tuam	1.34
10	Barrack St., Loughrea	0.07
11	Vicar St., Tuam	0.04
12	Pollroebuck, Loughrea	0.86
Total Area (Ha.)		18.83

HOUSING
 LANDBANK –
 SHORT TERM
 DEVELOPABLE
 LANDS

PART 8 FOR NO. 4 CLOONLYON CRESCENT, BALLYGAR

Further to a Part 8 process, a Chief Executive’s Report was prepared recommending the development of a 4- bedroom house at no. 4 Cloonlyon Crescent.

This report was considered by elected members of Ballinalisoe M.D. at their October meeting on 16-10-2024 where it was decided that the development may proceed, as recommended.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

STORM ASHLEY

On Friday 18th October, Galway County Council, together with other organisations, received a briefing from the National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). This included a comprehensive update from Met Eireann on the weekend weather warnings and potential implications of those warnings countrywide.

Galway County Council had already begun its’ preparations for the storm with the above briefing further assisting in the targeting of preparations and communications to the coastal areas. The NDFEM held a further briefing on Saturday morning (19th October) indicating the storm would coincide with a period of very high tides; at 7am and 7pm on Sunday. This combination had the potential to cause significant impacts in Galway at both time periods.

Galway County Council operates an On-Call (Out of Hours) service to assist with dealing with Roads issues during evenings, at night and at weekends. Over the weekend there were 8 senior outdoor staff 'on call' together with attendant crews, plant and equipment. In anticipation of greater impacts on our coastal areas, the Council delivered sandbags to a



number of key locations along the coast; from Kinvara through to Clarinbridge, Oranmore and westwards to Roundstone. A team of senior management within the Council assisted with coordination and other supports for the outdoor staff.

During this event, as with all severe weather events, the Council maintained communications with the crews on the ground, the Fire Service, the Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána. The Council benefited from its' bespoke self-

developed management IT system for such events called 'SWEMS' (Severe Weather Emergency Management System). This enables us to map incidents and damage as we become aware of same to facilitate a clear picture of storm impact and the targeting of our resources. Galway County Council also uses the MapAlerter system with specific messages issued to targeted coastal areas. Key public safety messaging from the NDFEM was repeated on social media throughout, together with messaging tailored for Galway County.



Galway County experienced impacts as early as Friday evening with high tide flooding a number of coastal roads. The weather picked up again on Saturday evening, peaking during the high tide on Sunday morning and again on Sunday evening. Coastal areas experienced wave-overtopping, seaweed deposition and some flooding of roads but the impacts there were less severe than originally expected. The orange wind warning, however, did take its' toll across the breadth of the county with fallen trees, damage to powerlines, phonelines and damage to traffic signals. On call crews worked from Sunday morning late into Sunday night removing trees and debris and keeping routes open. The cleanup continued into the following days and is generally now fully complete.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PARKING CONCESSIONS CHRISTMAS 2024

Once again, there will be concessions regarding pay parking in the towns of Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Tuam, Clifden, Cleggan, Athenry and Gort in the lead up to Christmas.

This initiative aims to support local businesses and encourage footfall during the Christmas shopping period, encouraging more people to visit local shops, restaurants and entertainment venues.

Free ON and OFF-street parking will be from 11.00am each day from 8th December -31st December 2024.

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

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 7/11/2024

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

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ACTIVE TRAVEL CONTRACT AWARDS X2:

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

The contact has been awarded to SYSTRA Ltd. The Letter of Acceptance was signed on the week commencing 28/10/24. An in-person contract signing will take place in County Hall on 18/11/2024.

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

The contact has been awarded to SYSTRA Ltd. The Letter of Acceptance was signed on the week commencing 28/10/24. An in-person contract signing will take place in County Hall on 18/11/2024.

GCO/23/0015 ORANMORE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES

The Tender is out for the construction of pedestrian crossing near Lidl on the Old Limerick Road in Oranmore. The Section 38 has been completed.

GCO/23/0020 BALLINASLOE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES DESIGN

A non-statutory public consultation event will be held in Ballinasloe in November for the Ballinasloe Active Travel Scheme. It will be published on www.consult.ie.

GCO/23/0012 BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

NTA has given approval to proceed to Phase 6, Construction. Contractor awarded - awaiting commencement date for works.

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

A non-statutory public consultation will be advertised on www.consult.ie in November for the Oranmore to the Train Station Active Travel Project.

GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

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

BUS STOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Galway County Council is a pilot local authority working with the NTA Fleet & Bus Infrastructure Team to use the bus route database, as part of the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.

BROADBAND CONNECTION POINTS (BCP'S)

BROADBAND CONNECTION POINT (BCP) HEALTH & WELLBEING INITIATIVE

In collaboration with the Broadband Office and the Healthy County Galway Co-ordinator, a Health & Wellbeing event was recently held at the Leitir Mealláin BCP. The event saw a large turnout from the local community, who provided very positive feedback on the event.

The evening featured several informative talks including:

- Anita Murphy, who discussed Women's Health & Menopause.
- Parkrun highlighted the importance of physical exercise and opportunities to participate in park runs.
- Thrive Conamara addressed crucial aspects of mental health.
- Croí and Foot Health Podiatry, Baile Chláir offered physical health checks.

The event was well-received and demonstrated the community's strong sense of engagement with health and wellbeing initiatives delivered within the community.



Following on from this success and with the support of Galway County Council and the Department of Rural & Community Development, it is now intended to expand this pilot scheme to all BCPs in County Galway in 2025.

L-R: ADELE RANKIN, HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY CO-ORDINATOR AND DONNA BYRNE, BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on October data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 143 turnouts to 127 Incidents. That is a decrease of just 1 incident on 128 the previous month. 57 were fire incidents, 69 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 1 was standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 47.11% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 35.54% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 17.36% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.01 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.54 minutes.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

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



L-R: UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, AN CATHAOIRLEACH ALBERT DOLAN, ANNE RABBITTE, MINISTER OF STATE, GERRY O'MALLEY, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

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



PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION
LOUGHREA

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the October figures. The Fire Authority received 18 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 12 applications. 5 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 10 applications. A total of 9 new licenses were issued and 56 inspections were conducted.

TRAINING

Manual Handling refresher training was delivered to all county retained fire stations during August and September 2024.

Four Breathing Apparatus refresher training courses were delivered in October. The location of the training was Sligo fire station.

A firefighter from Loughrea fire station attended a Rope Rescue Supervisor course which was held in Portlaoise, Co. Laois. The duration of the course was five days in total.

Two new recruit firefighters commenced their initial training Firefighting Skills course which took place in Lanesboro fire station, Co. Longford. The training was completed on the 8th November. This will bring the total number of new recruits who have completed their initial training thus far in 2024 to 19 which already significantly exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters. The newly trained recruits will be stationed at Mountbellew (x1) and Gort (x1) fire stations.

1 no. fulltime firefighter and 1 no. retained firefighter attended the NDFEM "Fire Station Trainer" course which took place in Newbridge Fire Station. The aim of the course is to assist

fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services. The course provided our trainees with the skills and knowledge necessary to facilitate them to effectively deliver fire service training, including fire service drills, facts and skills lessons at station level.

Four personnel attended a workshop in the area of urban search and rescue. The aim of this 2-day workshop was to develop our personnel's knowledge in the area of Urban Search and Rescue and to familiarise them with and consider the current project relating to the building of a national USAR response capacity and framework in Ireland.

The Chief Fire Officer Association's Technical Seminar took place in Tullamore. This one-day event was attended by one senior fire officer.

A water rescue instructor assessment took place in October. It was attended by 3 no. retained, 4 no. fulltime personnel and 1 no. senior officer.

The emergency first responder refresher programme commenced on the 5th of November. A total of 2 no. three day refresher courses are taking place in November with a further two courses to take place in December.

2 no. Single Rope Technique, Initial / Recertification training courses commenced on the 5th and 11th November respectfully.

1 no. firefighter will be attending an Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) instructor course. This is a 12-day course whose primary aim is to enhance the training capability of fire authorities in the area of ESDS. The course is designed to provide existing ESDS drivers with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver blue light driver training at county, regional or national level. GFRS will be providing 1 no. ESDS instructor to the NDFEM for the delivery of this training.

A Breathing Apparatus initial wearers course commenced on 11th November. This is being conducted by GFRS on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group and is accredited by QQI. There will be thirteen GFRS trainees on the course with four GFRS instructors and one Sligo FRS instructor.

One senior fire officer is scheduled to attend a media skills course for senior officers which is being conducted by the NDFEM. The aim of this media skills course is to enhance the capabilities of fire authorities to manage and prepare for media interactions, including press briefing, the preparation of media statements and interviews with the print media, radio and television.

2 Water Rescue Initial and Refresher courses were held on the 05th– 08th November 2024 and the 11th– 14th November 2024 at Galway Airport. 8 New Water Rescue Instructors qualified on a Water Rescue Instructors course and assessment course held on the 09th – 13th September 2024 and the 21st – 25th November 2024 respectively. A new Rope Rescue Supervisor qualified at a course in Portlaoise Fire Station in October 2024




A number of senior fire officers are scheduled to attend the one-day NDFEM Senior Officer Seminar scheduled to take place in Tullamore. The aim of the seminar is to enhance the capability of fire authorities to provide effective and efficient fire and emergency services, through the provision of development opportunities for senior fire officers.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COLAS (CBE WEST) ORANMORE

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

was carried out for the site during October and further tested the response of the Local Competent Authorities and GFRS.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

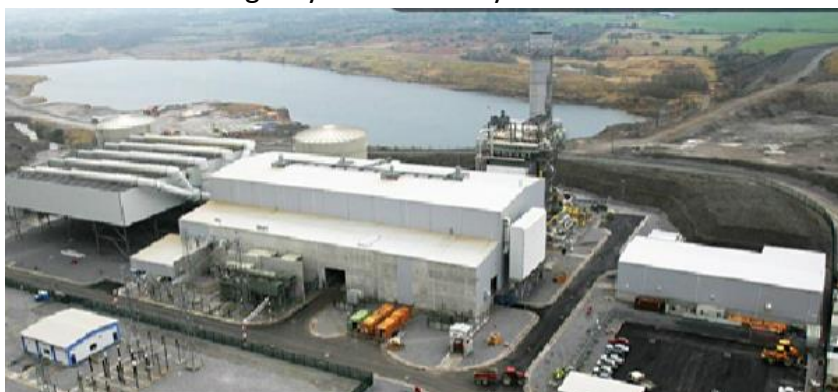
Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed external emergency plan may be made in writing **only** to the COMAH Planning Group, Galway Fire Station, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway or by emailing fireservices@galwaycoco.ie not later than 4:30pm on 15th November 2024.

CBE WEST EXTERNAL EMERGENCY PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

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

TYNAGH ENERGY LOWER TIER COMAH SITE – TYNAGH, CO GALWAY

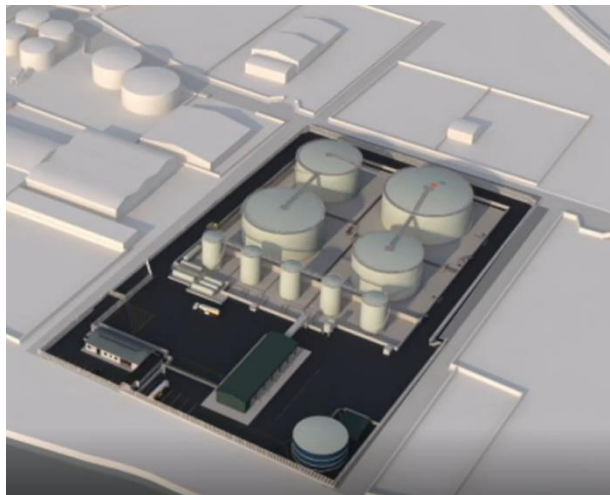


CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

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



CIRCLE K UPPER TIER COMAH SITE - GALWAY HARBOUR



ISLAND RESPONSE PLAN

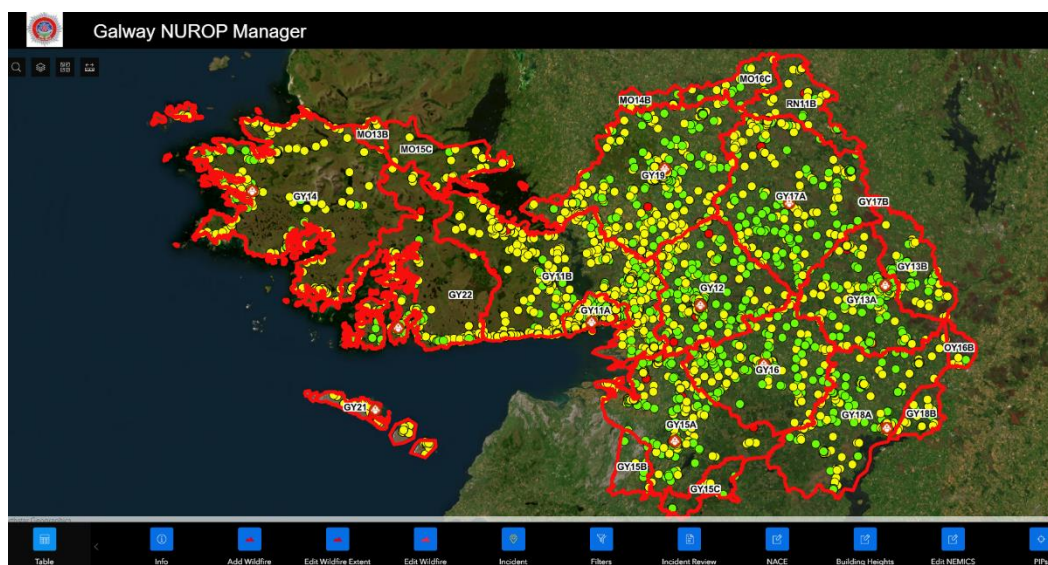
Galway County Council with MEM West Regional Working Group are to conduct a combined Conamara Airport and Island Response Plan Exercise in late November 2024. The exercise will be both tabletop and practical, testing the coordination and response of the Principle Response Agencies, Principle Emergency Services, Coast Guard, RNLI, Airport Authority and other relevant stakeholders to simultaneous incidents at the onshore airport and an offshore island.

CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGICAL NUCLEAR EXERCISE

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

NUROP AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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



Ashley.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Ongoing Induction training of new volunteers is continuing. 22 new members have engaged in training currently.

Galway Civil Defence have been selected as one of seven counties to pilot a new advanced Missing Person Search resource. This Cloud based service will allow Search Managers to operate and monitor Missing Person Searches with more real time data available.

Galway Civil Defence were selected to participate in a joint Civil Defence Exercise with Clare and Limerick Civil Defence in Ennis, Co. Clare. 12 members will work through various scenarios throughout this exercise.

All Civil Defence First Aid Instructors have completed recertification in PHECC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care), Cardiac First Response (CFR), First Aid Response (FAR) and Emergency First Response (EFR). This certification will be for a 2-year period as per PHECC guidelines. One new instructor has completed a Search Field Skills Instructor Course. This course involved 6 days attendance at training and practical exercises in order to complete the course. Units are actively training at their relevant bases and helping at Community Events in their respective areas.

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE ACTION COURSE FOR THE OVER 60'S



There have been great turnouts in Oranmore for the over 60's Climate Action course which is taking place over a 6-week period. Forty-five people attended the training on the 18th of October to avail of presentations and one-to-one sessions with SEAI and the Galway County Council Housing Section. The presentation by the Housing Section covered Housing Aid for Older People and for People with a Disability and the presentation from the SEAI mentor included details on Home Energy Grants.

DECARBONISATION ZONE – OILEÁIN ÁRANN

DIVERGENTLY TOGETHER WORKSHOP

The Climate Unit took part in a GCC supported workshop, titled Divergently Together, as part of an immersive artwork project 'Augmented Body Altered Mind' on Inis Oírr on the 28th of September. Co-created in real time by the public, this interactive artwork explores the intersections between variations in the human brain, cognition, individual agency and



the climate crisis. The aim of the workshop was to discuss eco-ableism (where actions/policies

unintentionally harm/exclude disabled people by promoting environmental solutions that don't consider the needs or limitations of disabled individuals). Suggested solutions included the use of Plain English, Easy Reads and Social Stories (support documents for neurodivergent persons) in GCC plans and documentation.

INIS OIRR ENERGY EVENT

SEISIÚN EOLAIS AN CHOMHARCHUMAINN FUINNIMH

DÉ CÉADAOIN 9Ú DEIREADH FÓMHAIR

7:30-9:00 IN

IONAD: HALLA INIS OIRR AM: 7.30 IN - 9.00 IN

Líon isteach an ceistneoir gearr seo le do thoil go mbeidh muid in ann trial bhur gceisteanna a fhreagairt ar an oíche agus eolas a tabhairt daoibh a bhéas cabhrach.

Má tá aon duine ag iarraidh eolas breise nó má tá aon cheisteanna nó moltaí agaibhse is féidir libh dul i dteagmháil le:

The Climate Unit took part in another event on Inis Oirr on the 9th of October. At this public Energy Information Event our Climate Action Officer was one of four speakers and she highlighted the role and benefits of being part of the Oileáin Árann decarbonization zone.



ODEON EU LIVING LABS

The Climate Unit participated in an in-person Living Lab as part of the ODEON project on the 17th of October. ODEON is an EU funded, Horizon Europe research and innovation project aiming to develop the first European ecosystem for the digital energy transition to empower citizens and local energy communities to accelerate decarbonisation.

The Oileáin Árann energy community is one of five dedicated European demonstration locations within ODEON. Living Labs provide a feedback loop to the project where participants provide expert perspective on opportunities, barriers, and solutions.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY STATISTICS 1ST JANUARY – 31ST OCTOBER 2024	
Application Received/Valid	1474/1416
Granted	1237
Grant Rate	86%
Refused	208
Breakdown of Decisions Granted	Outline 6, Permission 952, Retention 260, Permission Consequent 4.
Extensions of Duration	15
Percentage of applications received via Portal / Hardcopy	82% via portal

Stage 1 LRD	3
Stage 2 LRD	2
Major Meeting	9
SID Meetings	4

KEY PLANNING UPDATES

LARGE SCALE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Galway County Council granted planning permission for its first LRD development which comprises of 220 residential units, including 24 Senior Living units adjoining Gort Town centre. A key element of the development is a new direct pedestrian access from the site to the proposed railway station. The development will also deliver a new commercial area which will include an activity centre, co—working offices, 4 retail units, a café and creche facility. The junction at Georges Street (R458) and the Loughrea road (R380) will also benefit from upgrades as a result of the proposed development which will also benefit the wider population of the town.

The below applications were also granted permission over the last month

35 houses permitted in Loughrea.

35 houses and 4 commercial units granted in Maigh Cuilinn

Annaghdown Parish Council - all weather pitch, lighting, fencing, walking track and all ancillary works.

Solus Holdings Ltd – 37 residential units and 2 retail units in Athenry.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Work is underway to prepare a Joint Retail Strategy in partnership with Galway City Council. The scope of the JRS includes the Metropolitan Area which includes the County settlements of Oranmore, Bearna and Baile Chláir (Garraun and Briarhill zoned nodal centres also). KPMG/Future Analytics are the consultants appointed to deliver the JRS. A stakeholder engagement event will take place on Wednesday 27th November 2024 for the elected members. It is anticipated that the drop in engagement will be from 10am-2pm in the county council office. More details to follow.

LOUGHREA LOCAL AREA PLAN

Draft ministerial direction received with respect to MA 35. Closing date for submissions was 12th September. CE report on the Draft Ministerial Direction was submitted to the Minister, OPR and the elected members on the 9th October 2024. We will await communication from the Minister and inform the Loughrea MD members if we receive any correspondence.

URDF

Planning application submitted to Galway County Council for the passing rail loop; additional platform etc at Oranmore Train Station.

Enabling works at Oranmore Train Station commenced on 08.10.2024. Concluding in mid Feb 2025.

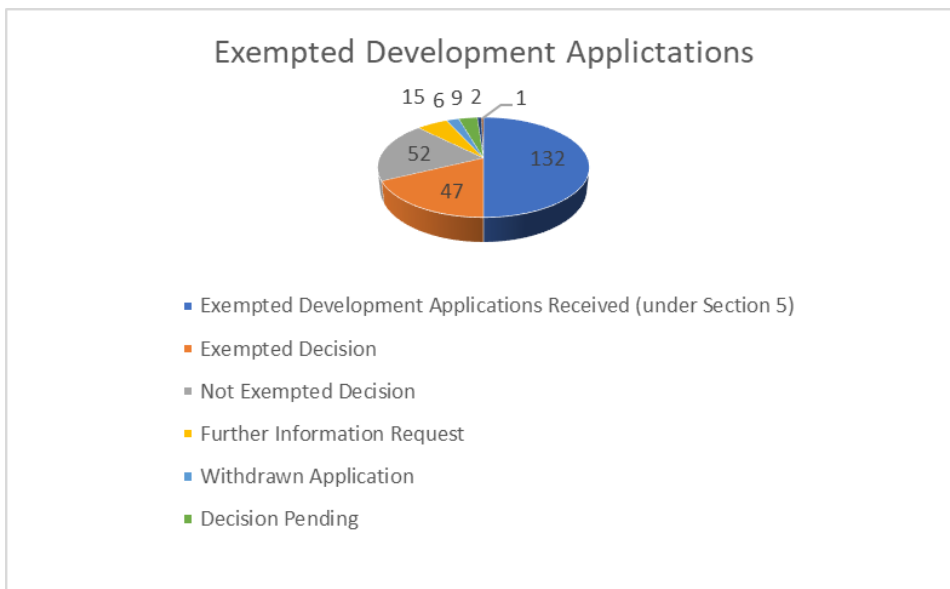
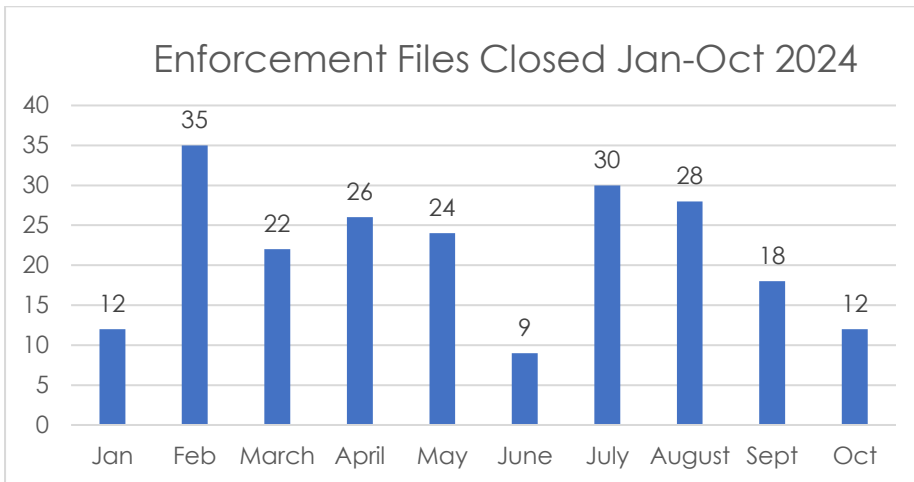
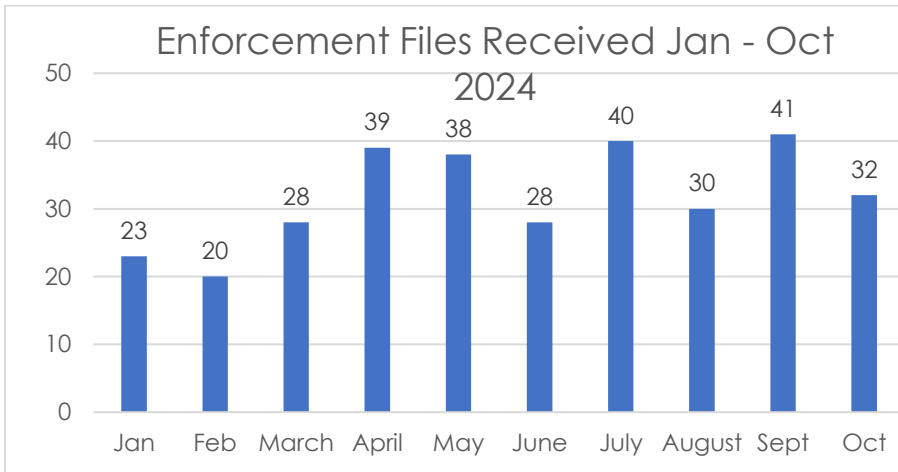
Meeting has been sought with the NTA with respect to the car park design at Oranmore and we are awaiting confirmation of that date.

MASTERPLAN OF THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT LANDS

Work is underway with a consultant appointed in the preparation of Tender Documents in relation to the Master Plan of the Former Galway Airport lands.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

The development of a new Draft Development Contribution scheme is currently underway and will be presented to the elected members in Quarter 1/2 of 2025.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES:

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME

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



The schedule of modules covered in this course include:

Monday November 4 th	6.00-9.30pm	Business & Self Appraisal, Goal Setting, The Business Plan, Key Responsibilities
Wednesday Nov 6 th	6.00-9.30pm	Legal Structures, Registration, Record Keeping Taxation
Monday Nov 11 th	6.00-9.30pm	VAT & Cash Flow, Marketing & the Business Plan
Wednesday Nov 13 th	6.00-9.30pm	Marketing, Research, Product & Promotion
Monday Nov 18 th	6.00-9.30pm	Market Research, Competition, Costing & Pricing
Monday Dec 2 nd	6.00-9.30pm	Funding & Supports, LEO Galway guest, Networking & Marketing

Wednesday Dec 4th

6.00-9.30pm

Personal & People Management, Going forward with your business plan; Growing your business.

MENTORING

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

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



TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER WEBINAR

LEO GALWAY organises a Trading Online Voucher webinar to support clients with applying for the Trading Online Voucher. Our next webinar will be held on November 12th.



TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER

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

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

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

DESIGN MINGLE with CIARA O’Neill

Ciara O’Neill will speak about her inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 15th November at 10.30am. Ciara is an artist from Galway who specializes in contemporary art. She has a degree in Interior Design, and this is where she developed her eye for colour. Ciara lived in Australia for 8 years and has gotten a lot of her inspiration and vibrant colour schemes from that climate. Her Designs are inspired by her love for Aboriginal art and Andy Warhol. Ciara's art will add a pop of colour to any room. All designed and painted by Ciara in the West of Ireland. Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and



design entrepreneurs. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate, and foster meaningful connections.

LEAN LAUNCH

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

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

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

LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR

The popular Local Food and Craft Fair, organised by Local Enterprise Office Galway, returns to the Black Box Theatre this November. The event showcases Galway designers, handcrafted goods and artisan produce, with over 50 stands featuring the best in locally produced gifts.



The 2024 event takes place on Saturday 30th November 10am - 6pm and Sunday 1st December 11am - 5pm at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. The Local Food and Craft Fair charity partner this year is Galway Hospice.

Since 2012, the Local Craft and Food Gift Fair has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. This year’s event promises to be bigger and better than ever! This two-day fair is great opportunity to find unique locally made gifts before Christmas, along with a wide range of locally produced artisan food products.

This year, Barnardo the Magician will be keeping the kids entertained with balloon creations and magic shows over the course of the weekend– guaranteeing a great family day out! Among the exhibitors this year are Fluff Beag, Aideen Monaghan Art, The Wonky Woolins, Builín Blasta and Irish Socksciety.

INSPIRATIONAL TALK WITH MICHAEL DYER FOUNDER OF CLEAN-CUT MEALS



The Galway Local Enterprise Office are hosting an inspirational talk with Michael Dyer founder of Clean-Cut Meals at the Bia Innovator Campus in Athenry on Tuesday 26th November at 10.30am. Gather and Grow is a vibrant networking event tailored for entrepreneurs in the Food and Drink industry. Gather and Grow provides a platform to

share ideas, collaborate, and learn from each other’s experiences, help foster innovation and build strong business connections.

PAST EVENTS

ASIA MATTERS: MEDTECH & HEALTHCARE SUMMIT & DR. ORLA FLYNN

Caroline McDonagh Acting Head of Enterprise recently attended Asia Matters: Medtech & Healthcare summit on November 8th, 2024. It was a day filled with insightful discussions, networking opportunities and collaboration in the field of healthcare and medical



technology. There were many key stakeholders, industry experts and speakers at this event including Orla Flynn, President of ATU.

L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY AND DR. ORLA FLYNN, ATU PRESIDENT

AIB-EVENT FOR START UPS

AIB (Allied Irish Bank) in conjunction with Local Enterprise Office Galway hosted three information evenings for Start Ups/ New Business Customers in September and October. These information evenings were held in Clifden, Tuam and Salthill where Eoin Connaire represented the LEO and gave a presentation and advised of supports.

AIB STAFF AND EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY



NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

National Women's Enterprise Day was held in the Hardiman Hotel, Galway on Thursday 17th October. Our keynote speaker on the day was Síle Seoige (TV Presenter, Podcaster, MC, Wellness speaker and Yoga Teacher). It was a huge success with an attendance of approximately 120 people. Ireland's largest female enterprise event promotes, encourages and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office along with Enterprise Ireland provide a wide range of help, incentives, training, and development programmes to female entrepreneurs.



L-R: MS. MARTINA RIDDELL, MS. NOREEN DONOHUE, MS. ANN MARIE COSTELLO, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, AND MS. CAIIOSA KEAVENEY

LEO TEAM GALWAY.

L-R: MS. EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. LORETTA NÍ GHABHÁIN (LORG MEDIA), MS. TIMEA KOVACS (HEALTHY BAKE LTD), MS. ELZBIETA SZCZERBAK (THE MOOD DESIGNS), MS. GRAINNE MULLINS (GRÁ CHOCOLATES), MS. SÍLE SEOIGE (KEYNOTE SPEAKER) AND MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY



DESIGN MINGLE 11TH OCTOBER

Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event that takes place in CREW. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate and foster meaningful connections. Our last Design Mingle took place on 11th October with guest speakers Eimear Noone & Craig Stuart Garfinkle who spoke about their inspiring journey to success in CREW. Eimear Noone is a conductor and award-winning Irish composer, composing extensively for film and video games. As one of the world's premier composers of games scores, Eimear is responsible for some of the most enduring soundscapes on World of Warcraft and other best-selling video games. As a 25+ year veteran of film, stage and television production, Craig Stuart Garfinkle has held just about every position in front of and behind the camera including composer, director, producer, editor, writer, sound

mixer, and speaker.



L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH
HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO
GALWAY, MS. EIMEAR NOONE,
MR. CRAIG STUART GARFINKLE,
TWELVE O'CLOCK ARTS, MS.
MARTINA RIDDEL AND MS.
NOREEN DONOHUE, LEO
GALWAY

L-R: MS. CAROLINE
MCDONAGH HEAD OF
ENTERPRISE LEO GALWAY,
MS. EIMEAR NOONE, TWELVE
O'CLOCK ARTS, MR. COLIN
BURKE, COLIN BURKE
KNITWEAR, MS. NIAMH
COSTELLO, CREW



LOCAL FOOD & CRAFT FAIR PREPARATION TRAINING

Local Food and Craft fair preparation training for stand holders took place on the 8th, 15th & 22nd of October online and in person took place on 18th October in the Connacht Hotel.

SALES AND EXPORT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Our Sales and Export Accelerator Programme is aimed at owner-managers who want to identify, target and convert new business opportunities, either in Ireland / NI, UK or in mainland Europe. To date, approximately 50 owner-managers have participated on the Programme, and many have seen their sales grow considerably as a direct result. Our information Seminar took place on Friday 17th October in the Clayton Hotel, Galway.



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

Facebook:

3103 followers

Reach year-to-date: 42.2k

Instagram:

8407 followers

Reach year-to-date: 75.6k

LinkedIn:

1176 followers

42370 reached.

X (Twitter):

6029 followers

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF)

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

RRDF PROJECT

Following a detailed application by the Regeneration Team, Athenry was granted €6,075,518.40 Rural Regeneration Development Funding for the Athenry Public Realm

Enhancement Scheme Phase1 and the redevelopment of Somers House Burke's Lane to provide a Community and Enterprise Hub. The regeneration team has progressed the project with the appointment of consultants for the Public Realm project. Current programming currently forecasts construction to commence late-2025. As part of the contract a community liaison officer will be appointed to manage engagement with local stakeholders both prior to and during works. A tender has been prepared for the appointment of consultants to deliver the construction Phase of the Somers House redevelopment; this will be uploaded onto etenders by the end of November.

LOUGHREA

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

The Regeneration team submitted a request for further funding to the Department of Rural and Community development on the 26th September. The Regeneration Team are delighted to announce that their request was granted in full. The team is now in a position to appoint the preferred contractors with a view to commencing construction on-site on Q2 2025.

LONG POINT

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. A Part 10 planning application has been lodged to An Bord Pleanála, and full details can be viewed on <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/loughrea-long-point-amenity-enhancement-project-part-10-planning-application> The period of submissions is now closed, and we await further correspondence from An Bord Pleanála regarding the proposal.



VISUALISATIONS OF LONG POINT NEW CHANGING FACILITIES AND PARK DESIGN

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



CLIFDEN

LUC are nearing completion of the Planning Package for the Part 10 planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Submissions can be made to An Bord Pleanála until the 6th December and plans and particulars can be viewed online

<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme>



BEACH ROAD QUAY

MARKET SQUARE AND
MARKET STREET





HARBOUR PARK

PORTUMNA

TOWN TRAIL

OBFA architects Ltd are progressing with the development of the Town Trail Strategy. The Strategy document will include at a minimum the indicative design of the trail layout, identification of potential suitable forms of interventions and a public engagement process. The process will result in the creation of 4no. distinct design briefs to be used as a guide to selection of installations or other integrated design interventions within the town environs. This outdoor landscape art & design experience will link the Castle, Workhouse, Courthouse, Forest Park and Blueway Loop Walk through comprehensive wayfinding. A preliminary online survey will be published for input from the local community followed by 2 workshops in Q1 2025 to get local community input into the proposal.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Works are currently progressing ahead of programme at Portumna Courthouse to elements such as, first fix mechanical & electrical, internal rendering, first floor decking, and the foundations to the new café. The building will be open to the public in Q2 2025. An Expression of Interest for operators of the Café in the Courthouse was published mid-October. A formal public tendering process will follow before the end of 2024. Funding through the DRCD for the appointment of a 3-year temporary post of Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility during the operational stage, we hope to get this post filled by the new year. This post will also manage the Loughrea Town Hall and Tuam Town Hall once completed.

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

GORT

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

TUAM

TOWN HALL

The Regeneration Team have published a tender for a design team to progress the construction phase of the refurbishment of Tuam Town hall. An open-day was offered to tenderers on the 11th November. The closing date for submission of tenders is the 6th December 2024.

STATION QUARTER THRIVE FUNDING

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann, CIE and in consultation with Action Tuam to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Tuam THRIVE, has been through the tender process for the appointment of consultants to deliver the masterplan for the Station Quarter, these consultants will be appointed in the coming weeks. A separate Part 8 application will be progressed in-house by the regeneration team with a view to submitting in February/March 2025 once all the public and stakeholder consultation has been completed. There is the possibility of applying for capital funding for the renovation of the Tuam Station House in May 2025 through a final round of THRIVE funding subject to financial viability of the proposal.



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

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



BALLINASLOE

Following on from the successful funding application by the Regeneration team under THRIVE funding to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of a dedicated Town Centre First Plan focusing on the historic core and Fair Green identifying potential projects for future funding applications. The tendering process is now complete, and the Regeneration Team have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company (Ireland) limited to work with the Town Regeneration Officer, the Town Team and local community to progress the plan process. The Town team are meeting at the end of the month with the TRO and appointed consultants to have a walk around the town and start the discussion regarding the town's future investment.

Regular updates will be provided to the MD meetings on the progress of the plan as well as presentations of draft proposals to Councillors for input.

URDF CALL 3 – VACANCY AND DERELICTION

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

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

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN

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



MEMBERS OF THE CONAMARA MD, ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA, COMHARCHUMANN MHC DARA AND DIRECTOR OF SERVICES UINSINN FINN AND TRO HAZEL FOX AT THE LAUNCH

TOWN CENTRE FIRST INITIATIVES- TOWN TEAMS

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

HERITAGE OFFICE

GALWAY AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS: CONEMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The overall aim of this project was to conduct an audit of oral heritage recordings and/or collections related to topics, people or places within the Conamara Municipal District. In doing so, the project intended to provide a broad and coherent representation of oral heritage recordings, collected over many decades, relating to the oral tradition and folklore of Conamara. The audit proved itself tremendously positive and popular among communities and collections holders in Conamara.

Between June and November 2024, significant engagement was carried out by Mac Conamara Heritage Consulting on behalf of the Heritage Office of Galway County Council, primarily through direct correspondence and fieldwork with collection holders at local, regional, national and international levels. Through intensive fieldwork and research, a total of 3,193 recording items were identified, consisting of both long and short form interviews and recordings, within thirty-eight collections and over thirty holding institutions or Collection Holders.

A Project Database has been generated in addition to a detailed report where the findings of the audit have been broken down. In addition, a Collection Report has been created for each collection identified, providing information on collection content, description, metadata and access details. The project generated significant publicity, featuring on TG4, Radio na Gaeltachta, Galway Bay FM as well as multiple local radio and print media outlets.

The project has led to the identification of 3,193 recordings items within or related to Conamara. This is the first time such crucial data has been compiled. In addition, at least 50% of the collections identified had never been used or disseminated, most not even played. It therefore makes a huge contribution to our awareness of cultural heritage data in Conamara. Through persistent dialogue and co-operation, the audit team managed to establish a relatively unified dataset, aggregating metadata standards where possible to bring about a cohesive view of Conamara's oral heritage materials, despite the wide-ranging conditions, formats, and documentation levels. This assists directly in the potential development of



A Connemara word cloud illustrates subjects explored across multiple holding institutions

Digital Heritage Resources and moves them much closer to availability and access.

Community collections of oral heritage, generated by localised groupings, account for 18.4% and 275 recording items. Ten of the collections identified (26%) were found within international collections like the Irish in Britain Organisation, University of Prince Edward Island, University of Montana or the Ellis Island Foundation, New York. The inclusion of these records, documented with Conamara natives overseas, is a vital recognition of the way memories migrate with people and identities endure. National Collections account of 13% of those identified. Predictably, the National Folklore Collection is responsible for the largest number of sound recordings related to Conamara, with approximately 1,500 files on record from the late 1920s through to early 21st century recordings.

By uncovering over 3,000 recording items, the Audit has further underlined the region's rich cultural heritage. While this richness has been recognised for many decades, this project has shown that there remains streams of memory and tradition which continue to be flowing and are often untapped.

STORYMAPS

A number of new StoryMaps were added to Galway County Council's StoryMaps portal over the past few months. They include the following:

THE HERITAGE OF CREGGS, COUNTY GALWAY: CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT

This StoryMap was created as a result of the Creggs Heritage Audit which Creggs Rural Development Group commissioned in 2018 with support from the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. It is a comprehensive baseline report of the built, natural and cultural heritage monuments and sites in the Creggs area. It can be viewed. This StoryMap was compiled by Zena Hctor, Impact GIS, Creggs Rural Development Group and Kilbegnet Historical Society with assistance from the Heritage Office and GIS Section of Galway County Council. The StoryMap contains 15 points of interest about Mount Mary, O Sullivan Beara Camp, the Giant Stone, crannógs, Abbey Grey monastic site, The King's grave, Millford Ringfort, the Presbyterian Church, RIC Barracks and Creggs RFC, Parnell Memorial Monument, St May's RC Church, Kilbegnet Graveyard, Carrownaglogh Mass Rock, Donamon



Church and Dunamon Castle. This StoryMap includes text, videos and podcasts.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb4b36234999120?item=13>

PHOTO CREDIT:
MAIN STREET
ROUNDSTONE C1895
BALFOUR ALBUM,
SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS,
JAMES HARDIMAN
LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY



THE HERITAGE OF ROUNDSTONE, COUNTY GALWAY

Roundstone Village was developed by Alexander Nimmo in 1824. This StoryMap features 15 sites of interest. They include the village of Roundstone, Roundstone Harbour, The Fort, The Kirk, St Mary's Church of Ireland, Community Centre, Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, The Coastguard Station, The Old Store, The Franciscan Monastery, The Round Stone, Gurteen Bay and Dogs Bay SAC, Roundstone Bog, Inish Nee and Inish Lacken.

This project has been funded by the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024 and supported and assisted by the Heritage Officer and Brídín Feeney, GIS Officer. The text for this StoryMap was produced by Bronagh Lanigan.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/72fe361f467444428fb4b36234999120?item=12>

GORT GOLF CLUB – 1924-2024 – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



BACK L-R: GALWAY WALKER CUP STAR LIAM NOLAN, LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, BERNIE BROWNE, EDITOR, CLUB TREASURER JOHN MELVILLE, AND CLUB CHAIRPERSON JOE BYRNE

FRONT L-R: PATSY LYONS, EDITOR CLLR ALBERT DOLAN, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, AND MARIE MANNION, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HERITAGE OFFICER

Gort Golf Club – 1924~2024 – Celebrating 100 Years, this 128-page publication showcases the club's history through a rich collection of photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, and personal memories. The book represents months of dedicated research, writing, editing, and creativity, which the authors and club officials were thrilled to present. Assistance was provided to the authors by the Heritage Officer and the publication was part funded under Galway County Council's Community Support Grants - Heritage Grant Scheme.

In addition to this, two podcasts entitled *Gort "Golf Club – Memories"* were completed in which Sadie McInerney, Hannah McInerney and Niall Finnegan were interviewed by Sally-Ann Barrett. As Gort natives and long-time members of Gort Golf Club, the podcasts record their reminiscences, some going back over 50 years.

The official launch was conducted by Cllr Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council.

BALLINASLOE'S NEW ANNUAL HERITAGE JOURNAL 'HOSTINGS'



AT THE LAUNCH OF 'HOSTINGS' WERE CONOR JOHNSTON, CHAIRPERSON, BALLINASLOE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY, SEAN MADDEN, BALLINASLOE CREDIT UNION, CHAIRPERSON, PÓL Ó CONGHAILE, INDEPENDENT MEDIA TRAVEL EDITOR, JOURNAL EDITOR DAMIAN MAC CON ULADH, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND ADRIAN AHERNE, BALLINASLOE CREDIT UNION

Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society continues its work to protect, preserve and promote the vast, rich and substantial history and heritage of Ballinasloe, and its hinterland, by publishing the first volume of its new annual journal 'Hostings'.

L-R: DR DANIEL CURLEY, CLLR EVELYN PARSONS AND DR CHRISTY CUNNIFFE

Part funded by a grant from Galway County Council's Heritage Office, the 72-page A4 full colour production covers a broad spectrum, extending from the town's medieval origins up to social, cultural and sporting topics from the 18th to the 20th Century. The journal has high production values and a premium feel and features written and photographic content from acclaimed local, national and international contributors including novelists, playwrights, historians, archaeologists and academics among others.





PICTURED AT THE LAUNCH -CLLR ALAN HARNEY, JOURNAL EDITOR DAMIAN MAC CON ULADH, SENATOR AISLING DOLAN, CONOR JOHNSTON, CHAIRPERSON, BALLINASLOE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE CHAIRPERSON, BALLINASLOE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY, PÓL Ó CONGHAILE, INDEPENDENT MEDIA TRAVEL EDITOR AND MARK KELLY, KELLY PRINT WORKS.

It is apt that the first volume of this new annual history and heritage journal is being published in a significant anniversary year, it being 900 years since king of Connacht Turlough O'Connor built the castle settlement at Dún Lodha, the foundational event for the county town.

On November 8th, 150 people attended the journal launch and a celebration of Ballinasloe's history and heritage in the town's historical Town Hall building.

HERITAGE AUDIT OF ABBEYKNOCKMOY

ABBERT CHURCH, PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ZENA HOCTOR

In 2023, members of Abbeyknockmoy Parish Society became interested in carrying out some heritage related projects and they set up a sub-group and named it Abbeyknockmoy Cultural Heritage. The Heritage Officer of Galway County Council recommended



that they would undertake a heritage audit in the first instance of the parish and district. Following a successful application to the Heritage Council under the Community Grants Scheme 2024 by Abbeyknockmoy Cultural Heritage, the Heritage Audit of Abbeyknockmoy commenced in June 2024.

The aim was to audit all built, natural and cultural heritage monuments and sites within a 6km radius of Abbeyknockmoy village in order to provide a framework for the future development of the local heritage resources by Abbeyknockmoy Cultural Heritage and their interpretation for both residents and visitors. Zena Hoctor Heritage Services were appointed in May 2024 by Abbeyknockmoy Cultural Heritage to complete the audit. The

audit can be viewed on the following link:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/abbeyknockmoy-places/abbeyknockmoy-cultural-heritage>

GUTHANNA: SCÉALTA Ó CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE 2019 & 2024

VOICES: STORIES FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL 2019 & 2024



ATTENDING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WERE GRÁINNE SMYTH, TONY MURPHY, FRANCES MURPHY, JIM CULLEN, ROSE O'BOYLE, GERALDINE KAVANAGH, EILEEN RUANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, RITA GATLEY.

This year marks 125 years of local government in Ireland, with the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 introducing county councils and leading to the 1899 Irish local elections. To celebrate this momentous occasion Heritage Office contacted retired members of staff and retired Elected Members of Galway County Council share their experiences, insights, and fond memories from their time at Galway County Council. Their stories highlight the rich history and traditions of Galway County Council and were captured on two videos one which was commissioned in 2019 and the other in 2024. The following are those who participated in the videos:

2019 VIDEO:

Martina Moloney, Banister Contae Chontae na Gaillimhe (ar scor)/ Galway County Manager (retired)

Tom Kavanagh, Rúnaí Contae Chontae na Gaillimhe (ar scor)/ Galway County Secretary (retired)

Terry Coogan, Meicneoir Feisteora – An Clós Innealra (ar scor)/ Fitter Mechanic – Machinery Yard (retired)

Frank Glynn, Comhairleoir agus Iar-Mhéara (ar scor)/ Councillor and Former Mayor (retired)

Bridie Willers, Comhairleoir (ar scor)/ Councillor (retired)

Noel Forde, Innealtóir Ceantair (ar scor)/ Area Engineer (retired)

Tony Murphy, Rúnaí Contae Chontae na Gaillimhe (ar scor)/ Galway County Secretary (retired)

Breda McDermott, Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach, Seirbhísí Corparáideacha (ar scor)/ Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (retired)

2024 VIDEO:

Frank Dawson, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí, Pobal agus Fiontraíocht, (ar scor)/ Director of Services, Community and Enterprise (retired)

Jim Cuddy, Comhairleoir (ar scor)/ Councillor (retired)

Jim Cullen, Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Gníomhach (ar scor)/ Acting Chief Executive (retired)

Albert Comer, Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach, An Rannóg Pleanála (ar scor)/ Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department (retired)

Connie Ní Fhátharta, Comhairleoir agus an Chéad Mhéara Mná ar Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe (ar scor)/ Councillor and First Female Mayor of Galway County Council (retired)

Rita Gately, Oifigeach Tréadliachta Contae (ar scor)/ County Veterinary Officer (retired)

Gráinne Smyth, Oifigeach Cléireachais, An Rannóg Pleanála (ar scor)/ Clerical Officer, Planning Department (retired)

Rose Gaughran, Oifigeach Foirne Sinsearach, Bóithre agus Iompar (ar scor)/ Senior Staff Officer, Road and Transportation (retired)

Seán Gaughran, Teicneoir Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach, Bóithre agus Iompar (ar scor)/ Senior Executive Technician, Road and Transportation (retired)

Rose O'Boyle, Oifigeach Riaracháin Gníomhach, Seirbhísí Corparáideacha (ar scor)/ Acting Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (retired)



AT THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WERE FRANK DAWSON, RITA GATLEY, LOUISE O'DONNELL AND MICHAEL MULLIN.

ENJOYING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WERE LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, BREDA FOX, DR MARTINA MOLONEY, CLLR EILEEN MANNION, CLLR MICHAEL 'MOEGIE' MAHER AND FRANK DAWSON



The videos can be viewed on the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jmc-v2VPNk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlmnE0b-g8A>

PLANNING

BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT WORKS AT BALLINAHINCH CASTLE

The Biodiversity Officer met with Head Gardener Cian Cunniffe and the team at Ballinahinch Castle looking at opportunities for habitat enhancement and biodiversity conservation on the extensive 700 acres of the castle in Conamara. Much of Conamara's tourism is driven by

the presence of stunning habitats and protected species. Preserving and protecting our natural habitats can have significant impacts in developing a sustainable tourism model for the area.



HEAD GARDENER
CIAN CUNIFFE
AND MEMBERS
OF
BALLINAHINCH
CASTLE TEAM
WITH GALWAY
COUNTY
COUNCIL'S
BIODIVERSITY
OFFICER.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECT UPDATES

THE HARE'S CORNER

The Hare's Corner is a biodiversity initiative of the Burren-based landscape charity Burrenbeo Trust, that was rolled out in 2024 to landowners in Co. Galway in partnership with Galway County Council's Biodiversity Office. The Hare's Corner project offered landowners 'hassle-free' support to carry out simple but impactful actions for biodiversity. These actions included the creation of a wildlife pond, a native mini-woodland, a heritage mini-orchard with apple trees from the Irish Seed Savers Association, bespoke 'plans for nature', 'plans for water' and 'peatland plans'. This support was offered in the form of materials (native trees and heritage apple trees), micro-funding (e.g., machinery costs for pond digging), professional services (such as a hydrologist's visit to help plan a pond i.e. 'plan for water', or an ecologist's visit to 'plan for nature' or prepare a 'peatland plan') and guidance.

The project was open to applications from landowners, including farmers, as well as schools and community groups. Applications were opened in April 2024. We received 222 applications from Co. Galway for a total of 571 biodiversity actions. The final participant profile was: 33 groups (community groups/schools), 7 farmers and 158 private landowners.

By December 2024 this project will have supported the creation of 312 biodiversity actions: 117 woodlands (with 49 native trees per woodland including Birch, Alder, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Spindle, Oak and rarer species like Burren Pine, Wych Elm, Aspen, Black Poplar), 117 orchards (5 heritage apple trees per orchard), 15 ponds for wildlife, 24 Plans for Water and 23 Plans for Nature and 16 'Peatland Plans' - a wonderful investment in the natural infrastructure of the County.

The delivery of these actions was made possible through a combination of public and private partnership and through the funding awarded to Galway County Council through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2024.

The Hare's Corner monitors the success of all actions through an online survey and where possible, in-person site visits one year after actions are taken, to assess the effectiveness of the actions and to learn lessons on how the project can be strengthened.

The map below shows the locations of the actions carried out across the county.



MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE HARE'S CORNER PROJECTS FOR COUNTY GALWAY

Social Media Statistics

Facebook:

1640 followers

7,956 Reach in last 28 days

Instagram:

1134 followers

828 Reach in last 28 days

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Roads Programme Progress Report – September 2024

1. Restoration Improvement –2024 Contractor on Site
 - a. Coast Road - **Complete**
 - b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane) - **Complete**
 - c. Old Church St, Athenry
 - d. School Road, Carnmore- **Complete**
 - e. Knockdoemore (Tinkers Lane) - **Complete**
 - f. Polkeen - **Complete**
 - g. Gurraun North - **Complete**
 - h. Kiniska - **Complete**
 - i. Caherteenmore (Coolarne) - **Complete**
 - j. Carnaun (Bauimore NS road) - **Complete**

- k. Slievefinn - Complete
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches) - Complete
- m. Sheeaun - Complete

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

a. Surface dressing –

- R339 Newford - Complete
- LS3109 Crumlin - Complete
- LS7138 Knockauncarragh - Complete
- LS71149 Kiltroque - Complete
- LS7126 Ballydavid Middle - Complete
- LS3112 Gloves Middle - Complete
- LS3102 Moneymore - Complete
- LS2117 Ballylee/Annagh West/Barana - Complete
- LS6200 Cahergowan/Mointagh - Complete
- LS7103 Kiltullagh - Complete

3. Recycling Contract – Planning works for September

- a. Cormachugh- Complete
- b. Lisheenoran- Complete
- c. Carnaun – Direct Labour Crew- Complete
- d. Waterdale- Complete

4. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Tender awarded met contractor to plan works.
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) completed Plan organising works through sub-contractors.

5. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions
- b. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – Tender preliminary meeting with contractor.
- c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508
- d. CC2024 L2119 Corrandulla GC/24/35508

6. Community Involvement Scheme

- Maree Road @ Church – - Complete
- New Line Junction Crossing – Meeting contractor
- Ryehill Church – Road widening – LO Agreement received.
- Coolarne no 1 – Road widening ongoing
- Caraun – Road bend - Planned.
- Ballyboggin – Edge drainage - Planned.

7. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. LIS/258/21 Carnakelly North 2024 ongoing - Complete
- b. LIS/264/21 Stonepark, Abbeyknockmoy 2024 - Complete
- c. LIS/200/21 Frenchfort Oranmore 2024 - Complete
- d. LIS/184/21 Rock Road 2024 – Landowner issues
- e. LIS/31/21 Derrydonnell North 2024 - Complete

8. Other Items

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Landowner agreement, working towards Part 8 planning.
Hydrological study Clarin River	Discussions with successful tenderer to progress next phase of Hydrological assessment and drainage Modelling to work cost benefit analysis
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design completed, GCC Active travel preparing tender documents
Station road Drainage	Tender evaluation ongoing, met with prospective contractors

9. Figures and Pictures



COAST ROAD FOOTPATH AND ROADWORKS



LARAGHMORE CIS



COOLARNE CIS



RYEHILL CIS



HEDGE CUTTING DUAL
CARRIAGEWAY



DRAINAGE PALMERSTOWN



DERRYDONNELL SURFACING



STORM ASHLEY CLEAN UP



CORMACHUGH SURFACE DRESSING

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors on its behalf completed remaining projects delivery of the 2024 roadworks programme throughout the MD during October, particularly the inlay SMA projects in Ballinasloe Town. The Restoration Improvement (RI) programme is now substantially complete, except for an overlay resurfacing project on the former national R446 between Ballinasloe and Aughrim, which will be completed in November. Ballinasloe MD technical staff are currently also preparing the Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme 2025-2027, for submission to the Department of Transport.

Projects included under CIS, LIS, Climate Adaptation and Low-Cost Safety funding allocations are ongoing and being delivered successfully, with progress dependent on contractor availability and weather conditions.

October Fair 2024 in Ballinasloe was managed successfully again in terms of traffic and waste management, trading and general business uplift throughout Ballinasloe. It is planned to hold inter-agency de-brief meetings in November to pre-plan for the 2025 event.

Throughout the MD, Community Wardens continue to deal with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, and various inspections of ring buoys and playgrounds. Open space grass cutting is completed in Ballinasloe Town, with vegetation removal completed on the biodiversity areas.

The following images present examples of the works undertaken during this period.



PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING UPGRADE
WORKS HAVE
COMMENCED AT
CREAGH CHURCH
JUNCTION,
BALLINASLOE



COMPLETED CIS
PROJECT AT DÚN ÍDA,
BALLINASLOE





RI PROJECT WORK AT POLLBOY BEING COMPLETED, INCLUDING REINSTATEMENT OF IRONWORKS AND ROAD MARKINGS



RI PROJECT WORK COMPLETED AT TOWNPARKS, BALLINASLOE, INCLUDING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN ADVANCE





RI PROJECT
WORK
COMPLETED AT
DERRYMULLEN,
BALLINASLOE,
INCLUDING
DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS
IN ADVANCE

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- The Conamara MD is finalising a DRAFT 3-year roads programme.
- Outdoor crews were busy cleaning up and responding to issues that arose during a recent orange wind weather event Storm Ashley
- Focus is now on drainage works for outdoor crews and winter ready preparations.
- Restoration Improvement Works, Restoration Maintenance Works and Discretionary Grant works now complete.
- Climate Change Adaption & rehabilitation Works Complete.
- Department of Rural Community Development funding for works on Inis Mor are substantially complete.
- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area. Galway County Council has sought tenders for the provision of consultancy services necessary for the purposeful management and delivery of the TII Project Management Guidelines PE-PMG-02041 Phases 2, 3 and 4, and associated requirements and particulars of DPER's Infrastructure Guidelines (December 2023). Tender assessment is now complete a consultant has been appointed to this project.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €35,000 to refurbish the traffic signal heads and push button units in Maigh Cuilinn is now complete.
- Hedge and Verge Maintenance being undertaken by a subcontractor.

- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- DRCD – Local Improvement Schemes now complete



RECENT LOCAL
IMPROVEMENT WORKS -
BEFORE AND AFTER



AN SPIDÉAL PROMENADE-
STORM ASHLEY DAMAGE



BARR AN PHOINTE – INIS MÓR-
STORM ASHLEY DAMAGE



AN SPIDÉAL PROMENADE- STORM
ASHLEY DAMAGE



AN FHAIRCHE - RESTORATION
IMPROVEMENT WORKS

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The 2024 Loughrea MD Road Programme is in its final stages with many of the more significant projects already completed. There are still a few outstanding items, but these will be completed shortly.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 23/24 (96%) Bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 43/45 (96%) Unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 28/28 (100%) Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects completed.
- 4/6 (67%) Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) completed.
- 6/6 (100%) Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience projects completed.
- 8/8 (100%) Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) completed.
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes completed.
- Dunkellin and Kilchreest Drainage District Maintenance – Works completed.
- 4 No. Severe Weather Projects Completed

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



ROAD RELINING AT
GORTANUMMERA NATIONAL
SCHOOL

INSERTION OF NEW REFLECTIVE STUDS "CATS-EYES" ON THE R458



INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUILD OUTS AT KING STREET, LOUGHREA UNDER THE LOW-COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



LOW-COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT APPROACHES TO MINI ROUNDABOUT AT BARRACK ST. LOUGHREA





.....
CLEANING
FOORPATH AT
LOUGHREA LAKE
AND
PLAYGROUND

.....
NEW COLDFRAME AT
ROADS DEPOT, LOUGHREA
FILLED WITH COMPOST AND
SAND, FOR GROWING
HEDGING AND SHRUBS.





PRE AND POST
WORKS AT
LISHEENY, ABBEY
TO IMPROVE
SIGHTLINES AT
BEND



TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

SENSORY GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS

The Tuam outdoor crew have completed their works in the Sensory Garden which included:

- Installation of the footpaths
- Installation of concrete bases for benches
- Installation of watermains for the water feature
- Top soiling



The landscaper and Tuam Women's Shed are to progress in the coming weeks with planting, paving, seating areas. The Garden will continue to be developed into the new year.

DOG PARK PALACE GROUNDS

The dog park will be located in the northeastern side of the park. The fencing contractor has commenced works in recent weeks. Already the path and concrete bench base has been installed. It is envisaged that the park will take one month to complete.



HEDGE CUTTING

Hedge cutting is ongoing in the MD on a road classification priority and is expected to continue for the next month.



DRAINAGE WORKS

Drainage works were carried out in Gardenfield outside Tuam Town and Belwell Dunmore recently as part of the Climate Adaption programme.



GARDENFIELD



DRAINAGE WORKS BELWELL

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Five Community Involvement Schemes that were applied from residents and local groups in 2023 who were interested in assisting the Council in carrying out improvement works to Local Public Roads were funded to the Tuam MD in May. 3 of these schemes have commenced recently with the other 2 schemes being currently tendered for contract works. In addition to these 5 schemes, a second round of funding was made available to the MD which allowed a further 5 schemes to be completed.



CIS – DALGIN

CIS – KILNASLIEVE



OTHER WORKS



NEW CHEVRONS AND SIGNAGE INSTALLED ON R332 AT CASTLEGROOVE

Mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Conneally". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long horizontal line.

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

18th November 2024