



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Deireadh Fómhair 2024

October 2024

An LCDC meeting will take place on the 23rd October to discuss the recommendations from the LECP Advisory Steering Group on the Draft LECP Implementation Plan.

LCDC NETWORKING EVENT ON 9TH OCTOBER 2024

The Department of Rural & Community Development hosted the third annual LCDC Networking Event on 09th October 2024 in the Athlone Springs Hotel, Monksland, Athlone, to facilitate the coming together of LCDC members, local authority officials and relevant stakeholders from Government Department/Agencies. The event consisted of plenary sessions with departmental updates, sharing of best practice as well as parallel sessions on relevant topics.

LECP

Maria Hall from Hub Planning invited a number of organisations to participate in the Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Action Planning Workshops. Several online workshops and a drop-in session took place in early October. These sessions offered agencies/organisations the chance to review key findings from their recent research and consultation phases and identify what actions organisation can sign up to. This will help to provide an ambitious, realistic, and achievable implementation plan for Galway's economic and community development. Hub Planning will now collate all potential actions and objectives identified in a draft Implementation Plan and this will be presented to the LECP Advisory Steering Group at their next meeting on the 17th October for their feedback and input.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Minister for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien attended the Empowering Communities Showcase event which took place on the 23rd September. The Empowering Communities Programme commenced in 2023 and is a national programme targeting 15 geographic areas across the country with the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage. The programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and aims to empower these local communities to craft their own responses to area-based poverty and social exclusion. The area selected for the programme in Galway is Ballinasloe Urban comprising St. Grellan's Terrace, St. Anne's and St. Theresa's Park. Galway Rural

Development are the programme implementor for Ballinasloe. The showcase included a number of presentations from various parts of the country showing the great work that is being carried out and included a presentation from Galway Rural Development.



HEALTHY IRELAND FUND

A series of Health & Wellbeing events were held on the Aran Islands and Inisbofin with a strong presence from other agencies including Sexual Health, Irish Cancer Society, Chime, Memory Resource Room, Specsavers, Thrive, Parkrun, Clint Kennedy, Alzheimer's Ireland, Galway Rural Development, PPN Galway County, Alone, Jigsaw, Sexual Health, Galway Recovery College, HSE Healthy Ireland and Health Promotion Officers, Women's Health, Western Region Drug & Alcohol Taskforce, and the Public Health Nurses on the Islands.

These roadshows were a follow-on from consultations sessions held in May 2024 where Islanders requested information on specialist services such as Women's Health, 5 Ways to Wellbeing, Cancer Prevention and Early Detection, Mental Health Awareness and the WRAP programme. Additionally, there were talks on How to set up a Parkrun, and Thrive, the community-led program for creating healthier and happier communities. Community members could also avail of free haircuts from our mobile barber, with merchandise available from Healthy Ireland and spot prizes donated by HSE as part of the events.



INFORMATION STANDS ON SPECIALIST SERVICES AT HEALTHY ISLANDS ROADSHOWS OCTOBER 2024

Further events planned for October include a Mental Health event for the community of Letterfrack, organized in partnership with Forum Connemara. The day's programme will

feature Tai Chi, drama performances, an organised walk, and talks on mental health awareness by speakers from Galway Recovery College, HSE Mental Health Care, and Thrive Connemara.

Additionally, Galway Rural Development have partnered with Galway Sports Partnership to launch the Community Sports Hub in Loughrea, which will take place in Ballinasloe. This event will include various information stands and activities organized by GRD and GSP with a presence from Health Galway on the day.

On the last Friday of this month, Healthy Galway City and County will collaborate with Local Authority Integration teams to launch a “5 Ways to Wellbeing” event for migrants and refugees throughout the county. Attendees will include International Protection (IP) applicants, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP), and individuals with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status. The event will feature a variety of activities, including face painting, circus acts, balloon making for children, cooking demonstrations, Brazilian dance, woodland walks, and information stands from agencies across the city and county.

Finally, the Broadband Connection Point officers are partnering with Healthy Ireland Galway to host Health & Wellbeing events in two county locations, Leitir Mealláin and Lackagh. These health and wellbeing events are designed to promote health awareness, initiate social connections, and evaluate the community’s needs.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Age Friendly Programme Managers for the City and County met with the Irish Hospice Foundation in October, with a view to organizing “Putting Your House in Order” information sessions in the City and County in late November. This is an award-winning programme developed by Age Friendly Ireland and the Irish Hospice Foundation which provides information on the Hospice’s [Think Ahead \(advance care planning\)](#) and a Solicitor to present information on Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, and other important legal topics. Further details on training venues and locations will be promoted once finalized.

The Age Friendly Programme has organised Mobile Virtual Dementia Tour training in Clifden on Monday 21st October 2024. The purpose of this training is to give people who may be directly or indirectly impacting on people with dementia, an insight into what it is like to experience their environment through dementia. The unique training experience is being targeted at care staff, health staff, and a range of local authority staff.

A joint meeting will be held with a HSE Working Group in October to review the Directory of Services for Older People prior to arranging a further print run of the Directory which has been circulated widely across the County.

Local Authority staff from a range of Departments will attend Walkability Audit Training arranged by Age Friendly Ireland during October. The Age Friendly Programme Manager will also complete a “Train the Trainer” Programme on the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme during the month.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

A Steering Group meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 23rd October at 4.30 p.m. The chosen topics for 2024 are Mental Health and Transport. Comhairle members are preparing for their AGM which is taking place on Wednesday 30th October in County Hall. Students from around the county will be representing their schools at the AGM. The students will be progressing on their topic for next year with a number of break out rooms taking place.

POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

During Positive Ageing Week 2024, the Local Heroes Campaign shone a spotlight on 27 remarkable individuals from across the City and County who exemplify active and healthy ageing. These individuals were nominated by a range of Age Friendly Alliance Members and gathered at the Galway City Museum where the Cathaoirleach of Galway County and Mayor of Galway City presented them with a memento of their profile which is part of the exhibition at the Museum. Positive Ageing Week is an annual opportunity to highlight the positive aspects of ageing and to celebrate the invaluable contributions of older individuals in their communities.



CLLR. ALBERT DOLAN, CATHAOIRLEACH, PRESENTING A POSITIVE AGEING WEEK AWARD TO MARY MANNION, MOYLOUGH, AT THE LOCAL HEROES EXHIBITION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

PPN Workers, Members of the Secretariat, and the local authority's PPN Liaison Officer will attend the National PPN Conference in October, which offers learning and networking opportunities for all PPN stakeholders. The PPN finalised election processes for Galway

Rural Development representative posts in October and commenced the nomination processes for SPC Representative posts.

INTEGRATION

The Integration Team supported 1605 Ukrainians last month, across 38 centres and in the 64 modular homes in Ballinasloe. They also supported 301 International Protections Applicants in 6 centres across the County.

They delivered 6 group information sessions, 15 clinics for individuals and 5 stakeholder events and meetings.

As DCEDIY is consolidating their portfolio of accommodation centres hosting Ukrainians, some centres have closed with transfers of residents to different centres. The Integration Team, in partnership with local services, have supported arrivals in their new communities. International Protection applicants have arrived in Tuam and Clifden, and again we are working to support the arrivals there with community and state support services.

ARTS OFFICE

CULTURE NIGHT GALWAY COUNTY 2024

Culture Night in Galway County was a resounding success as artists, community groups and



professional arts organisations programmed brilliant events for our audiences. An estimated 4,896 people attended 41 events across the county. The events and workshops spanned craft, literature, music, poetry, street art and spectacle, theatre, trad arts and visual art. Culture Night events were programmed across all our 5 Municipal Districts. Culture Night is funded by Galway County Council Arts Office and the Arts Council and is organised by the Arts Office Team.

No. of artforms: 18 (Architecture, Storytelling, Poetry, Arts, Crafts, Traditional Skills, Comedy, Music, Painting, Photography, sculpture, Digital Art, Print, Literature, Dance, Spectacle, Film and Theatre)

No. of Locations: 22 plus online (Athenry, Ballygar, Ballinasloe, Ballinderreen, Baile Chláir, Clifden, Gort, Headford, Inagh Valley, Inis Meáin, Inis Mór, Inis Oírr, Kilconly, Kinvara, Na Forbacha, Newbridge, Oranmore, Portumna, Renvyle, Ros an Mhíl, Tuam and Woodford)



CULTURE NIGHT MARINE INSTITUTE - C. AENGUS MC MAHON

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Our Audience feedback was extremely positive, with survey results coming back with some of the following comments:

“Feedback from the audience was very positive. Many were surprised at the quality of the music and that local performers of that calibre live in the area”.

“All the participants expressed how much they enjoyed the workshop and were delighted to take home their handmade book and learn a new skill”.

“Very successful, grass roots approach to an exhibition, very inclusive and empowering”.

“So many of the young people attending participated and really enjoyed it”.

“Audiences expectations were exceeded, for many it was the first-time people had said it was the first time they had seen such beautiful art relating to our bogs. The talk was the highlight and lovely to see old friends chatting and others making new friends”.



LIMELIGHT
CREATIVE ARTS
ORANMORE
C: AENGUS
MCMAHON



MIDDLETHIRD FARM MAREE & BULADH BOS ORANMORE C. AENGUS MCMAHON



VOICES FROM THE BOG KILCONLY - C. AENGUS MC MAHON

CYANOTYPE WORKSHOP TUAM C. EMILIJA JEFREMOVA



SPARKCATCHERS HERE WE ARE NOW TUAM C. EMILIJA JEFREMOVA

CULTURE NIGHT LATE

LUMINA TUAM

As part of this year's Culture Night Late, Galway County Council Arts Office presented **Lumina**, a series of artistic outdoor projections on The Cathedral Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as Tuam Cathedral.

Artists Jennifer Cunningham (Tuam), Scott Robinson (Limerick) and ENTER.black founders Bonnie Lisbon and Harry Clunet-Farlow (Paris) created a stunning showcase of animations and visual narratives. The work was accompanied by a unique music composition from ENTER.black, paired with the enchanting voices of Tuam Cathedral Choir and The Tome Chanters.

This unique blend of art and technology captivated and inspired, offering a one-of-a-kind experience that celebrates creativity and innovation in Tuam and Galway County. Produced by Culture Works.

Two shows took place at 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. to large crowds in Tuam.



CATHAORLEACH ALBERT DOLAN AND TUAM CHOIRS AT LUMINA C. EMILIJA JEFREMOVA

NORTHEAST GALWAY FIT UP FESTIVAL

The North East Galway Fit Up Festival had a great two week run with performances over 6 nights in different venues in North County Galway. **Nettle Horse** by Little John Nee and **Seven Ages of Mam** by Pauline O’Driscoll played to great houses in halls and community centres in County Galway. Produced by Three Rings Galway and supported by the Arts Council and Galway County Council Arts Office.

Week One: Nettle Horse	Week Two: Seven Ages of MAM	Week Three: Bumbled
Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 28 Sept	Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 29 Oct	Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 30 Oct
Headridge Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 29 Sept	Headridge Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 30 Oct	Headridge Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 31 Oct
Kilbepur Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 30 Sept	Kilbepur Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 31 Oct	Kilbepur Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 1 Nov
Kilbepur Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 01 Sept	Kilbepur Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 02 Oct	Kilbepur Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 03 Oct
Quinn's Farm Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 02 Sept	Quinn's Farm Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 03 Oct	Quinn's Farm Hall Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 04 Oct
Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 03 Sept	Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 04 Oct	Ballinacorney Community Centre Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney Ballinacorney 05 Oct

SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL HEADFORD

In its second year, this Headford Festival led by Headford and District Association delivered an outstanding programme of over 30 events with a mixture of community arts and high-quality arts.

There were workshops, performances, art exhibitions and installations starting on Wednesday 2nd with the Launch of Lough Corrib 471 at Kilbeg Pier produced by Helena

McElmeel Architects with artists Joanna McGlynn, Leah Beggs, Jennifer Cunningham and local schools finishing off with comedy in Campbell's Tavern. Events took place from Wednesday 2nd right through to Sunday 6th October and included performances from Con Tempo Quartet, Matthew Berrill and Eoin Wynn, Filmmaker Ruaidhrí Hallinan, GUH Jazz Project, Headford Area Theatrical Society, Poet Damien B. Donnelly, Headford Lace with a Meitheal for Molly, Emer Mac Dermott and Maisie Gilpin Exhibition, Bel Canto, Ester Kiely, Judith Higgins & Miquel Barcelo alongside a host of local artists, visiting artists and community groups in Headford.

Funded by the Arts Council and Galway County Council Arts Office alongside sponsorship from local business the second year was a resounding success.



LOUGH CORRIB 471

C. AENGUS MC
MAHON



LAUNCH OF
SOMETHING IN THE
WATER FESTIVAL
HEADFORD

C. AENGUS MC
MAHON

ARTS COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION 2025

The Arts Office successfully completed Galway County Council's Arts Council Partnership Funding Application 2025 (deadline 3rd October). The Arts Office programme for 2025 includes funding provisions for Artists, Arts and Children, Arts in Older Years and Disabilities, Creative Communities and Culture Night with a projected budget of €220,000 and a request of funding from the Arts Council - €115,500.

CREATIVE IRELAND

It's a busy time of year at Creative Ireland as the projects for 2024 are finishing up and we prepare for drawdown. This year we have supported 24 projects comprising 13 Open Call Bursaries, 5 Culture Team projects, and 6 Flagship projects.

HEADFORD LACE PROJECT 'A MEITHEAL FOR MOLLY'

As part of the 'Something in the Water' festival, Headford Lace invited local musicians, dancers, and dancers to put their own spin on the harp song, 'Mailigh San Seirse'. The song is about local woman Mary (Molly) St George heiress to the Headford estate and patron of the lace industry. Over 200 members of the community sang, played, and danced their various renditions of the song to a packed-out hall on Saturday October 5th. The session closed with a reworked timing of the song in the form of a march performed by the community orchestra. This event was a wonderful example of what a community can achieve when they are all working towards a common goal as this song, which is one of Ireland's oldest pieces of harp music, was reconnected with its place of origin.

GORT ARTS GROUP 'FITE FUAITE 2'

2024 saw the second iteration of the Gort Arts Group workshops in what is locally called 'Fite Fuaite'. These sessions have been taking place since early June and have given the people of Gort the opportunity to learn a multitude of new art skills. Workshops took place in Eco-Art, Music, Dance, Collage, Painting, Drawing, and much more. Workshops have taken place in Rosemount Nursing Home and the Gort Cancer Support Centre, ensuring that participation in the arts is open to all within the community.

CREATIVE CARROWNAGAPPUL

In partnership with Galway County Council's Biodiversity Officer, Galway's Living Bog have put together a marvellous programme of arts events to celebrate and explore Carrownagappul Bog. This series of events and workshops has been taking place since early summer and has involved areas such as poetry, photography, painting, storytelling, and felting. The project has challenged people to reframe how they view the bog and to appreciate it for its beauty, history, and incredible contribution to our natural biodiversity.

AUGMENTED BODY, ALTERED MIND, BRAINSTORM WORKSHOP

October also saw the arrival of Alan James Byrnes' piece, 'Augmented Body, Altered Mind' in Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr. This fully interactive piece of digital art is influenced and controlled by the viewer's brainwaves which are read using a device worn over the brow. The piece explores the complexities of navigating the world with different experiences of neurodiversity, highlighting the challenges faced by people with a variety of sensitivities. This visit to Inis Oírr also included a workshop on making information as accessible as possible. Methods such as using plain English and simple images were employed to find a way of creatively explaining Climate Change to people who may have difficulty understanding complex reports and high-level strategies.

CREATING CONNECTED COMMUNITITES

Galway Rural Development, through their Social Prescribing programme, have run several creative workshops for service users in Athenry, Loughrea, and Tuam. The workshops supported individuals who are isolated and lonely to connect with others through the medium of art. They also provided the individuals with the opportunity to identify a new hobby or talent. Each location hosted 4 sessions over the course of the summer. The sessions were specifically aimed at service users who have recently aged out of youth programmes but are perhaps not yet ready to engage in the adult services. These were closed sessions that were not open to the general public.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

ACTIVATOR POLE CLASSES

These classes continue to be extremely popular and in high demand.

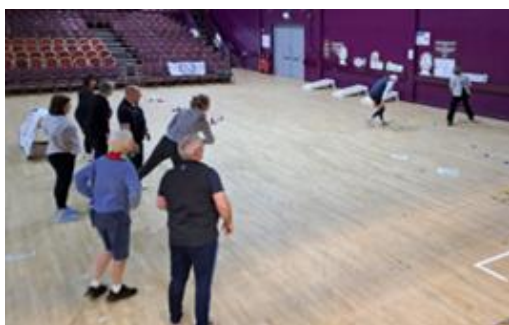
Galway Sports Partnership have started two new classes in recent weeks in Tuam and Loughrea. In Tuam Galway Sports Partnership have partnered with Multiple Sclerosis Ireland for a specific class to support this group led by Galway Sports Partnerships tutor and supported by a Multiple Sclerosis Ireland Physiotherapist. It is hoped at the end of this programme that participants will transition in a more community-based programme.

In Loughrea Galway Sports Partnership are holding a programme targeting the general population and supporting a group of people who have completed a falls prevention programme with the HSE in recent weeks and will now join this community-based class going forward.



POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

To celebrate Positive Ageing Week which took place on 30th September to 10th October Galway Sports Partnership held an Older Adult Taster Event in Leisureland, Salthill. This was a great event showcasing all that is on offer for this cohort and to celebrate all the great activities currently taking place for groups.



MAKE WAY DAY 2024

On Thursday 26th September Galway Sports Partnerships Sports Inclusion Disability Officer and Community Sports Hub Officer attended a Make Way Day event in the Shearwater Hotel Ballinasloe. This was an information day for people and was a great way to make connections with other agencies, clubs and groups in Ballinasloe along with making improved connections so that Galway Sports Partnership can better support the community with programmes in Ballinasloe in the future.

“Make Way Day” is a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share.



PALS AUTISM RESOURCE FAIR

Galway Sports Partnerships Sports Inclusion Disability officer attended the PALS (Parents of Autistic people in Loughrea) Autism Resource Fair on 15th October in Loughrea Hotel and Spa. PALS are a local voluntary autism support group, and this is their second Autism Resource Fair which brings together autistic people, parents, carers, community organisations and professionals. It is an opportunity to see what supports and services are available and talk to the various organisations in attendance on the night. This was a great

evening and helps strengthen Galway Sports Partnership work in this area by allowing us to learn and identify new supports that we can help to offer in this area.

COMMUNITY PADDLER GROUP



Galway Sports Partnership support by Canoeing Ireland partnered with Galway Kayak Club ran an introduction to Kayaking for ethnic minorities like the Sanctuary Runners concept. This was a hugely successful evening with positive feedback from all involved.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS - MENOPAUSE: BEFORE-DURING-AFTER

Galway Sports Partnership in collaboration with the EduFIT team, the University of Galway and the Atlantic Technological University Galway delivered a FREE on-line Workshop on how Physical Activity can promote Health and Wellness during MENOPAUSE (Before, During & After) on Wednesday 25th September at 8pm. Dr. Diane Cooper, the founder and CEO of EduFIT, who is passionate about women's health has an array of knowledge being a Clinical Exercise Physiologist & Health researcher, presented excellently on topics outlined below and her colleague Ann Kavanagh, exercise instructor, Strength & Conditioning Specialist and Ultra Endurance Athlete provided a take home resource of videos.

Workshop Content:

- Overview of Menopause signs and symptoms
- Types and quantity of physical activity that can improve symptoms
- Practical women's health toolkit
- Take-home resource of notes and exercise videos

163 attended the workshop on the night and 409 registered for the event showing the interest that is in Women in Sport space. On the back of interest in the workshop we are planning on rolling out a 6 Week Physical Activity MenoWell Programme with EduFit (online & face to face) starting on 21st January 2025.



BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

The official launch took place for the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub on 11th October in the Emerald Ballroom in Ballinasloe by the Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Cllr Michael Connolly. The launch was part of a “Health, Well-Being and Physical Activity” community



Mol Spóirt Pobail **Béal Átha na Sluaighe** **Community Sports Hub** **Ballinasloe**

information event in partnership with Galway Rural Development. There were over 20 clubs from a health and wellbeing area in attendance on the day along with representatives from Galway County Council and Sport Ireland on the day.

BALLINASLOE SOCIAL KAYAKING

Following on from a successful HER Outdoors Event in Ballinasloe two additional social kayaking were supported through Sport Ireland Women in Sport Funding in collaboration with Let’s Enjoy Outside. Both sessions were extremely popular with great feedback, and it is planned to



further support this through the Ballinasloe Community Sports hub with the potential to offer additional sessions and coaching courses with the potential of forming a new club.

EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT – BE ACTIVE NIGHT

Galway Sports Partnership held an event in Salthill as part of European Week of Sport Be



Active Night. Activities were held in Salthill Park and Leisure Land such as taster sessions with Connacht Rugby, Football Association Ireland, Paddle Tennis, Rowing along with Galway Sports Partnership Obstacle Courses, Glow Games and Sensory Area. The night culminated in a Colour Run along Salthill Prom with over 180 Adults and Children taking Part.

EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT – ARD SCOIL MUIRE MERCY DAY CELEBRATION

Galway Sports Partnership in collaboration with Ard Scoil Muire's Vice Principal Caroline Jackson and Physical Education Teacher Karen Usher



organised a 5km School Walking Event on 24th September in Celebration of European Week of Sport and the School's Final Mercy Day before their amalgamation with Clonfert College in the near future. The event had over 400 girls out walking on a beautiful sunny day with a fantastic atmosphere all round!

NATIONAL WALKING DAY



As part of National Walking Week Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Beanna Beola Walking Group led a group of 12 people along the Garumna Trail Walk in Leitir Mór. This was a beautiful scenic 8km route which was enjoyed by all in attendance.



EARLY YEARS TRAINING SUPPORTS



Galway Sports Partnership hosted an Early Years Training to encourage fundamental movement skills through Active Play for Early Years Childcare Providers. This programme was developed through Clare Local Sports Partnership and will now also be delivered throughout Galway. Participants will receive training on the night along with resources to take home and utilise with in their area.

7 MEN ON THE MOVE

Galway Sports Partnership is supporting a Men on the Move Programme in Killannin Galway which started on 25th September with over 12 people in attendance. Men on the Move is a free, community-based beginners physical activity programme for inactive adult men to help support them to become more active in a fun and social environment.

For more information on any of the above information please contact Galway Sports Partnership at galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie



TOURISM

TOURISM LEARNING NETWORK PROGRAMME

Failete Ireland has launched an open call for applications for the Tourism Learning Network Programme as part of the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026.

This fully funded learning programme provides a great opportunity for tourism startups,



expanding businesses, not-for-profits, charities, community or social enterprises in the EU Just Transition territory, as well as former ESB Networks or Bord na Móna employees transitioning to careers in tourism. Applications for the EU Just Transition Tourism Learning Network programme will be accepted until **12pm Thursday 17th October** with start date envisaged to be early 2025.

For further information please read the EU Just Transition Tourism Learning Network Programme prospectus here.

<https://lnkd.in/gTeX3piM>

This programme gives an opportunity to see the real-life practical examples, work being undertaken by business owners to improve accessibility, sustainability and create a better experience and environment for their visitors. The time commitment is very reasonable and provides a great opportunity to network with businesses in the region too. The EU JTF Tourism activator will notify and encourage all networks/contacts within the Ballinasloe region to apply for this great programme.

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

Following on from September's update there is now a total of 19 EOIs to date 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.

The Tourism Activator continues to meet, assist and guide all eligible applicants with completing their application forms.



TOURISM - ADVERTISING

The Tourism Department has invested in a County based marketing spread with ‘**This is Galway**’ magazine, we published in the June/July,

August/September and now October editions, focusing on promoting our festivals and events around the county and highlighting all that is to offer. The feedback received has been fantastic. Hotels and businesses use the magazine as a vehicle to promote areas and activities across the county.



TOOLKITS – FAILTE IRELAND

Failte Ireland launched an Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Toolkit for Planning and Organizing Walking Festivals & Events which provides local communities with a comprehensive guide on how to organize sustainable walking events and festivals that will highlight the area’s unique outdoor offering and attract potential visitors.

A new comprehensive Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Brand Toolkit is now available to download. This toolkit will help tourism businesses harness the Heartlands’ brand

proposition to convey their product and service as a competing and enjoyable experience to their audiences.



These toolkits are available to download from Failte Ireland's website. The Tourism Department will continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Mobile WEEE Collections

MOBILE WEEE (WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT) COLLECTIONS 2024

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, will hold a series of WEEE collections throughout County Galway starting on Tuesday 8th October 2024. These collections will allow people from towns and villages across the county to dispose of any household electrical, electronic or battery equipment and batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collections are scheduled for the following locations in Galway:

TIMETABLE

Tuesday 8 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Carna	Bringbanks Site beside Church	Carna, Co. Galway H91DC53
Tuesday 8 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Leitir Móir	Car Park opposite Church	Leitir Móir, Co. Galway H91F5W4
Thursday 10 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Indreabhán	Mícheál Breathnach GAA Club	Indreabhán, Co. Galway H91X750
Thursday 10 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	An Spidéal	An Spidéal GAA Club Pitch	An Spidéal, Co. Galway H91NR71
Saturday 12 th October 2024	10am - 4pm	Portumna	Co- Operative Mart	Dominic Street, Portumna, Co. Galway H53X867
Tuesday 15 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Maigh Cuilinn	Handball Alley at GAA Pitch	Maigh Cuilinn, Co. Galway H91WTW5
Tuesday 15 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Headford	Headford GAA Pitch	Headford, Co. Galway H91YFP8
Thursday 17 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Baile Chláir (Claregalway)	Community Centre	Baile Chláir, Co. Galway H91THH4
Thursday 17 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Glenamaddy	SuperValu Car Park	Glenamaddy, Co. Galway F45CT80

Tuesday 22 nd October 2024	10am -1pm	Williamstown	GAA Pitch	Williamstown, Co.Galway F45DT73
Tuesday 22 nd October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Monivea	Monivea Abbey GAA Club	Monivea, Co. Galway H65YX78
Thursday 24 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Kinvara	St. Colman's Church Car Park	Kinvara, Co. Galway H91CX97
Thursday 24 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Woodford	Tommy Larkin's GAA Club	Woodford. Co Galway H62XW18
Tuesday 29 th October 2024	10am -1pm	Clarinbridge	Car Park at Paddy Burkes	Clarinbridge, Co. Galway H91FX31
Tuesday 29 th October 2024	4pm - 7pm	Athenry	Co- Operative Mart	Athenry, Co. Galway H65DW74

Further information from WEEE Ireland <https://www.weeeireland.ie/contact/> or Telephone: 01 299 9320

ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITIONS 2024



Young people from County Galway gathered at County Hall for the announcement of the winners of Galway County Council's annual Anti-Litter Poster Competition.

The secondary school competition winners were announced earlier this year, and it was an opportunity for the primary school and individual entrants to showcase their posters.

Almost 1,000 entries were received in the competition which highlighted themes relating to the importance of creating and maintaining a litter free county. It emphasised how litter takes from the beauty of the landscape, the public's responsibility not to create litter, how to properly use public bins, and the importance of leaving no trace by bringing any waste home.

Ava Belton, a 3rd class student from Kiltartan National School was named the overall winner of the 'Primary Schools' category of the competition. Claudia Coyle from Ballinderreen won the 'Individual' category.

Councillor Ollie Turner, the Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "The competition winners are representative of the talents of the hundreds of people who entered. The high standard made it very difficult for the judges to select the best entries as each entrant created their very own personal work of art which also reflected their attitude towards littering."

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council commented, "The Poster Competition is part of our ongoing Anti-Litter programme to encourage everybody to be part of the drive to make our County Litter Free as it is everyone's responsibility to keep Galway clean. Galway County Council recognises the important role schools and individuals play in delivering environmental awareness, and I want to thank everyone who takes part in our many environmental initiatives."

Jacqueline Carroll, Director of Services for Rural & Community Development, Integration and Environment stated, "The competition provided the entrants with a great opportunity to develop their learning experiences by showing their creativity through language and art and increasing their awareness and responsibility for the environment."

"Galway County Council is delighted with the response in these Anti-Litter Poster Competitions. We plan to run the competitions again in 2025 and to continue with our efforts to make Galway Litter Free," added Ms. Carroll.

Anti-Litter Poster Competition winners

Overall winner of 'Primary Schools' category: Ava Belton, 3rd Class in Kiltartan NS.

Junior Infants: (1st) Oliver Green, Carnaun NS; (2nd) Oisín Lucas, Ballinderreen NS; (3rd) Aoife Ní Fhátharta, SN Inis Meáin; (Highly Commended - HC) Leia Barry, Cleggan NS.

Senior Infants: (1st) Hugh Gavin, Claddaghduff NS; (2nd) Leila da Silva, Cahergal NS; (3rd) Éanna Ó Fátharta, SN Inis Meáin; (HC) Conall Ó Mainín (Scoil Éinne Spidéal)

1st Class: (1st) Mya O'Sullivan Bourke, Kiltiernan NS; (2nd) Leighton Ward, Kiltiernan NS; (3rd) Liam Melia, Collinamuck NS; (HC) First class of St. Annins NS, Rosscahill.

2nd Class: (1st) Leah Ní Fhóighil, Scoil Éinne Spidéal; (2nd) Jack Connolly, Kiltiernan NS; (3rd) Ava Tuohy, Lough Cutra NS; (HC) Tori Kilkenny, Kiltormer NS.

3rd Class: (1st) Thomas Heffernan, Kiltiernan NS; (2nd) Eleanor Marascal, SN Inis Meáin; (3rd) Zoe Brannelly, Monivea; (HC) NS Sophie Ní Cheallaigh, SN Aird Mhóir

4th Class: (1st) Lauren Cloonan, Scoil Mhuire, Oranmore; (2nd) Kate O’Sullivan, Scoil Mhuire Oranmore; (3rd) Elsa Flood, Scoil Mhuire Maigh Cuilinn; (HC) Aoife Mannion, Glinsk; Oran Gillespie, Craughwell NS; Sophia Morgan, Kiltullagh NS; Sophie O’Grady, Northampton NS; Nicole Barrett, Ballymacward NS.

5th Class: (1st) Sophie Cosgrave, Crumlin NS; (2nd) Sinéad Ní Mhaoláin, SN Thír an Fhia; (3rd) Aishling Forde, Kiltartan NS; (HC) Ryan Walsh, Clonberne NS; Aoibhín McDermott, Maree NS.

6th Class: (1st) Ellie Walsh, Claddaghduff NS; (2nd) Shauna Belton, Kiltartan NS; (3rd) Jimmy Ó Maolalaidh, SN Thír an Fhia; (HC) Darragh O’Halloran, Collinamuck NS; (HC) Caoimhe Early, Ballyconneely NS.

Overall winner of ‘Individual’ category: Claudia Coyle, Ballinderreen.

Individual 6 and under: 1st Laura Walsh; 2nd Ailbhe Little; 3rd Lisa Conneely.

Individual 8 and under: 1st Finn Bennett; 2nd Tom Sammon; 3rd Rory Sammon HC Chloe Beirne, Ava Walsh.

Individual 10 and under: 1st Darragh Wang; 2nd Isabelle Barrett; 3rd Niall Keane.

Individual 12 and under: 1st Karen O’Malley; 2nd Jamie Ward; 3rd Ellen Keane.

13 to 18 years: 1st Mariia Novikova; 2nd Erin Godswill; 3rd Youth Reach Tuam.



AVA BELTON, KILTARTAN NATIONAL SCHOOL OVERALL WINNER.

MEDIA COVERAGE



AVA CLEANS UP

YOUNG people from every corner of Galway gathered at County Hall for the announcement of the winners of Galway County Council's annual Anti-Litter Poster Competition.

Almost 1,000 entries were received in the competition which highlighted themes relating to the importance of creating and maintaining a litter free county, how litter takes from the beauty of the landscape, the public's responsibility not to drop litter, how to properly use public bins, and the importance of leaving no traces by bringing any waste home.

Ava Belton (pictured), a third class student from Kiltartan National School was named overall winner of the 'Primary Schools' category, while Claudia Coyle of Ballydoon won the 'Individual' category.

Cllr Orla Turner (FG), the Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "The competition winners are representative of the talents of the hundreds of people who entered. The high standard made it very difficult for the judges to select the best entries as each entrant created their very own personal work of art which also reflected their attitude towards littering."

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Irish Independent

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/galway/news/galway-county-council-announces-primary-school-winners-of-anti-litter-poster-event-competition/a1299992500.html>

Galway Bay FM

<https://galwaybayfm.ie/galway-bay-fm-news-desk/primary-school-winners-announced-in-galway-anti-litter-competition/>

Galway Daily

<https://www.galwaydaily.com/news/anti-litter-poster-competition-winners-announced-at-county-hall/>

RTE News

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2023/09/26/anti-litter-poster-competition-winners/>

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Galway County Council entered into a Section 86 agreement with Mayo County Council to provide interim emergency Veterinary Services arising out of the Service Contract with Mayo County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. This agreement is in place until 31st October 2024.

The primary duty arising would be the antemortem and postmortem inspections in 5 abattoirs approved by Mayo County Council. The assistance provided by Galway County

Council during this period will facilitate the continued operation of these abattoirs and prevented closure of same.

To date in 2024, **847** bovines, **4,022** ovines and **92** poultry have been processed through local abattoirs in Galway County,

DOG CONTROL

On the 19th of September the Dog Wardens and Veterinary Personnel completed an XL Bully Identification training which took place in the Lucan Spa Hotel and the Hollygrove Kennels, Newcastle Co Dublin. This course is part of our dog warden services preparation to engender working knowledge of type identification for the XL Bully for the forthcoming regulations which come into effect from October 1st, 2024. This will prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs.

From February 1st, 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.

XL Bully owners have between 1st October 2024 and (before) February 1st, 2025, to apply for a Certificate of Exemption.

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776 dog licences were purchased during September, 249 of which were purchased online with the balance purchased through the local post office. Licencing campaigns were carried out by the Dog Warden/Community Warden service in estates in the towns of Athenry, Ballinasloe and Tuam. 1 fixed penalty notice was issued in September for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CELEBRATES GOOD PRACTICES AWARD



The Environment Department of Galway County Council has been recognised in An Taisce's annual Good Practices Competition for its hosting of a community-based seashore event at An Trá Mhór in Indreabhán.

The bilingual event formed part of last year's Heritage Week programme in Galway, which celebrated the County's cultural, built, and natural heritage.

The event included a Scavenger Hunt, Seashore Bio-Blitz, Litter Clean up, Sand Sculptor Challenge and Litter Study.

This accolade was awarded in the 'Environmental Education Activities' category of the Good Practices Competition, recognising the Local Authority's commitment to promoting environmental awareness, biodiversity, and education.

Councillor Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway commented, "The Seashore Event was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the biodiversity of our seashore, the importance of keeping our beaches clean and tidy, and the invaluable natural environment that can be discovered on the beach. The hands-on-approach made it a memorable experience for all involved."

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council expressed his delight at the achievement, stating, "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff in our Environment Department. Their innovative approach to environmental education is making a significant impact on Galway communities, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments."

"The Seashore Event at An Trá Mhór has been a fantastic initiative, engaging the public and fostering a deeper understanding of our natural environment. This recognition from An Taisce highlights the importance of our efforts and motivates us to continue our work in environmental education," added Mr. Conneally.

According to **Jacqueline O'Carroll, Director of Services for the Environment Section of Galway County Council**, "The Seashore Event at An Trá Mhór has been instrumental in educating the public about the importance of preserving our coastal ecosystems. Through interactive activities and informative sessions, participants have gained valuable insights into the rich biodiversity of the seashore and the need for its protection.

"Galway County Council remains committed to promoting environmental sustainability and education, and this award serves as an encouragement to further enhance their initiatives," concluded Ms. Carroll.

BLUE FLAG BEACHES

One of our objectives in the Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025 is to educate and raise awareness of the effects of litter on the environment, Galway County Council are continuing

to encourage beach users to do a 2 Minute Beach Clean at our blue flag beaches. As part of our environmental education programme, we have installed new wall mounted boards at An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán and Trá an Doilín, An Cheathrú Rua



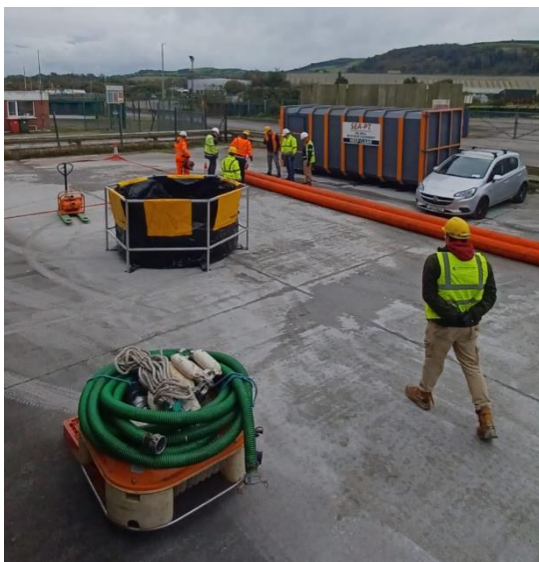
NEW SIGNS AT TRÁ AN DOILÍN, AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

OIL POLLUTION TRAINING

Two staff members attended a 3-day online course and 2 days on-site training in Oranmore during the month of September. An incident was simulated, and the group was divided into different sections including Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance. The on-site element looked at how the various



equipment is set up and operated. The course was presented by Ambipar, a UK-based company who are experts in dealing with oil pollution incidents.

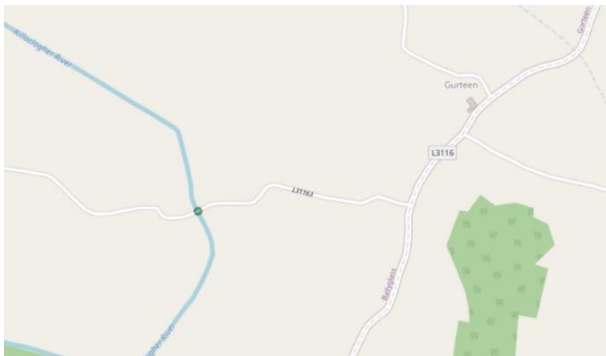


BATHING WATERS

The Bathing season ended on the 15th of September. Only 1 bathing prohibition notice was required to be put in place in county Galway during the 2024 season. This was at Traught Beach in Kinvara. This prohibition was in place for 5 days in August.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The EPA notified Galway County Council of a drop in status by two at a monitoring station in the Glennamucka stream waterbody, which is near the village of Gurteen, Co. Galway. When a monitoring station drops in status by more than one from the previous sampling occasion, it is called a red dot notification. Technical staff immediately visited the monitoring station site and took a few water samples, including upstream locations. Farm inspections are being planned at present to be carried out in this area. Drainage conditions in this area are poor so any applications of organic or chemical fertilizer could potentially cause water quality problems if rain follows application.



EPA MONITORING STATION (GREEN DOT)
NEAR VILLAGE OF GURTEEN

COMPLAINTS

Works were finally completed to stop an illegal discharge to the seashore in Inishboffin after Section 12 Notices were issued to a commercial business in July. The business owner engaged with council staff in a timely manner after receiving the notice and resolved the issue with a positive outcome for human health and the environment.

WASTEWATER ISSUE BESIDE PIER IN INISHBOFFIN



COMMUNITY EVENTS

GLENAMADDY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Staff from the Environment Section, Climate Action, and the Library Section of Galway County Council attended the Glenamaddy Agricultural show on the 29th of September. There was over 6,000 people in attendance and information in relation to Climate Action, waste management and the library service was disseminated.



WASTE /AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT/NATIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAMME

NATIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAMME



Two members of the Water Quality Team presented at an Environmental Protection Agency workshop on the national agricultural inspection programme in Portlaoise on the 11th of September. Their talk focused on enforcement action taken by Galway County Council in 2023 including sewage sludge and Nutrient Management Plans, engagement with Inland Fisheries and Drone use strategy.

PLANNING

A pre-planning meeting took place with developers and consultants in relation to a large residential development in Oranmore. Environmental aspects of the development were considered such as inclusion of nature-based surface water management features, climate change considerations, construction waste management plan and encouragement of sustainable transport and mobility.



WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

26 Litter fines were issued during the month of September by our Community Warden service.

The Environment Section had multiple cases before the District Court in September. Staff attended Loughrea, Kilronan, and Tuam District Courts.

One notable case was a prosecution in Tuam for illegal dumping under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act. 2 tonnes of illegally dumped waste were removed from a bog outside Tuam. This clean-up cost €1810. Evidence relating to two individuals was found. One of them produced evidence of a valid waste collection service. The case relating to this individual was adjourned. The second individual pleaded guilty to dumping 1 bag of waste. The judge did not accept this and fined him €905 (half the cost of the council cleanup) with the threat of 3 months in jail if the fine wasn't paid by December. Tuam Herald coverage of



said case below.

MULTI AGENCY INSPECTIONS

Joint inspections were carried out with WERLA of the recycling facility on Inishmore and on the main waste collector on Inisbofin.

VALIDATION OF ANNUAL RETURNS

The validation of annual returns for Waste facility Permits and Waste Collection Permit holders was completed in September.

ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE 2024

All projects are nearing completion for 2024. On September 28th we held a Bulky Goods



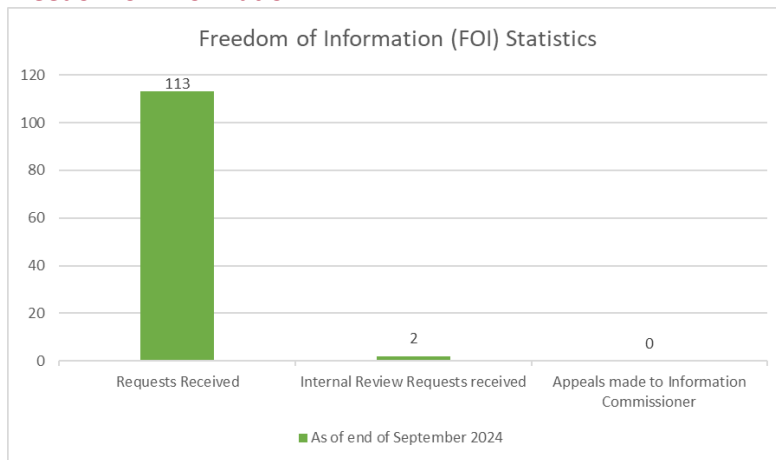
collection at the Mart in Gort. This site was selected as Gort is not currently serviced by Civic Amenity site which is where we normally run the Bulky Goods collections. It was a busy day with a steady stream of customers. 2 artic trailers were filled on the day.

CORPORATE SERVICES

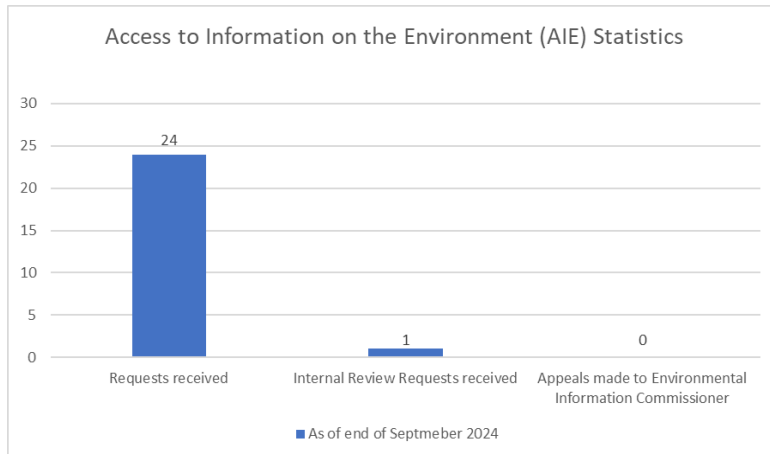
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.09.24

Freedom of Information



Access to Information on the Environment



DATA PROTECTION

- **19 Data Access Requests**
 - 13 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
GDPR Induction Workshops provided for Lifeguards and Community Wardens
Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletters circulated to all Staff
Online Data Protection/GDPR Training facilitated for the Elected Members of Galway Co. Council

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

We have now commenced the Public Consultation Stage for our draft Corporate Plan 2025-2029. The consultation process will be open for a period of 3 weeks until the **23rd October 2024**. All information, including the latest draft of the Plan, can be viewed at the following link:

<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/galway-county-council-draft-corporate-plan-2025-2029>. Submissions can also be made at this link or alternatively, they can be submitted to us in writing with the title **“Corporate Plan”** marked clearly on the envelope and sent to: Corporate Services Section, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway H91 H6KX.



RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Our Recreation Team in Corporate Services continue to arrange repairs and replacement of equipment on our council owned playgrounds across the County of Galway during 2024.



REMOVAL OF FROG
ROCKER AND
INSTALLATION OF
DUCK ROCKER,
GORT ROAD
PLAYGROUND,
LOUGHREA



BEFORE AND AFTER

REPAIRS AND
MAINTENANCE ON
EQUIPMENT AT
RINVILLE PARK
PLAYGROUND



BEFORE & AFTER

REPLACEMENT OF
CRADLE SWINGS SEATS,
HYMANY PARK,
BALLINASLOE



BEFORE & AFTER

REPLACEMENT OF
POSTS ON
CLIMBING UNIT,
HYMANY PARK,
BALLINASLOE



BEFORE & AFTER

REPLACEMENT OF DECK AND RAMP TIMBERS, MEADOWBROOK PLAYGROUND, BALLINASLOE

New Additional Items added to Garraí Breeda Playground and Gort Road Playground, Loughrea during 2024 under the Community Recognition Fund Grant Application made on behalf of Youth Work Ireland.



INSTALLATION OF TRAMPOLINE AND PLAY PANELS GARRAÍ BREEDA PLAYGROUND, LOUGHREA



INSTALLATION OF TEEN SHELTER GORT ROAD PLAYGROUND, LOUGHREA

SCOIL AN PHIARSAIGH

On Thursday and Friday, September 26th and 27th, Scoil an Phiarsaigh was hosted in Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, Ros Muc, Co. Galway.

The event began on Thursday with a guided tour of Pearse’s Cottage, led by the engaging



Mairtín Ó Meachair, who provided an insightful and charming exploration of Teach an Phiarsaigh. The evening continued with a lively musical performance by the talented young musicians from

Ceoltóirí Óga Charna and Ceoltóirí Óga Chois Fharráige. Their captivating tunes were followed by speeches from distinguished guests Bridie Uí Chonámha, Colm Ó Neasa, and historian Cormac Ó Comhraí.

On Day 2, Gormfhlaith Ní Thuairisc welcomed a series of engaging speakers. Diarmuid Ó Fátharta, founder of Tonnta, shared his journey with the Local Enterprise Office and the support he received. Ultan Ó Fátharta spoke on behalf of Údarás na Gaeltachta, while Fionbarra Ó Brolcháin gave insights into his successful career. Entrepreneur and former international cyclist Pádraic Ó Cuinn discussed his An Spidéal-based company, Velotec. The event concluded with Mairian Ní Chonghaile’s enlightening and calming mindfulness session.

Overall, this two-day event celebrated our cultural and entrepreneurial spirit in the heart of Connemara in the surrounds of Pearse's cottage, immersed in our Official language.

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

39,371

 **0.97%**

from **38,991**

Fans & Followers

314

Total Posts

Irish 49.3%

(155 posts)

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 101 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page, with a reach of 1.3k. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 38 times this month with followers and had a reach of 4.4k. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 163k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council Facebook follower count was 18,646 as of September 30th, 2024, with ages range 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 19.8% women and 8.3% male.

In total, 32.3% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 65.4% are female.

SEPTEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

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.

SEPTEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

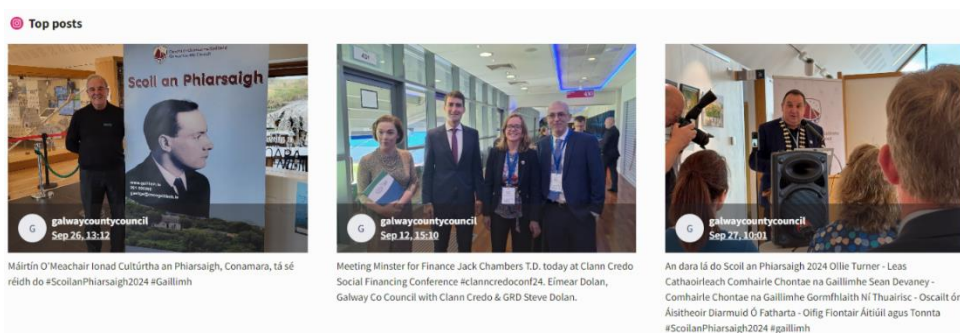
INSTAGRAM

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.



SEPTEMBER'S
TOP THREE
POST

LINKEDIN

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 51 new followers, bringing the total following to 2,002. Galway County Council shared 1 post (reshare) with 993 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.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Galway Libraries had a great time at the Monivea Agricultural Show on Sunday where they had opportunity to showcase the services available plus the remit of the Europe Direct Centre which is based in Ballinasloe Library.



The team also attended the Glenamaddy Show and joined other County Council colleagues showcasing the array of services.

PHOTO: COLETTE DEMPSEY AND MELANIE WHITNEY AS PART OF THE OUTREACH WORK AT THE MONIVEA AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

CULTURE NIGHT

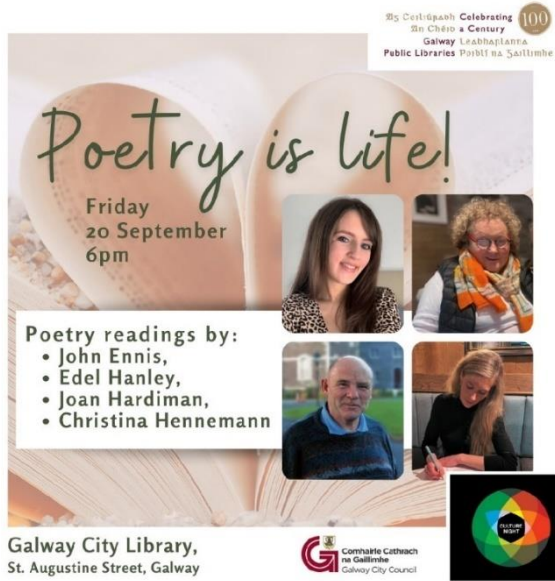
Culture Night provided opportunity for communities to celebrate through the Arts and the libraries enjoyed hosting, delivering and supporting various events throughout the city and county.



What an amazing time we had in Tuam Library for #CultureNight2024. Thank you to Bru Bhride and Kathy Ross Art for facilitating these wonderful craft sessions.

STRING SERENADE KICKING OFF OUR GALWAY CITY LIBRARIES' #CULTURENIGHT2024 IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY. A BEAUTIFUL EVENING WITH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IN BALLYBANE LIBRARY.





GALWAY CITY HOSTED POETRY IS LIFE!
WITH READINGS FROM JOHN ENNIS, EDEL HANLEY, JOAN HARDIMAN AND CHRISTINA HENNEMANN.

A FABULOUS NIGHT IN ORANMORE LIBRARY, WHAT A LOVELY PERFORMANCE BY ORANMORE COMHALTAS FOR CULTURE NIGHT!



CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL



Book It! Children's Book festival got off to a brilliant start yesterday with Galway-based children's author Serena Molloy visiting Dunmore Library. This festival has the support of the Galway County Council Arts Office and aims to celebrate and promote reading during the month of October.

We had children from 5th and 6th class in from Garrafrauns National School who were really well prepared for an author talk and Q&A with

Serena. The children asked her loads of great questions about writing and read out some of their "story starter" lines. Then, 6th class students from St. Nicholas's National School, Dunmore came in for a talk, Q&A and a poetry workshop - we were blown away by some of the poems the children created in such a short space of time.

Children were enthralled with Julie Anne De Brún in Leabharlann an Spidéil with songs and stories as gaeilge and some lovely puppets to help with the adventure.



Julie Anne then visited Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua and had children on the edge of seats with a certain tale of an Mac Tíre!

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

REFLECTING, SCRIBBLING, SKETCHING

Poetry workshops in Oranmore, Portumna & Gort Libraries. Each group is working collaboratively on a poem which commemorates 100 years of Galway Public Library service. Facilitated in Oranmore & Gort libraries by poet Emily Cullen and by poet Noelle Lynskey in Portumna Library. Artist Maeve Clancy joined each group to sketch the process, she will create an artwork to accompany & illustrate the poems composed by each group.

GROUP WORKING IN PORTUMNA LIBRARY.





GROUP WORKING IN GORT LIBRARY.

AT WAR WITH MERCY: PERFORMANCE IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

At War with Mercy is a collaborative work between the late Canadian songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen and the writers John MacKenna and Angela Keogh. Cohen and MacKenna worked together on the requiem Between Your Love and Mine in the months before Cohen's death in 2016. The idea for At War with Mercy had been mooted at that time and now it comes to fruition.

In a ninety-minute show, the music, characters and words reflect on the brutality of war and the healing power of peace and mercy.

25 Ceiúradh Celebrating 100
 25 Chéid a Century
 Galway Leabharlanna
 Public Libraries Poiblí na Gaillimhe





MUSICIANS JOINED 96-YEAR-OLD MRS. MARY MANNION IN CUTTING THE CAKE HONOURING LEONARD COHEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY. ALSO IN THE PHOTO IS HER DAUGHTER JO VAHEY, COUNTY LIBRARIAN ALONG WITH FAMILY MEMBERS.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES DAY

National Public Libraries Day provided opportunity to showcase our libraries throughout the city and county with various events, bookclub sessions and programmes held. This was combined with a national online campaign which highlighted the array of online eBooks, eAudiobooks, courses and more.



National Public Libraries Open Day

Leabharlann An Spideal

Réaltaí Samhraidh: Searmanas Bronnta (Summer Stars: Award Ceremony) - 12pm

Oranmore Library

John Carrig from The Barn Owl Project is giving a talk on Barn Owl conservation at 11am. All welcome.

Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua

Am Scéalaíochta (Storytime) - 12pm

Réaltaí Samhraidh: Searmanas Bronnta (Summer Stars: Award Ceremony) - 2.30pm

Portumna Library

Summer Stars Awards Ceremony at 2.30.

POSITIVE AGEING WEEK

27 local heroes across Galway city and county shared their inspirational stories for this year's **#PositiveAgeingWeek**, which runs from September 30th to October 6th. This year's theme is 'Challenging Ageism – Reframing how we think, feel and act towards ageing and older persons.'

We are so grateful to the many older people who shared their stories with us! To read these stories in full and for information on Positive Ageing Week events, visit

www.copegalway.ie/PositiveAgeingWeek.

This Positive Ageing Week we celebrate and honour the older people in our lives and the amazing contribution they make to our communities.



Two of the local heroes from Galway County are friends and patrons of Galway Public Libraries.

Mrs. Patricia Egan from Derrybrien provided cups of tea and refreshments to the mobile library staff over many years. Mrs. Mary Mannion is a great advocate for the library service and is very active in local community groups in Moylough.

MRS. PATRICIA EGAN, DERRYBRIEN, PICKING UP HER BOOKS FROM THE MOBILE LIBRARY.

MRS. MARY MANNION



LOCAL STUDIES

The author Nuala Farrell-Griffin, M.A., genealogist, and historian visited the local studies section of Galway Public Libraries on September 23rd, to present copies of her latest book "Kilbegnet House, County Galway, The Shiel family Legacy, 1831-1931".

This book is a very detailed and interesting research work on the Sheil Family, who set down roots in Kilbegnet Parish in 1831. Their multi-generational story unfolds against a backdrop of sweeping changes in Ireland, political upheaval, cultural shifts, and economic challenges, yet they remained unwavering pillars of the community for nearly a century.

The book is a limited edition of 150 copies. It is a privately funded local history project, commissioned by Michael J. Ward, of Kilbegnet dairies, and written by Nuala. Mr. Ward has very generously donated four copies of the book to Galway Public Libraries, and they will be available for reference in Glenamaddy,

Ballygar, and Tuam branches, and in Local Studies in Galway. The photos show the author Nuala presenting the copies of the book during her visit to the local studies section, and she also signed each copy.

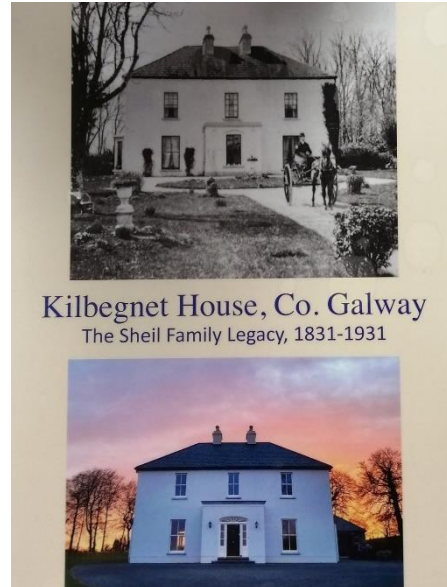
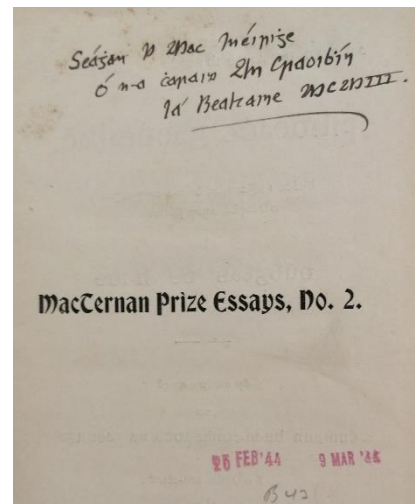


PHOTO: MARION NIKOLAKOS, LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN ACCEPTING A COPY OF THE BOOK FROM AUTHOR NUALA FARRELL-GRIFFIN.



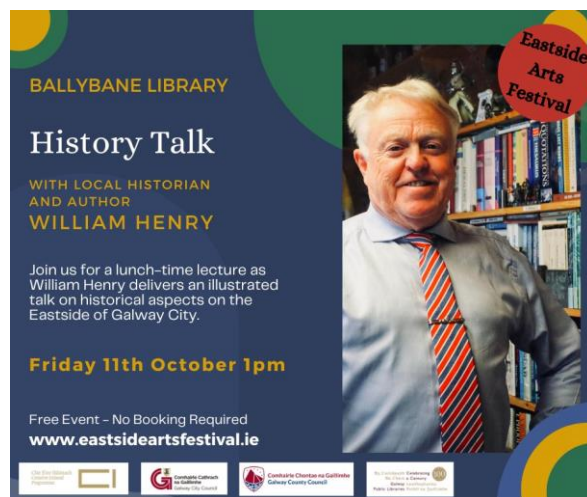
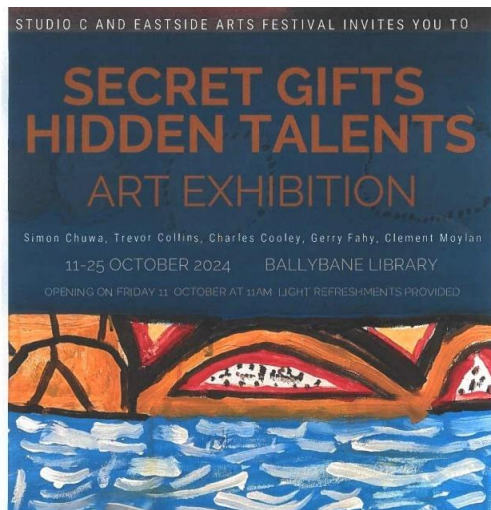
Galway Public Libraries Local Studies Section holds this unique signed copy of "Irish Poetry" by Dr Douglas Hyde, renowned Gaelic Scholar, and first President of Ireland, who was passionate about the revival of the Irish language and worked tirelessly towards that aim.

This book was published in 1902, by the Society for the Preservation of the Irish language, of which Hyde was an active member. He published many works in Irish, using the pen name, "An Craoibhín Aoibhinn", or simply "An Craoibhín", as in this case. He grew up around

Frenchpark, County Roscommon, and learned Irish from some of the old people in the Locality. When he became President, in June 1938, he recited the Presidential Declaration of Office in Irish. This recitation, in Roscommon Irish, is one of only a few recordings of a dialect of Irish, of which Hyde was sadly one of the last speakers. This is a bilingual book, with beautiful Cló Gaelach Irish script on one side, and English on the other.

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Ballybane Library is one of the host venues and a strategic partner in the development and delivery of this week's Eastside Arts Festival on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th of October. There are loads of events to enjoy, including art exhibitions, workshops, live music and dancing, talks and food events. Check out the full programme and further details at www.eastsideartsfestival.ie.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Tús : Beginnings exhibition launch in Ballinasloe Library, , with over 20 artists who showcased their artwork.



Galway County Arts Officer, Sharon O'Grady hosted a panel discussion with artists Joan Finnegan, Joyce Little and Geraldine O'Brien.

This event was part of the Centenary celebrations and supported by Creative Ireland Galway County.



Head to Ballinasloe Library for the launch of the Connaught Rangers Association's travelling exhibition, Ranging Memories on Tuesday October 15 at 5.30pm.

Patrick Maloney, Chair of the Connaught Rangers Association and Joe Loughnane, part of the Loughrea Memorial Group, will give a talk covering the origins of the Connaught Rangers Association, the ways in which they're remembered, and how various community groups have commemorated their war dead.

The history of the Rangers is intrinsically linked to Galway as so many men from the city and county joined its ranks. From 1881 Renmore Barracks was the Depot of the Connaught Rangers until they were disbanded in 1922. Many of the displays include stories of Galway men who served in the Connaught Rangers.



DUNMORE LIBRARY

The Summer Stars medals and certificates were presented to the children by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Albert Dolan in Dunmore Library. Children got to tell the Cathaoirleach what their favourite book of the summer was!



Congratulations to all involved!

INISHBOFIN LIBRARY

Last Thursday 3rd October saw the launch of the Local Studies Collection in Inishbofin Library, as part of Galway Libraries Centenary celebrations. This collection was presented to the library by Professor of Anthropology Meredith Chesson, University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

The repository contains copies of archival valuation, census, and other government records obtained by the University of Notre Dame's archaeological and ethnographic team, the Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast Project (CLIC), over their 16 years of research focusing on the post-medieval communities living on Inishark, Inishbofin, and Inishturk (Co. Mayo) off the coast of western Connemara.



PATRIA MC WALTER, ARCHIVIST, GCC,
PROFESSOR MEREDITH CHESON, UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, JO VAHEY A/COUNTY &
CITY LIBRARIAN AND AUDREY MURRAY, BRANCH
LIBRARIAN INISHBOFIN LIBRARY.

Also in attendance were Jo Vahey, A/County and City Librarian, Patria Mc Walter, Archivist, GCC, Gearóid Conroy, National Monument Service and Audrey Murray, Branch librarian as well as members of the island community of Inishbofin.

This collection in Inishbofin Library will empower islanders and visitors of all ages to engage with their past by providing easy access to copies of key archival documents.

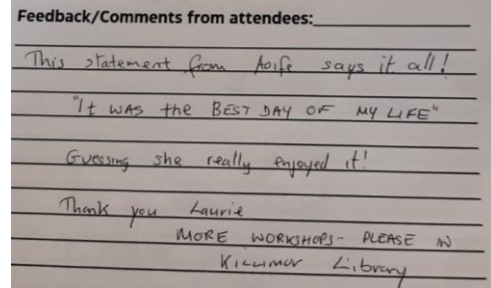


KILLIMOR LIBRARY



Wonderful event for Book It! Children's Book Festival in Killimor Library on Thursday 3rd October. A gorgeous comment from one of the participants.

'Best day of my life'



ORANMORE LIBRARY

Drop in Digital Skills Sessions continue for adults in Oranmore Library. Bring your own device and get assistance on how to fully utilize your technology. These sessions are delivered as part of the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy. All sessions are free of charge.



Stars medals and certificates presented to children by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Albert Dolan in Oranmore Library. Along with a very interesting new staff member!



As part of Sustainable Development Goals Week 2024, Oranmore Public Library they had the wonderful John Carrig from The Barn Owl Project giving a talk on Barn Owl conservation.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Book It! Children's Book Festival at Loughrea Library last weekend, what better way to



spend a rainy Saturday afternoon - the children created their own Coat of Arms & Motto with Laurie from The Learning Garden School - Killimor

TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam Library is proud to display the Beady Pockets of Winnie Ward (RIP) and her sister Teresa Corcoran. Thanks so much to Kathleen and her family for allowing us to hang the pockets in the library.





Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ollie Turner presented the children with their Summer Stars Certificates and Medals. Congratulation to all that participated and completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year. Tuam Library was really busy over the summer with all those readers!



We were delighted that Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan and Tom Reilly visited the Tuam Community Training Centre exhibition today in Tuam Library. Come and look at the amazing crafts yourself. The exhibition runs to the 19th October.



HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Approximately 300 people attended a public information event in Baile Chláir (Claregalway) on Thursday, October 3rd in relation to the first affordable housing to be developed in County Galway since 2013.

JOHN WATERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TEAM MAKES A PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT IN CLAREGALWAY HOTEL.

61 affordable housing units are being delivered in the Garraí Na Gaoithe development, which is the first turnkey housing scheme to include affordable housing in County Galway under the Government's 'Housing for All' policy. Located on the Lakeview Road, the housing scheme also features a crèche and is located close to local amenities in Baile Chláir.

The public information evening centred on the soon-to-be-completed first phase of the development, which comprises 17 units, including 2 two-bedroom, 9 three-bedroom and 6 four-bedroom houses. The homes have recently been being made available for sale by Galway County Council.



COMPUTER GENERATED IMAGES OF THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT IN CLAREGALWAY



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT
ADVERTISING THE OPENING
OF THE WEB PORTAL FOR
APPLICATIONS



AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

Garraí na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir (Claregalway), County Galway

The first affordable homes to be developed in County Galway since 2013 are nearing completion in Baile Chláir (Claregalway) and are being made available for sale by Galway County Council.

61 affordable housing units are being delivered in the Garraí Na Gaoithe development, which is the first turnkey housing scheme to include affordable housing in County Galway under the Government's Housing for All policy.

17 units, including 2 two-bedrooms, 9 three-bedroom and 6 four-bedroom houses, are being delivered in the soon-to-be-completed first phase of the development. Work on 16 additional homes in the 2nd phase of the development will commence in January and will be delivered in 2025 with a further 28 units to be developed in the 3rd phase in late 2025.

Located on the Lakeview Road, the housing scheme also features a crèche and is located close to local amenities.

House Type	Gross Household Income Limit (€)*	Market Value	Minimum Purchase Price	Maximum Purchase Price
2 Bedroom Mid Terrace	68,400.00	320,000.00	245,000.00	304,000.00
3 Bedroom Mid Terrace	77,377.50	362,000.00	287,000.00	343,900.00
3 Bedroom End Terrace	78,553.13	367,500.00	292,500.00	349,125.00
3 Bedroom Semi-detached	79,515.00	372,000.00	297,000.00	353,400.00
3 Bedroom Detached	89,775.00	420,000.00	345,000.00	399,000.00
4 Bed End Terrace	94,050.00	440,000.00	365,000.00	438,000.00
4 Bedroom Detached	99,393.75	465,000.00	390,000.00	441,750.00

*Applications will be accepted via an online application portal which will go live on 14th October, 2024 at 10:00am. Applications may be made between 14/10/2024 and 12/11/2024.

Further Information on this scheme, including the Scheme of Priority, link to the application form, and support documentation required, is available at www.galway.ie/affordable

How to Buy an Affordable Home Step by Step...

- Get Ready**
- Step 01** You may wish to apply for Mortgage Approval in Principle or a Local Authority Home Loan.
- Step 02** You may wish to check your eligibility for the Help to Buy Scheme.
- Step 03** Local authorities will advertise available Affordable Homes on their websites.
- Step 04** Submit required documentation as per local authority requirements.
- Step 05** The local authority will assess the validity and eligibility of your application.
- Step 06** Properties will be offered in order of date and time of your application and suitability of your household to the property type.
- Step 07** The local authority will calculate the equity loan based on your purchasing power.
- Step 08** The local authority, developer or selling agent will contact you.
- Step 09** Final viewing depends on the local authority, developer or selling agent and confirm your solicitor details.
- Step 10** Apply for formal approval of loan offer. Be aware you may need an extension on your mortgage approval if there are any delays.
- Step 11** Contract of Sale and Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement (ADPA) will now be issued to your solicitor.
- Step 12** Arrange Home and Mortgage Protection Insurance.
- Step 13** Sign Contract of Sale and ADPA with your solicitor.
- Step 14** You will be invited to view your new home. You may engage a surveyor to carry out this work for you or you can do it yourself.
- Step 15** Contact your lender to request a disbursement of funds.
- Step 16** Affordable Dwelling Contribution funds are released following receipt of Help to Buy funds if applicable. Your purchase can now proceed.
- Step 17** Both solicitor will agree a closing date and you can arrange the collection of your keys.

AFFORDABLE HOMES Supported by **Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

Congratulations! You're a homeowner!
www.affordablehomes.ie

INFORMATION
HANDOUT FOR
THE PUBLIC
INFORMATION
SESSION

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

SUIRBHÉ MAIDIR LE TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Tá suirbhé ar líne á dhéanamh ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe chun leibhéal agus próifíl spéise i dtithíocht inacmhainne i gContae na Gaillimhe a chinneadh. Cabhróidh an t-eolas a bhailítear le pleanáil a dhéanamh ar sholáthar Tithíochta Inacmhainne sa chontae.

Má mheasann tú go bhféadfadh go gcaileoidh tú, líon isteach ar suirbhé ag www.galway.ie/affordablehousing, nó scan an Cód QR thíos. Níor chóir go dtógfaidh sé ach cúpla nóiméad le déanamh. Beidh an suirbhé ar oscailt ón 4 Meán Fómhair go dtí an 4 Deireadh Fómhair 2024.

Tabhair faoi deara: Níl anseo ach suirbhé. Ní próiseas iarratais le haghaidh tithíocht inacmhainne é. Féach www.affordablehomes.ie le do thoil chun tuilleadh eolais a tháil faoi tithíocht inacmhainne.

SCAN QR CODE

Galway County Council is conducting an online survey to determine the level and profile of interest in Affordable Housing in County Galway. The information gathered will help to plan the delivery of Affordable Housing in the county.

If you consider that you may qualify, please complete our survey on www.galway.ie/affordablehousing or scan the QR Code below. It should take no more than few minutes to complete. The survey will be open from 4th September 2024 to 4th October 2024.

Note: This is a survey only. It is not an application process for affordable housing. For more information, visit www.affordablehomes.ie.

Housing for All

Galway County Council extended its invitation to the public to participate in an online survey as part of its efforts to establish the level of interest and preferred locations in County Galway for affordable homes.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE SURVEY IN LOCAL PRESS

SUIRBHÉ MAIDIR LE TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Housing for All

SUIRBHÉ SURVEY

TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

DEADLINE: 6.00PM ON SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Housing for All

SUIRBHÉ MAIDIR LE TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Housing for All

SUIRBHÉ MAIDIR LE TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Housing for All

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT ADVERTISING THE SURVEY

The survey was specifically aimed at people who feel they may be eligible to acquire or rent an affordable home from the Local Authority. The feedback gathered will inform the delivery of Affordable Housing in the county. The information being sought includes the numbers of people/households interested in affordable housing, family size, the type of housing/accommodation required, house prices that people might be able to afford, and

preferred locations. The closing date for responses was extended until Sunday, October 13th at 6:00pm.

A total of 467 valid surveys were submitted during the period 4th September to the 13th October 2024. A full analysis of the completed surveys will be presented to the Housing SPC in the first instance.

VACANT HOMES

Further to information events held throughout the county in previous months, the Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) attended the Cruinniú Chinn Bliana de Comharchumann Forbartha Árann, Inis Mór, held in the Ionad IT Eognacht on Inis Mór, on the 10th of September, to give information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan scheme, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The event was well attended.



CROI CONAITHE

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is available for the refurbishment of vacant or derelict properties for occupation as a principle private residence and for properties that will be made available for long-term rent. This includes the conversion of commercial or public use buildings that have not been used as residential heretofore. These buildings must

be compliant with Planning (i.e., exempt or with planning permission). Agricultural structures, e.g., sheds and outhouses, are not eligible for grant funding. There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme). The number of applications submitted to date is 453(50 in progress i.e. additional information has been requested, etc., 303 applications have been finalised (281 approved and 22 rejected),100 applications have been withdrawn. 7 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants have been drawn down by applicants.

PROJECT: GORT NA GCLOCH, HOSPITAL ROAD, CLIFDEN

On Friday the 11th October, Gort na gCloch on Hospital Road, Clifden was officially opened by Leas Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Ollie Turner and Leas Chathaoirleach of Connemara Municipal District, Cllr. Gerry King. The official opening and tree planting ceremony was followed by an open viewing of the newly refurbished apartments for the local community, which was open to the public to attend on from 12 – 1pm.





NEWLY
REFURBISHED
GORT NA
GCLOCH

Steeped in a rich history and yet carrying a burden of a sensitive and disquieting past, St. Josephs in Clifden, Co. Galway was a former Mercy Convent orphanage and later an Industrial School & Laundry dating back to 1862. Being a prominent landmark in Clifden, Galway County Council believed that this project represented an opportunity to change the focus of this, at times, unsettling history to one of comfort and protection for the people of Clifden, in providing homes for a variety of occupiers, that sensitively creates a place that its residents can be proud to call home.

Now complete, two disused and dilapidated but historically significant buildings together with their associated lands have been brought back into use, providing them with a function and future in 26 new homes, which will ensure their long-term survival. It is widely considered that the project is a very positive contribution to the Architectural heritage of Clifden and Galway.





A VIEW OF THE INTERIORS OF THE REDEVELOPED BUILDINGS AT GORT NA GCLOCH, CLIFDEN



GORT NA GCLOCH, CLIFDEN – AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT

SOD TURNED ON CLIFDEN SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME

The sod has been turned on a new social housing development on the Westport Road in Clifden, which will provide 30 new energy efficient new homes to West Galway.

Elected Members, representatives of the contractor McRoy Limited and senior housing officials from Galway County Council gathered for the ceremony on Friday 11th October.



The state-of-the-art turnkey development is scheduled for completion by the first quarter of 2026 and will comprise 1, 2 and 3-bedrooms homes and is supported in funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Housing for All



HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT WESTPORT ROAD, CLIFDEN

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien said:

“Today’s launch of 30 new social homes is most welcome. This development will provide secure, high-quality homes which will make a real difference in the lives of families and individuals. This Housing for All at work on the ground. It is thanks to the excellent work of local authorities such as Galway County Council that we are now delivering more social homes than we have in decades.”

Councillor Ollie Turner, Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway commented,

“Increasing our social housing stock is of critical importance to the future sustainability of our rural communities. I look forward to the completion of this and other schemes which will provide much needed homes for people in rural towns and villages across County Galway.”

According to **Councillor Gerry King, Leas Cathaoirleach of the Connemara Municipal District**, “This new social housing development is very much welcomed by the nine Elected Members of the Municipal District of Connemara and those who live in this largely rural district. The delivery of these new homes will enable families and individuals to become valuable members of the community where they will help sustain the town’s schools, businesses, clubs and local services.”

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council said, “With the support of Elected Members and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under ‘Housing for All’, Galway County Council has embarked on an ambitious programme of social housing construction with developments planned for Athenry, Portumna, Ardrahan, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam, while other schemes have recently been completed in Glenamaddy and Clifden.”

“The staff of the Housing section are working hard to increase the amount of social housing construction delivered by the Local Authority and we hope to be able to announce new schemes under the Government’s Social Housing Investment Programme in the near future,” added Mr. Conneally.

HOUSING GRANTS

A number of housing adaptation grants are available for older people and people with a disability. These grants are available to private homeowner and are 80% funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with a 20% contribution from Galway County Council’s own resources. There are three grant types available:

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability (HAG) aids people with a physical, mental health or intellectual disability to have necessary adaptations, repairs or improvement works carried out to make their home suitable to their needs. The maximum grant available is €30,000.

Mobility Aid Grants (MAG) helps older people or people with a disability to address mobility problems. The maximum grant available is €6,000.

Housing Aid for Older People (HAOP) aids older people to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out to their home. The maximum grant available is €8,000.

Grant Payments Issued by Galway County Council in 2024 to date:

Grant Type	Number of Grant Payment Issued	Grant Payment Amount Issued	Department Contribution	Galway County Council Contribution
HAG	78	€729,268	€583,414	€145,854
MAG	138	€640,333	€512,266	€128,067
HAOP	267	€1,511,844	€1,209,475	€302,368
TOTAL	483	€2,881,445	€2,305,155	€576,289

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a form of social housing support provided by Galway County Council.

Local authorities make a monthly rental payment on a tenant's behalf to a landlord, subject to terms and conditions, including rent limits. In return, the HAP tenant pays a weekly contribution towards the rent to the local authority.

Galway County Council currently facilitate 1390 Hap Tenants

Total Gross Hap MD	Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Tuam		1	61	65	98	87	78	90	47	100	48	675
Loughrea			66	76	67	87	67	62	46	77	56	604
Connemara			57	67	46	64	59	66	39	37	33	468
Ballinasloe			45	37	30	50	77	48	32	39	39	397
Athenry/Oranmore			36	51	51	36	44	47	35	40	19	359
Transboundary				11	20	24	36	21	26	20	11	169
Total		1	265	307	312	348	361	334	225	313	206	2672
HAP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Current Tenancies			62	80	108	149	182	191	160	262	196	1390
Closed Tenancies		1	203	227	204	199	179	143	65	51	10	1222
Total Applications		1	265	307	312	348	361	334	225	313	206	2672

The average weekly and monthly contribution paid by tenants are as follows: -

MD	Average Weekly rent paid by Tenants	Average of Monthly top up paid by Tenant
Athenry/Oranmore	€66.44	€76.87
Ballinasloe	€65.93	€34.23
Connemara	€58.38	€56.01
Loughrea	€61.42	€69.26
Tuam	€66.07	€82.71
Total	€63.54	€65.94

TENANCY AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

There was a total number of 157 complaints received from Jan 2024 to present date.

Category No. of complaints

Cat A - Drugs 1 case investigated – HLO issued caution.

Cat A B - Abandoned dwellings

8 cases investigated – 7 dwelling taken back into stock following investigation under s.15

Cat B – Anti social behaviour

complaints 35 complaints received. · 24 cases investigated and successfully closed. · 5 statutory Tenancy warning letters personally served. · 6 cases currently open to HLO's for investigation

Cat B – Unlawful Occupation 16 cases · 12 cases investigated by HLO's and successfully closed. · 2 cases referred for enforcement action. · 3 open investigations

Cat B – Serious Obstruction 1 case investigated and successfully closed

Cat B – Threats / Intimidation 3 complaints received, investigated, and successfully closed

Cat B – Unauthorised Caravan 5 Cases Investigated by TEM – 5 Cases successfully Closed. · 1 open case open to Roads and Transportation – Notice on Caravan has been issued

Cat B - Vandalism 1 complaint investigated by HLO and successfully closed

Cat C- Animal Nuisance 8 complaints received, investigated, and successfully closed

Cat C – Boundary Disputes 1 case investigated and successfully closed

Cat C – Damage to Property 7 complaints received. · 3 cases being investigated by HLO's · 4 complaints investigated and successfully closed

Cat C – Noise Disturbance 8 Complaints received. · 8 cases investigated and successfully closed.

Cat C - Refuse / Litter 26 Complaints received. · 18 cases investigated and successfully closed. · 8 cases open investigation

1. S. 12 Possession Orders - 2 possession order applications were successful in the District court during this time frame.

CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

GORT FADA, KILGARVE, BALLINASLOE



Contracts for the Advance Purchase of 34No. units and Part V Acquisition of 4No. units at Gort Fada, Kilgarve were signed in January 2023 and sales of the initial 37 units were completed in September 2024.

The development consists of a mix of 3No. 1 bed bungalow units, 26No. 2 bed units and 9No. 3 bed units. The final unit, a 3-bed bungalow unit with direct access onto the Old Dublin Road is due to be completed in Q2 2025.

NO. 4 CLOONLYON CRESCENT, BALLYGAR

The consultation period concluded for the Part 8 proposal for No. 4. Cloonlyon Crescent, Ballygar comprising of the construction of a 4-bedroom dwelling, together with connection to existing services and ancillary site works. No submissions were received.

A Part 8 Chief Executive's Report recommending the development was issued to Elected Members of the Ballinasloe M.D.

The Report will be considered for approval at the Ballinasloe M.D. October meeting on 16-10-2024.

Following consideration of the report, the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the report, unless the Elected Members of Ballinasloe M.D., by resolution, decides to vary or modify the development, otherwise than as recommended in the report, or decides not to proceed with the development.

DEVELOPMENT AT MOYLOUGH

Galway County Council published a notice of intention to undertake a development under Section 179A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) consisting of:

'Demolition of 3 no. existing mid-terrace buildings with the exception of the front façade (part of which is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Reg No. 30404509) which will be retained, and construction of 4 no. residential units comprising of: 2 no. 2 storey 3 bed dwellings and 2 no. 2 bed apartments.'

The Section 179A process has now concluded.

A design team tender procurement competition from the Engineer Led Fully Integrated Design Team Services Framework on e-Tenders followed.

The design team tender assessment was completed on 2nd October 2024 and the Most Economically Advantageous (MEAT) Tenderer was identified as: Structural Design Solutions-SDS (Lead Engineers).

ADVANCE WORKS AT VICAR STREET, TUAM

Galway County Council acquired two properties located on Vicar St., Tuam. The more northerly property was previously occupied by the retail premises known as ‘The Bargain Basket’. The adjoining southern property is vacant and has been gutted in the past.

Housing capital conducted an initial site appraisal and engaged the services of specialist consultants to undertake advance surveys, including the engagement of a structural engineer to determine the building’s current conditions and to make recommendations. The report recommended that immediate works were required to the roof and chimney of ‘The Bargain Basket’ and that the adjacent building should be demolished.

On foot of the report, scaffolding was erected to divert pedestrians from the footpath in front of the buildings and to provide access to roof level and Timlin Construction Ltd. were procured under ‘negotiated procedure without prior consultation’ route to undertake works.



The slates of the roof of the vacant building will be removed manually and stored for future use at the request of Galway County Council’s Conservation Officer.

These advance works are due to be complete by the start of November 2024.

SCAFFOLDING AND PEDESTRIAN DIVERSION IN PLACE AT VICAR STREET, TUAM

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER, COMMUNITY LANDS AT GARRAUN SOUTH, ORANMORE

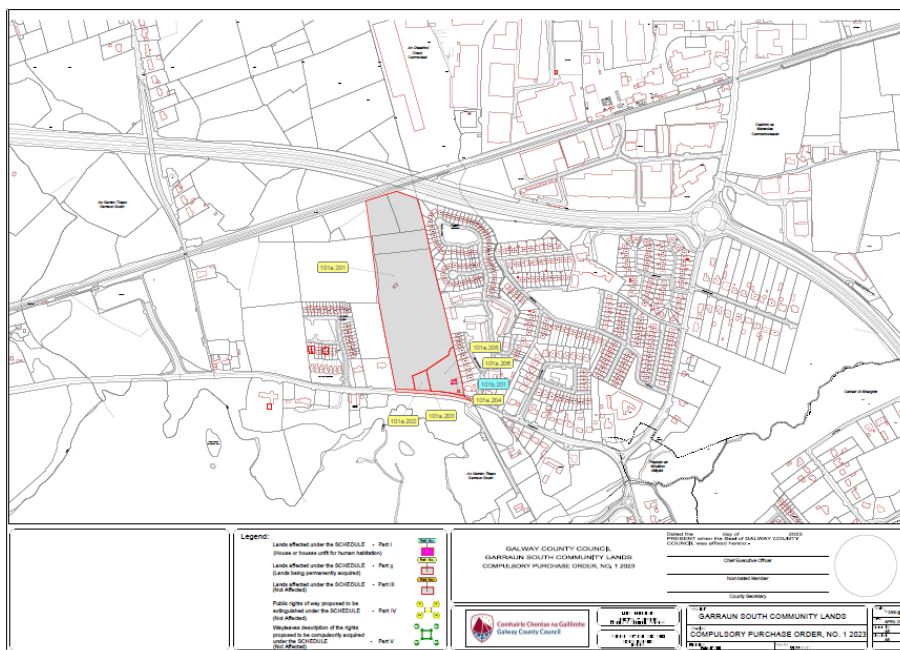
A Notice to Treat and a subsequent Notice of Entry was served on the landowner of Community Zoned Lands (c.6Ha) at Garrraun, Oranmore on the 15th of August 2024.

These formal notifications are part of the CPO process that Galway County Council Housing Section is executing on Behalf of the Department of Education.

The notice of entry will enable the Department of Education the right to conduct site surveys in advance of an application for educational facilities at the site.

A vesting order will be made 6 months after these notices that will 'vest' the lands to Galway County Council.

It is intended that these lands will thereafter be transferred to The Department of Education through a proposed land disposal notification to the elected members under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.



DEPOSIT MAP
FROM C.P.O. TO
AN BORD
PLEANÁLA
(COMMUNITY
LANDS IN GREY)

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

NATIONAL ROADS PROJECT OFFICE (NRPO)

N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNED

Archaeological investigations are currently under way for the scheme and Galway County Council and IAC Archaeology hosted an Open Day on site on the 1st October 2024.

The event was attended by Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr. Ollie Turner, the Milltown Heritage Group, Milltown and Belmont National Schools and local residents. Part of the event showcased the excavation of the Hugh Carey's (Governor of New York 1765-1782) ancestral home.



ANDREW FAIRBROTHER OF IAC ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENTS AT AN ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN DAY ON THE N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNED ROAD PROJECT.

LOCAL ROADS SPEED LIMITS

The process to implement the proposed change of default speed limit on Local Roads from 80kph to 60 kph continues.

Following engagement with the Municipal Districts, Draft Bye Laws were finalised and issued to the Garda Commissioner for comments as required by legislation. On receipt of those comments the next step is to put the Draft Bye Laws out to statutory public consultation. The public consultation commences on Friday the 11th of October and extends to the 15th November.

All comments and observations received will be assessed and it is the intention that the Draft Bye Laws, with any appropriate revisions, will be brought before the Members at the November plenary meeting for adoption.

A Separate set of supplementary Draft Bye Laws will also be brought before the Members at this meeting. These relate to the introduction of periodic speed limits at a select number of schools on former National Roads and the updating of the list of Housing Estates with a 30kph speed limit.

WINTER SERVICE PLAN

BACKGROUND



The Winter Service period for 2024-2025 will extend from the 14th October 2024 to the 30th April 2025. An updated Winter Service Plan has been prepared and this forms the basis for the service which will be delivered by Galway County Council over the relevant timeframe.

Winter maintenance on national roads is carried out by Galway County Council on behalf of the TII and is

funded by the TII. Winter maintenance on local and regional roads is funded by a combination of the Discretionary Maintenance Grant and the Local Authorities own funds.

ROUTES COVERED

The routes treated are categorised according to strategic importance as set out below.

Priority 1 routes consist of Motorway, dual carriage way, national primary and secondary routes and include a number of sections of strategic regional route network. These routes are ordinarily treated and receive precautionary treatment. Every effort will be made to ensure that these routes are treated by 8.00 am in the morning.

Priority 2 routes are the strategically important regional roads not included in Priority 1 and local routes. These routes are ordinarily treated and receive precautionary treatment. Every effort will be made to ensure that these routes are treated by 8.00 am in the morning.

Priority 3 routes are other local roads. These routes do not receive precautionary treatment but will be considered for treatment by the Duty Engineer once priority 1 & 2 routes are addressed and as resources allow at that time.

Priority 4 routes are other local roads and footpaths and will not be considered for treatment except in severe or prolonged winter weather and then only when resources are available.

Between P1, P2 and P3 routes, 1,228 km of road length is covered. That breaks down into 18km National Primary, 282km National Secondary and 928km Regional and Local Road.

P1 routes account for 499km of the road length treated. P2 routes 175km, and P3 routes 554km.

SERVICE DELIVERY

The decision on when and where to treat is made by the Duty Engineer based on the prevailing data and in accordance with the Winter Service Plan directions in this regard. The decision is communicated to the drivers on the various routes. There are ten P1 and P2 routes in total and all of these are looked after by Galway County Council vehicles and drivers. Of the five P3 routes, two are similarly serviced by Galway County Council directly with a further three the responsibility of private contractors.

Salt is stored in four separate locations. At salt barns in Tuam, Loughrea and Gort and in the Machinery Yard. This ensures an adequate supply in reasonable proximity to all routes.

ROUTE OPTIMISATION & PRE-WET TREATMENTS

TII have indicated that they are embarking on a programme to move to treating all national routes with pre-wet salt. Currently Galway County Council only engage in dry salt spreading and do not have the infrastructure carry out pre-wet spreading. Pre wet salting is

considered a more efficient and effective method of treating roads, albeit involving a significant capital investment to make the transition.

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

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

ACQUISITION OF WINTER SERVICE VEHICLES

As a first step in the move to pre-wet treatments TII have approved a funding request for the acquisition of 2 no. permanently mounted salt spreaders with brine spreading capability. A procurement process has been undertaken and the new vehicles are on schedule to be delivered and in service in January 2025. The estimated cost is €400,000 ex VAT and this is 100% recoupable from TII.

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

Separately Galway County Council have progressed the acquisition of 3 no. 26 tonne tipper trucks to replace vehicles which are at end of life or have been recently removed from service. External funding was not available for this purchase. These trucks will form part of the Winter Service Fleet, they will have pre wet spreading capability, and they will also service the Municipal Districts. The procurement process is complete, and the trucks have been ordered – delivery is expected in January 2025, and they will also form part of the Winter Service Delivery operation once in service. The cost of these trucks is €595,000.

The acquisition of the additional 5 no. trucks will remove the need for external truck hire which has been required to run the service over the past two years. This will bring a significant saving on day to day running costs.

26T Renault tipper truck of the type being acquired by Galway County Council

Further acquisitions are planned over succeeding years to modernise the fleet with significant savings on operation and maintenance costs offsetting an element of the capital investment.



BALLINASLOE OCTOBER FAIR 2024



Galway County Council and CES team preparing for the Ballinasloe Fair. Extensive preparation is required annually, including signage, fencing, and general accommodation works for the public.



ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2024

The Islands Committee consisting of representatives from the three Aran Islands and Inishbofin Island held a meeting with officials from the Physical Infrastructure Unit, in September to discuss issues of concern on the four islands, e.g., piers; roads; planning; sewerage; housing; water supply; public toilets; burial grounds; fire service; coastal erosion; recycling centre; bins; signage, etc.

Senior Planner, Valerie Loughnane gave an overview of Galway County Council’s Planning policy objectives, to the committee members, referencing National & Regional Plans, Policies and the County Development Plan.

The County Development Plan 2022- 2028 contains policy objectives for the islands, which include Economic & Tourism Development, Development Proposals on the islands, Development of Pier Infrastructure and Rural Housing.

COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE



Recently we handed out another New Community Warden Van to a long serving member of the Community Wardens, Mr. Pat Roche. Pat is currently based in the Tuam MD.

Safe Driving Pat

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>	3	
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>		
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		1
Total		10

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 03/09/2024

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	4
Estates – Works Complete –	1
Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	

Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand This includes Bond Claim - Old Mill Road Estate, Ballinasloe	19
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	37
Bond Claims -	2

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

The progress of several estates is impacted due to the absence of a Solicitor to address legal and wayleave queries that arise.

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

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL - BHAILE NUA, MAIGH CUILLIN

Following successful implementation of the TII/NTA High Speed Road SRTS Pilot Project at Scoil Bhaile Nua on the N59, post works surveys are continuing. A Road Safety Audit is in the process of completion combined with post works Traffic Data and Speed Count analysis.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL - ST. PAUL'S, OUGHTERARD

The SRTS project at St. Paul's, Oughterard will consist of a pedestrian crossing, SRTS gateway signage, road markings and pencil bollards. A Section 38 public consultation is due to commence on Friday 11th October 2024 on consult.galway.ie.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL BUS SHELTER ENABLING WORKS



A Section 38 public consultation is currently taking place online at consult.galway.ie [Bus Shelter Enabling Works](#) from Monday 30th September to Sunday 13th October. The bus shelter locations are: Ballymoe, Mountbellew, Moylough, Headford, Craughwell & Maigh Cuilinn.

EXAMPLE OF A BUS SHELTER

BEECHLAWN, BALLINASLOE PHASE 3 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

This is Phase 3 of a three-year project funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA). Phase 3 will include 240m of footpath and an uncontrolled crossing including all accommodation works. The tender for works will close on 18th October 2024. Upon approval of the tender sum by the NTA, a Road Safety Audit Stage 1-2 will be required to be completed prior to commencing works. It is hopeful the works will commence in Q4 2024.

ACTIVE TRAVEL DESIGN SCHEMES

The Athenry Church St to Tuam Rd (via Station Rd) Active Travel Scheme and the Sean Purcell Road, Tuam to Sports Grounds on R332 Active Travel Scheme tender submissions period has closed, the tender assessments are in progress and is expected to go to Contract Award in October 2024.

ATHENRY CHURCH ST TO TUAM RD (VIA STATION RD) ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

This route is approximately 1.3km long and it links the major residential areas along R347, New Line, and L3105 with the town centre, the train station and the schools. The upgrade of the New Line junction and widening of the Level Crossing on L3105 to provide for segregated facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are key deliverables of this scheme that will provide accessibility for walking, wheeling and cycling across the railway line.

Figure 1 – Project Extents in Athenry Town



TUAM SEAN PURCELL RD TO SPORTS GROUNDS ON R332 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

The active travel scheme is to begin at the Vicar Street junction, near the town square in the north, and end at the Tuam Stars GAA sportsgrounds in the south. This route is approximately 1.2km and it links the town centre with several schools, sports facilities and large residential estates. The project will deliver engineering measures to support sustainable travel and will incorporate a ‘Schools Street’ scheme, in line with the LTP 2023-2029 for Tuam. This route is relatively wide, and this makes reallocation of road space quite feasible. Please see Figure 1 below for the Project Location and Extents.

Figure 1. Tuam (Dublin Road) Active Travel Scheme – Project Location and Extents



GOCAR PILOT PROJECT

This month, Galway County Council has collaborated with GOCAR to launch a new pilot project, introducing carsharing services in four new locations across County Galway:

Ballinasloe, Dunmore, Portumna, and Tuam. This initiative aims to promote carsharing as a practical and sustainable transportation option for more communities across the county. Carsharing offers a viable alternative to car ownership, providing benefits such as reduced traffic congestion and lower carbon emissions. By making shared vehicles accessible, this project supports a cleaner environment and highlights our commitment to sustainable mobility.

It supports a change to the use of more sustainable and efficient transportation systems, and it is considered that carsharing will be one of the ways we achieve our environmental goals, thereby enhancing overall community well-being.



PICTURED RECENTLY IN BALLINASLOE L-R: DONNA BYRNE, BROADBAND SUPPORT OFFICER, ROADS & TRANSPORTATION DEPT., RACHEL LOWE, SENIOR ENGINEER, ROADS & TRANSPORTATION DEPT, CLLR, DERMOT CONNOLLY, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, DANIEL RALSTON, GOCAR ACCOUNT MANAGER

PICTURED L-R: CLLR, DERMOT CONNOLLY, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH, BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, RACHEL LOWE, SENIOR ENGINEER, ROADS & TRANSPORTATION DEPT. DANIEL RALSTON, GOCAR ACCOUNT MANAGER, NOEL MADDEN, BROADBAND OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



ROADS SECTION CONAMARA MD – AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND JUDGING

The bus shelters project at Casla and Indreabhán has been shortlisted for an Age-Friendly Ireland award under the Transport category. Judging took place on 18th September at Casla,



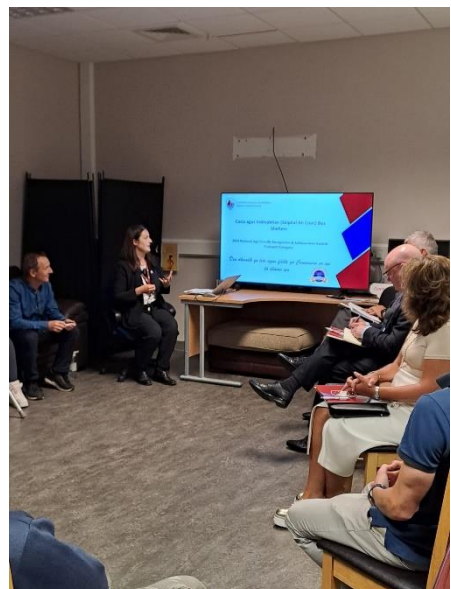
with a presentation in the Rehab facilities in the Casla Business Estate, followed by a visit to the nearby bus shelter. The day was particularly sunny and warm, and the judges had the benefit of seeing our spectacular South Conamara coastline at its very best. The judges were Mr. Peter Hynes, former Chief Executive of Mayo County Council, and Mr. Barry O'Brien, former Assistant Commissioner with An Garda

Síochána.

In the excellent facilities belonging to Rehab, the judges were presented with an overview of the project by Senior Engineer Rachel Lowe and a discussion took place on how the project supports transport services for our rural and aging communities. Rehab service users and staff attended the presentation and spoke to the judges about the importance of this project for them in attending the centre. Engagement with the judges took place 'as Gaeilge agus as Béarla', with our area team of Naoise and Diarmuid also taking questions on delivery and technical detail.

The judges noted that the project had been delivered largely by the Council directly; in respect of the design and some of the civils, with remaining civils by Pádraig Folan Ltd and Larkin Engineering. The judges were particularly impressed at the Council's ability to deliver this project at a very reasonable cost. The judging takes place in Dublin (hosted by Fingal County Council) on 7th November.

With special thanks to Diarmuid O'Droighneain, Naoise O'Conaola, Ronan Griffin, TJ Redmond, the Rehab Staff and Service users, Pádraig Folan Civil Engineering, Larkin Engineering.



CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND



On the 24th of September Galway County Council announced the allocation of €762,000 to communities and not-for-profit organisations interested in developing projects and initiatives focusing on addressing climate change.

The installation of solar panels at Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre, the development of a bicycle shelter at Claregalway GAA and the creation of a community orchard and community growing initiative on the Aran Islands are among 32 community-based projects being funded under the Community Climate Action Fund.

The funding allocated in County Galway will support small (up to €20,000), medium (€21,000–€50,000), and large-scale (€51,000–€100,000) community climate action projects in five key theme areas, namely community energy, travel, food and waste, shopping and recycling, and local climate and environmental action. The level of interest shown in the Fund is testament to the community-led sustainability efforts that are ongoing throughout County Galway.

[Council announces 32 recipients of €762,000 Community Climate Action Fund - Connacht Tribune - Galway City Tribune](#)

<https://www.galwaydaily.com/news/environment/galway-county-council-announces-32-recipients-of-e762000-community-climate-action-fund/>

AGRICULTURAL SHOW, GLENAMADDY



Staff from the Environment Section, Climate Action, and the Library Section of Galway County Council attended the Glenamaddy Agricultural show on the 29th September. Over 6,000 people attended the event and information in relation to Climate Action, waste management and the library service was disseminated.

CLIMATE ACTION COURSE



The Climate Unit assisted with the organisation of a 6-week 6 step climate action course for the over 60's which started in Oranmore in mid-September. The developer and facilitator of the course is Jacinta Barrins, a former UN resident co-ordinator and CEO of the 60plus Climate Drive organisation. The course covers such topics as the direct link between everyday actions and climate change, learning how to change behaviour,

calculating carbon footprint, deciding on climate actions that can be taken in the home and community and developing a plan to implement the action(s).

<https://www.farmersjournal.ie/life/features/tackling-climate-change-is-not-just-for-the-young-837569>

SUPPORT FOR ENERGY MASTERPLAN

Kinvara and district Sustainable Energy Community launched their Energy Masterplan on the 28th of September. As part of the development of the plan they organised free BER assessments for 10 local homes and held energy advice clinics in the local area. The Masterplan was funded by SEAI with bridging finance and funding support for the launch from Galway County Council. The aim of the Energy Masterplan is to develop a list of potential projects to reduce emissions in the community. A list of the communities supported with bridging loans to date is set out below.

SEC	Consultant	Status
Dunmore	Plan Energy	Completed
Milltown	Plan Energy	Completed
Headford	Plan Energy	Completed
Athenry	Plan Energy	Completed
Ballinasloe	Plan Energy	Completed
Clifden Glen	O'Reilly Consulting	Ongoing
Kinvara	O'Reilly Consulting	Completed
Galway County PPN	XD Sustainable Energy	Completed
Kilcolgan / Clarinbridge	O'Reilly Consulting	Ongoing
Doon East	Celtic Dynamics	Ongoing

INTERNAL ENERGY USE

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

Project / Deadline	Update
Provision of Automated Energy Data Collection and Management System	Contract signed 30 Sept 2024. Roll-out underway.
Design Team Consultancy Services for the Energy Pathfinder Program 2024/2025	Preferred Tenderer identified. Awaiting proof relevant insurances, etc., are in place in advance of contract documents being drafted.
SEAI M&R Data Returns	Returns due 08 Nov 2024. Currently gathering data.
Provision of Display Energy Certificates for GCC Buildings	Project underway. 1 st Cycle of DEC's due end Oct 2024.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on September data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 144 turnouts to 128 Incidents. That is an decrease of 11 incidents on 139 the previous month. 33 were fire incidents, 93 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standbys either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 39.5% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 42.86% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 17.65% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.06 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.37 minutes.

FIRE SERVICE CAPITAL PROJECTS

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

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. 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

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

A Request for Tender for the Design Team was issued to be received by the 13th September 2024. The tender assessment board met on the 02 October 2024 to consider submissions and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender has been identified. It is hoped that the Design Team Contract will be signed by the end of October 2024.



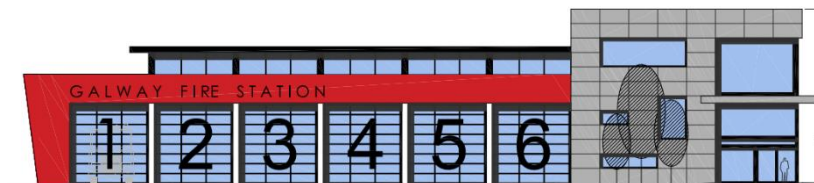
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PROPOSED NEW BRIGADE
MECHANICS WORKSHOP
ATHENRY

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

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

(Indicative Only)



PROPOSED NEW
HEADQUARTERS AND
CENTRAL FIRE STATION
GALWAY CITY

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the September figures. The Fire Authority received 26 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 14 applications. 7 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 13 applications. A total of 28 new licenses were issued and 121 inspections were conducted.

TRAINING

Two new firefighter recruits will commence their initial training Firefighting Skills course on 18th October 2024. This will bring the total number of new recruits who have taken part in their initial training thus far in 2024 to 19, which already exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters. The 2 newly trained recruits, once successful, will be stationed as follows; 1 at Ballinasloe Fire Station and 1 firefighter at Gort Fire Station.

The following training courses are scheduled in the coming months:

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course 07/10/24-08/10/24, Sligo Fire Station

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course 09/10/24-10/10/24, Sligo Fire Station

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course 14/10/24-15/10/24, Sligo Fire Station

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course 16/10/24-17/10/24, Sligo Fire Station

Swift Water Rescue Instructor Assessment 22/10/24-24/10/24, Carnmore Training Centre & Tuam Fire Station.




Breathing Apparatus Initial Course 11/11/24 -22/11/24, Sligo Fire Station

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 will go for Public Consultation by the 11th October 2024. A further blind mobilisation test will be carried out for the site during October and will further test 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

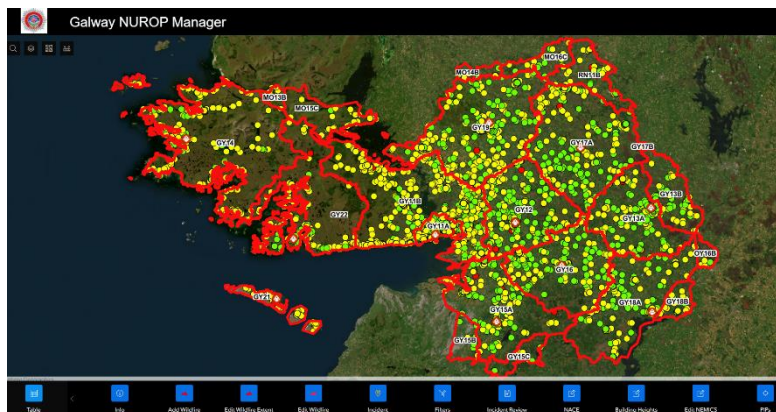
Viewing is **strictly by appointment** only. Appointments can be arranged by calling one of the aforementioned phone numbers or by emailing fireservices@galwaycoco.ie and including your preferred viewing location.

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

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.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY STATISTICS 1 ST JANUARY – 30 TH SEPTEMBER	
Applications Received/Valid	1561/1223
Granted	1088
Grant Rate	85%
Refused	188
Breakdown of Decisions Granted	Outline (5 no.) Permission (834 no.) Retention (231 no.) Permission Consequent (3. no.)
Extension of Duration	15
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	82%/18%
Stage 1 LRD	10
Stage 2 LRD	2
Major Meetings	12
SID Meetings	9

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 ST JANUARY – 30 TH OCTOBER 2024	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	749
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	83

Preplanning Meetings Held in 2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total per MD
Ath/Ora	4	3	0	3	3	7	4	0	7	31
Ballinasloe	4	4	2	0	2	3	7	5	3	30
Connemara	8	1	11	6	11	5	12	4	13	71
Loughrea	6	1	13	9	7	4	8	5	10	63
Tuam	5	0	2	6	7	2	5	0	3	30
Total per month	27	9	28	24	30	21	36	14	36	225

KEY PLANNING UPDATES

Mountbellew College- received a grant of permission for new milking parlour facilities, new classroom, training room, viewing gallery and associated development. Permission granted to the ESB to upgrade to the existing 220kv overhead line (Cashla substation to Oughta). A new playground was granted permission in Carnmore.

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 Chlair (Garraun and Briarhill zoned nodal centres also). KPMG/Future Analytics are the consultants appointed to deliver the JRS.

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 is currently being finalised for return to the OPR/Minister etc.

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 due to commence on 08.10.2024. Concluding in mid Feb 2025.

Preliminary Business Case approval has been given for the delivery of a Density Typology Study at Garraun. Progress to procurement stage with respect to Density Typology Study; Design of local/nodal centre; Design of eco park/public open space.

Meeting has been sought with the NTA with respect to the car park design at Oranmore.

The number of cases listed for the courts in Planning Enforcements is:

October 15

November 14

December 6 (mtd)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

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.

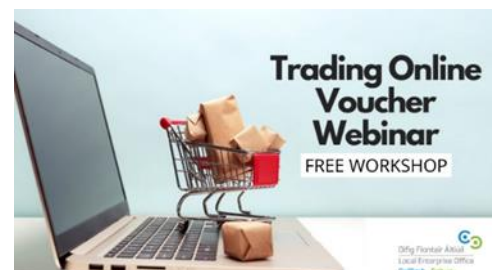


OCTOBER SCHEDULE

8th & 9th October	Marketing Techniques for your Business
15th & 22nd October	How to create Christmas-themed Marketing Videos
16th & 17th October	Online Revenue Returns
24th October	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)
25th October	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)
24th & 25th September	Search Engine Optimisation
26th September	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)
27th September	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)

TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER WEBINAR

LEO GALWAY organises a Trading Online Voucher webinar to support clients with applying for the Trading Online Voucher. The webinar was held online on Tuesday October 1st from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Our next webinar will be held on November 12th.



START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME

LEO GALWAY organises a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each



programme. The October SYOB evening programme commences on the 7th October 2024 and will run until the 29th of October 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AIB-EVENT FOR START UP'S

AIB (Allied Irish Bank) in conjunction with Local Enterprise Office Galway will be hosting three information evenings for Start Up's/ New Business Customers. These information evenings will be held in Clifden, Tuam and Salthill where Eoin Connaire will be present to give a presentation and advise of supports.



- AIB Clifden – September 17th, 2024 at 6pm.
- AIB Tuam – October 8th, 2024 6pm.
- AIB Salthill – October 15th, 2024, at 6pm.

DESIGN MINGLE WITH EIMEAR NOONE & CRAIG STUART GARFINKLE

Eímear Noone and Craig Stuart Garfinkle will speak about their inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 11th October at 10.30am. Eímear 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, Eímear 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. 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 will run another Lean launch programme on 14th October. The programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable. The programme will run as follows:

Monday	14.10.24	9.30 – 4.30pm	Module 1.
Wednesday	23.10.24	9.30am-4pm	Mod.2
Monday	04.11.24	9.30am-4pm	Mod. 3
Wednesday	04.12.24	9.30am-4pm	Mod.4
Monday	20.01.25	9.30am-4pm	Mod.5
Monday	10.02.25	9.30am-4pm	Mod.6
Monday	10.03.25	9.30am-4pm	Mod.7

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 takes place on Wednesday 16 October @ The Clayton Hotel, Monivea Road in Galway from 10:00am to 12:00pm. It is an opportunity to hear more about the Programme and about some of the local businesses that have enjoyed real sales growth.

NATIONAL WOMENS ENTERPRISE DAY

National Women's Enterprise Day will be held in the Hardiman Hotel, Galway on Thursday 17th October. 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.

FOOD & CRAFT FAIR PREPARATION TRAINING

Food and Craft fair preparation training for stand holders is taking place on the 8th, 15th & 22nd October online and in person will take place on 18th October in the Connacht Hotel.

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 Wednesday 23rd October 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

DIRECTORATE DAY

Staff of LEO GALWAY attended the Galway County Council Directorate Day along with other council staff on 2nd September in Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. The session gave staff the opportunity to give feedback on the Corporate Development Plan. The session was facilitated by Sean O'Riordan.

LEAN FOR BUSINESS WORKSHOP

LEO GALWAY hosted a Lean for Business workshop in the Menlo Park Hotel, Galway on September 4th. The workshop was aimed at people interested in taking part in the Lean for Business programme. The workshop was facilitated by Paula McNicolas and gave an insight into the concept of Lean in business, applying these principles and its positive results.

INNOVATION WORKSHOP IN CREW WITH AINSLIE PETERS

LEO GALWAY attended a staff workshop on Thursday 5th September in CREW. Ainslie Peters facilitated the workshop which explored innovation in business and understanding the concept of innovation.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

LEO GALWAY organized a lunch and learn event with members of the Galway County Council Planning Department on Wednesday October 2nd in the Council Chamber. Caroline

McDonagh and Eoin Connaire spoke about the various supports and grants for businesses in the county and city. This was followed by a Q&A session.

PRESENTATION TO CORMAC MONAGHAN FROM ESKER TIMBER CREATIONS

On September 10th the Cathaoirleach made a presentation to Cormac Monaghan from Presentation College Athenry who has taken first prize in the Intermediate category at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative took place on May 9th Mullingar. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway, Cormac Monaghan from Presentation College Athenry won this prestigious award in the intermediate category, as well as the Sustainability Award. Cormac's enterprise, Esker

Timber Creations, manufactures unique wooden products from repurposed pallet wood.



CAROLINE MCDONAGH, CLLR.
PETER FEENEY, CORMAC
MONAGHAN, CATHAOIRLEACH
ALBERT DOLAN & CLLR DAVID
COLLINS WITH SOME OF CORMAC'S
TIMBER PRODUCTS.

HELEN MONAGHAN, CORMAC
MONAGHAN, CATHAOIRLEACH ALBERT
DOLAN & AMBROSE O'HALLORAN.





CORMAC MONAGHAN, ESKER TIMBER CREATIONS.

NDRC PRE-ACCELERATOR WEEKEND 15TH SEPTEMBER

Caroline McDonagh attended the final pitches of those who made it to the finals of the NDRC Pre-Accelerator weekend in The Portershed.

This weekend included exclusive founder talks, redefining the business pitch, mentorship from “been there, done that” founders, and more.



SHEARWATER EVENT WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER



Caroline McDonagh and Martina Riddell attended a panel debate with Enterprise Minister Peter Burke. Guests Brendan Kelly KPW, Lyn Donnelly BACD & Raj Lyons Affinity EV (former winner of Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur). Senator Aisling Dolan hosted the panel discussion and was followed with a Q&A session.

MINISTER PETER BURKE WITH BRENDAN KELLY KPW DISCUSSING HIS PRINTING BUSINESS IN BALLINASLOE.

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP

The National Ploughing Championship took place in Ratheniska Co. Laois from 17th to 19th September. The Local Enterprise Village was host to over 30 small business from all over Ireland, Nuasan which is supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway had the opportunity to exhibit in the Local Enterprise Ploughing Village. Nuasan is a natural body care brand focusing on total body wellness and recovery.



TÁNAISTE MICHAEL MARTIN WITH STAFF OF NUASAN AT THE PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2024



NOREEN DONOHOE (RIGHT), GALWAY LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE WITH LINDA FROM NUASAN AT THE PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2024

DESIGN MINGLE SEPTEMBER 13TH

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 13th September with guest speaker Joanna Ciezka, co-founder and CEO at Irish Socksociety.



IN-PERSON MENTORING BRIEFING

LEO Galway organised an In-Person Mentoring Briefing on September 25th, 2024 in the Connacht Hotel, Galway. This was an information event to provide LEO Mentors with updates on new services and supports available to assist our clients. This information session covered our latest supports, M1 grants and upcoming events.



CAROLINE MCDONAGH, SUSAN O'FLYNN & PAUL KERR ATTENDING THE IN-PERSON MENTORING BRIEFING.

NOREEN DONOHOE, DONNCHA HUGHES & ITA KELLY AT ATTENDING THE IN-PERSON MENTORING BRIEFING.



PULSE CLUB

The Pulse Club in Ballinasloe provides a networking platform for both new entrepreneurs and developing businesses in the area and to also provides members with a mentoring and support service via monthly presentations by seasoned executives as well as subsidized in-depth courses on key topics. Caroline McDonagh and Eoin Connaire attended the Pulse Club on September 26th, 2024 to meet local businesses and offer their guidance and advise of the supports available.



CAROLINE MCDONAGH & EOIN CONAIRE, LEO GALWAY, SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE PULSE CLUB BALLINASLOE.

GALWAY CHAMBER AUTUMN BUSINESS LUNCH

Caroline McDonagh attended the Galway chamber business lunch on October 3rd with Minister Paschal Donohoe and ATU president Dr. Orla Flynn. It was a fantastic afternoon of discussion and networking.



INTEGER 20TH SEPTEMBER



L-R: MR. RICKY CONNEELY, WEST REGIONI ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, IDA IRELAND, CATHAOIRLEACH ALBERT DOLAN AND MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEDICAL DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING CENTER AT INTEGER IN PARKMORE EAST.

DECADE OF SUCCESS

The Decade of Success celebration shared between Galway LEO, Mayo LEO and Roscommon LEO was held on October 4th in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. The celebration marked 10 years of client success at the special networking lunch which had some very special guests including Bryan Dobson. The keynote speaker was Eimear Noone. Eimear is originally from Kilconnell, Galway and is an award-winning Irish composer and conductor of

film and video game music. She made history in 2020 when she became the first woman to conduct the Oscars at their 92nd annual awards ceremony and continues to help women in technology, music and their related fields.



L-R: MR. BRIAN DOBSON, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY, MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, CLLR, KAREY MCHUGH - FARAG, GH AGRI & MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

MR. BRIAN DOBSON, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY, MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, MS. LOUISE WARD, LEO ROSCOMMON, & MR. JOHN MAGEE, LEO MAYO.



L-R: MR. KEVIN MCHUGH, GH AGRI, EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY STEPHEN MCHUGH, GH AGRI, AND KAREY MCHUGH-FARAG, GH AGRI





There were two separate panels which included the Preparing for Success and the Delivering Success Panel.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach year to date: 23337
- Instagram reach year to date: 5307
- Instagram Followers: 3057

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF)

The Town Regeneration Officer and members of the Regeneration team met with the



members of the new Athenry Town Team. There were many new faces as well as those more familiar around the table. The Team is full of enthusiasm to get started on the Athenry TCF plan. The appointed consultants LUC attended the meeting with the town team and walked the town and discussed potential projects.

ATHENRY TOWN TEAM MEETING WITH CONSULTANTS LUC AND TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER



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 published on etenders in the coming weeks.

LOUGHREA

Galway County Council has received and assessed Tenders for the construction phase of the Town Hall proposal. The most competitive and economically advantageous Tenderer was identified, and an additional funding requirement request was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development alongside an updated Business Case, Project report and tender report for approval on the 26th September. The Regeneration Team are hopeful the additional required funding will be approved by the Department.

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> with submissions or observations to be made in writing to The Secretary, An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902 before Friday the 8th November 2024.

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, Community Park and Beach Road Quay before the end of October.

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

PORTUMNA

Following a tendering process OBFA architects Ltd have been appointed to develop a 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.

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 will be published mid-October. A formal public tendering process will follow before the end of 2024.

CAFÉ IN PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE



The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme design is ready for the submission of a Part 8 planning application subject to pre-planning comments from Roads and Transportation and will be lodged before the end of October.

GORT

Gort received €250,000 in town and village funding thanks to an application by the Gort Town Team. 67 applications were received, and the regeneration team will work with the administrators of the Town & Village scheme to assess the applications over the coming weeks.

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 are in the process of finalising the Tender for a design team to progress the construction phase of the refurbishment of Tuam Town hall. It is expected this will be published on etenders before the end of October.

STATION QUARTER THRIVE FUNDING

A tender has been published on etenders with a closing date for submissions of 14th October. Consultants will be appointed to help deliver a detailed masterplan for Tuam Station Quarter Lands This Masterplan's purpose is to deliver, by design, planning and intervention, a high-quality environment with a strong local identity and sense of place. It will build on the inherent historic important of the location and will conserve and enhance the protected structures, the rail line and architectural heritage and the promotion of high standards of architectural design for new development. It will focus on significant

regenerative interventions. It will also deliver a defined and coherent urban structure for this new quarter of the town.

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. In conjunction with this project Galway County Council will be progressing in-house and separately from the masterplan, a planning application for the renovation and reuse of the historic station building. The development of this building will need to be considered within the context of the wider masterplan for the station Quarter and the appointed consultants will need to work closely with GCC's multi-disciplinary Regeneration team to ensure this.

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 is evaluating the submissions, it is hoped to appoint the consultants before the end of October. The Town Centre First Plan will be delivered in collaboration between the Town Regeneration Officer, the new Town team and the local community.

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.

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. Town Teams have now been established and an inception meeting with the Town Regeneration Officer is being held on the 8th October. Following a tendering process Hub Planning have been appointed to work with the new town teams and carry out the health checks in the selected settlements.

FÉILE NA GCLOCH, INIS OÍRR



Féile na gCloch (Festival of Stone) took place on Inis Oírr from 11th to 14th September. This year there were over 100 attendees at the festival, coming from various parts of Ireland, the UK, America, Australia, Luxembourg, Germany, Scotland, and many other corners of the EU and of course the local community in Inis Oírr.

The festival, offered a unique opportunity to learn and workshops consisted of stone walling, carving, and lettering, the craft of on-site sketching and building a lime kiln.



Cllr Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway visited the festival and said “Féile na gCloch 2024 serves as a unique platform, bringing together some of the brightest minds and the most skilled crafts people from various corners of Europe, the USA and other parts of Ireland and the world. It is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives us all, the desire to

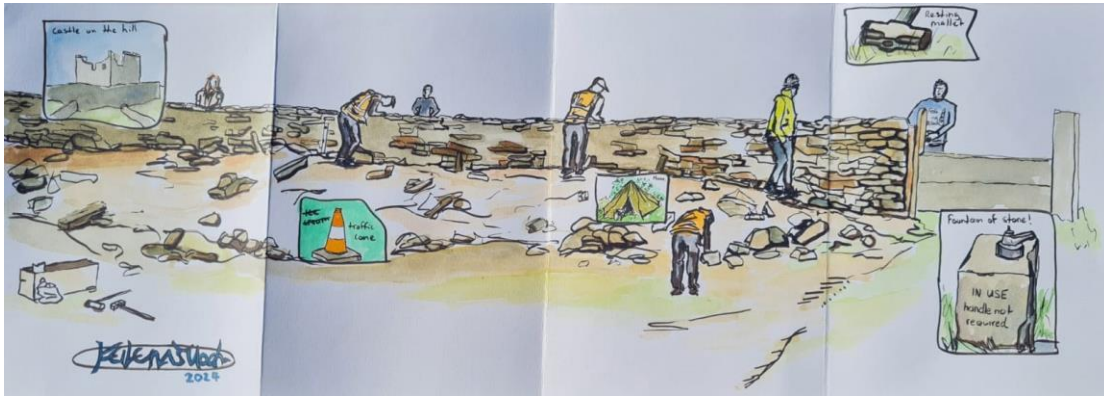
exchange knowledge, and the deep appreciation we have for the art of drystone walling; letter carving, sculpting stone and the various uses and benefits of using the hot lime techniques”



He also said “Here on Inis Oírr we find ourselves surrounded by the rich history and cultural diversity that stone walls encapsulate. They have stood as enduring symbols of our ancestors' ingenuity, resourcefulness, and connection to the land for centuries. These walls, borne out of the hands of crafts people like yourselves, have shaped and defined the various landscapes that we see on the island today, preserving our heritage with every carefully placed stone”.



L-R: MS CHLOE NÍ MHÁILLE, BAINISTEOIR, COMHAR CAOMHÁN TEO, MS. ANNE POWER, CATHAOIRLEACH ALBERT DOLAN, MS. MARTINA CREAVEN, MS. MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MS. SIOBHÁN DONOGHUE, INIS OÍRR



GALWAY'S MEDIEVAL CHURCH HERITAGE

PEOPLE, PLACES, SACRED SPACES



Archaeology experts, local enthusiasts and heritage groups from across Ireland gathered in Galway for a conference dedicated to the county's medieval churches and their connections to local communities. Hosted by the Heritage Research Group at Atlantic Technological

University, Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway Community Archaeology Project, 'People, Places, Sacred Spaces' was held in Mullagh Community Centre Friday, 20th September.

Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist opened the conference thanking all in attendance for their contributions in preserving and promoting archaeological sites and monuments in Galway. She highlighted the significant contribution of the Community Monuments Fund to the county, and commended local communities in their ongoing work as custodians of our archaeological heritage.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council spoke how important it was to hold the conference in the heart of the community, accessible to all, providing the public with a great opportunity to delve into Galway's rich medieval history and learn more about the sacred spaces that have shaped local communities down through the centuries. Frank

Keane, Galway Rural Development welcomed all to Mullagh Community Centre, a first class facility for conferences, sports and recreation.

EARLY IRISH CHURCHES

Conleth Manning, former senior archaeologist in the National Monuments Service and past President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland spoke about early Irish churches with a focus on the churches of Galway.

FEMALE MONASTICISM

Dr Tracy Collins, Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service shared insights into the role of female monasticism in medieval Galway and offered a glimpse into the lives of women in religious communities during that period making reference to nearby Kilboght, near Kilreekil and Kilcreevanty, near Tuam. Her monograph *Female Monasticism in Medieval Ireland: An archaeology* (Cork University Press 2021) is based on her doctoral research; and more recently she has co-edited the volume *Brides of Christ: Women and monasticism in medieval and early modern Ireland* (Four Courts Press, 2023), a volume based on the fifth Glenstal History Conference held in 2021.

THE STRADE MASTER



Christian Corlett, District Archaeologist for the National Monuments Service discussed the remarkable work of the Strade master craftsman and his contributions to the architecture of medieval Connaught.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, TUAM

Dr. Roger Stalley, a fellow emeritus of Trinity College Dublin and former Professor of the History of Art, focussed on [St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam](#) and its importance in 12th and 13th century Ireland. He highlighted the styles of art used by the masons and the similarities throughout the country. He highlighted the chancel archway at St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam as a significant example of Romanesque architecture and art. possibly the most important of this period in the whole of Ireland. 'Everyone should visit St Mary's,' he exclaimed, and 'don't be afraid to get up close and examine it'.

CONTRIBUTION TO HERITAGE

Dr. Christy Cunniffe's closing remarks acknowledged the rich calibre of speakers, their research and on-going work. He also highlighted the immense prospects in further researching our ecclesiastical heritage. A tribute to Dr. Christy Cunniffe for his immense

contribution to Galway's rich heritage was shared by Gary Dempsey, Heritage Research Group at Atlantic Technological University. *'The Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway'* by Dr. Christy Cunniffe & Zena Hoctor was presented to each of the speakers as a token of gratitude for their participation in the conference.

SHOWCASING COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS

The event showcased several community-led heritage projects supported by the Community Monuments Fund, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage including [Kilboght](#) , [Abbeygormican](#), [St. Kerrills](#) and [Kilcreevanty](#).

VISIT TO ABBEYGORMICAN ECCLESIASTICAL HERITAGE COMPLEX AND GRAVEYARD

A visit to Abbeygormican in glorious sunshine ended the proceedings. Research and conservation work carried out at Abbeygormican 2020 to 2023 were highlighted, emphasising the multi-discipline team required to enable these works including archaeologists, conservation architects, ecologists, engineers, heritage professionals, craftsmen, geophysicists and researchers.

The conference was part of the Galway County Heritage Plan, funded by the [Galway County Heritage Office](#) and [Galway County Council](#), with support from [The Heritage Council](#), [National Monuments Service](#), [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#), and Galway County Community Support Scheme 2024.

MARY ANNE FANNING: REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY MIDWIVES



A new temporary exhibition exploring the life of District Midwife and Nurse Mary Anne Fanning from 1880 to 1964 opened at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Castlebar, Co Mayo on 3 October 2024.

Mary Anne worked as a District Midwife and Nurse in Co Kerry and

then in Garristown, Co Dublin, over the course of a 48-year long career. Through Mary Anne's story, this exhibition seeks to highlight and celebrate the often-unsung contributions

of community midwives to maternity care in Ireland in the early 20th century. This exhibition is a project by the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), researched and curated by Emma Laffey, Skehana & District Heritage Group, County Galway, with support from co-curators Dr Éimear O'Connor, Director of Collections & Access, National Museum of Ireland, and Lorna Elms, iCAN Development Officer. The exhibition also features the stories of several other midwives and nurses from Clare, Cork, Galway, Mayo, Tipperary and Wicklow, researched by 22 groups in the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN).

The inspiration for this exhibition stems from Laffey's award-winning book, *An Bhean Ghlúine*, which is the Irish translation of "woman of the knee", a phrase commonly used to describe local community midwives during the 19th and 20th century. The ebook was funded by The Heritage Council and the printed version of the book and related Galway County exhibition was funded by Galway County Council and the Decade of Commemoration funding.

The Heritage Office of Galway County Council organised a bus to bring in the region of 50 people from various heritage groups in the county to the exhibition in Museum of Country Life.



BALLINASLOE FAIR AND FESTIVAL – HERITAGE TALK



Dr John Flaherty gave a very interesting talk entitled 'The Wonders of Ballinasloe' The Farming Society of Ireland 1800-1827 on 1st October in Gullanes Hotel, Ballinasloe as part of the 'Our History, Our Heritage' event. This event was held in partnership with Ballinasloe Fair and Festival, Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society and the Heritage Office, Galway County Council.

BIODIVERSITY

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN

Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum met on the 24th and 30th September finalising the draft actions for the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030. The Forum includes members of groups and organisations that play a key role in the conservation, restoration and awareness raising of the Built and Archaeological Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity and Natural Heritage in the county and beyond. The plan will be presented to Management Team and Elected Members in the coming weeks.

HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETING



The Local Authority Biodiversity Officers and Heritage Officers convened in the Marine Institute, in Maree Oranmore, for a series of meetings over 18th and 19th September. This Heritage Council training event was supported by the Heritage and Biodiversity Offices of Galway County Council and provided an opportunity to share knowledge, discuss emerging challenges, and strengthen our collective work in conserving Ireland's natural and cultural heritage. Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan welcomed the attendees to Galway and outlined some of the work currently underway by the Heritage and Biodiversity Officer. On behalf of the Chief Executive, Director Uinsinn Finn

addressed the delegates and highlighted the importance of the collaboration of the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. Site visits included Claregalway Castle and the shores of Killeenaran with Cuan Beo.



LOCAL AUTHORITY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY OFFICERS AT KILLEENARAN WITH CUAN BEO

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECT UPDATE

This summer, Galway County Council supported the Survey of Wooded Islands of Lough Corrib through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF). The results from the survey are still being processed but through the Galway County Biodiversity Office social media channels are highlighting some of the interesting finds. One such find includes a rare grass *Calamagostis epigejos* which was discovered on one limestone island, growing on the border between fen and wet woodland. This protected species, at present, is only known from 11 other localities in Ireland and apparently is intolerant of grazing. It may also occur on other lake islands. This grass is protected under the Floral (Protection) Order 2022. It is illegal to cut, uproot or damage the listed species in this legislation in any way, or to offer them for sale. This prohibition extends to the taking or sale of seed. In addition, it is illegal to alter, damage or interfere in any way with their habitats. This protection applies wherever the plants are found and is not confined to sites designated for nature conservation.



LBAF is operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and represents a commitment to support implementation of the Ireland's 4th NBAP at community, county and regional level.

MEDIA

The Tuam Herald ran a feature on the Galway County Biodiversity Office highlighting the work being carried out in the northeast of the county. Outreach such as this helps build connections with communities and individuals looking to collaboratively with the Biodiversity Office.



The Galway County Biodiversity Office Facebook page had a reach of 6,200 and an additional 21 followers in the last month. There are now 1108 followers of the Galway County Biodiversity Office Instagram account with 350 accounts reached in the last 30-day period.

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 (Baunmore NS road) - Complete
- k. Slievefinn - Complete
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches) - Complete
- m. Sheeaun -SD to complete.

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. Surface dressing –
 - R339 Newford - Complete
 - LS3109 Crumlin - Complete
 - LS7138 Knockauncarragh - Complete
 - LS71149 Kiltrogue - Complete
 - LS7126 Ballydavid Middle - Complete
 - LS3112 Gloves Middle - Complete
 - LS3102 Moneymore - Complete

LS2117 Ballylee/Annagh West/Barana - Complete

LS6200 Cahergowan/Mointagh - Complete

LS7103 Kiltullagh - Complete

b. **Recycling Contract** – Planning works for September

i. Cormachugh- Complete

ii. Lisheenoran- Complete

iii. Carnaun – Direct Labour Crew- Complete

iv. Waterdale- Complete

v.

3. Safety Improvement Works

a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Tender Complete

1. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Minor alterations report to DOT after submissions from local people during Section 38 Public consultation. Plan will likely have minimal changes to the Junction layout.

4. Climate Change

a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions

b. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – Tender issued

c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508

d. CC2024 L2119 Corrandulla GC/24/35508

e.

5. Community Involvement Scheme

Maree Road @ Church – - Complete

New Line Junction Crossing – Road safety audit ongoing

Ryehill Church – Road widening – LO Agreement received.

Coolarne no 1 – Road widening

Coolarne no 2 – Road widening – LO Issues

Caraun – Road bend - Planned.

Ballyboggin – Edge drainage - Planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

a. LIS/258/21 Carnakelly North 2024 ongoing

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

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

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

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

7. Other Items

a. Belville Road realignment

Issuing Planning consent forms for Landowner agreement, working towards Part 8 planning.

b. Hydrological study Clarin River

Funding Approved by OPW – Hydrological Pre-feasibility report review ongoing. drainage Modelling Planned

c. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore

Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design, slit trenches completed, GCC Active travel team to complete design.

d. Raheen Woods Crossing

ESB connected.

8. Figures and Pictures



COAST ROAD FOOTPATH AND ROADWORKS



COAST ROAD FOOTPATH AND ROADWORKS



RECYCLING



COLLAPSED ROAD PATCHES



COLLAPSED ROAD PATCHES



CARNAUN PILOT SCHEME



SURFACE DRESSED ROAD



TAR SPRAYER IN FULL FLOW -
CARNAUN

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors on its behalf continued the remaining projects delivery of the 2024 roadworks programme throughout the MD during September, with primary focus on Restoration Maintenance (RM) and the Inlay SMA projects in Ballinasloe Town. The overall roadworks programme is also made up of Restoration Improvement (RI) Bituminous Overlay and Inlay projects, Restoration Improvement (RI) Unbound and Recycling projects. To date, 45 of 48 RI (~94%) projects are complete, while 100% of the Surface Dressing programme is complete. In all cases, Ballinasloe MD direct labour roads crews undertake extensive preparatory works to each road section, followed by road resurfacing contractors works. Footpath and drainage improvements were also undertaken in advance of the overlay works at Bridge Street and Townparks.

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. Preparations were completed for the October Fair 2024 in Ballinasloe, building on the success in 2023, in terms of traffic and waste management, trading and general business uplift throughout Ballinasloe. Throughout the MD, Community

Wardens are continuously dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, and various inspections including ring buoys and playgrounds.

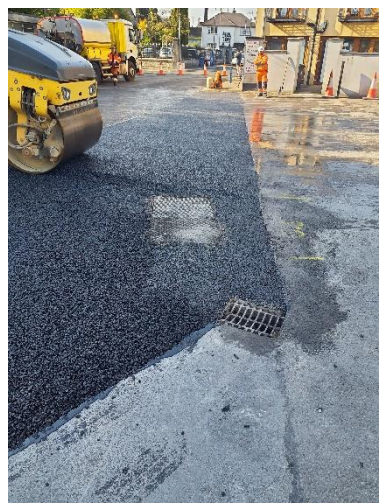
September saw the successful completion of landscaping and full occupation of Cluain Bui, Ballinasloe, rapid-build modular housing development. Open space grass cutting is nearing completion in Ballinasloe Town, with areas for biodiversity seeing removal of long growth vegetation. During September several dangerous evergreen trees have been removed in Ballinasloe, at the entrance to St Joseph's Terrace and at the Famine Memorial Garden.

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



RI WORKS AT BRIDGE STREET, BALLINASLOE, WORKS UNDERWAY, AND COMPLETED (BELOW)





RI WORKS UNDERWAY AT
TOWNPARKS, BALLINASLOE





RI WORKS UNDERWAY AT
POLLBOY, BALLINASLOE



LIS FUNDED WORKS COMPLETED - BOYOUNAGH
BALLINASLOE NORTH



RI GRANT WORKS NEARING COMPLETION AT BALLYEDMOND



OCTOBER FAIR 2024 INTERAGENCY PRESS LAUNCH



OCTOBER FAIR 2024 FAIR GREEN MAIN ENTRANCE

COMMUNITY
WARDENS AT THE
OCTOBER FAIR IN
BALLINASLOE 2024



FOOTPATH REPAIRS AT MART ENTRANCES – CLEAGHMORE, BALLINASLOE



CLUAIN BUI,
BALLINASLOE -
MODULAR
HOUSING
LANDSCAPING
COMPLETED AND
HOMES FULLY
OCCUPIED.



CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – OCTOBER 2024

- The Restoration Improvement Works, Restoration Maintenance Works and Discretionary Grant works now substantially complete.
- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mor, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr was submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Funding was granted for works on Inis Mor and Inishbofin. Works on Inis Mór are substantially complete. Works on Inishbofin are due to commence shortly.
- 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 being undertaken with the aim to appoint a consultant to this project in the coming weeks.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €35,000 to refurbish the traffic signal heads and push button units in Maigh Cuilinn is now complete.
- 3 No. Climate Change Projects in the Conamara MD now complete.

- Conamara South recently underwent a NSAI 450001 recertification audit.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Implementation of Summer Ready 2024 now complete. Review to commence to assess this year’s programme.



CLIFDEN COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME RECENT WALL REPAIR R341
BALLYCONNELY ROAD, CLIFDEN



RECENT NSAI
ISO45001
RECERTIFICATION
AUDIT IN
CONAMARA SOUTH



DEPARTMENT OF
RURAL AND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING WORKS
BEING UNDERTAKEN
ON CILL RÓNÁIN INIS
MÓR



DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN ON CILL RÓNÁIN INIS MÓR POST WORK



DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN ON CILL RÓNÁIN INIS MÓR POST WORK

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The 2024 Loughrea MD Road Programme is currently being completed with many of the more significant projects already finished. However, there is still a significant volume of work that is required to be undertaken in the coming weeks.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 22/24 (92%) Bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 32/45 (71%) Unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 27/28 (96%) Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects completed.
- 1/6 (17%) Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) completed.
- 3/6 (50%) Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience projects completed.
- 8/8 (100%) Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) completed.
- Dunkellin and Kilchreest Drainage District Maintenance – Works completed.
- 4No. Severe Weather Projects – Work on Tawnagh Causeway on-going.
- 3No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) Schemes. 1No. complete and 2No. currently underway.
- Galway 2020 Commemorative Orb installed in Portumna.

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



ROAD RESURFACING -
CLOUGHBRACK HOUSING
ESTATE, EYRECOURT

GALWAY 2020 COMMEMORATIVE ORB – INSTALLED BY THE LOCAL ROAD STAFF IN PORTUMNA



DUNKELLIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT MAINTENANCE. BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES





OPW MINOR DRAINAGE WORKS SCHEME BEING COMPLETED AT CARROWNAMORRISSEY, KILCONIERIN TO RELIEVE LONG-STANDING ISSUE ON THE ADJACENT REGIONAL ROAD. WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE LOCAL ROAD STAFF IN LOUGHREA

ONE OF EIGHT ROADS REPAIRED UNDER THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME WITHIN THE LOUGHREA MD



L-8580 – ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS AT DUNKELLIN



SMALL NOM FUNDED DRAINAGE AND CHANNEL KERBING PROJECT AT CASTLEDALY



SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY WORKS -TAWNAGH WEST CAUSEWAY/BRIDGE REPAIR ON ACCESS ROAD TO TRAUGHT BEACH



OPW FUNDED FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES TO HOUSE AT ROO BEING INSTALLED BY THE LOCAL ROAD STAFF IN GORT

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The 2024 Road improvement schemes and surface dressing schemes were completed. 59 road improvement schemes were carried out across the Tuam MD since early May. A total of 70km of overlays were carried out as follows:

Works type	Contract type	Length
Macadam overlays	Contractor	5km
Micro surfacing	Contractor	1.5km
Road recycling	Contractor	22km
Dry recycling	Direct labour	41.5km

30km of surface dressing was completed by contract and direct labour crew within the MD. 19 schemes in total were completed with 8 done by direct labour and 11 by contractors.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES COMPLETED



ST JOESPH PARK

BALLYGADDY ROAD



LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES



6 Local Improvement Schemes were completed by the direct labour crews across the MD at a cost of €315,000. These schemes were funded from the Department of Rural and Community Development and allowed for the upgrade of non-public roads.

LIS DUNMORE

CLIMATE ADAPTION PROJECTS

8 Climate adaption schemes were funded by Department of transport in 2024. These are for



road adaptation/resilience works which have become necessary due to the effects of climate change. The projects in Tuam MD were for Preventative measures such as drainage works to mitigate road flooding and altering the level of the road to mitigate flooding and reduce road closure frequency. 6 of the 8 schemes are completed with the final two schemes commenced.

THE MALL TUAM DRAINAGE SCHEME

L6455 DUNMORE DRAINAGE SCHEME



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

5 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. These will be carried out by direct labour in Tuam MD and involve removing ditches and replacing with fencing to improve sightlines.

Additional CIS	DoT Grant Category Cost	Works
CIS.02.23 Kilnaslieve	€35,000	Narrow pitch point near quarry
CIS.38.23 Ratesh	€15,000	Narrow section- bus bay for school bus
CIS.50.23 Ballyhale	€24,138	Improve sightlines, near school
CIS.116.23 Carrowmoneen Tuam	€24,138	Improve sightlines for house, narrow point on regional road.
CIS.111.23 Coolourty Abbeyknockmoy	€50,000	Improve sightlines



CIS AIRGLOONEY



CIS CARROWMONEEN



CIS BALLYHALE
BEFORE AND
DURING WORKS



CIS KILSHANVEY
KILCONLY

HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR TUAM MD

A Health and Safety seminar took place in September for all the Roads crew staff in the Tuam Office. The talk went through the benefits of Health and Safety to the roads staff, planning the road works safely, accidents and incidents, safety alerts, and training requirements.



Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

16th October 2024