



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Meán Fómhair 2024

September 2024



### COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

#### LCDC

An LCDC meeting will take place on the 10th September to discuss the recommendations from the LECP Advisory Steering Group on the high-level goals and updates to the socio-economic statement of the Local Economic & Community Plan. It is envisaged that a second LCDC meeting will take place towards the end of September to consider the mid-year review of the Empowering Communities Programme and the Draft Corporate Plan.

#### SICAP

Pobal and the Department of Rural & Community Development are organising a series of SICAP Support Workshops to share experiences of SICAP frontline staff and LCDC support staff in delivering SICAP 2024-28. The workshop for the western region is being hosted by Galway County Council and will be held on 18th September 2024.

#### LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

The LECP Advisory Steering Group met on 6th September 2024, and at that meeting, Hub Planning presented on the High-Level Goals, the Draft Objectives, and the Methodology for Action Planning.

#### HEALTHY IRELAND

A Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee will take place on Thursday 19th September at 2pm to discuss progress on the implementation of the Health & Wellbeing Fund 2024. Work is progressing on various elements of the Fund, for example, funding is assigned to develop Activator Pole Training Programmes and Signage at suitable locations across the County. Expressions of Interest have been invited for “Inclusive Community Gardens” which is aimed at increasing the range of social and leisure activities in Community Gardens for family friendly events, and targeted activities for older people, people with disabilities, and youth. Targeted Health & Wellbeing Events are being organised on the 4 offshore islands for September & October to provide information and links to services on targeted health needs for men & women identified through community consultation events held in May 2024.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION

#### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

In conjunction with Age Friendly Ireland, Healthy Ireland and the HSE, projects have now been identified on all 4 offshore islands under the once-off funding allocation of €28,746.17. These range from Social & Leisure Packs at community meeting rooms, sports equipment, to

accessibility and age friendly measures at Community Parks and Community Gardens. It is intended that Open Days will be held at all relevant facilities once the projects have been completed, with the intention of increasing the number of older people engaging in regular social & leisure activities at these community facilities & amenities.

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## COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

A Steering Group meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 25th September at 4.30 p.m. The chosen topics for 2024 are Mental Health and Transport. Comhairle members are progressing the topic of Mental Health with a particular focus on teacher's awareness to student Mental Health. On the topic of Transport, the members are collating information from young people from across the county to submit a report to the Transport for Ireland regarding issues on rural transport for young people.

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## COMMUNITY AWARDS



Pride of Place Judging took place in Williamstown on the afternoon of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September where Williamstown showcased their important community amenities and facilities as part of their entry in the Population Category of 0-300. Following this, the judges, Tom Dowling, and John Briggs, visited Kinvara on the morning of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, where Kinvara showcased initiatives such as Kinvara Plastic Free, Ballyclery Tree Planting, and other Biodiversity & Climate Action initiatives for their entry in this judging



category



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

Weekly Digests and Monthly Newsletter has been circulated to over 1,300 PPN Member Groups which are also posted on PPN social media and PPN website. Monthly Newsletters are also emailed to County Councillors and posted on the staff internal message board on the Intranet. The PPN shares information, which is submitted by multiple sections in the Council, other organisations, PPN member groups, government departments, PPN's internal news and events, and information we source ourselves on topics including decision making and representation, Public Consultations, Funding and Training for community groups, Meetings, Community Activities. Occasionally dedicated emails are forwarded to PPN members on behalf of other sections in the Council and other organisations, these are reserved for top priority news items.

### BUILDING CAPACITY

The PPN will be arranging training and onboarding sessions for new PPN Representatives over the Autumn and Training for all PPN member groups will also be arranged over the Autumn. Events which PPN staff and members are attending in September include: Galway Disability Forum meeting (a PPN Linkage Group), PPN Secretariat Meeting (advisory body of PPN), Deaf Community Coffee Morning, PPN National Workers Network Conference.

### REPRESENTATIVE ROLE:

Public Participation Network Representative (PPN Rep) positions were advertised in July 2024 with elections taking place in August and onboarding to take place in September 2024, for the positions of 2 Board Members for Galway Rural Development and 1 community representative on Baile Chláir Per Cent for Art public art selection panel. Further PPN Representative Roles to be advertised in September include: Eleven PPN Reps on the newly formed Galway County Council Strategic Policy Committees.

## COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FORUM

The first meeting of the Community Integration Forum takes place in September, bringing together services working to integrate migrants into the community. In the month of August, the following were achieved by the Integration Team:

- 14 information clinics for International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The clinics are where the Integration Support Workers can give information on education, training, employment, and health. Linking people with local groups enables them to integrate in their new communities. The Integration Team

linked with Tidy Towns to offer volunteering opportunities to residents in accommodation centres.



- 4 Group sessions – providing information on local supports to accommodation residents.
- 2 stakeholder events with services and migrants.
- A community event for Ukraine Independence Day was held on 24/08/24, where Ukrainians living in the city and county met to share food, music, and crafts.



The Integration Team worked with the Housing Association, Tuath and local support services to welcome the new Ukrainian arrivals in the Modular Homes in Ballinasloe, helping them to settle into their new community.

## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

A fundraiser was held for LGFA in Loughrea Hotel, supported by Galway County Council and attended by:



BACK ROW L-R: CLLR EILEEN MANNION, CLLR SHAUN CUNNIFFE, UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. MARY HOADE

FRONT ROW: L-R MIKE SHEIL & ANDREW MCBRIDE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. PETER ROCHE AND CLLR. MICHAEL MAHER

## HER OUTDOORS WEEK

The fourth year of this initiative from Sport Ireland was a resounding success with more events running than ever before, celebrating the variety and excitement that Galway's coastal and mountain landscapes have to offer.

HER Outdoors week functions to encourage more females to take part in outdoor activities, but also demonstrates the importance of outdoor recreation, its role in physical and mental health, social inclusion, nature connectedness, environmental awareness, and community cohesion.



This year's focus was not just on females partaking in activities but also served to highlight those that deliver, volunteer, coach, educate and instruct in clubs and the outdoor industry in Galway. Many of the service providers used this year were female owned and run businesses. Galway Sports Partnership partnered with clubs and education centres that had strong female representation in their committees and operations.





The late summer weather was uncooperative at times, but despite this challenge 15 events successfully went ahead in locations across the city and county (Woodquay, Salthill, the Docks, Merlin Woods, Bearna/Cappagh Woods, Portumna, Loughrea, Belclare, Ballinasloe, Clonbur, Roundstone, Carna, An Cheathrú Rua and Inis Oírr). Over 150 women, girls and even some babies took part in a variety of water and land-based activities including: sea dips, snorkelling, kayaking, windsurfing, paddle sports, sailing, rowing, orienteering, forest hikes, outdoor yoga, cycling, and trail running.

Each year the places on HER Outdoors events are in high demand, so this year places were reserved for each event to include females from target groups that would experience barriers to participation due to factors like socioeconomic adversity, disability, discrimination, or inaccessibility.

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### BALLINASLOE BUGGY BUDDIES

An 8-week buggy buddies programme kicked off on 6th August 2024 in Ballinasloe with 11 participants taking part. Galway Sports Partnership



partnered with the fantastic County Council owned facilities Dunlo Recreation Athletics Track and the Ballinasloe Library to offer both an outdoor cardio and indoor pelvic floor element to the programme.

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### INCLUSIVE TRIATHLON

Galway Sports Partnerships third annual Inclusive Triathlon took place on Wednesday 3rd



July in Kilcormac Clarinbridge. This is a collaborative initiative with Galway sports Partnership, Triathlon Ireland, and Disability Services in Galway.

Joanne Murphy from

TriTalkingSport was the Master of Ceremonies and there were over 70 participants from Brothers of Charity Services in Galway City and County. Participants took part in either a



relay format (1xswimmer, 1xtrike/biker & 1x walk/jogger) or they could complete all 3 elements as an individual. The swim element was 10mins in the pool and the number of lengths were counted by their carers, the bike/trike element was minimum 2 laps of a 500m loop, and the walk/jog element was 2 laps of a 500m loop with carers timing the bike and jog element. The event ended with a medal for each participant who took part and a trophy for the overall winning team/service.

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## INCLUSIVE SUMMER PROGRAMMES

Galway Sports Partnership through funding from the HSE supported several inclusive summer camps across Galway City and County. This work is facilitated by Galway Sports Partnerships Sports Inclusion Disability Officer who works to break down the barriers to participation for this cohort.

Irish Wheelchair Association Sports DayBrothers of Charity annual sports day which was supported by Galway Sports Partnership who also arranged for Pitch and Putt Ireland to attend on the day and gave people the opportunity to learn



all about Pitch and Putt.

Two Autism groups were supported with a Stand-Up Paddleboarding Programme as part of their summer camp offering - Parents of Autism Loughrea and Autism Neurodivergent Oranmore & Athenry.



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## CONNEMARA WALKS

Galway Sports Partnership held a 6-Week Walking programme in Rosscahill Woods. This programme was designed for all fitness levels and was hugely enjoyable and a social experience for all who took part. This group have continued to meet and have now transitioned into a local community fitness facility for the Autumn/Winter period.





Galway Sports Partnership partnered with the Beanna Beola Walking Group to host two walks in the Connemara area – Mám Eán and Casla Bog Walk.

Mám Eán Walk took place on 30<sup>th</sup> August and participants enjoyed some beautiful weather, views, and chats! The next walk is at Casla Bog Walk on 28<sup>th</sup> September as part

of National Walking Week which takes place from 23<sup>rd</sup> September-29<sup>th</sup> September.



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## OUGHTERARD COMMUNITY EVENT



Galway Sports Partnership attend Oughterard Community Centre and Clann Resource Centres Activity Information Event. This is the second year of this event, and it is to showcase all that Oughterard has to offer in Physical Activity and through this event a booklet is developed to help sign post people and increase awareness of all that is on offer in the area.

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## ACTIVATOR TASTER EVENT

Galway Sports Partnership in collaboration with local physical activity tutors Carol Slevin & Sharon Williamson T/A Move and the HSE Integrated Care of the Older Person (ICPOP) Team, held an Activator Walking Pole Come & Try Session in the Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe on 27<sup>th</sup> August. 44 people of all abilities and mobility levels attended the session,



including 4 participants from the Brothers of Charity. It was a fantastic morning of activity full of positivity, fun and movement. 35 people have already signed up for the 6-week programme due to start on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

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## BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub will officially be launched on 11<sup>th</sup> October in the Emerald Ballroom, Ballinasloe as part of a Health and Wellbeing event in partnership with Healthy Galway and Galway Rural Development.

The Community Sports Hub is a five-year project funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Account Fund. Community Sports Hubs are a collection of progressive sports clubs and other local organisations that want to work together to improve the local opportunities to engage in sport & physical activity. The Hubs provide information, support, and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to engage in a more active lifestyle. Community Sports Hubs aim to increase the number of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities participating in sport and physical activity within their communities.

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## DORMANT ACCOUNT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Galway Sports Partnership has been awarded €177,500 through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

From the €177,500 allocation, €77,500 will be directed towards Community Sports Hubs in Ballinasloe and the Active Islands, €90,000 towards Active Cities and €10,000 towards the HER Moves initiative.

This funding is part of a national €5 million Dormant Accounts Fund distributed to Local Sports Partnerships and Active Disability Ireland. It will significantly enhance our efforts to support local volunteers in disadvantaged areas, promote women's participation in sports, and provide inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Dormant Accounts Fund enables unclaimed funds from accounts in credit institutions in Ireland to be used to support the development of persons who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, or those affected by a disability, within the meaning of the Equal Status Act.

## ARTS OFFICE

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## CULTURE NIGHT ACROSS GALWAY COUNTY

On Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, Galway County will come alive with creativity and culture, welcoming everyone to experience free and diverse cultural events taking place across the county for Culture Night. Galway County Council's Culture Night programme will feature over 40 events, including music, dance, theatre, art, poetry, puppetry, storytelling, film screenings, crafting and more.



Culture showcases our community’s vibrant and creative spirit with a wide range of cultural experiences for all ages and interests. Events will take place throughout the day and late into the evening in: Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballinderreen, Ballygar, Baile Chláir, Conamara,



Clifden, Gort, Headford, Kilconly, Kinvara, Newbridge, Oranmore, Portumna, Renvyle, Ros an Mhíl, Tuam, Woodford, and all three of the Oileáin Árann – Inis Mór, Inis Oírr and Inis Meáin.

[Culture Night Programme 2024](#)

[Clár Oíche Chultúir 2024](#)

## CULTURE NIGHT LATE – LUMINA AT TUAM CATHEDRAL RC

As part of this year’s Culture Night Late, Galway County Council proudly presents **Lumina**, a series of artistic outdoor projections on The Cathedral Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as Tuam Cathedral. Lumina will take place on the evening of Friday, 20 September 2024 after 21:30.

Galway County Council Arts Office presents Lumina, a Culture Night Late event with artists Jennifer Cunningham, Scott Robinson and ENTER.black who will create a stunning showcase of animations and visual narratives that will mesmerise audiences. The work will be accompanied by a unique music composition from ENTER.black, paired with the enchanting voices of Tuam choirs. This unique blend of art and technology promises to captivate and inspire, offering a one-of-a-kind experience that celebrates creativity and innovation in Tuam and Galway County.



Funded by the Arts Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Galway County Council. This breathtaking nighttime spectacle will captivate audiences as the facade of the Tuam Cathedral is transformed into a canvas of light and sound through projections and live choral performances.

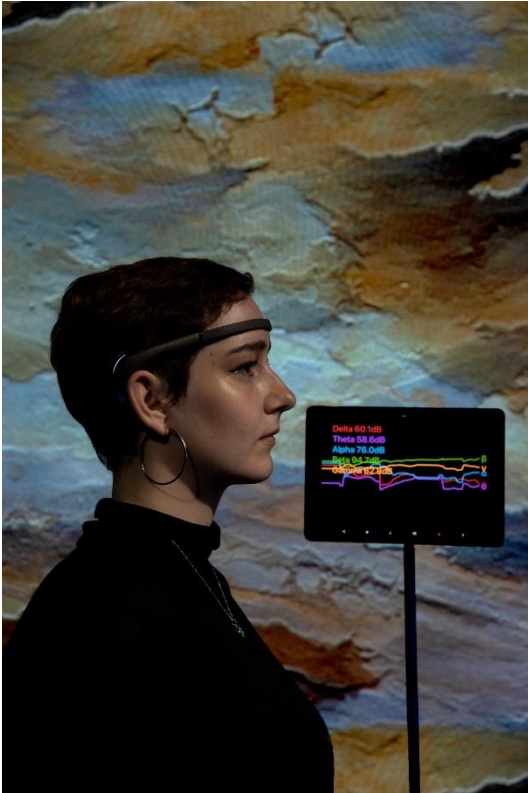
[LUMINA. PHOTO: ENTER.BLACK](#)



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## DIVERGENTLY TOGETHER

**Divergently Together** a project from the studio of artist Alan James Burns, explores the intersection of disability and the climate emergency across various locations including County Galway. The project was launched this summer in Cavan and is currently in its initial phase of a 2–3-year project. **Augmented Body, Altered Mind** is an interactive exhibition



exploring the climate emergency through the neurodivergent perspective. Visitors are invited to wear a brainwave reading headset that controls the projected visuals, while the accompanying sound features a dialogue between neurodivergent individuals discussing how neurodivergent, non-linear ways of thinking can help with climate action.

The exhibition aims to create intrigue around climate action and foster conversations on how climate change impacts people's lives. The exhibition will take place at Arás Éanna, Inis Oírr, on the 27th and 28th of September and is supported by Galway County Council.

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AUGMENTED BODY, ALTERED MIND. PHOTO: ALAN JAMES BURNS

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## UNESCO GALWAY CITY OF FILM

As part of Galway's Designation as UNESCO City of Film, Ardán are managing two documentary schemes open to Galway County based filmmakers in 2024.

**Short Documentary Bursary 2024** Kimberly Gray Ennis is the second Ardán/ Galway City of Film short doc bursary recipient for 2024, working with mentor Donal Haughey. **Vessels of Grief** looks at the funeral lamenting practice of keening and the women who lead these practices in their community in Connemara.



**Short Documentary Bursary 2024**  
Recipient: Kimberly Gray Ennis



**Misléor Short Doc Grant 2024**  
Recipient: Ella Louise Ward

**Misléor Short Documentary Grant for 2024** We are delighted to announce the recipient of the Misléor Short Doc Grant for 2024 – Ella Louise Ward! An artist from Tuam, Co. Galway, Ella's short doc, **My Kind of People**, will explore the role of friendship within the Traveller community, now and in days gone by.

Galway City of Film programme for 2024 and is made possible by support from Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway City Council Arts Office, Screen Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media.

### GALWAY DANCE: THE PICTURE PALACE BY JESSIE KEENAN AT CLIFDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

A dance exploring the intricate relationship between bodies, buildings, and memories. Using a blend of audio recordings, archival materials, truths, half-truths, and a touch of accidental fiction, a unique dance emerges.

Moments from the past are transmitted through a body in the present, creating an imagined impression of an absent building. Jessie Keenan is an Irish choreographer living in



South Connemara whose work spans live performance, site-specific happenings, film, and curation, intersecting with science, music, visual art, and archives.

Supported by Arts Council Ireland, Cavan County Council Arts Office, Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway Dance Project, Townhall Theatre Cavan, and Cavan Arts Festival.

Short 15 minutes dance performance.

Monday 23 September, 14:00, 15:00 and 16:00 at Clifden Town Hall.

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JESSIE KEENAN. PHOTO: JULIA DUNIN

## TÚS: BEGINNIGS AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

TÚS: Beginnings exhibition launch in Ballinasloe Library, on Saturday 7th September with over 20 artists showcasing their artwork to celebrate 100 years of Galway's Public Libraries. Galway County Arts Officer, Sharon O'Grady launched the exhibition and hosted a panel discussion with artists Joan Finnegan, Joyce Little and Geraldine O'Brien.



GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER SHARON O'GRADY WITH CLLR ALAN HARNEY

## NORTHEAST GALWAY FIT-UP THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Northeast Galway Fit-Up Theatre Festival is back for its fourth year running from 24 Sept to 13 Oct. Over three weeks, six rural villages will host three high-quality theatre

productions every Tuesday - Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Three Rings, in collaboration with Galway County Arts Office and the Arts Council, will present three plays across six venues in Skehana, Newbridge, Kilbegnet, Fohenagh, Dunmore and Barnadearg.

Performances taking place at 8pm each night. This Festival is supported by Galway County Council Arts Office in partnership with the Arts Council.

For bookings and further information call 0879677732 / 0872372820 or tickets available at each venue.

Sept 24 - Oct 13, 2024

# NORTH EAST GALWAY Fit-up Theatre Festival

Bringing Three Weeks of Professional Theatre to Six Rural Communities

**Nettle Horse**      **Seven Ages of MAM**      **Bumbled**

Week One: Nettle Horse	Week Two: Seven Ages of MAM	Week Three: Bumbled
Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 24 Sept	Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 1 Oct	Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 8 Oct
Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 25 Sept	Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 2 Oct	Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 9 Oct
Kilbegnet Hall 8pm, Thursday 26 Sept	Kilbegnet Hall 8pm, Thursday 3 Oct	Kilbegnet Hall 8pm, Thursday 10 Oct
Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 27 Sept	Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 4 Oct	Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 11 Oct
Dunmore, Inish-Hill 8pm, Saturday 28 Sept	Dunmore, Inish-Hill 8pm, Saturday 5 Oct	Dunmore, Inish-Hill 8pm, Saturday 12 Oct
Barnadearg Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 29 Sept	Barnadearg Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 6 Oct	Barnadearg Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 13 Oct

The North East Galway Fit Up Festival has been funded by the Arts Council of Ireland in association with Galway County Arts Office

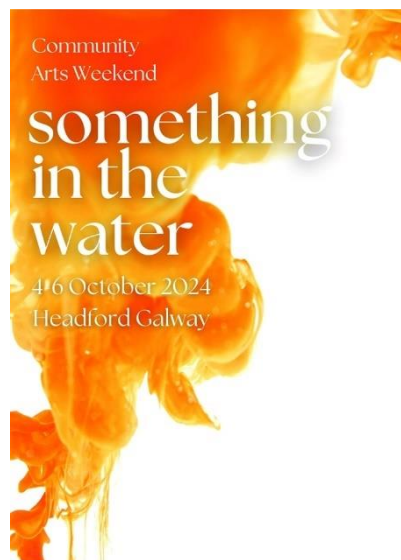
Booking: 087 9677732 / 087 2372820      Tickets: €15      Concession: €12.50      Season Ticket: €40

## SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL, HEADFORD, 4-6 OCTOBER 2024

We are delighted to announce **Something In The Water Festival** - Headford's own celebration of the arts, community, creativity, music will take place for its second year from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October. This year's programme will be launched shortly and is supported by Galway County Arts Office, The Arts Council as well as many local sponsors and partners.



There are workshops and performances for individuals of all ages and abilities, as well as music and exhibitions and architecture, and some incredible input from four artists who are recipients of our artists award scheme. Textile artist Ester Kiely will be co-creating with the community to create an artwork for the future, visual artist Veronika Straberger will be hosting a fascinating workshop on Keekill clay, Dr. Mindflip will visit from Kilkenny and delight us with his inimitable blend of ambient techno infused soundscapes, and local musicians Matthew Berrill and Eoin Wynne will perform a new suite of music created especially for the festival. events for all the family.



## CREATIVE IRELAND

### ROUNDSTONE CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

This year the village of Roundstone celebrates 200 years since its foundation by the Scottish engineer Nimmo. As part of their celebrations, Galway County Council committed Creative Ireland funding for the presentation of three lectures. Hosted in St Mary's Church of Ireland, the series featured talks on topics of local interest from Bill Whelan, Don Thornhill, and Kevin Cronin. The lectures were very well attended as locals and visitors alike gathered to learn more about the village.



### CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR CHILDREN



Over the past few months, Corrib Kids Coding have been travelling to several libraries across Galway County to deliver their Lego Coding programme. These sessions involved helping the kids to get creative with Lego while also learning the basics of coding and even creating their very own video games. The sessions were booked directly with schools and were all extremely well received. Many of the children have asked for Corrib Kids Coding to run the programme again. The success and smooth running of this project is largely thanks to the library staff, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to them. These sessions reached



a total of 500 children and equipped them with skills that are becoming increasingly valuable in today's job market, thus setting them up for a bright, creative future.

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## CREATING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

As part of Galway Rural Development's Social Prescribing Programme, Galway County Council funded a series of creative workshops for service users with complex mental health difficulties. The social prescribing programme aims to support individuals who are isolated and lonely to connect to others through the medium of art. It also provides the opportunity for individuals to identify a new hobby or talent that they can continue to pursue after the course ends. This programme consisted of 4 sessions each in the towns of Athenry, Tuam, and Loughrea, and was run by local artists. These sessions were not open to the public and were specifically for service users of the social prescribing programme. Due to the sensitive and vulnerable nature of this programme's attendants, photography was not permitted at the session.

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## YOUTH CONSULTATION ADDITIONAL FUNDING – SELDOM HEARD VOICES

Following on from the success of the Youth Consultation which took place on the Aran Islands this year, the decision was made to apply to Creative Ireland for additional funding to carry out a similar consultation with young people from a seldom heard community. It was decided that the focus of this year's youth consultation would be the Traveller Community. €4,000 of additional funding was secured to carry out this work. A meeting was held with the Galway Traveller Movement who specifically requested that Branar carry out the consultation as they have an innate understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by working with a minority language, and also an empathy for young people living with a sense of social isolation. The consultation will take place in September 2024 and will inform programming of creative projects and events for children and young people within the Travelling Community of Galway County for 2025.

## TOURISM

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### MILWAUKEE: GALWAY FORGES NEW TOURISM, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LINKS IN USA

A Galway delegation comprising representatives of local government, academia, business, and the arts has completed a weeklong promotional visit to the US Midwest.

Delegates from Galway County Council, Galway City Council, ATU Galway City, University of Galway, the Celtic Irish American Academy and Galway Chamber met with government,



tourism, cultural and business leaders across Illinois and Wisconsin.

The visit included a series of meetings in Galway City's sister city of Chicago and Galway County Council's twinning partner Washington County, as well as a tourism showcase at Milwaukee Irish Fest in Wisconsin.

**Councillor Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway** said, "This visit provided opportunities to meet with different agencies to learn, exchange, develop and deepen



connections on a wide range of fronts from local government services to tourism and from commerce to community. Comprehensive engagements with the various stakeholders allowed the delegation to explore future collaborations to bring future opportunities to Galway."

During the last week, the delegation met with business and community organisations, including Enterprise Ireland, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, 167 Green Street/ Fulton Market developers, Chicago Sister Cities International, World Business Chicago, MATTER Chicago and After School Matters.



An alumni event was hosted by the University of Galway in the Irish American Heritage Centre in Chicago, with Illinois-based alumni coming together to network and reflect on their time in Galway City and the University.

Galway County Council delegates travelled to West Bend, the administrative seat of Washington County, where the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the transatlantic twinning arrangement was celebrated. The delegation also attended at a meeting of the County Board, chaired by Chairman Jeff Schlieff, the Chief Executive, and the County Board supervisors.



“Meeting with officials in Washington County provided our delegation with a unique insight into how the vital public services are delivered locally,” explained **Councillor Albert Dolan**.

“Our delegation viewed the Next Generation Housing project, an innovative and unique housing initiative that provides affordable housing where participants availed of the subsidy and agreed to participate in voluntary community activities to repay the equivalent subsidy on the cost of the house,” added the Cathaoirleach. “Washington County’s Chief Community Development Officer, Jamie Ludovic also gave a presentation on Parks Sustainability, showcasing a self-funding model which benefits the entire community in the pursuit of outdoor recreation.”

A highlight of the delegation’s trip was its attendance at Milwaukee Irish Fest on the shore



of Lake Michigan at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park. Galway has held an annual presence at the world's largest celebration of Irish/Celtic music and culture for the past 25 years, promoting the county’s tourism sector to more than 100,000 festival goers.

According to **Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council**,

“A key objective of our presence at Milwaukee Irish Fest was to highlight all that Galway has to offer visitors and to increase awareness amongst Americans of the 6 transatlantic services operating between Shannon Airport and Chicago O’Hare, JFK, Boston Logan and Newark international airports. Many US visitors to Ireland are unaware that there is direct access into the West of Ireland where many ultimately wish to holiday. The group also met with various tour operators who have agreed to distribute tourism information relating to Galway with their agents throughout North America.”

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

The Expression of Interest (EOI) phase for the EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme 2023-2026 closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 12 noon.

The scheme was promoted extensively starting in April, with a comprehensive marketing campaign to raise awareness. Four information evenings were held, with over 100 people attending from the Ballinasloe Municipal District (MD).

Following these sessions, the Tourism Activator conducted 40 face-to-face meetings across the entire Ballinasloe MD. Each application received tailored advice and guidance through the EOI process. If an idea didn't align with the EU Just Transition Fund, applicants were directed to more suitable funding schemes such as the Community Support Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Clár, Community Recognition Fund, LEADER Funding and others.

In total **25** EOIs were submitted to Fáilte Ireland for assessment, 13 to date have been approved for application stage. The standard turnaround time for assessment is 6 weeks, with an additional 6 weeks required if further information is needed.

Now that the Expression of Interest deadline has passed, the focus is on preparing full applications, with a submission deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Projects that require planning permission must have it in place before the application submission.

Starting in September, a series of webinars on preparing financial projections using Fáilte Ireland's business plan template has been arranged. These webinars will be led by an experienced accountant and trainer.



During the summer several support events were held, with recordings available on:

- **Completing the Application Form**
- **Procurement Overview**
- **Marketing 101**

The Tourism Activator is scheduling appointments with all eligible applicants to assist with completing the application form.



## CALENDAR OF FESTIVAL & EVENTS 2024

TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024	
<b>MARCH</b>	<p>16th - Ghana Independence Day 6th March 2024</p> <p>16th-23rd - Clonguey Ghana Festival</p> <p>17th - St Patrick's Day Festival &amp; Parade</p> <p>22nd-30th - Claremorris 60th Annual Theatre Festival</p>
<b>APRIL</b>	<p>1st - Kilbeggen Easter Festival</p> <p>6th-7th - Clifton Traditional Music Festival</p>
<b>MAY</b>	<p>1st-19th - Galway County Fleadh 2024</p> <p>2nd-5th - Inishbofin Arts Festival 2024</p> <p>3rd-6th - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>9th-10th - Connemara Mountain Walking Festival</p> <p>14th-26th - Ballyvaughan Free 2024</p> <p>24th-26th - Ballyvaughan Something for Everyone Weekend</p>
<b>JUNE</b>	<p>1st-2nd - National and All Nations Sheep Shearing and Wool Handling Championship 2024</p> <p>9th - Castle Guck Walk</p> <p>13th-16th - St. Kierke Festival</p> <p>20th-23rd - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>23rd - Spinnaker in Clifden</p> <p>23rd - Teaporters Chopin in Clifden</p>
<b>JULY</b>	<p>1st-30th-Jul-3rd - Incefield Festival</p> <p>3rd-6th - Castle Stone, Trees and Our People</p> <p>6th-7th - Galway Garden Festival</p> <p>9th-10th - Galway Film Fleadh</p> <p>12th-14th - Roundstone Pier Show</p> <p>25th-28th - Williamstown Community Festival</p> <p>28th-29th - South Galway Day Music Festival</p> <p>28th-30th - Castel Together Festival</p>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<p>1st-6th - Ballygal Convivial</p> <p>3rd-6th - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>12th - Ballinacorney Horse Fair</p> <p>15th-18th - Clontarf Festival 2024</p> <p>16th-18th - Compend 175 Walk an' Sing St. John!</p> <p>16th-18th - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>16th-18th - Clontarf Festival</p> <p>23rd-25th - Castleblaney Summer Festival Weekend</p> <p>30th - 2nd Sept Fábú an tSúil</p>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<p>1st - Teaporters Chopin Romage 2024</p> <p>5th-8th - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>6th - Exploring County Galway's Ulster Heritage</p> <p>7th - Clontarf Market Day</p> <p>8th - Merville Festival 2024</p> <p>13th-15th - Clonguey Fringe Festival</p> <p>13th-15th - Fábú Joe Dancó</p> <p>14th - Kibboons Scout Group 25 Year Anniversary Celebration</p> <p>18th-20th - Clontarf Arts Festival</p> <p>20th-22nd - Béal Bán - Food Festival</p> <p>21st-22nd - Aghery M20 Festival</p> <p>21st - Mallow Community Day</p>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<p>8th-9th - Something in the Water</p> <p>11th-20th - Béalán International Arts Festival for Children, County Programme</p> <p>18th-20th - Carrigrohane Walking Festival</p> <p>19th - Howl an tSúil 2024</p> <p>24th-26th - Clontarf North East Galway Film Festival</p> <p>29th-30th - Clontarf Harbour Fun &amp; Festival</p> <p>25th-28th - Clonguey Harvest Festival</p> <p>28th - Total of Clontarf &amp; Clontarf</p> <p>28th - Eglar Days Walk</p>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<p>1st-17th - TUSCA Festival of Visual Arts 2024</p>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<p>18th Nov- 8th Dec - Sarsan Cottage</p> <p>18th - Wines of Ireland and Ballyglavin Christmas Fair</p>

The Tourism Department is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County that will provide a great visitor experience and support the social and economic contribution of tourism to the County. In 2024, The Community Support Scheme facilitated festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants

(€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000. A total of 61 communities were granted support through this scheme in 2024.

For any event/festival that is not on this calendar, details can be emailed to [tourism@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tourism@galwaycoco.ie)

## DESTINATION AND EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DEDP) – EAST GALWAY

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

The purpose of the DEDP is to prioritise and co-ordinate all tourism development activity in the destination around a single five-year sustainable vision which is prepared and owned by both public and private sector stakeholders. The goal is to motivate visitors to stay longer and spend more in the destination.

The Tourism Department will continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

SCHOOLS



GLOBE IRELAND CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

Schools can now register for the **GLOBE Ireland Air Quality Campaign!** at <https://arcg.is/fy9CO>. This campaign not only measures air quality outside a school but also gets the students involved in a citizen science project. It makes them more aware of the importance of good air quality and offers them an opportunity to contribute to improving air quality by measuring and making changes, if necessary. Schools will receive equipment, educational resources, and support to take part in this campaign from An Taisce.

RELOVE FASHION

This year Galway County Council are part funding the “Relove Fashion” competition from the Rediscovery Centre. Relove Fashion is a sustainable fashion competition open to young people of secondary school age in Ireland. Entry is free, and young people can enter as a group or an individual, through school or a youth group. Fashion is a subject of interest and discussion amongst people and by participating you will not only design a one-of-a-kind sustainable fashion piece, but also gain hands-on experience in real-world sustainability projects in a fun way. Full details, including contact details for any queries or questions are available at <https://www.relovetfashion.ie/>. Invites to take part in this competition has gone to all secondary schools and to youth groups.



PICKER PALS

Galway County Council are continuing to sponsor the PICKER PALS programme in National Schools throughout the county.

The map, right, indicates areas covered by the PICKER PALS Programme since it started. The programme continues to receive positive feedback from schools.



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## GUM LITTER TASK FORCE LAUNCH

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### GUM LITTER TASKFORCE ROADSHOW TAKES TO CO. GALWAY TO TACKLE GUM DISPOSAL.

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) took to the streets of Athenry, Co. Galway today as a part of its Summer Roadshow. The interactive Roadshow works with local authorities and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter. Now in its seventeenth year, the campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities.



One in seven people continue to drop their gum on the ground, according to new findings from the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT), the national awareness campaign which aims to make gum litter an issue of the past. This accounts for 19% of men and 9% of women, showing a higher tendency in men to not properly dispose of their gum.

Attitudes towards gum litter continue to change, as children are educated on the negative environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter. The GLT 2023 campaign had a positive impact on both attitudes and behaviour regarding gum disposal, with a 5% increase in those reporting 'always' or 'usually' putting their chewed gum in the bin, bringing the figure to a record high of 92%. The latest results of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring report (2022) also reflect this behavioural change, showing a continuous decline of percentage of gum as a proportion of litter at 8.6%.



The GLT research also found that the biggest deterrent of gum litter is peer pressure, however 1 in 4 state they have changed their behaviour because of the educational messaging from the Bin-it campaign.

The findings highlight the continued impact of the GLT, a joint initiative of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Food Drink Ireland, and the chewing gum industry, which has played a key role in promoting proper gum litter disposal, since its launch in 2007.

Now in its seventeenth year, the GLT campaign travels across the country, working with local authorities to host its Summer Roadshow, which promotes responsible gum disposal by highlighting the environmental impacts of gum and general litter. This is supplemented by the 'Bin It!' school roadshow and a social media campaign to target 16–24-year-olds. A further positive impact of the campaign is evident from the 16% of young people who reported having stopped the habit of 'dropping or spitting' gum recently post campaign.

Supporting the Roadshow in Co. Galway, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Albert Dolan said: "The Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow is an important reminder to the whole community that we must continue to reduce our litter and protect our local environment."

Welcoming the Roadshow to Galway, Deputy Chief Executive of Galway County Council, Mr. Uinsinn Finn said: "We are delighted to welcome back the Gum Litter Taskforce to Galway. The Roadshow is an excellent opportunity to educate the public on the benefits of responsibly disposing of gum litter and to encourage positive, sustainable behaviour." The Director of Services Rural and Community Development, Integration and Environment, Ms. Jacqueline Carroll said, "Galway County Council is delighted to support The Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign. The reduction of gum litter in recent years is a testament to the success of the campaign, and we look forward to seeing the progressive positive change the campaign brings in years to come."

Gum Litter Taskforce Executive, Avril Donlon of Food Drink Ireland said: "We are delighted to launch the 2024 Gum Litter Taskforce campaign, with the support of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, today in Dublin. The results of the campaign are evident, and we are thrilled that 1 in 4 people state the GLT campaign as the reason for deterring them from littering gum. Last year we delivered significant results, with a record number of schools participating in the Bin It! Education programme, and we really look forward to what the 2024 campaign has in store."

**Katrine Grytter, Corporate Affairs Director, Mars Wrigley** Northern Europe, and Ireland said: We are very proud of the continued success of Gum Litter Taskforce campaign at Mars Wrigley and delighted with the continued support from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Food Drink Ireland. The campaign helps to teach younger generations about the negative impacts of gum and other litter and promotes an eco-

conscious mindset. We look forward to the continued success of GLT campaign and its supporting bodies in 2024.”

This year’s campaign will see representatives from the Gum Litter Taskforce working with local authorities and communities to carry out education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of improper disposal.

Then, in September, the Gum Litter Taskforce’s *Bin It!* education programme will travel across the country and deliver 60 performances a year to primary and secondary schools nationwide, with the ambition to visit 180 schools by 2025. This is in addition to useful lesson plan material that is given to the schools.

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### ANTI-LITTER ADVERTS

Bilingual Anti-Litter adverts are running on Galway Bay FM and in all local cinemas.

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### ANTI-LITTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

The Anti-Litter Ambassador programme was launched in May 2024. We had started our campaign to sign up ambassadors and integrate the programme into our Anti-litter programmes and events. The Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme presents a pro-active and non-confrontational way for individuals, groups, communities, and businesses to declare their support for a litter-free county.

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



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LAUNCH DAY

ATHENRY MD



AT CRUINIÚ NA MBÁID

BALLINASLOE MD



CONNEMARA MD



GUM LITTER TASK FORCE LAUNCH



KINVARA TIDY TOWNS

LOUGHREA MD



MADRA

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## UBFIT



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## WILLIAMSTOWN TIDY TOWNS



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## TRÁ MÓR INDREABHÁN



Members of the local community in Indreabhán participate in a Seashore Bio-Blitz, Scavenger Hunt and Litter Beach Clean-up at An Trá Mhór last year.

## Indreabhán marks Heritage Week with Seashore Bio-Blitz

THE local community around Indreabhán is being invited to participate in a Seashore Bio-Blitz, Scavenger Hunt, and Litter Beach Clean-Up in An Trá Mhór next Monday.

The bilingual event is organised by Galway County Council's Environment Section as part of National Heritage Week, which celebrates Ireland's cultural, built, and natural heritage including County Galway's many beaches.

Councillor Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said it would be great to see people of all ages participating in the seashore event.

"The support that Galway County has received from Noirín Burke and Tara Noonan, Galway Atlantagairia, National Aquarium of Ireland has been instrumental in organising this event," he said.

"We want to promote our pristine beaches in County Galway and create awareness of biodiversity on our seashores, as well as the importance of keeping our beaches clean and tidy, and the invaluable natural environment that can be discovered on the beach," added Liam Connolly, Chief Executive of Galway County Council.

The Seashore Bio-Blitz, Scavenger Hunt, and Litter Beach Clean-Up in An Trá Mhór takes place from 10am to 1pm next Monday. See [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie) for more.

## Taskforce Roadshow comes to Galway to tackle gum disposal

ONE to seven people continue to drop their gum on the ground, according to new findings from the Gum Litter Taskforce, the national awareness campaign which aims to reduce gum litter on the face of the planet.

This accounts for 19 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women, showing a higher rate of men than women dropping gum.

In an effort to reduce these figures, the Gum Litter Taskforce has launched a series of initiatives to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and health impact of gum litter.

The interactive roadshows work with local authorities and communities across the county to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and health impact of gum litter.

One of the key findings of the research is that the highest amount of gum litter is dropped in public areas, such as shopping centres, schools, and local authority areas.

The GCL research also found that the biggest amount of gum litter is dropped in public areas, such as shopping centres, schools, and local authority areas.



Pictured during the Gum Litter Taskforce (G.L.T.) Summer Roadshow in Athlone, left to right: Martin Curran (Community Workers), Sharon Finn (County Chief Executive), Mark Walsby (Assistant GCLT) and Teresa Clancy (Labour, Liam Brien, Thomas O'Flaherty, David Kelly (Community Workers of Galway County Council), Eila Neary, Gum Litter Taskforce, Chris Harrington (County Council), and Mark Flynn (Administrative Officer) of Galway County Council and David Hopkins of Gum Litter Taskforce.

bin litter disposal, since its launch in 2007.

The GCLT campaign works across the county, working with local authorities to launch initiatives, which promote responsible gum disposal by highlighting the most common types of gum and general litter. This is supported by the 'Bin It' school campaign to target 10 to 14 year olds.

A further positive impact of the campaign is evident in that 16% of young people who responded highlighted the most common types of gum and general litter. This is supported by the 'Bin It' school campaign to target 10 to 14 year olds.

This year's campaign will see an expansion from the Gum Litter Taskforce working with local authorities and communities to carry out education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and health impact of gum litter.

In September, the Gum Litter Taskforce's Bin It school campaign will launch across the county and will run for two years to raise awareness of the environmental and health impact of gum litter, with the addition to visit schools across the county.

This is in addition to the Bin It school campaign that has been made available to about 170 schools across Ireland.

## Summer Roadshow takes to county areas to tackle gum disposal



Mark Walsby, Assistant GCLT, Galway County Council and Sharon Finn, Project Manager, Food Waste Initiatives and Community Engagement, Galway County Council during the Summer Roadshow (G.L.T.).

**Galway**

**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Claddagh Hall, 12 noon

WALK of Oaking Hospice

**REGISTER NOW**

[GALWAYHOSPICE.IE/WALK](http://GALWAYHOSPICE.IE/WALK)

091-770868

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Tulla 22, 2nd Floor, Galway City,  
Doughiska, Galway, H81 H9TD  
**CALL 087 2292929**

Also coverage in the CLARE ECHO at <https://www.clareecho.ie/gum-litter-taskforce-take-to-the-streets-of-athlone/>

## VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

### FOOD SAFETY

On 24<sup>th</sup> July a joint memo for Government was made on behalf of DAFM and the Department of Health regarding a phased transfer of official food controls from the Local Authority Veterinary Services to the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM).

The Government have agreed on a permanent transfer of funding from the Department of Health to DAFM along with the transfer of relevant staff resources from local authorities.

A steering group and a working group comprising representation from the various departments are developing an agreed work programme on the phased transfer, with the aim of having the transfer completed in quarter four, 2024.

To date in 2024, **665** bovines, **4,022** ovines, and **92** poultry have been processed through local abattoirs.





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## DOG CONTROL

In July 2024, The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced a ban on XL Bully breed Dogs. From October 1st, 2024, new regulations will prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bullies. A new system of certification for existing owners of XL Bully dogs will be put in place and over the period 1st October 2024 to 1st February 2025 all existing XL Bully owners will have to apply for a Certificate of Exemption. Certificates of Exemption will be issued subject to strict criteria, including a requirement for licensing, microchipping, and neutering.

Other possible criteria are being developed by the Stakeholder Group on Dog Control, which is placed to advise on these issues. After 1st February 2025, any owner not compliant with the new regulations will have their dog seized and euthanized. Training programmes have been organised for local authority dog wardens and Veterinary personnel on identification of XL Bully Type Dogs with training for relevant Galway County Council Staff scheduled for October 2024.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, and Minister of State with Responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon TD announced funding of €2 million in July 2024 for local authorities to support the resourcing of dog warden services from 2025. The funding recognises the increased demands in dog control and the need to ensure resources on the ground to enforce the pending ban on XL Bully dogs. Galway County Council have begun seeking to progress additional resources with the Department. The Minister has also allocated an additional €2 million in capital funding to local authorities to expand and improve warden and shelter facilities. This funding is in addition to the monies received by local authorities in respect of capital funding for upgraded works to shelter and warden equipment in November 2023.

1397 dog licenses were purchased from 1<sup>st</sup> July to August 26th, 443 of which were purchased online with the balance purchased through the local post office.

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

## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

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### NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN

We carried out follow-up calls on 87 domestic wastewater treatment systems that were inspected in July. This included issuing compliance certs and advisory notices. Many systems only needed to be de-sludge, and a good portion of the advisory notices were closed off after evidence for de-sludging was submitted. A few proposals were also submitted to rectify more serious issues, and these are being worked through. Files are being prepared at present for our law agents in relation to advisory notices from previous years that have not been complied with.

Verification inspections also took place at a few properties to check works carried out to comply with notices. All these inspections complied with the advisory notices and compliance certs were issued and files closed out.

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## COMPLAINTS

A Section 12 notice was issued to a business premises in Inisboffin after a number of complaints were received in relation to an uncontrolled discharge of wastewater. There are also on-going issues in relation to wastewater at an adjoining property but there has been engagement from the owners with some works completed and more works planned.

An inspection was carried out of a newly installed treatment system for a domestic house after on-going complaints in relation to the previous older system. The complainant claimed that the new system was not as per the planning permission and that there was still effluent flowing out onto the public road. The inspection verified that in fact planning permission was complied with. In addition, no evidence was found of untreated effluent flowing out onto public roads. This complaint is therefore closed.



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BEFORE AND AFTER  
PHOTOS SHOWING THE  
OLDER INSTALLED  
TREATMENT PLANT ON THE  
LEFT WITH THE NEW  
TREATMENT SYSTEM ON  
THE RIGHT

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## BATHING WATERS

A Bathing Prohibition Notice was placed on Traught Beach, Kinvara on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August due to elevated levels of bacteria in water samples. This has been attributed to heavy rainfall in the lead up to sampling. Re-samples were taken on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August. The notice was

lifted on the 26th of August as bacteria levels had reduced to safe levels.



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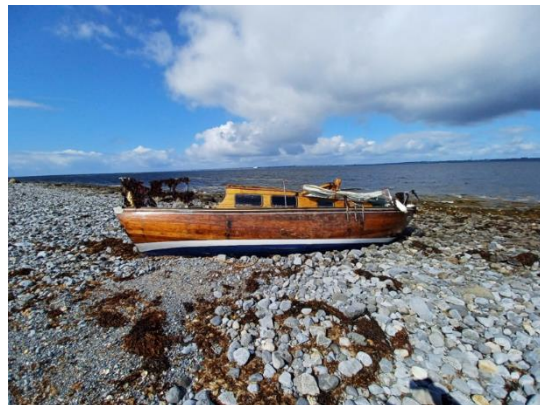
TRAUGHT BEACH, KINVARA

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS PROGRAMME

Planning for agricultural inspections in waterbodies where water quality needs to be protected and in areas where water quality is at risk has commenced. The Environmental Protection Agency requires that Galway County Council carry out at least 38 planned inspections in 2024 under the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

## WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

We received a report that a 20 ft sailing boat had run aground in Renville. Initial investigations determined that there was no risk of oil pollution. Locals are removing any loose waste, ropes, and nets etc. Investigation is ongoing into the ownership details. The intention is to serve notice to remove the wreck.



We inspected 2 construction sites for Article 27 by product applications. Staff attended an online webinar hosted by the EPA relating to the publication of the National by Product Criteria for Greenfield Soil and Stone.

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## VALIDATION OF ANNUAL WASTE RETURNS

Validation of waste returns ongoing - 90% complete.

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## ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE UPDATE

- 1. CCTV equipment** – ongoing
- 2. Bulky goods collections.** Collections ran for 4 weeks at the 3 civic amenity centers and the Barna Recycling Facility. 2 additional 1-day collections are planned for Loughrea and Gort Marts. This will be organised for September.
- 3. Clean up Ballinasloe.** For the second year in a row, we were unable to clean the site that this project was intended for. This was due to Health and Safety concerns. Instead, the funds were used to clean up other illegal dump sites in the area.
- 4. Anti-litter radio advertisements.** These are running until the end of September.
- 5. School Uniform Reuse.** This took place a few weeks ago in 2 schools in Loughrea. Used clean uniforms were collected on one day and a pop up 'shop' was set up to distribute the uniforms. It was extremely successful.
- 6. Clean up for Tuam.** We completed clean ups in separate areas where illegal dumping was identified.



7. **Clean up Abbey Bog** – Large amount of waste was removed from Abbeyknockmoy Bog.
8. **Bulky Goods Inishboffin** – not started yet.
9. **CCTV Signage** - ongoing

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## CCTV

Work has commenced on the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) that will cover all the Environment CCTV sites going forward. This DPIA should be in Quarter 4.

CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

CORPORATE SERVICES

## CONNEMARA PONY SHOW 2024

The 99<sup>th</sup> Connemara Pony Show took place 20-23 August and was attended by:



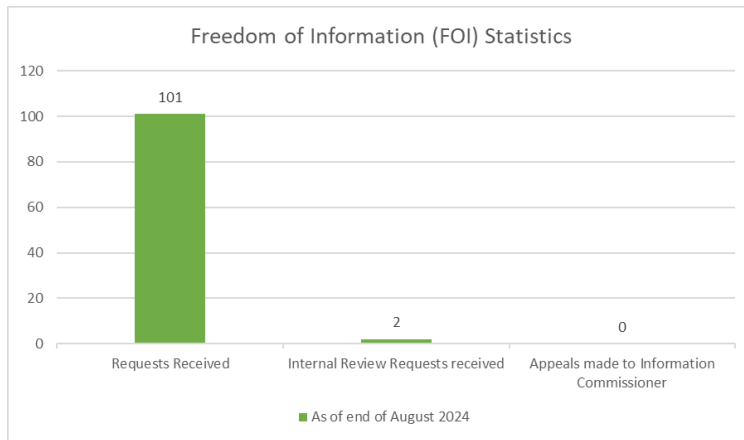
L-R SENATOR SEAN KYNE, MS. KAREN MANNION, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, FORUM CONNEMARA, CLLR. GERRY KING, CLLR. EILEEN MANNION, ÉAMON Ó CUÍV, T.D., MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, AND MR. JOHN DARDIS, PRESIDENT, RDS



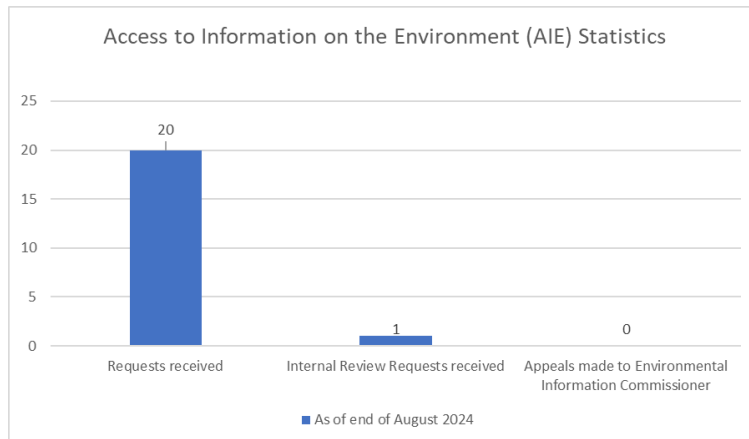
L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNCIL, CLLR. EILEEN MANNION AND SENATOR SEÁN KYNE

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

## 2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.08.2024



### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



### ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

## DATA PROTECTION

- **18 Data Access Requests**
  - 12 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 Awareness Training provided for Lifeguards and Community Wardens
  - Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletter circulated to all Staff
  - Online GDPR/Data Protection Training facilitated for the Elected Members

Staff Consultation Workshops were held at the beginning of September in relation to the drafting of the Galway County Council Corporate Plan 2025-2029. Invites were issued to all staff to attend and give their feedback to date on the Draft Plan. There were 5 sessions held in total in the following locations: Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry; Loughrea Hotel and



Connemara Coast Hotel, Na Forbacha. The latest draft will now be presented to the Corporate Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prior to going out to Public Consultation at the beginning of October.



AUGHRIM HERITAGE CENTRE

**The MARTIN JOYCE Lecture Series 2024**

1pm Friday 26th July 2024  
Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre,  
Aughrim, Ballinasloe, County  
Galway F153 KH51

**Title of Lecture:**  
**A Brief History of Galway Jail**  
by Roman Killeen

The earliest known record of a jail in Galway goes as far back as 1496 on Malinguard Street. The Galway Town Goal was located under the Old Thoresel (sketch right from James Hardiman's History of Galway) but was transferred to Malinguard Street in the 1650s.

Sometime by the 19th century a county jail was built which today is now the site of Galway Cathedral.

Blissfully Roman is curator of the Battle of Aughrim 2012 Visitor Centre. Roman has written local history books on Athlone, Roscrea (he also writes for Athlone News and Views and also the South East Galway Archaeological and Historical Society).

For further information please email: [battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie)

Galway's Churches and Galleries  
Galway County Council

**AUGHHRIM**

National Heritage Week  
Heritage Week Programme

Image: Simon Galloway (2010), (19th c. Photo from www.1840s.ie)  
Photos: top: Lady Gregory's play 'The Goal Gate' in the 1920s. Both images are courtesy of The Marty

The Aughrim Interpretative Centre (presently under the remit of Corporate Services) re-introduced this Summer, its' free lecture series for members of the public to attend.

These talks were aimed at remembering our past to understand our present. The first talk took place on July 26<sup>th</sup> "A Brief History of Galway Jail" and the second on August 9<sup>th</sup> focusing on "The development of social and political organisations among agriculture organisations in east Galway."




On Saturday August 24th, the Galway County Council Corporate Services team supported the work of the local voluntary group of Cath Eachroma 1691 as it staged its annual walk and talk about on the 1691 Battle of Aughrim as part of Heritage week.

Such support ensures that the story is told so that the sacrifice and pain of Aughrim and that period is not forgotten particularly in these times of so much conflict worldwide."

**The MARTIN JOYCE Lecture Series 2024**

1pm Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, County Galway  
H53 K453

**Title of Lecture:**  
Social and political organisations among Agricultural Communities in East Galway from 1922 - 1970  
by Hannah Daly



Hanrahan's Rights Campaign of 1904. The men who left Borey, in 1904, marched 217 miles (350km) to Dublin and were joined by some 20,000 farmers along the way to seek legislative rights with the Government. Photo courtesy of the IFA.

The talk will examine the issues that led to the development and support of both social and political organisations in rural East Galway and the role the region played nationally.

**Biography:** Hannah graduated from NUI Galway in 2017 with a Masters degree in History. Hannah has always had a keen interest in local history and has been involved in the publication of two local history books: 'Where Markets Bolls are Burred' about the battle of Aughrim and 'Kilkaughlton Hall - Ahead of its Time 1939 to 2019'.

For further information please email: [battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie)

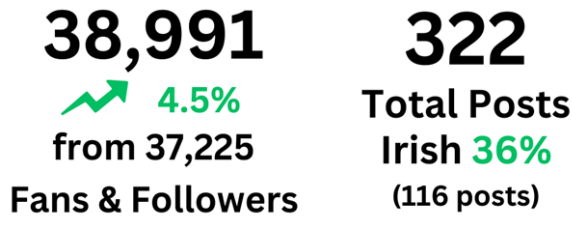
Comhartha Chionn na Galltíne Galway County Council | AUGHRIM | National Heritage Week



**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](http://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty)
-  [www.twitter.com/galwaycoco](http://www.twitter.com/galwaycoco)
-  [www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil](http://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil)



## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

### FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 129 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 16 times this month with followers. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 331.3k.

### AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 1,294 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to 18,798, a 7.4% increase from 17,504 in July. Galway County Council’s Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 21.2% of this age group are women and 10.6% are men. The second largest audience group are those aged between 45-54, with 20% women and 8.2% male.

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



### AUGUST’S TOP THREE POSTS

### X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

### AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 111 tweets with 39.2k impressions. Galway County Council’s account lost a total of 19 followers, bringing the total following as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 to 16, 933.



### AUGUST’S TOP THREE POSTS

## INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 104 posts to Galway County Council’s Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function 16 times this month with followers as well as sharing 6 reels. Galway County Council’s overall reach for this period was 4.3k.

## 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 71.4% being female and 28.6% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 37.3% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 27.6% women and 9.7% men. Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 1278 in July 2024 to 1308 followers by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024.

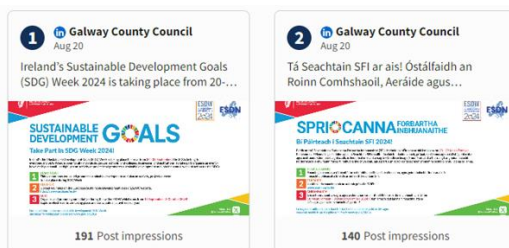


### AUGUST’S TOP THREE POSTS

## LINKEDIN

## AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council’s account gained 102 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,951. Galway County Council shared 2 posts with 1.4k impressions this month.



### AUGUST’S TOP POSTS



## WATER SAFETY PROGRAMME

This year the Water Safety Programme involved the recruitment of a panel of over 50 trained lifeguards to provide services at nine locations in the county and six locations in the city as part of a Shared Service Agreement with Galway City Council. Two lifeguards are provided at all beaches in compliance with International Lifesaving Federation of Europe (ILSE). This season the Lifeguards started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and finished on 8<sup>th</sup> of September. City and County Beaches operated between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Galway County Council supported Water Safety Weeks in Inis Óirr, Loughrea and Portumna this year with the assistance of the lifeguards and the Water Safety Awareness & Development Officer.

The role of the Water Safety Awareness & Development Officer includes supervision of the Water Safety Lifeguard Programme, development of the service as well as advising both local authorities on all aspects of water safety and implementation of the guidance notes.

Galway County Council make a yearly contribution to Water Safety Ireland of €6,000. Galway County Council actively supports the work of the Galway Water Safety Area Committee through the WSADO.



New lifeguard huts were installed in Loughrea, Portumna, An Trá Mór Indreabhán and An Cheathru Rua. Beach-friendly wheelchairs are available from the lifeguard huts for people with mobility issues at Tracht Beach, Kinvara, An Trá Mór, Indreabhán and An Spidéal Pier.

## IRISH

The Padraig Pearse school will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September in Ionad Cultúrtha An Phiaraisigh in Ros Muc, Conamara, Co. Galway.

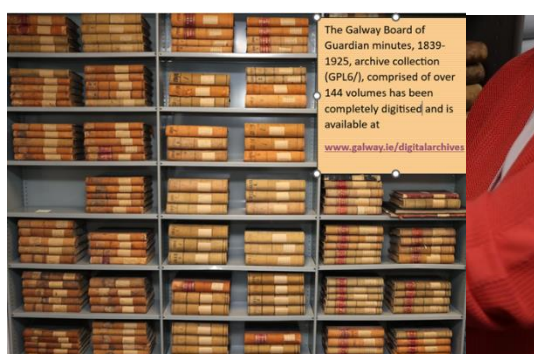
The school will start on Thursday evening with music from young musicians from Comhaltas Charna followed by talks from Colm O Neasa about the importance of placenames, Cormac Ó Comhraí about how Conamara was during the 1916 war followed by a talk from Bridie Uí

Chonámha about the Queen of Alaska that originated from Ros Muc and how her legacy still survives. The evening will conclude with music from ceoltóirí óga Chois Fharraige.

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> September presentations and information will be given regarding Enterprise in the Gaeltacht where the LEO office, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Dr. Fionnbarra Ó Brollcháin will give information about developing an idea and how to bring to the market and the importance of Irish branding. There will be representatives from small enterprises giving information on their own experiences. The event will finish on Friday afternoon with a Mindfulness workshop by Marian Ní Chonghaile.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### ARCHIVES



With the completion of the phased digitisation of the important and valuable archive collection for the Galway Board of Guardians (GPL6/) Galway County Council Archives has, with the assistance of IT, had the surviving volumes dating from 1889-1921 uploaded and made available on the [Digital Archive](http://www.galway.ie/digitalarchives). The complete collection, comprised of over 144 volumes, is now freely

accessible to researchers at home and abroad, facilitating exploration into the history of the Galway workhouse, the Famine, social conditions, and the impact of political changes over a period spanning 1839-1921, and seek possible family history connections

Galway Public Libraries' fine exhibition *Celebrating a Century*, a celebration of one of the county's most valued public services, was on display in Áras an Chontae, Galway from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August.

From the exhibition we learn that the popular Schools service was established in 1964 and now visits over 220 national schools twice annually, we learn that the oldest book in the Local Studies section dates from 1689, while the oldest record in the Archives is from 1606.

The amazing array of activities and facilities available in the 29 branches in the county, including on the islands, is clear to see through the exhibition, from a monthly music session in Tuam to the Tovertafel Table in Ballybane, to Lego time and Ciorcal Comhrá (Irish language chat) gatherings in Portumna, and extended self-service access via My Open



Library in Ballinasloe. Together with the many online resources, public computers, printing services and much more available in branches from Oranmore to Inishbofin, and from Dunmore to Clifden, there really is something for everyone at the local library.

## RIGHT TO READ

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### SUMMER STARS

Galway Public Libraries' 29 branches, mobile library and schools' van hosted a full programme of events for children over the summer months. Events ranged from quilling workshops to a visit by a barn owl, and from tie-dyeing t-shirts to Irish language craft and storytimes. Approximately 3000 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, helping to maintain their reading levels during the holidays.

Each library branch hosts a celebratory party to mark the children's reading achievement. The celebrations in Galway County libraries are attended by the Cathaoirleach or his deputy and the Mayor of the City of Galway or a deputy attends the Summer Stars parties in the three city branches.

### CULTURE NIGHT- SEPTEMBER 20

Culture Night is a national festival which celebrates culture, creativity, and the arts in Ireland. The festival takes place annually in September.

Culture Night events take place in many of the city and county library branches. Westside Library is hosting a discussion on literature and reading featuring acclaimed poet Emily Cullen and award-winning author Elizabeth Reapy. Julie Anne de Brún is hosting an Irish language storytime and music session for children.

Ballybane Library patrons will be serenaded by a string quartet and Galway City Library is hosting an evening of poetry readings.

Tuam Library is organizing an event to celebrate Tuam's language and identity. Participants will learn about Tuam and Traveller Culture, using embroidery to embellish Traveller Beady Pockets, and their history and significance will be explored. There will be a printmaking and fabric painting table, where bags will be decorated with Tuam's unique languages.

'Monsters and Things' will be performed in Ballinasloe Library. The show is a blend of farce, puppetry and storytelling which aims to spark children's imagination.

### BIODIVERSITY EVENTS

Birdwatch Ireland gave a talk on the Galway Swift population in Galway City Library. The presentation included suggestions on how communities can help support the dwindling population.



A biodiversity walk beginning at Woodquay, focused on interactive learning with Diarmuid Hayes from Biodiversity in Schools and Paula Kearney, Biodiversity Officer with Galway City Council.

Renowned storyteller and folklorist Eddie Lenihan entertained young audiences in Ballybane and Westside Library, with his repertoire of myths and legends based in the natural world.

These events were made possible with the support of the Biodiversity Office, Galway City Council.

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

Just a Taste of The Summer Activities in Ballybane Library



DECORATE YOUR SUMMER CAP  
FOR 10+YRS

PAPER PETS 6+



TIE DYE FOR PARENT AND CHILD 5+

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DECORATE YOUR BAG 8+



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AIR-CLAY MODELLING 6+

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PAPIER MACHE DOGS 9+



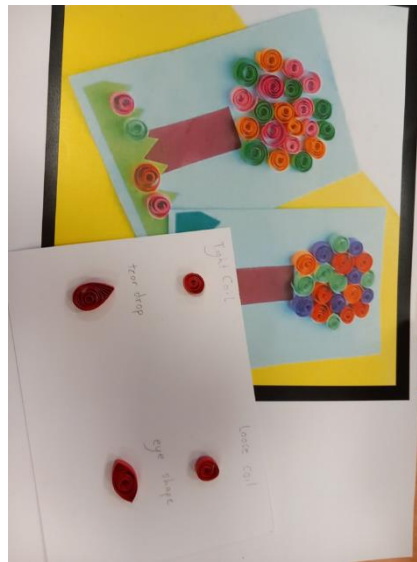
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DECOUPAGE 6+

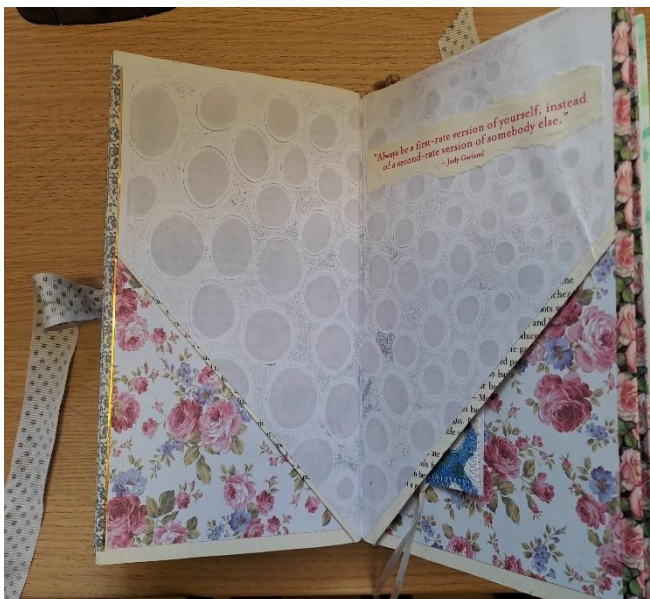


“WE LOVE BOOKS” CHILDREN’S BOOK CLUB ART

QUILLING  
WORKSHOP



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

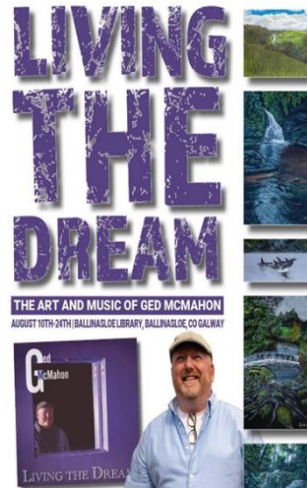


A Journaling Workshop with Joyce Little was held over 4 weeks. Some beautiful journals were created by enthusiastic participants.

Ballinasloe Library hosted a Sustainable Art Workshop with Maria Hitchcox in the Church Gallery:



RECYCLING AND UPCYCLING  
NATURAL MATERIALS TO  
CREATE WONDERFUL  
DECORATIONS.



GED MCMAHON  
LAUNCHED HIS ART  
EXHIBITION AND  
NEW ALBUM, BOTH  
ENTITLED "LIVING  
THE DREAM".



SUMMER STARS: BALLINASLOE LIBRARY  
HOSTED A MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP FOR  
CHILDREN, WITH AUTHOR NIAMH DOYLE

On August 20<sup>th</sup> Ballinasloe Library celebrated Heritage Week by hosting the launch of 'On Our Doorstep', a collaborative art and heritage project between [GROUP 8](#) and Ballinasloe Library. Thanks to all the artists who submitted work, and to those chosen for the exhibition, namely:



Artlink Collective:

Pauline Burke, Paul Boyle, Tommy Campbell, Mary Connaughton, Clare Daly, Wiltrud Dull, Belinda Fair, Grellan Ganly, Scott Hartney, Sean Kelly, Jade Kenny, Joyce Little, Dee McKiernan, Ness Porter  
Niall Warde and Vincent Warde

Thanks also to local author Nuala O'Connor & Cllr Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons for so graciously introducing the exhibition.

**BALLINASLOE LIBRARY**  
20 August 2024  
5.30pm  
**ON OUR DOORSTEP**  
Exhibition Launch  
With special guest Pat Glennon  
Speaking about the Tribes of Uí Maine DNA Project  
6pm  
More information:  
📧 ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie  
☎ 091 509551  
📍 Ballinasloe Library, Society St.

The second half of the evening saw Pat Glennon giving a fascinating talk about the Tribes of Uí Maine DNA project. Using DNA, Pat explained research methods behind breaking through the "brick wall" of the early 1800's that so often

**BALLINASLOE LIBRARY**  
20 August 2024  
6pm  
**Tribes of Uí Maine DNA Project**  
A talk by Pat Glennon  
On Our Door Step  
Exhibition Launch  
5.30pm  
More information:  
📧 ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie  
☎ 091 509551  
📍 Ballinasloe Library, Society St.

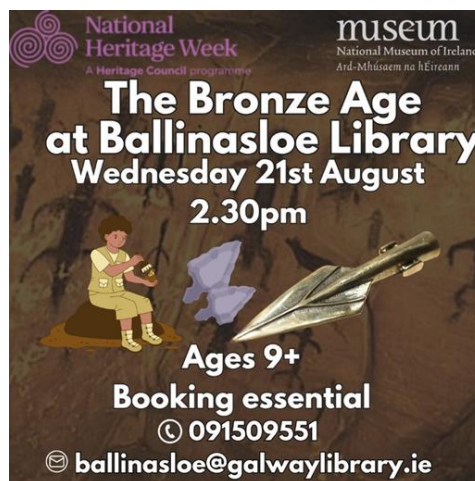
stumps those looking into their family tree. Special thanks to members of the Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society for arranging Pat's talk.



BRÍD CREATED A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS TO CELEBRATE HERITAGE WEEK.



Children at Ballinasloe Library celebrated Heritage week and Summer Stars with a special workshop on the Bronze Age on August 21st. Ballinasloe Library availed of a Bronze Age handling box from the [National Museum of Ireland](#) during [Heritage Week](#). Children engaged with replica museum pieces and learned all about the bronze age in an hour-long workshop.



## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Galway City Library had a very busy summer, with lots of events for children and adults. The inclement weather ensured a constant stream of visitors, availing of the wide range of library services on offer.



LEGO FREEPLAY WITH YOUNG LIBRARY PATRONS

## GALWAY CITY WOMEN'S SHED HOSTED A BOARD GAMES SESSION



SUMMER STORY TIME

Podcaster Kerry Graham and staff member Karen Connolly ran a podcasting taster session with a group of young people teaching them how to use podcasting equipment and audio editing software to make their own podcasts.



ARTS & CRAFTS AND STORYTIME BASED ON JULIA DONALDSON'S BOOK "THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE"

Making your own Trinket Box proved to be just the exciting activity that these youngsters wanted. With glitter, glue, and stickers, they personalised their keepsake boxes.



Éabha Garry from Birdwatch Ireland gave a talk on the results of the Galway City Swift Survey and detailed how ordinary householders can help support the dwindling population.



ARTIST SIOBHÁN MOORE LAUNCHED  
HER NEW EXHIBITION "AS FAR AS THE  
I CAN SEA"



## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

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

A small Comhrá Gaeilge group has started meeting for Irish conversation on the last Wednesday evening of the month between 5.30-7.00pm.

The library played host to daily visits by summer provision camps from St Ita's National School for the first two weeks of June, as well as a visit from Kilnadeema NS summer provision on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

LEGO free play began on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, to run every Saturday for the duration of the summer holidays.

The Library Reading Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 1.00pm.

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## SUMMER STARS 2024

The Summer Stars reading programme began on 21<sup>st</sup> June and runs throughout July and August. Loughrea Library signed up 294 children to participate this summer.



Comic strip workshop for ages 8-12. Make a Comic Strip as Gaeilge with Aidan Courtney from Comici Gael.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Chalk Art free play in Library Car Park.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July: 11.00-1.00pm. Design Your Own Summer Holiday Postcard activity station.

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## JUNK ART ACTIVITY STATION



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## BUTTERFLY COLLAGE ACTIVITY STATION

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## KIDS MINDFULNESS & MOVEMENT WORKSHOP WITH NIAMH DOYLE



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2.30-3.30pm. Poetry workshop for ages 7-12 with author Serena Molloy.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2.30-3.30pm. Friendship bracelets workshop with Gretel (staff)







Bronze Age Pottery Workshop with Sheila (staff member), making coil and pinch pots and looking at Bronze Age artefacts supplied by the National Museum Bronze Age activity box.



Display of 3D models of crannóg settlements on Loughrea Lake & a crannóg built by Loughrea Men's Shed. Comdt. (Retired) Kevin Mc Donald, author of 'Living with the Lake' was present to answer any questions about the crannógs and his experiences of underwater exploration of the sites on Loughrea Lake.



LECTURE ON RENAISSANCE OF IRISH GRAND PIPES AND THEIR FORGOTTEN LINEAGE BY VSEVOLOD SADOVYI.

Workshop on Exploring Ordnance Survey Maps with Galway Community Archaeology

Ask the Archaeologist! with Galway Community Archaeology



COMIC STRIP MAKING WORKSHOP



Oranmore Library hosted a Comic Strip Workshop with Coimicí Gael illustrator Aidan Courtney. It was a bilingual event in both English and Gaeilge where the children learned how to make their own comic

Oranmore Library hosted two Read, Play & Create – Art Sensory Workshops run by Kate Kelly from Art Room 109. The workshops were for children aged 1-5, with their parents. Each workshop had a book theme and was booked out within a few hours.



CREATIONS FROM THE ART SENSORY WORKSHOPS



WESTSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL 2024



This was the 20th year of the Westside Arts Festival, and this year’s festival was called “Exploring New Horizons.” This is a very important annual event in Westside Library’s calendar and an important community event, which brings people together in a fun, positive, and community-oriented way through the



provision of the arts. The festival was a collaboration between Westside Library, Westside Resource Centre, Galway City Partnership, Foróige, Youth Work Ireland and Tusla. Forty events were delivered over four days by staff from the above-listed agencies, with the help of local volunteers, which helped build upon and strengthen community assimilation and integration.

Westside Library hosted over 20 events and three exhibitions as part of this vibrant community celebration. The festival drew enthusiastic participation, and feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. We had a packed house for the “Speckled Eggs” dance performance. A notable highlight was the high demand for sensory events tailored to young children. Other popular events included Family Bingo, Shawls of Galway, Open Mic with Over the Edge, Ukrainian Art, Coding, Stem and Botanical Art Workshops. Storytelling with Wayne O’Connor, Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde, Scéalaíocht agus Ceol le Julie Anne de Brún, a family friendly print workshop with Print Van Go. The festival truly brought the community together, showcasing the power of the arts to connect and inspire.

SUMMER STARS AT WESTSIDE LIBRARY

475 children participated in the “Summer Stars” reading initiative at Westside Library. “Westside Wednesdays” was an exciting new addition to our summer programming, designed to celebrate the “Summer Stars” reading initiative.

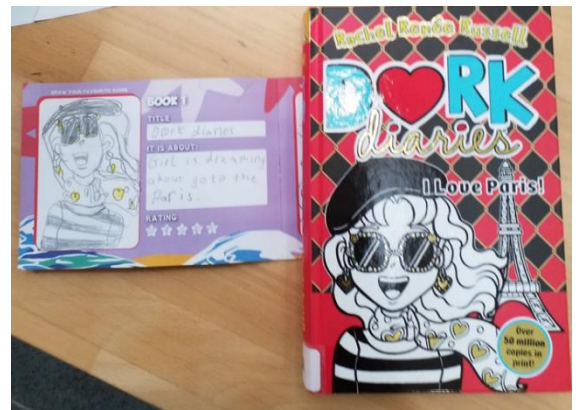
Over the course of six weeks, accomplished storytellers and authors captivated young audiences with engaging events every Wednesday. Additionally, on four of these Wednesdays, we hosted staff-led arts and crafts sessions where kids could design their own summer postcards.

## TUAM LIBRARY



Tuam Library hosted Play & Create sessions with Art Room 109 for toddlers. They had great fun, using the theme of The Gruffalo and How to Catch a Star. The event was funded by Creative Ireland.

Summer Stars is in full swing in Tuam, with some wonderful drawings by our library members



Artist Aisling Holian launched her weeklong exhibition in Tuam Library on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Her work blends different media and includes wearable art, including the shawl worn here by Mary Ryan.

The SEAI ran three workshops in Tuam Library. These experiment-led events, for children aged 5-12, taught them about energy and its different uses.





Magda Pawlowska, from the Polish Academy Galway, and librarian Gaby Walsh ran a bilingual story time. The children enjoyed singing 'head, shoulders, knees, and toes' in Polish and learning the names of Old Macdonald's animals.



The Dogs Trust held an event on the 23rd July in Tuam Library. The children learnt how to approach and play with dogs safely. They also crafted a treat for the doggies afterwards, using strips of fabric.

A 'helping hands' craft event was held. Children decorated their hands to create a larger collage.



MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP WITH AUTHOR NIAMH DOYLE

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FLOWER GARDEN MURAL



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LIBRARIANS MARGARET GARVEY AND GABY WALSH SUPPORTING THE GALWAY TEAMS

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LIBRARIAN MARIA CUNNINGHAM DEBUTING THE CENTENARY BAGS AND BANNER



For Heritage week The Journal of the Old Tuam Society held two events in Tuam Library. The first was the history of the Tuam shield and a craft event making shields. Pictured here is the president of the Society, Anne Tiernan and Patricia King Callahan. The second event was a story and craft making session on the history of Tuam, from the medieval period through to today.



## HOUSING

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Galway County Council is inviting 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. An affordable housing scheme provides houses at a reduced price for eligible applicants, including First Time Buyers and Fresh Start Buyers, in areas where there is an identified housing demand and an affordability constraint. The survey will inform its ongoing work of developing affordable housing across the County, in accordance with 'Housing for All Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026'.



The poster features the Galway County Council logo and the text 'Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council'. Below this, it reads 'SUIRBHÉ MAIDIR LE TITHÍOCHT INACMHAINNE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY'. It includes a QR code and instructions in both Irish and English. The English text states: '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/affordablesurvey](http://www.galway.ie/affordablesurvey) or scan the QR Code below. It should take no more than a 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](http://www.affordablehomes.ie). Housing for All'.

The survey can be viewed and completed on the Galway County Council website at [www.galway.ie/affordablesurvey](http://www.galway.ie/affordablesurvey).

The survey will be open for 4 weeks from September 4<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>. Details of the survey have been promoted in print and social media, online and radio.

### CHOICE BASED LETTING

What is Choice Based Letting (CBL)?

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is a method we use to allocate council houses and is part of the Social Housing Strategy 2020. This method should be used by approved applicants only. Choice-based letting (CBL) is a method that can be used for the allocation of social housing where an applicant can express their interest in renting a suitable property in their preferred area.



There are currently three properties available on our website [Choice Based Letting \(galway.ie\)](http://www.galway.ie/choicebasedletting)

### Who can use CBL?

This method can be used by approved applicants only. Approved applicants are people that are already on our Housing waiting list.

### Are all Galway County Council houses part of CBL?

The scheme only applies to dwellings which have been specifically designated by Galway County Council for Choice Based Letting.

### How can households apply for a property which has been advertised?

Households that wish to be considered in the allocation of a dwelling must, within a specified timeframe to apply to Galway County Council by submitting their interest via the online CBL system and supply any supporting information specified in the notice. Each notice advertising a property will set out any specific application requirements for a particular dwelling.

### What happens if I refuse an offer for a CBL house?

If you refuse the offer you will remain on our Housing list, but we will not accept another CBL request from you for a period of one year.

### Can I register for more than one house at a time?

Yes, provided you have not refused a CBL offer in the past year.

### How to use CBL?

To register your interest in living in a CBL house browse the houses on this mini web site and follow the on-screen instructions. You will need your PPS number and an email address to complete the registration.

You will need your PPS number and an email address to complete the registration.

Since the relaunch in July 2024 18 properties have been advertised to date. These properties are being processed through the Allocations Unit in accordance with our Allocation Policy. 577 people registered their interest of which 51 were from the Homeless category.

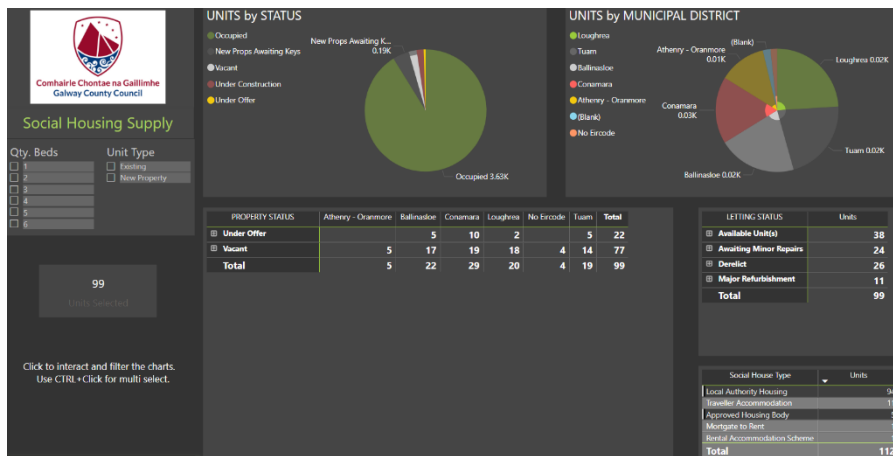
To date of the 18 advertised:

- 3 are currently being advertised,
- 2 have been occupied,
- 1 is in the final stage of allocation and;
- 12 are being processed through the application process.



## VACANT SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS

Galway County Council has 99 vacant units between Local Authority and Approved Housing Body units. 24 of these are under repair, 26 are derelict, 11 are undergoing major refurbishment, 24 are currently being allocated and 14 are under offer.



## SOCIAL HOUSING OCCUPIED UNITS

Social House Type	Units
Local Authority Housing	2769
Approved Housing Body	856
Rental Accommodation Scheme	110
Traveller Accommodation	74
Leasing Properties	69
Mortgage to Rent	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>3923</b>

## SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION

PROPERTY STATUS	Atherry - Oranmore	Ballinasloe	Conamara	Loughrea	No Eircode	Tuam	Total
<b>New Props Awaiting Keys</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>Under Construction</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>267</b>



## 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 444 (49 in progress i.e. additional information has been requested, etc., 296 applications have been finalised (274 approved and 22 rejected), 94 applications have been withdrawn, and 5 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants have been drawn down by applicants.



## SALE OF DERELICT SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

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

**Tranche 1 Update** - 11 properties were advertised for sale in **October 2023** – advertised in Local press (Connacht tribune and Galway City Tribune, social media, auctioneers' website, property websites, notices at properties):

- 8 properties were presented at the December Council meeting for disposal by section 183 – approved at meeting.
- 1 property was presented at the April Council meeting for disposal by Section 183 – approved at meeting.
- 1 property is sale agreed **pending** approval for disposal by Section 183 at the next full council meeting.
- 1 property still open to offers.

Of the 10 properties sale agreed:

- 1 property is sale closed.
- 8 properties are in conveyancing.
- 1 Property is sale agreed pending approval by Section 183.

**Tranche 2 Update** - 6 derelict/redundant housing properties were identified and advertised for sale in **August 2024** - advertised in Local press (Connacht Tribune and Galway City Tribune, social media, auctioneers' website, property websites, notices at properties).

- 2 Properties are sale agreed pending approval for disposal by section 183.
- 4 Properties still open to offers.

The contacts in Housing for further information are Kathleen Lohan or Brendan Kelly.

## HOUSING LOANS

### LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOAN

The Local Authority Home Loan was launched in January 2022 as part of Housing for All. It supports creditworthy borrowers who are unable to get finance from commercial banks to buy a home. It can be used for new, second hand or self-build homes. It means those on more moderate incomes are helped by the State to achieve homeownership. This Loan scheme replaced the previous Home Loan scheme under Rebuilding Ireland. Under the LAHL scheme, the prices of homes eligible for a Local Authority Home Loan and income limits of those eligible to apply for a loan were increased.

Under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme, 30 applications have been received so far in 2024, 24 were approved in principle and 6 were refused. At the end of August 6 loans to the amount of €603,900 have been drawn down. There were also 14.8 (live) loans in 2024 in the amount of €2,621,204 which had been approved in principle in 2023 with €1,085,453 drawn down in 2024. In addition, €75,200 for 0.65 of a loan which had been approved in principle in 2022 is drawdown to date in 2024 with 0.19 remaining to be drawn down. Please note that fractions of a loan refer to loans for self builds which are being drawn down in stages.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY PURCHASE AND RENOVATION LOAN

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan, launched in June 2024, is a Government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of a derelict or uninhabitable homes. The loan is available to first-time buyers and "fresh start" applicants who have been unable to get funding from commercial lenders. It is an extension of the Local Authority Home Loan.

The applicant must qualify for the **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant** to get this loan. The **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant** is a payment an applicant can get if they are turning a vacant house or building into their permanent home or a rental property. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available.

To apply for the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation loan, submit completed application [Application Form | Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan](#) and supporting documentation to the Housing Section.

## HOUSING MAINTENANCE

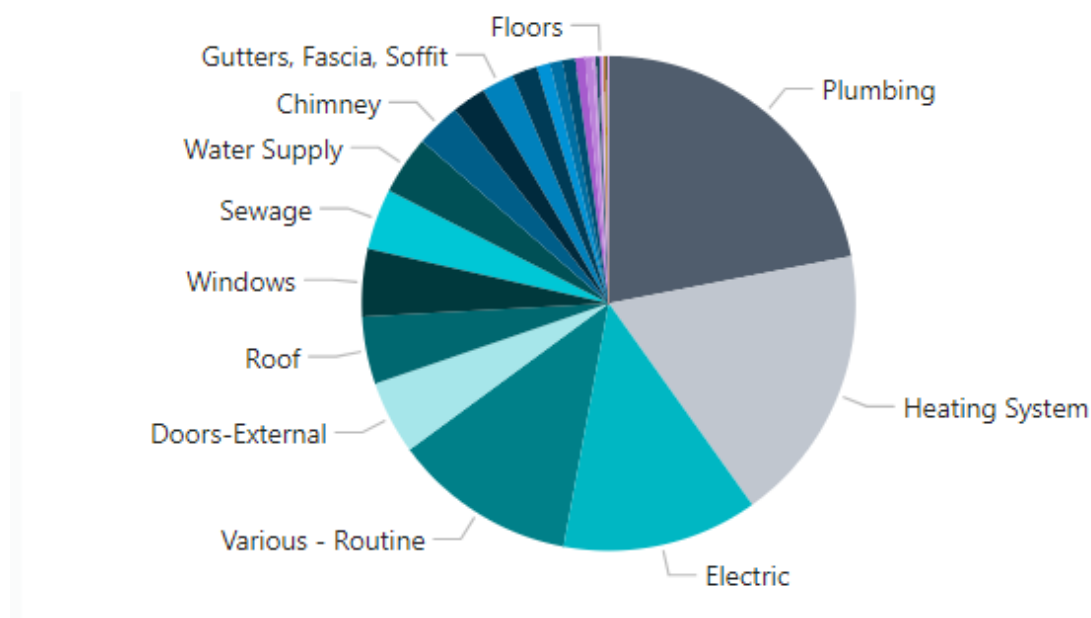
The Housing Maintenance Team are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Council's Social Housing stock. This currently consists of 3018 housing units across the county. Works are carried out by the three housing maintenance crews plus contractors. Works include the day-to-day reactive maintenance, planned maintenance and the refurbishment of void units.

### REACTIVE MAINTENANCE

Reactive maintenance deals with the day-to-day issues reported by tenants via the council app or on the council's website. These are assessed initially by the Housing Technicians and work orders issued for items deemed to be the responsibility of the Council. Up to the end of August this year, 2863 repair requests have been logged with the Maintenance Team. Of these, 1250 have been sanctioned for repair. During the same period 1039 sanctioned repairs have been closed out.

The chart below shows the breakdown by category of the various repair requests received. As can be seen Plumbing & Heating is the most requested category at 40% followed by Electrical at 13%

### REPAIR CATEGORY



### PLANNED MAINTENANCE

The Housing Maintenance Team also have a substantial Planned Maintenance Works Programme underway. Works include the testing of the electrical installation in all houses over 10 years old. Any issues identified are repaired and the installation is then certified. In addition, new fire and carbon monoxide detection systems are installed to comply with the current building regulations standard.

This programme has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of repair requests for electrical issues.

The Maintenance Team are also rolling out the annual servicing of heat pump heating systems installed in newer and retrofitted houses. This is a specialist area and must be carried out by approved technicians to maintain manufacturer's warranties. There are currently 318 heat pumps serviced to date in 2024 with many more coming on stream once the original installer's defects period has expired.

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## VOID MANAGEMENT

The Housing Maintenance Team are also responsible for the repair and refurbishment of social housing units once they become vacant. This is a particular area of focus to that housing units are made available for re-letting in as short a time as possible. These works are carried out by both inhouse maintenance crews and outside contractors. To date this year 56 houses have become vacant and during the same period 60 units were refurbished and made available for letting. There are currently 24 units vacant at various stages of refurbishment. See photos below of a house in Loughrea that was fully refurbished earlier this year.



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A RECENTLY REFURBISHED HOUSE IN LOUGHREA







## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

Galway County Council has responsibility for a housing stock of 80 properties designated as Traveller Specific Accommodation along with 14 halting site bays and 2 bays within a Traveller Group Housing Scheme.

The Council is currently preparing their sixth Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029, in accordance with the direction of the Minister of State for Planning and Local Government. Following consultation with eligible housing applicants, including transfer applicants and relevant stakeholders, the plan has been prepared and is available for public inspection. The latest date for receipt of written submissions on the Draft Programme is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Submissions can be made to [travelleraccommodationunit@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:travelleraccommodationunit@galwaycoco.ie) or via ordinary post to the Traveller Accommodation Unit, Housing Department, Galway County Council.

A planned programme of major refurbishment works commenced on Traveller Specific Accommodation in 2020, following successful funding applications to the Traveller Accommodation Unit of the Department of Housing. To date 18 properties have undergone major refurbishment and extension based on the needs of the households. An additional 9 properties have been added to the stock designated as Traveller Specific Accommodation, including the direct build of a new Traveller Specific Group Scheme of 6 houses and 2 bays in Craughwell.



TRAVELLER SPECIFIC  
ACCOMMODATION – CLOONKEEN,  
ATTYMON, ATHENRY

The major refurbishment of 13 houses in the Traveller Specific Group Scheme in Ballygar is ongoing with an anticipated completion date of

October 2024. The final house in Ballygar is to be reconstructed as it had to be demolished following a fire. Works are nearing completion on a further 5 Traveller specific properties, including an extension to 2 of them to meet the specific needs of family members. A funding application to refurbish a further 2 properties has been successful and tender documentation is currently being prepared to progress same.

It is anticipated that, on the completion of the next Traveller Accommodation Programme that all 80 properties will have undergone significant improvement and adaptation works depending on the needs of the households.

## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness has unfortunately reached another record high with 14,303 individuals recorded as accessing emergency accommodation nationally in June 2024. The increasing lack of availability of affordable rental properties which can be funded under the HAP scheme is particularly concerning.

The current status of people recorded as accessing and awaiting access to homeless services with a centre of interest in Galway County is as follows:

Category	Number of Homeless	No on waiting list to access service
Fairgreen Mens Hostel	6	8
Osterley Womens Hostel	3	5
Community Based (shared) housing	10	N/A
Youth (shared) housing	5	N/A
Private Emergency Accommodation (B & B) – families	12	14

Private Emergency Accommodation (B & B) – singles	13	1
Cold Weather Response	N/A	N/A

These numbers can and do change daily as people’s circumstances change. The Private Emergency Accommodation, which is all located in Galway City is sourced by COPE Galway with the household receiving support from them to enable them to progress to more stable accommodation. This accommodation is a joint service availed of by both Galway City and County Councils.

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## COLD WEATHER RESPONSE

Galway County Council is seeking expressions of interest from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) who are interested in providing a Cold Weather Response service (emergency short-term accommodation) in County Galway, from October 2024 to March 2025, at a property provided by Galway County Council.

Short-term emergency accommodation is necessary for people who have a history of rough sleeping and is particularly in demand during the Winter period. It is the intention to have sufficient emergency accommodation beds available to provide a bed in a safe, secure place for persons who are homeless and at risk of having to rough sleep. The Cold Weather Response is targeted at individuals who require short-term emergency accommodation and need additional supports to enable them to successfully access same. Section 10 homeless funding will be required from the Department of Housing to enable the Council to provide the service.

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## NEW PROPOSAL FOR CO-LOCATION OF COLD WEATHER RESPONSE AND MEDIUM TERM SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

There is an acknowledgement in the Housing for All – A New Plan for Ireland, published in September 2021, of a need to provide appropriate supported emergency accommodation to the most vulnerable socially excluded member of society who have complex needs and are experiencing homelessness. Pathway 2 of Housing for All places an emphasis on the development of emergency accommodation through Local Authority or AHB owned facilities for those who are homeless.

Galway County Council has identified a need to provide supported accommodation in the County of Galway for vulnerable people experiencing chronic homelessness. Short-term accommodation is necessary for people who have a history of rough sleeping and is particularly in demand during the Winter period. The provision of medium-term accommodation that is accessible is essential to provide for persons complex, multiple issues, particularly those with a dual diagnosis of mental health and addiction issues.



A proposal has been prepared following consultation with relevant stakeholders and discussion is ongoing regarding it with the Department of Housing.

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#### NEW INITIATIVE – SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR FAMILIES

A pilot programme has been established in Galway County and City and includes the collaboration of the Department of Housing, Galway County and City Councils, Health Services Executive, TUSLA and Non-Governmental Organisations. It involves the provision of supported housing for families with complex needs. This multi-agency approach of this service aims to provide appropriate services to families who are entrenched in homelessness, are long-term residing in Private Emergency Accommodation or have had repeated stays in Private Emergency Accommodation having been unable to sustain a tenancy.

Two properties and families in each of Galway County have been identified as suitable for this pilot programme and the two families will occupy the properties in the coming weeks. One of the properties underwent extension and major refurbishment with the support of Traveller Accommodation Funding.

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#### CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

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##### PART 8 BARKHILL, WOODFORD

A Part 8 planning application was submitted on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for the demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and the construction of 2no. 2-bedroom dwellings, together with connections to existing public services, including all other ancillary site works and services at Barkhill, Woodford, Co Galway.

The consultation period concluded on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. One submission was received on 2<sup>nd</sup> September from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage recommending resistance of demolition of the existing on-site structures together with a comprehensive wildlife survey.

The Planning Department and Conservation Officer will be consulted to determine how best to proceed with this project.

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##### SECTION 179A MOYLROUGH

A combined Stage 1 and 2 funding application has been approved by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage under '*SHIP Construction Renewal*' for renovation of existing townhouses in Moylough village to provide 4 new housing units comprising of 2 no. 3 bed x 2-storey terrace units and 2 no. 2 bed apartment units.

This proposal represents an ideal infill opportunity within the village confines of the 50 kph speed limit zones whilst the land benefits from direct access onto the R360.

A Section 179A was published on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and will conclude on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. Members of the Ballinasloe M.D were provided with formal notification of the proposed Section 179A on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

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## HILLCREST AND PARKMORE DT TENDER AWARD

The design team tender process for Hillcrest and Parkmore infill developments concluded on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 with the return of one tender from the Architect Led Integrated Design Team Framework. The tender assessment concluded that the fees submitted were abnormally high and the tender competition was cancelled.

The projects were awarded to Vincent Hannon Architects as an extension to a current appointment to provide integrated design team services for delivery of the Hillcrest and Parkmore infill development.

## PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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#### LOCAL ROADS SPEED LIMITS

The implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2023 Department of Transport publication “Speed Limit Review” has commenced. Provision was made for the associated changes in the Road Traffic Act, 2024.

A phased approach to the implementation has been directed, with the change in the default speed limit on Local Roads from 80kph to 60kph being the first part.

The background to, and implications of, this proposed change has been presented to each of the Municipal Districts. Feedback has been taken and will be considered in the preparation of the draft Bye Laws. As per the statutory process for the making of Special Speed Limit Bye Laws the next steps are to engage with An Garda Síochána and undertake a public consultation.

The public consultation period is confirmed as 30 days. Following the conclusion of that process, and consideration of all submissions received, the final bye laws will be brought to the plenary meeting of Galway County Council for adoption.

It is also the intention, at that time, to bring forward supplementary draft bye laws for a select number of schools on National Roads and proceed with the statutorily prescribed steps, such as consultation with An Garda Síochána and the public and to bring draft bye-laws to council for consideration.

On completion of the implementation of the recommendations from the “Speed Limit Review”, as per the nationally mandated timetable, a full county wide review of speed limits will be undertaken.

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## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECT SHORTLISTED FOR AGE-FRIENDLY IRELAND AWARDS

Galway County Council is pleased to have been shortlisted for recognition at our National Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards.

The project involved the installation of bus shelters serving rural areas in Conamara at Casla and Indreabhán, and the shelters are located adjacent to community facilities.

The project was designed and managed by the An Cheathrú Rua Area Office team (Roads),



supported by the local Conamara Councillors, with construction by Pdraig Folan Civil Engineering.

The awards ceremony will be in November.



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## BROADBAND UPDATE

Galway County Council is excited to share the news that Open Eir's high-speed fibre network now reaches over 70,000 premises across 90 towns and villages across Galway, including Cor an Dola, An Spidéal, and Baile Chláir. Once Open Eir's roll-out program is complete it is



projected to bring high-speed broadband to 104,860 homes and businesses in Co. Galway. Additional works are planned for several towns including Ballinasloe, Kinvara, Loughrea, Miltown, Oranmore, Portumna and Turloughmore over the next six months. This state-of-the-art fibre network will enhance digital access and connect communities across Galway and Ireland.





**Noel Madden, Broadband Officer for Galway County Council:** “The implementation of a future-proofed fibre network is essential for Galway, ensuring seamless digital connectivity and empowering our communities to thrive in an increasingly digital world. As Broadband Officer for Galway County Council our collaboration with Open Eir is pivotal in this shared effort. By working closely with

Open Eir, we are leveraging their expertise and extensive network to deliver high-speed broadband to every corner of our county.”

**Maeve O’Malley, Managing Director of Open Eir Wholesale:** “Our goal is to provide high-speed connectivity to 104,000 homes and businesses, with 70% already completed. Galway is key to our national rollout, with over 1,000 technicians building Ireland's largest high-speed network, now serving 1.2 million homes and businesses. This network reflects our belief in the transformative power of connectivity, driving Ireland towards universal digital access.”

## COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

Last month Galway County Council Community Warden Service received 4 of 16 new vans ordered for the service. These vans are Ford Courier vans supplied by Claffey's in Portumna

and come with a high spec including heated seats, heated steering wheels, conditioning, driver assistance and have LED Flashing lights front and back. They are fully branded with GCC Logo and have messages regarding illegal dumping on the back. By the end of September, we will have received the remainder of the vans.



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## 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>		6
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>	1	
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>		3
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

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

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	3
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	2
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	36
Bond Claims -	2

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted. Unfortunately, the Solicitor assigned to the Taking in Charge section is on sick leave. 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.

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## NATIONAL ROADS PROJECT OFFICE (NRPO)

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### CONNAMARA GREENWAY – CLIFDEN TO OUGHTERARD

Development consent for the Clifden to Oughterard Greenway was approved in 2013 by An Bord Pleanála with Galway County Council's intention that the necessary lands would be acquired by agreement. With agreement reached with many of the affected landowner the NRPO have prepared and applied to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order for lands where agreement could not be reached. The CPO application was submitted to the Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 and 10 no submissions were received from affected landowners. The Board have indicated that the case is due for decision Q1 2025.

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

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### MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

At the July Plenary Meeting, the members requested an update from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Following this, a formal request was submitted to the NTA for their attendance at a meeting with Galway County Council. The NTA has since confirmed their willingness to participate in a workshop with the Councillors. This proposal will be discussed at the CPG Meeting scheduled for Monday, 16th September.

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### ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

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

1. Active Travel Design Projects gone to tender:
  - **GCO/23/0021 Tuam Active Travel Schemes Design** – The Design Brief has been approved by the NTA. This project was released on eTenders on 01/08/2024. The Tender closing date is 13/09/2024.
  - **GCO/24/0002 – Athenry Active Travel Schemes Design** - The Design Brief has been approved by the NTA. This project was released on eTenders on 01/08/2024. The Tender closing date is 13/09/2024.



## 2. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

The NTA has funded Galway County Council to deliver a comprehensive Safe Routes To Schools programme across the County. It is intended to design and implement a



series of road safety measures, in line with SRTS Design Guidelines, to better promote road safety for students walking and cycling to school.

### Safe Routes to School Tii Pilot Scheme- N59 Scoil Bhaile Nua, Maigh Cuilinn

Scoil Bhaile Nua, a Primary School located 3km Northwest of Maigh Cuilinn on N59 was chosen as one of three schools in the Country to participate in a National Pilot scheme for

schools located on high-speed roads. The successful delivery of the project was a collaborative effort by Galway CoCo, NTA, An Taisce and Tii who funded the scheme. It is the first of many future schools in Galway to receive Safe Routes to School measures which are primarily aimed at



implementing safer conditions for students attending school and includes promotion of walking and cycling as an alternative mode of transport.

The design was completed by Galway County Council and following approval, works were completed by Harrington Concrete & Quarries Unlimited on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2024. Upon return to the 2024/25 academic year, the School Principal welcomed the scheme and has acknowledged the positive change to the school environs.

Measures introduced at Scoil Bhaile Nua as part of this Pilot include:

- Definition of a School Zone/ Gateway by means of Safe Routes to School Signage and anti-skid surfacing on both approaches to the school.
- Implementation of staggered “Sharks Teeth” road markings on the approach lane to the school from both directions to increase driver awareness and slow traffic down adjacent to the school.
- Introduction of multicolored pencil bollards along a section of the footpath to make the school more identifiable to vehicles passing the location and to prevent illegal parking of the footpath thus enhancing the safety for pedestrians.

- Replacement of the previous dashed centerline with a white solid line to deter overtaking at this location.

St Paul’s Secondary School, Oughterard.

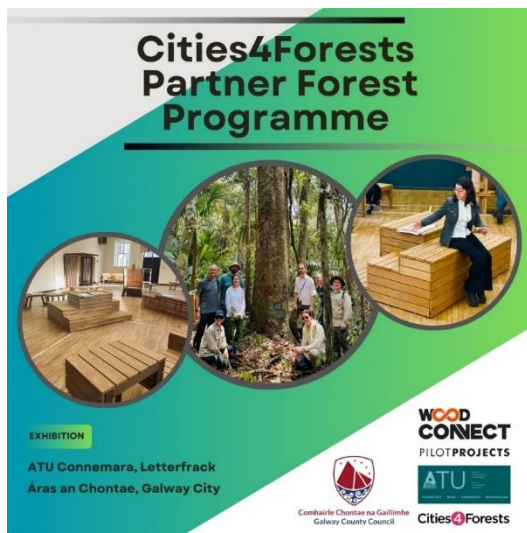
This scheme is currently at design approval stage, and it is hopeful that works can commence in Q4 2024.

CLIMATE ACTION

PROJECT UPDATES

Work is ongoing on several National, EU and International projects.

GALWAY PARTNER FOREST PROGRAMME



Galway County Council is involved in an international programme aimed at sequestering carbon through partnerships with communities who are successfully conserving tropical forests. We have partnered with ATU Connemara, WoodConnect - Ireland’s wood industry cluster, Pilot Projects, and Greenville Procurement Partners as part of the Cities4Forests Partner Forest Programme through which partners are invited to source tropical hardwood from exemplary community forest conservation enterprises to be used in prominent



public infrastructure.

Items of street furniture produced by ATU Connemara’s School of Design & Creative Arts as part of the project are being installed at various locations throughout the town of Clifden. A number of pieces are also on exhibition at Áras an Chontae in Galway City.

A number of students had the opportunity to visit the Guatemalan community forests of Uaxactún and Carmelita, which collectively protect 320,000 acres of rainforest, as part of their delivery of the project.

As part of the initiative, the project partners are co-creating a green and sustainable purchasing policy for wood in furniture and construction in County Galway. Links to media coverage below:

[Galway becomes first Irish participant of global timber conservation programme - Galway Bay FM](#)

[Galway becomes first Irish participant of global timber conservation programme - Connacht Tribune - Galway City Tribune](#)

[Galway students penetrate the Gautemalan jungles as part of innovative climate project | Irish Independent](#)

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## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

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### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Galway County Council received 55 applications under the Community Climate Action Fund. The projects covered a broad range including upgrades and solar panels for community buildings, bike shelters, water refilling stations, community allotments and swap shops. Following a detailed review 32 projects were recommended to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Department approved the 32 projects, and the Climate Unit is now liaising with the relevant communities with a view to commencing contracts this month. Communities will have 18 months to complete their projects. The Climate Unit will continue to work with other communities to support future applications.

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### CRUINNIU NA MBÁD

The Climate Unit and Environment Section were delighted to partner with Cuan Beo as part of Cruinniu na mBád on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. As well as having our own stand highlighting the actions that individuals can take in the areas of circular economy, waste reduction, water conservation and energy reduction we gave a presentation highlighting the elements of a successful application under the Community Climate Action Fund as part of the Environmental Groups Community Forum.



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L-R: TINA RYAN, CLIMATE CHANGE CO-ORDINATOR AND MARK MOLLOY, ASSISTANT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



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## INTERNAL ENERGY USE

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

Project / Deadline	Current Status
Return of GCC Energy Data for 2023 to SEAI	Data submitted 5 <sup>th</sup> July.
Development of Display Energy Certificates for GCC buildings	Work underway. Expect to publish Certificates Q4 2024.
Provision of an automated Energy Data Collection and Management System	Tenders reviewed. Expect to sign contracts Sept 2024.
Design Team Consultancy Services for the Energy Pathfinder Programme 2024/2025	Tenders reviewed. Expect to sign contracts Oct 2024.

## WATER SERVICES

### CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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#### UISCE ÉIREANN WORKSHOP

At the request of members, Uisce Éireann will host a Water Services Workshop in the Council Chamber on the 7<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. The workshop will provide an opportunity for Uisce Éireann to update members on their plans and to answer any questions you may have about water services and investment plans. An invite will be issued from Uisce Eireann directly to members.

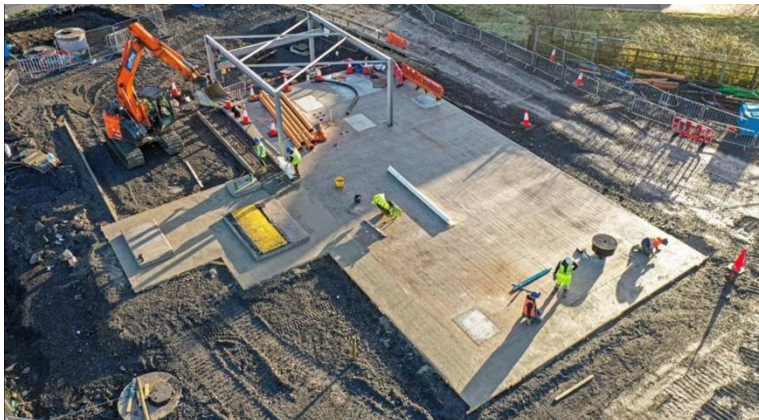
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#### ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is substantially complete. Pipelaying is complete and the new pumping station at Pairc na hAbhann has been commissioned and is operating. Some road resurfacing works in the town and reinstatement works in private lands and estates are ongoing.

The project consisted of:

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



PAIRC NA HABHANN  
PUMPING STATION UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

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### BALLYGAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

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### MOUNTBELLEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

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### ROUNDSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

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### AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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



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## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA WWTP PREFERRED SITE

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### EYRECOURT

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

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

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### GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY

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

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

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

A long list of options for the strategy is currently being reviewed. A programme of 24 months, (June 2025), has been specified for the completion of the Galway report.





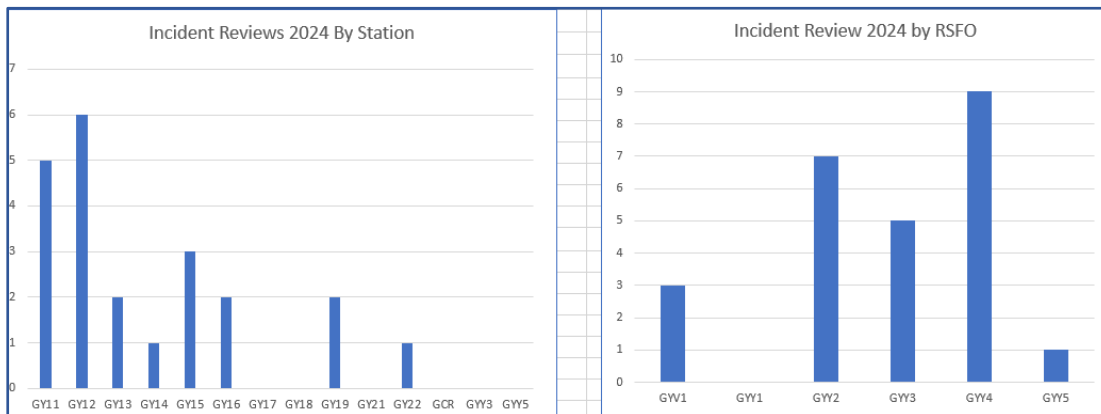
## GREATER GALWAY STRATEGIC DRAINAGE STUDY CATCHMENT

### FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

#### OPERATIONS

The information below is based on August data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 163 turnouts to 139 Incidents. That is a decrease of 2 incidents on 141 the previous month. 42 were fire incidents, 96 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 1 was a standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 40% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 48.46% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 11.56% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.03 minutes and for county retained stations was 6.75 minutes.

To date 25 incident reviews have been carried out by senior officers, broken down as follows:



### FIRE APPLIANCE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

On 19th October Minister Darragh O'Brien announced the new allocation of Class B fire appliances for local authority fire services. GFRS has been allocated 2 new fire appliances under the programme. The Galway appliances are 4th and 5th on the manufacture schedule

of Emergency One, Scotland (the supplier that supplied our most recent new appliance in 2023). Fire service personnel went to Emergency One in June and the final specification agreed and the order has been placed. It is expected that the new appliances will be delivered in Q1 or Q2 2025.

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## CAPITAL PROJECTS

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### ATHENRY FIRE STATION

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Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is practically complete. It is anticipated that operations will be transferred to the new fire station the week commencing 23 September 2024, subject to the availability of technicians from the regional control centre who are required to transfer the communications and mobilisation systems. All required work for this has already been completed.



NEW FIRE  
STATION  
ATHENRY

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### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

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Following Senior Management Team approval, the revised application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station has commenced. Briefings for MD members were held on the 08<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Following public consultation, a Report will be brought to Loughrea Municipal District meeting for members consideration.

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### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

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A Request for Tender for the Design Team has been issued and tenders are due to be received by the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024. A tender assessment team will consider tenders by the end of September 2024.

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## 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 by the end of September. The capital appraisal is 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is confirmed.

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## PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the August figures. The Fire Authority received 22 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 13 applications. 9 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 9 applications. A total of 88 new licenses were issued and 21 inspections were conducted.

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## TRAINING

The recent 3-week Fire Fighting Skills Course was conducted at Carnmore training centre on the old Galway Airport Site highlighted that the services available at this site proved ideal for the delivery of fire service-related training. Use was also made of the nearby IDA site on the Baile Chláir Road in Oranmore for the conduction of large pump operation drills and emergency traffic management training. The highly successful conduction of this training course at Carnmore Training Centre confirmed the appropriateness and potential of this site as a regional / national training venue for Irish fire services.



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USE OF LADDER TRAINING IN HANGAR DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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## PUMP OPERATIONS TRAINING AT OFFSITE TRAINING LOCATION







FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS DURING  
“MAJOR EXERCISE”



FIREFIGHTING SKILLS  
COURSE CLASS  
PHOTO



Four new firefighter recruits successfully completed their initial training Firefighting Skills course which took place at Carnmore

Training Centre. This brings the total number of new recruits who have completed their initial training thus far in 2024 to 17 which already exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters. The newly trained recruits will be stationed as follows; 1 at Portumna Fire Station, 1 at Tuam Fire Station and 2 firefighters at Inis Mór Fire Station.

1 no. retained fire service junior officer received recertification training as an instructor in Emergency Services Driving Standard.

1 no. retained firefighter successfully completed a Using Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course which took place in Sligo in August.

It is planned to conduct working at heights training, water rescue training and a Managing Fire Services Incidents Module 1 training course, all in September 2024.



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## MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### 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 end of September. 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.

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### TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

Tynagh Power Station is a lower tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site. Work is continuing on the finalisation of the external emergency plan and an inter-agency training session on-site is planned for October 2024.

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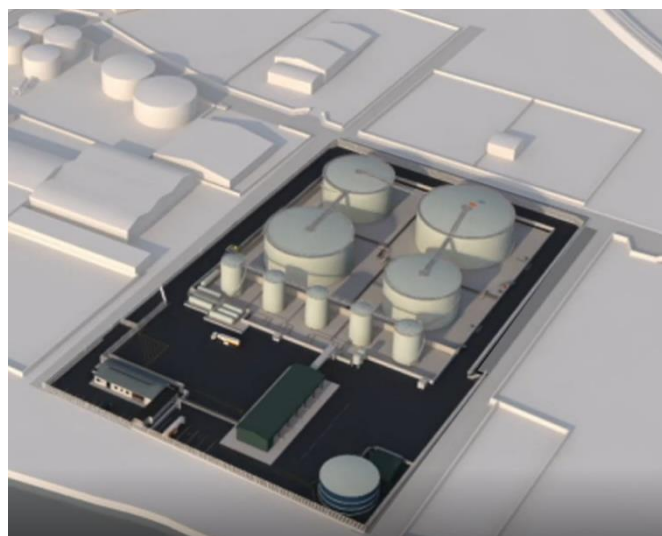
TYNAGH ENERGY  
LOWER TIER COMAH  
SITE – TYNAGH, CO  
GALWAY

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### CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

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

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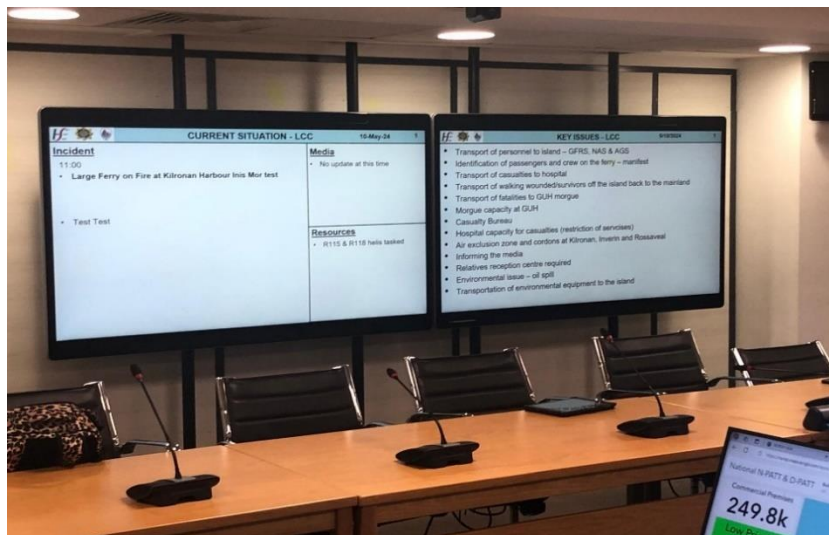
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CIRCLE K UPPER TIER COMAH SITE  
- GALWAY HARBOUR

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## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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



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## GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTRONIC IMS BOARDS IN THE NECC KILDARE STREET

The Local Coordination Centre (LCC) in County Buildings, Room G01 has recently been upgraded with the replacement of the overhead projector

with a large smart screen. A new docking station has also been purchased and will be installed by the end of September 2024.

Galway Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) are also scheduled to receive their new and larger Incident Command Unit (ICU) which is being constructed by Sidhean Teo Ltd in An Spidéal. GFRS are also members of the new High-Capacity Pumping and Urban Search and Rescue project teams which aim to provide hubs in Dublin, Galway, Cork and Westmeath, and Dublin, Galway, Cork, and Laois respectively.

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## CIVIL DEFENCE

2 Civil Defence Senior volunteers attended Critical Incident Stress Management training in Dublin, as part of the Civil Defence National Training Programme. The training was provided by the CISM Ireland Network. This course was held over 3 days in the Civil Defence Phoenix Centre, Ratra House, Dublin.

New Volunteers qualified in FAR (First Aid Response) after partaking in training over the past number of weeks. Other Volunteers recertified in CFR A (Cardiac First Response Advanced) within the units.

Civil Defence Units provided support at various events through-out the City and County. Notably the Galway Arts Festival Street Parades and the Galway Football Team Homecoming events in Tuam Stadium and Pearse Stadium. Other various events were supported by the Civil Defence in Ballinasloe, Clonberne, Clifden, Loughrea, Mountbellew and Galway City.

PLANNING

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

Key Statistics 1st January – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	
Applications Received/ Valid	1401/1101
Granted	976
Grant rate	86%
Refused	164
Breakdown of Decisions Granted (924 no.)	Outline (4 no.) Permission (750 no.) Retention (204 no.) Permission consequent (3 no.)
Extension of Durations	20
Percentage of applications received via Portal / Hardcopy	82% / 18%

Stage 1 LRD	9
Stage 2 LRD	2
Major Meetings	10
SID meetings	9

Commencements and Completions 1 <sup>st</sup> January – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	649
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	83

RESIDENTIAL UNITS GRANTED IN A SETTLEMENT DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO DATE (25/08/2024)

Settlement Typology	Settlement	Permitted during lifetime of the CDP 2022 to date on Greenfield Sites	Permitted during lifetime of the CDP 2022 to date on Brownfield Site
<b>County Galway</b>			
Metropolitan Area	Baile Chláir	2	177
	Bearna	0	18
	Oranmore	92	84
	Briarhill	0	0



	Garraun	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		94	279
Key Towns	Ballinasloe	25	35
	Tuam	16	37
<b>Totals</b>		41	72
Strategic Potential	Athenry	74	12
<b>Totals</b>		74	12
Self Sustaining Towns	Gort	2	86
	Loughrea	32	26
<b>Totals</b>		34	112
Small Growth Towns	Clifden	35	57
	Maigh Cuilinn	10	0
	Oughterard	22	2
	Portumna	1	1
	Headford	6	8
<b>Totals</b>		74	68
Small Growth Villages	An Cheathrú Rua	0	0
	An Spidéal	15	1
	Ballygar	0	0
	Dunmore	1	0
	Glenamaddy	0	0
	Kinvara	12	33
	Moylough	0	24
<b>Totals</b>		28	58

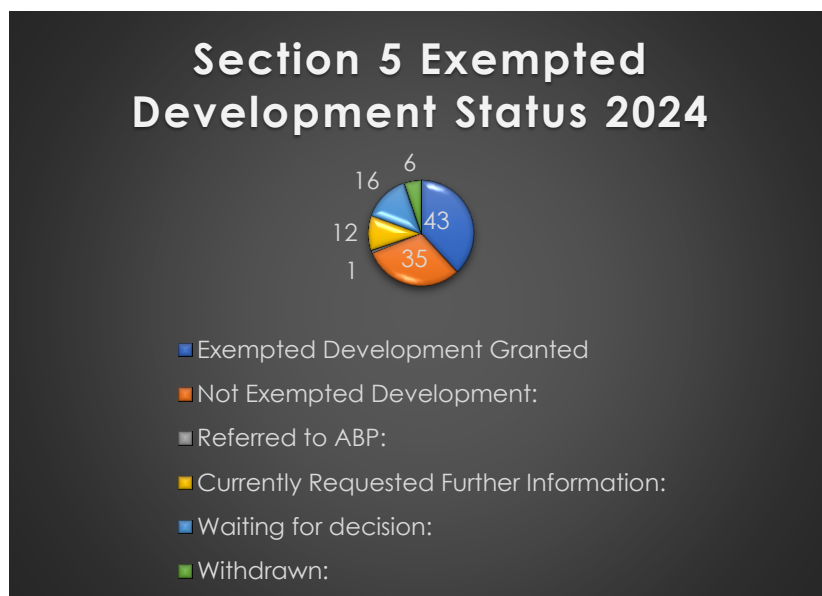
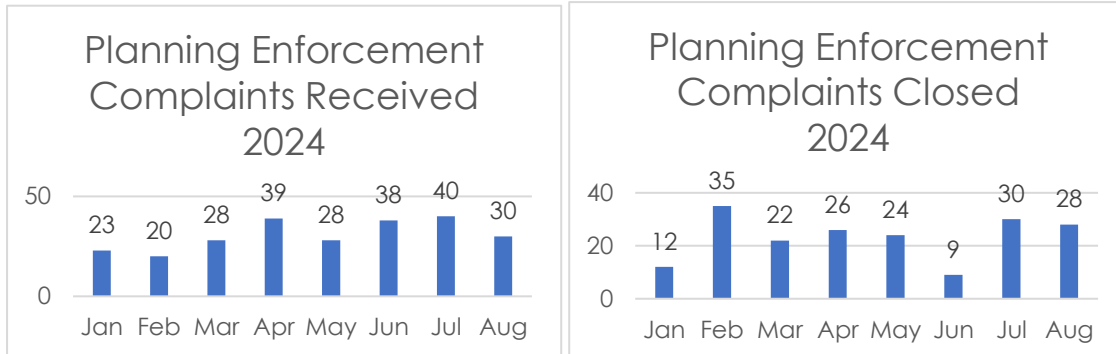
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#### KEY PLANNING UPDATES:

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

The Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 was adopted by the Elected Members on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Galway County Council received a Draft Direction signed by the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024. There are elements in relation to the Plan adopted by the Elected Members that are now subject to a Draft Ministerial Direction. The Draft Direction will be on public display from the 29<sup>th</sup> August to the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The subject of the Draft Direction will NOT come into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The Athenry Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030 was adopted by the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District Members at their meeting on the 9th January 2024 and came into effect on the 20th February 2024. In accordance with Section 31 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Athenry Local Area Plan and associated documentation have been modified to reflect the contents of the Ministerial Direction received on the 31st May 2024 in relation to the Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030.



## 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.

#### September SCHEDULE

12th September	Financials for Small Business
10th & 17th September	How to start a Podcast
12th September	A step-by-step digital plan for your business
18th & 25th September	Beginners Guide to social media
19th September	Assertive Communication
24th & 25th September	Search Engine Optimisation
26th September	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)
27th September	Website & Online Marketing Workshop (1:1)

### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO GALWAY organises a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The September SYOB evening programme commenced on the 2nd September 2024 and will run until the 26th of September 2024. The September-October SYOB daytime programme will commence on the 19th of September 2024 and will run until the 11th of October 2024.

## PAST EVENTS

### LEAN FOR BUSINESS

LEO Galway delivers the Lean For Business programme twice a year with up to 12 participants on each programme. Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness.

Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation.

LEO Galway held a workshop on 4th September in the Menlo Park Hotel to outline details of the upcoming Lean for Business Programme due to start in October.

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## THE MAKING MOVES PODCAST

This is a new podcast series hosted by Galway LEO which is aimed at reaching new audiences, introducing existing and new supports, and encouraging engagement with LEO and other enterprise stakeholders in Galway and the wider region.

To date, recordings include interviews with Mary Rodgers - CEO of Portershed, Dave Hickey Former Group Head of C Trib and past president of chamber and current member, Finbar McHugh client of LEO/multi-disciplinary artist, and Ainsley Peters - programme manager CREW. The series will go live the week beginning September 23rd, 2024.

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## STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME



The Student Enterprise programme is an enterprise education programme for second level students from first to sixth year students and is run by the Network of Local Enterprise Office of Ireland. Students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan.

This year's National Final was held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 9th May. Cormac Monaghan, Esker Timer Creations from Presentation Athenry competed in the intermediate category and won the Sustainability Award and the overall Intermediate Category Award. Cormac was honoured at a ceremony in Galway Council on 10th September and was presented with an award for his achievement from Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### DESIGN MINGLE

LEO Galway will hold their monthly Design and Mingle event in CREW on Friday 13th September. Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs.



Our speaker, Joanna Ciezka is the co-founder and CEO at Irish Socksciety Ltd. Irish Socksciety



loves all that is quirky and humorous of contemporary Ireland. Socksciety designs colourful and funny socks here, in Galway. The machines they use accept only 100% combed cotton and certified Oeko-tex. Socksciety are all about being sustainable and have ensured their products are made of non-harmful materials, come in recyclable packaging and every box used for retail deliveries is recycled.

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## CREW

CREW – CREATIVE ENTERPRISE WEST CREW “Creative Enterprise West” is a collaborative



initiative led by Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Galway the Western Development Commission (WDC) and Ardán (formally the Galway Film Centre). CREW supports enterprises in areas such as design, film and TV production, animation, gaming,

content development and AR/VR from its base at the ATU Galway campus at Cluain Mhuire, Galway.

The CREW CEED (Creative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development) incubation programme will help turn a creative idea into a sustainable business in a variety of disciplines (TV & Film, Virtual Production, Games, Animation, Content Development, Digital Arts, Immersive Technologies, Digital Design, Creative Technologies & more). LEO Galway financially supports the CREW programme and are involved in recruitment, course delivery and follow up and assessment and any further interventions for the participants

Start date: mid-September 2024 and end date: May 2025

- 14 participants o Duration: 30 Weeks, part-time In-person & online delivery.
- Two online teaching sessions per week
- Exclusive community and networking activities
- Professional, one-to-one mentorship

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## AIB-EVENT FOR START UPS

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 a LEO Galway Executive will be present to give a presentation and advise of supports.

- AIB Clifden – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 6pm.
- AIB Tuam – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6pm.
- AIB Salthill – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6pm.

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## NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of Galway's best small businesses will get a chance to exhibit their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska as part of the Local Enterprise Village.



Nuasan, which is supported by Local Enterprise Office Galway, is a natural body care brand focusing on total body wellness & recovery. The Irish-made range, run by Aoife Potie, includes a variety of multi-functional active care products that have been scientifically proven and developed by experts.

The Local Enterprise Village, an initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, will house over 30 small businesses and be at the heart of this year's National Ploughing Championships from September 17th to 19th, 2024.

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## IN-PERSON MENTORING BRIEFING

LEO Galway is organising an In-Person Mentoring Briefing on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 11am until 1pm in the Connacht Hotel, Galway. This is an information event to provide Mentors with updates on new services and supports available to assist our clients.

This information event will cover a variety of areas including:

- M1 grants.
- New supports and information on upcoming events.
- We would also like to update those of you who may not be so familiar with existing supports and services.
- Update on our online system and what we need from you in terms of reporting.
- Answer any questions that you may have.
- Meet and network with fellow mentors.
- For us – LEO staff to get to know you better and answer any questions.



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## PULSE CLUB

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

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## DECADE OF SUCCESS

The Decade of Success is a celebration shared between Galway LEO, Mayo LEO, and Roscommon LEO. It is a celebration which will mark 10 years of client success at a special networking lunch with some very special guests including Bryan Dobson. This event will be held in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10am.

The poster for the 'Decade of Success' event is a vibrant collage. At the top, it reads 'You are invited to join Galway, Mayo & Roscommon Local Enterprise Offices in celebrating 10 years of client success at a special networking lunch with host Bryan Dobson and some very special guests...'. The main title 'Decade of Success' is in large green letters. Below it, a photo of Eimear Noone is featured with the text 'Keynote Speaker Eimear Noone'. To the right, a bio states: 'Galway-born Eimear Noone (originally from Kilconnell) 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 at the Oscars at their 92nd annual awards ceremony and continues to make strides as an advocate for women in music, technology, and their related fields.' Below this, two panels are listed: 'Meet our Preparing for Success Panel' with speakers Willie Riara (CEO of Connacht Rugby), Cora Stainton (Sport Panelist & Public Speaker), and Johnny Doreilly (Creative & Managing Director, Arcana); and 'Meet our Delivering Success Panel' with speakers Stephen Fegan (Studio Meala), Karzy McHugh-Finn (GH Agri), and Noreen Redbert (Advanced Cosmetics). The event details are 'October 4th from 10am, McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris'. A QR code and a link 'Confirm your attendance now at bit.ly/LEODecadeofsuccess' are also present. Logos for Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon LEOs and other partners are at the bottom.

The keynote speaker for this event will be 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. There will be two separate panels including the Preparing for Success and the Delivering Success Panel. Both panels consist of exciting special guests. This is an exciting milestone for our LEO's.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach year to date: 22718
- Instagram reach year to date: 5266
- Instagram Followers: 3016

## REGENERATION SCHEMES

### ATHENRY

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## 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 are arranging a meeting with the town team for mid-September to walk the town and discuss potential projects.

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

## 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 will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development alongside an updated Business Case, Project report and tender report for approval in September. The Regeneration Team are hopeful the additional required funding will be approved by the Department and look forward to commencing on-site.

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

## CLIFDEN

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

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

## 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 regeneration team architect Brent Mostert gave members of the Portumna Strategic Partnership (OPW, Coillte, Failte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and NPWS) a tour of the Portumna Courthouse construction site.

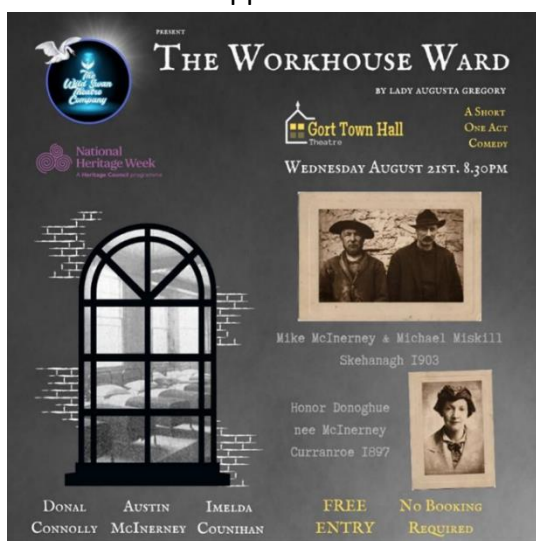


SITE VISIT TO  
PORTUMNA  
COURTHOUSE

The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme design is ready for the submission of a Part 8 planning application at the end of September, a pre-planning meeting is arranged before the end of the month.

## 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.



As part of the funding under the Historic Structures Fund from the Heritage Council for the Gort Town Hall, a walking Tour of the town was held for Heritage week, organised by the Regeneration Office. This was followed by a performance in the Town Hall by the Wild Swan Theatre Company.

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## WALKING TOUR OF GORT FOR HERITAGE WEEK

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



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## TUAM

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### TOWN HALL

The Regeneration Team are in the process of finalising the Tender for construction for the Tuam Town hall. It is expected this will be published on etenders in the coming weeks.

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### STATION QUARTER THRIVE FUNDING

A tender has been published on etenders with a closing date for submissions of 7<sup>th</sup> October for the development of a masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Members of Northwest Regional Assembly travelled to Tuam and met with members of the Regeneration Team and Local Area office to discuss the proposal for the Tuam Station Quarter and the options for capital funding under the strand 2 THRIVE funding call expected to be announced in the new year.



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MEMBERS OF THE REGENERATION TEAM AND AREA OFFICE AT TUAM RAILWAY STATION

## 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. A tender is currently live on etenders with a submission closing date of 13th September. The Town Centre First Plan will be delivered in collaboration between the TRO, new Town team and local community.

## URDF CALL 3 – VACANCY AND DERELICTION

Valuers appointed to the three qualifying towns of Ballinasloe, Tuam and Oranmore with 20 properties initially identified as candidate properties that are either vacant or derelict. Ownership is being determined in many cases and engagement will be pursued with these owners to assist in having these properties re-occupied.

## 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. An Expression of Interest call for new members on Town teams in the relevant settlements was issued in August with shortlisting currently being carried out. 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.

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## RURAL SCHEMES

Town Centre First Suite of Supports for 2024: Project Development

Grants totalling €148,925.00 has been approved by the Department of Community and Rural Development (DRCD) for the refurbishment of Community Centres and development of playground facilities under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2024.

This grant is for the implementation of **Project Elements** as set out in the application process. Further to the DRCD's approval, Galway County Council can make a formal offer of funding Sept 2024. The Project element will complete detailed designs and engage professionals to progress redevelopment of the Community Centres in Ahascragh and Clonbur and the development of a playground, skate park and outdoor community recreation space beside the village square in Eyrecourt.



## GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024-2030 UPDATE

A new Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum is in place. The Forum has had several meetings with regards to the development of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030. Public consultation has been held and Public Sector Duty requirements has commenced. Environmental Screening has yet to be undertaken and the plan will also have to be translated. It is envisaged that the plan will be ready for finalisation and adoption by Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum, the SPC and Galway County



Council by the end of November 2024.

## NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2024

National Heritage Week 2024 took place from Saturday 17th to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The Heritage Council once again invited individuals, communities, and organisations to develop Heritage Week projects. There were 111 in person events and 6 digital heritage projects held in the county of Galway. The Heritage Office of Galway County Council worked with many communities, schools, and groups in the county in delivery of their Heritage Week events and projects. The Heritage Office also held many events in partnership with local heritage groups. The events were promoted by Galway County Heritage Office and several events were provided with funding and other supports from the



Heritage Office. Heritage Week merchandise received from the Heritage Council was distributed around the county by Galway County Council Heritage Office. In addition to this this the Heritage Office had bespoke branding materials created and shared with community groups around the county. The following are a few examples of Heritage Week events held in the county:

## HOLY WELLS OF ÁRANN EXHIBITION

The launch of the Holy Wells of Árann took place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr. The exhibition was launched by Cormac Coyne, Exhibition Curator.



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## TAISPEÁNTAS IN IONAD EALAÍON ÁRAS ÉANNA, INIS OÍRR

Cuid den Iniúchadh ar Thoibreacha Beannaithe Chontae na Gaillimhe is ea an taispeántas seo atá á dhéanamh ag an Sainchomhairleoir Oidhreachta, Zena Hoctor, ar son Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Maoinithe ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta agus ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe le tacaíocht ó Áras Éanna agus Comhar Caomhán Teo. Beidh an taispeántas ar siúl amuigh faoin aer i gclós Áras Éanna ón 22 Lúnasa go dtí an 31 Deireadh Fómhair

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## EXHIBITION AT ÁRAS ÉANNA ARTS CENTRE, INIS OÍRR

This exhibition forms part of the Holy Wells of County Galway Audit, which is being undertaken by Zena Hoctor, Heritage Consultant on behalf of the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. It is being funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. This exhibition is supported by Áras Éanna and Comhar Caomhán Teo. The exhibition will be showing in the Áras Éanna courtyard from August 22 to 31 October.

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## LOUGHREA HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS

**Discovering Our Medieval Past** **FREE EVENT**

**Insights Into Our Medieval Past Video Shorts**

**SATURDAY**  
24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024  
2PM-3PM  
Loughrea Library,  
Church St. Loughrea,  
Co. Galway H62 EV61

Watch, listen and find out more about Loughrea's medieval past. Videos will include:

'The Windows of the Carmelite Abbey and St Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea' presented by Dr David Caron and Dr Christy Cunniffe	'Walking tour of Loughrea' presented by Joe Loughname	'The Mary's Carmelite Priory' presented by Dr Christy Cunniffe
'Our Lady of Győr: Irish Madonna' presented by Monsignor Cathal Geraghty	'The Deepark, Loughrea' presented by Dr Fiona Beglane	'Clonfert Diocesan Museum' presented by Monsignor Cathal Geraghty
'St Brigid's shoe' presented by Dr Christy Cunniffe	'Garrybreeda' presented by Dr Christy Cunniffe	'The Walks, Loughrea' presented by Ursula Marmian

For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrr359zr>

Event held by the Heritage Office & Community Archaeologist Galway County Council and Loughrea Library.

Galway County Council | Heritage Office | The Heritage Council

Several video shorts were shown in Loughrea Library to showcase the rich heritage of Loughrea.

In addition to this there was a session on 'Ask the Archaeologist' and a session on understanding and how to use various mapping resources. These projects were presented by Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist.



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## PRESENTATION ON THE DIGITAL MAPPING OF GRAVEYARDS IN WILLIAMSTOWN

An informative and well attended presentation on the digital mapping of Galway's historic



graveyards was held in Williamstown Parish Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Attendees has the chance to discover how technology is being used to preserve and document these important cultural sites. They also learned about the process of creating digital maps, the significance of this work for genealogy and local history research and heard about the exciting discoveries made through this project. This event was hosted by the Heritage Office and GIS

Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Williamstown Heritage Society, Williamstown Tidy Towns and Williamstown Graveyard Committees.

Galway County Council working with various community groups and organisations have been collecting and collating valuable data relating to those who are buried in various graveyards for several years. Galway County Council, with funding from the Heritage Council, the Open Data Engagement Fund and its own resources has developed and made available an app specifically for use by surveyors at the local level for memorial surveys, along with associated data management and validation processes. In addition to this Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Forum Connemara, and the Heritage Council has provided funding to local groups to employ experts to work with and train local communities on how to use this technology and to undertake drone mapping of graveyards.

Through this funding and the hard work and dedication of community volunteers we now are in the position to make available these 40,000 records. To view the records, see the following link:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b42c38a841b84d2b8da39ebd9b6b3c00>

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## DISCOVER THE HERITAGE OF NORTH CONEMARA BUS TRIP





Fifty people had the opportunity to go on this bus trip which was held by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Oughterard Heritage and Ballynahinch castle. The group first viewed the Forged Gates Exhibition in Oughterard Courthouse and afterwards expert guide, and heritage specialist Michael Gibbons led the group on a tour of North Connemara. The group visited Ballynahinch castle, Roundstone and Ballyconneely.



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## SUCCESSFUL HERITAGE WORKSHOPS ENGAGE 97 CHILDREN IN WILLIAMSTOWN

Anyone4Science, in collaboration with Galway County Council Heritage Office, Williamstown Tidy Towns, and Williamstown Heritage Society are delighted with the resounding success of its recent Heritage Workshops for children held in Williamstown during National Heritage Week. Over 97 enthusiastic young participants engaged in a series of interactive sessions focused on the science of sound, the heritage of bees, and the art of botany through the creation of perfume sticks. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council said, "The workshops, were designed to spark curiosity and foster a deeper understanding of our natural world, provided a unique platform for children to explore scientific concepts while acknowledging and appreciating their local heritage". The first workshop delved into the science of sound, where children conducted experiments to explore how sound travels, discovering the fascinating physics behind it. The session encouraged creativity and teamwork, allowing participants to create their own musical instruments. Following this, the children learned about the heritage of bees, emphasising the crucial role these pollinators play in our ecosystem. According to Noel Finnegan, Williamstown Tidy Towns "With these engaging activities and discussions, the children developed a greater appreciation for conservation and environmental stewardship". The perfumery session in botany allowed participants to immerse themselves in the world of plants, where they created their very own perfume sticks using local flora. This hands-on experience not only highlighted the importance of biodiversity but also sparked creativity and innovation among the young attendees. Leo Finnegan, Williamstown Heritage Society, said "Feedback from parents and participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to engage in such meaningful and educational activities". "The



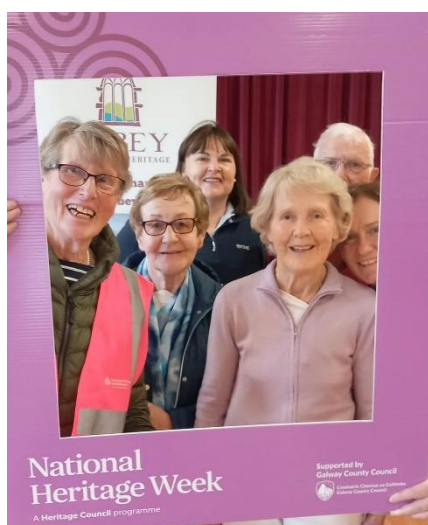
workshops were not only fun but also incredibly informative,” said one parent. “My child came home excited about bees and how to make their own perfume. It’s a fantastic initiative!” The success of these workshops underscores the importance of integrating science with heritage education, fostering a sense of community and environmental responsibility among the younger generation.

To see more: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings?q=&where%5B%5D=galway-county#listings>

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects?q=&where%5B%5D=galway-county#listings>

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## ATHENRY ACTIVE RETIREMENT HERITAGE BUS TRIP



Athenry Active Retirement Group went on a bus trip for Heritage Week to East Galway lead by Expert Archaeologist Dr Christy Cunniffe. The group visited Loughrea Cathedral, Kylemore Cheese Farm, Abbey Community Centre & Kilnalahan Friary, and the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna.

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## DOUGHTERARD FORGED GATES PROJECT

The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape. These field gates were for the most part forged in the local blacksmith’s forge.

They are practical and functional while at the same time an artistic expression of the blacksmith who made them.

During the twentieth century cast-iron, tubular steel and other mass-produced gates became more common while at the same time the forged wrought iron gates went into decline as did the blacksmiths forge. In addition to this changing farming practices has led to many of these gates being abandoned in hedges and fields as the older forged wrought iron field gates became too small to accommodate the newer and bigger machines entering fields. However, to the careful observer there are still many beautifully crafted wrought iron field gates to be found.





Therefore, the aim of this project is to identify, record, raise awareness of the wealth of wrought iron field gates that are to be found in the Oughterard area. It will also seek to identify the names of the local blacksmiths and their forges. The exhibition was launched on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August by Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer. A large and very engaged group of people attended this launch.



LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE GROUPS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS IRELAND ARE BEING INVITED TO ACCESS A NEW GUIDE TO HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF THEIR VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION

*Succession Planning: A Guide for Community Archives and Heritage Groups* is a free resource developed by the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) - a National Museum of Ireland initiative delivered in partnership with the Heritage Council, participating Local Authorities (including Galway County Council Heritage Office) and community groups across Ireland.

The Guide looks at ways volunteer groups can address some of the challenges that can influence their future success. Common challenges include attracting new members, getting young people involved; keeping adequate records; or losing access to accounts due to lost passwords or IT crashes.

Effective succession planning addresses these challenges so that groups can safeguard their work into the future.

iCAN was set-up to support volunteer groups across Ireland to develop and maintain their own community archive. It developed the Guide to provide a simple step-by-step process for good succession planning - from having written goals, objectives, and operational procedures to protecting passwords and access to websites and social media accounts.

The Guide is now [available to download for free.](#)

Roundstone's Hidden Heritage Conference Draws Capacity Crowd

## Celebrating 200 Years of Roundstone's Founding and Hely Dutton's Statistical Survey of Galway



The Roundstone Community Centre buzzed with excitement as it hosted the Roundstone's Hidden Heritage 1824 - 2024 Conference, an event that saw people from all parts of the county and the local community gather in remarkable numbers to celebrate a significant bicentennial milestone. The conference, commemorating both the 200th anniversary of the founding of Roundstone and Hely Dutton's seminal 1824 "Statistical Survey of Galway," attracted history enthusiasts, scholars, and residents alike, filling the venue to its capacity. Speaking at the conference, Cllr Albert Dolan, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "this conference and the bicentennial celebration of Roundstone's founding present an invaluable opportunity to highlight the town's history, honour its heritage, and inspire future generations to cherish and safeguard this legacy".



The day-long event featured a series of engaging lectures and presentations that shed light on various facets of Roundstone's rich heritage. They included insights into the work and legacy of the Congested Districts Board in Connemara. Dr Mary Clancy delved into the social and economic impact of the Congested Districts Board in Connemara, highlighting its role in alleviating poverty and fostering local cottage industries. While Deirdre Ní Chonghaile revealed very interesting findings from the historic 1821 of Aran census, offering a window into the demographic and social structure of the time and showing how it has been used by the island communities over the years to link the various families of the islands and mainland to the census.



Aisling Keane in her lecture paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of Tim and Mairead Robinson, whose meticulous archival work has preserved Connemara's cultural and natural heritage.

While Clifden native, Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill explored Alexander Nimmo's profound influence on the infrastructure of the West and his pivotal role in the establishment of Roundstone, framing him as a key figure in the region's development.

Richard Duke de Stacpoole, Roundstone Development Community Council, said “This conference offered a platform to delve into the hidden gems of Roundstone's heritage, shedding light on its historical significance and promoting a deeper appreciation for the area's past. By commemorating Alexander Nimmo's founding of Roundstone, we pay tribute to the visionary who laid the foundations for this vibrant community”. Marie Boran, Special Collections Librarian, University of Galway said, “The conference not only celebrated the achievements and legacy of historical figures like Nimmo and Dutton but also emphasized the importance of preserving and interpreting the past for future generations”. Attendees were captivated by the depth and diversity of historical insights presented, reflecting a collective appreciation and pride in Roundstone's storied past.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council, said, “The event underscored the enduring connection between the community and its heritage, fostering a sense of place and identity that resonated deeply with all who participated”. She also paid tribute to all the Heritage Groups in County Galway who assisting with the day and displayed exhibitions on various aspects of the heritage of the county. In particular Oughterard Heritage, Maigh Cuilinn Heritage, Skehana, Killererin, Woodlawn Heritage Groups and Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist. As Roundstone looks ahead to its next chapter, the success of the Hidden Heritage Conference stands as a testament to the town's vibrant cultural legacy and the continual efforts to honour and remember its roots.

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## ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY

Athenry Walled Town Day, which took place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August proved to be a



resounding success as the historic town welcomed a large crowd of both locals and visitors under clear, sunny skies. The event, which celebrates the rich cultural and historical heritage of Athenry, offered an array of engaging activities and attractions that delighted attendees of all ages. The day-long festival, a cherished tradition since its inception in 2006, unfolded across Athenry's iconic landmarks: the Athenry Community Park, the Athenry Arts &

Heritage Centre, and Athenry Castle. With a diverse range of activities thoughtfully curated to illuminate the Anglo-Norman influences on the medieval town, Athenry Walled Town Day delivered an immersive experience like no other.



The festival grounds buzzed with excitement as visitors explored the diverse array of local crafts showcased throughout the day. Artisans displayed their handmade wares, offering unique pieces that captured the essence and tradition of the region. Attendees marvelled at medieval bead-making demonstrations by Mags Mannion, intricate spinning and wool crafts by the Irish Fibre Crafters and Seamus Kirwan, and



captivating basket weaving by Niall Murphy. Animal Magic showcased majestic birds of prey, while the Loughrea Craft Club engaged younger visitors with medieval arts and crafts. Children and adults alike enjoyed puppet shows by Custard Pie, and even a charming Flea Circus by PigNut. The Moth & Butterfly Storytelling held audiences spellbound with their ancient tales.



Music filled the air as Carmel Dempsey, Úna Ní Fhlanagáin, Mike Stewart, Brenda Curtin Deveney, Maria Fahy, Galway Early Music, Bran Dubh, and others



entertained the crowds with lively tunes that set the perfect backdrop for the day's festivities. Historical re-enactments transported attendees back in time, offering glimpses



into the past with engaging displays and interactive experiences. Evan O'Brien and Siobhán Kerins enthralled the crowds with their incredible Irish dancing. The 1316 Medieval Athenry Fight Club donned elaborate armour and engaged in exhilarating clashes of steel, leaving the audience breathless. The living history groups Claíomh, Bran Dubh, Jack Pinson & Dinah Thorneycroft reconstructed scenes from Ireland's medieval past, offering a genuine window into history.

One of the festival's highlights was the stunning birds of prey exhibition, where majestic falcons and owls showcased their incredible skills in a thrilling display. The rhythmic beats of Drumadore's drumming sessions resonated through the event, captivating audiences with their energy and enthusiasm.

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere and puppet shows delighted both young and old with



their whimsical performances, while children had the opportunity to delve into history with bodhrán making and medieval workshops designed just for them. Athenry Community Park was enlivened by the towering presence of Gliondar stilt walkers, while Máire

Daly skilfully painted the faces of eager children, transforming them into medieval Lords, Ladies, and mythical creatures. Participants of all ages had the unique opportunity to uncover treasures and a carefully reconstructed skeleton, guided by archaeologist Kat Thompson, creating an unforgettable hands-on experience. Food Historian Anna O'Donnell tantalized taste buds with a delectable array of medieval-inspired fare, providing a taste of the era's rich culinary traditions.

A popular walking tour of Athenry led by Fáilte Ireland Tour Guide Gerry Burke allowed attendees to explore the town's historic sites, learning fascinating stories and insights from experienced guides about the town's storied past. The Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre showcased the ancient art of archery, inviting attendees to try their hand at this traditional skill. Additionally, the centre offered complimentary guided tours, unveiling Athenry's captivating medieval history.

Reflecting on the extraordinary response, Alan Burgess, Manager of the Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, expressed his delight, stating, "The overwhelming support from the community truly propelled Athenry Walled Town Day to new heights. The immersive

journey we crafted into the medieval past has undeniably cemented this event as a resounding success. We eagerly anticipate more remarkable experiences in the years to come."

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer at Galway County Council, praised the dedication of performers, community organisations, and volunteers, notably Athenry Arts & Heritage



Centre, Athenry Tidy Towns, and Athenry Community Council Trust Limited, for their remarkable commitment in bringing the medieval era to life. The Athenry Walled Town Day was made possible through funding from The Heritage Council and Galway County Council, with invaluable support from Athenry Community Council Trust Limited, Athenry Area Office of Galway County

Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, and the vibrant local businesses. The seamless blend of history, culture, and entertainment once again highlighted Athenry as a jewel in Ireland's historical landscape.

## PLANNING

## BIODIVERSITY

### NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2024

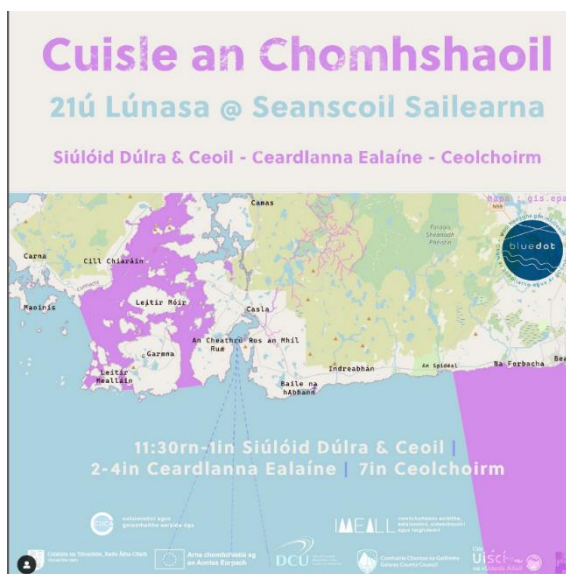
There were more than 25 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage themed events held across the county of Galway for National Heritage Week which ran from 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August. The Galway County Biodiversity Office was involved with numerous events including Sustainable Gardening Workshop with horticulturist Aoife Munn in Ballinderreen Community Centre, which was attended by 40 gardeners, including volunteers from local community groups such as the Tidy Towns and environmental groups from Ballinderreen, Kinvara, Clarinbridge, and Ardahan.





A webinar on the Mayflies of Ireland was held during National Heritage Week, highlighting the work of one of the Galway County Council's Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects in partnership with other local authorities. The webinar was presented by Dr Baars who is currently leading a team of researchers to complete a two-year red listing exercise to determine the current conservation status of all mayfly species in Ireland.

The Biodiversity Officer was a guest speaker at Cuisle an Chomhshaoil on the 21<sup>st</sup> August in as part of the Siúlóid Dúlra by the bogs near Seanscoil Sailearna, Indreabhán.



## NO MOW AREA RINVILLE PARK

In August, a 'near threatened' orchid was found in Renville Park for the first time in over 80 years. The park is managed by Galway County Council and in a joint environmental initiative by the Council and Conservation Volunteers Galway to attract pollinating insects to Renville Park, a designated area was selected as a pilot plot for a No Mow area. This initiative's success led to the discovery of 20 to 30 Autumn Lady's Tresses Orchids, listed as 'Near Threatened' in the Red Data List of Vascular Plants 2016. Other orchid species, such as Bee Orchids, Common Spotted Orchids, and Fragrant Orchids, also bloomed earlier in the summer in this area, indicating high species diversity. On August 29th, a public talk was held at the No Mow plot, featuring the Council Biodiversity Officer, Galway Conservation Volunteers, and local botanist Mark O'Mahoney, who first discovered the orchid. Cathaoirleach Albert Dolan joined the team to learn about the species and see the flowering orchid.



# BLÁTHANNA FIÁINE PHÁIRC RINN MHÍL

7 I.N. DÉARDAOIN  
29 LÚNASA 2024

Teacht le chéile ag an gcarrollas iochtarach in aice leis an bhfarraige

FÁILTE ROIMH CHÁCH

Foghlaim faoin gCúilín Muire atá tugtha faoi deara le gairid agus faoi Bhláthanna Fiáine eile Pháirc Rinn Mhíl le hOifigeach Bitheagsúlachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus le hOibríthe Deonacha Caomhnúcháin na Gaillimhe.



## LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND UPDATE



A new video showcasing the efforts to learn more about Merlin in Connemara was launched as part of a Galway County Council digital project during National Heritage Week. This video was produced as part of one of Galway County Council's Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects, which is supported by the National Parks & Wildlife Service. Merlin are one of our rarest and most elusive birds of prey in Ireland, and the blanket bogs of

Connemara in the west of Ireland is one of the most important places for the species and is designated as a Special Protection Area for Merlin. Despite the designation, there is still a lot to learn about Merlin in this landscape and nationally to be able to help conserve their populations. This video documents some of the efforts on behalf of BirdWatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Galway County Council to improve our understanding of Merlin populations and their conservation requirements as well as showcasing this special bird in this unique landscape.

The Botanical Survey of Lough Corrib Islands is now nearing completion with over 20 islands studied with populations of *Vicia orobus* and *Calamagrostis* recorded, both of which are species protected under the Floral Protection Order.

## NATIONAL HEDGEROW WEEK

National Hedgerow Week is a partnership between Teagasc and the Heritage Council. The week aims to raise awareness of the importance of hedges for agriculture, biodiversity, and



climate. Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer spoke to members of the farming community about the importance of hedgerows in County Galway, the role they play in supporting wildlife and the benefits of hedgerows from a farmer’s perspective.

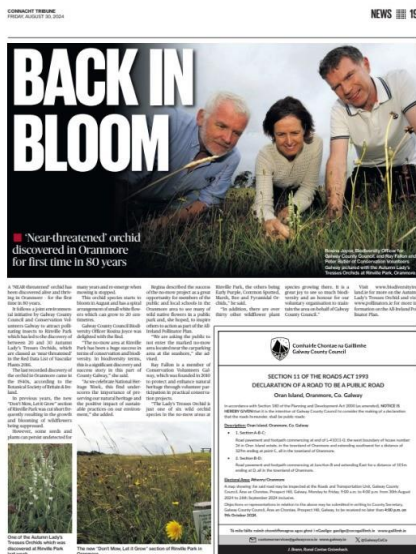
## MEDIA OUTREACH

Interviews with the Biodiversity Officer were broadcast on both RTE Radio 1’s Mooney Goes



Wild and Galway Talks on Galway Bay FM. Coverage of Galway County Council’s no mow area in Renville Park was also covered in Agriland, Irish Independent, RSVP.ie and AFLOAT.ie as well as local media outlets including The Tuam Herald, Connacht Tribune, Clare Echo, Galway Daily, Galway Beo and Galway Bay FM news.

The reach of the content published on the Galway County Biodiversity Office Facebook page over the last 90 days has been 38,373, with a current following of 1,552. Instagram has had a reach of 1,650 and 1093 followers.



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHERNY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

1. Restoration Improvement –2024 Contractor on Site
  - a. Coast Road
  - b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane)
  - 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) 50%
- m. Sheeaun -SD to complete.

## 2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

### a. Surface dressing –

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

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

- i. Cormachugh
- ii. Lisheenoran
- iii. Carnaun – Direct Labour Crew
- iv. Waterdale

## 3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Tender Documents Issued on SupplyGov
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Designer review after receiving numerous 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 – Contractor Tender
- c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508
- d. CC2024 L2119 Corrandulla GC/24/35508

## 5. Community Involvement Scheme

- Maree Road @ Church – - Complete
- New Line Junction Crossing – 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.                                                                                                     |

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## FIGURES AND PICTURES



MAREE ROAD –  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
SCHEME



ATHENRY PLAYGROUND  
BRIDGE CLEARING





LAVALLY DRAINAGE  
DISTRICT WORKS –  
ATHENRY



ABBAY GLEN ESTATE,  
DRAINAGE WORKS



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING  
DUBLIN ROAD  
ORANMORE



FRENCHFORD LIS



BAILE CHLÁIR NS NEW LIGHTS



SLIT TRENCHES FOR LIDL  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING  
ORANMORE

## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

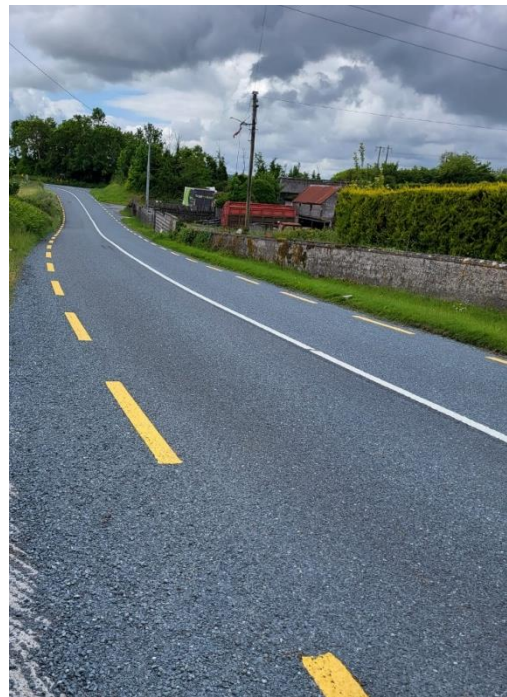
Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors on its behalf continued the delivery of the 2024 roadworks programme throughout the MD during July and August, with primary focus on Restoration Maintenance (RM) Surface Dressing during this period. The overall roadworks programme is also made up of Restoration Improvement (RI) Bituminous Overlay and Inlay projects, Restoration Improvement (RI) Unbound and Recycling projects. In all cases, Ballinasloe MD direct labour roads crews undertake extensive preparatory works to each road section, followed by road resurfacing contractors works. To date, 43 of 48 RI (~90%) projects



are complete, while 23 of 23 RM projects (100%) are complete. This programme is ongoing and is being delivered successfully, however its progress is heavily dependent on contractor availability and weather conditions.

Preparations are now also underway for the October Fair 2024 in Ballinasloe, where we are targeting further improvements to the success in 2023, in terms of traffic and waste management, trading and general business uplift throughout Ballinasloe. Separately throughout the MD, Community Wardens are continuously dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, and various inspections including ring buoys and playgrounds. Grass cutting is being undertaken primarily within Ballinasloe Town, with an increased focus on areas for biodiversity. Works have also been completed in conjunction other Sections of Galway County Council and other state agencies. The following images present a flavour of the works undertaken during this period.

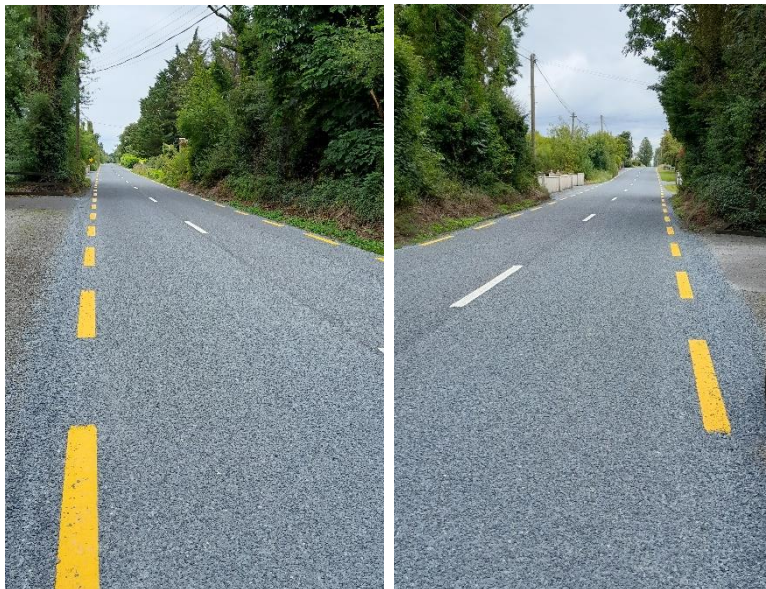
(RM) SURFACE DRESSING, AT GLENLOUGHAUN -  
2024 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME BALLINASLOE  
MD



(RI) RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT, AT  
GARRAFINE - DBM WORKS IN PROGRESS



(RI) RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT, AT CURRAGHLENAHANAGH - DBM WORKS IN ADVANCE OF SURFACE DRESSING



(RM) SURFACE DRESSING, AT BEARNA



(RM) SURFACE DRESSING, AT MONEEN -CASTLEREA RD





NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING COMPLETED AT THE DUNLO MEDICAL CENTRE AS PART OF THE UKRANIAN RESPONSE MODULAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT POLLBOY

ALL-IRELAND FINALS FLAGS IN PLACE AT BALLINALSOE MD OFFICES



BALLINASLOE MD OFFICE ROOF INSPECTION & REPAIRS COMPLETED IN CONJUNCTION WITH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FACILITIES SECTION



## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – SEPTEMBER 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 are due to commence in late September/early October.
- 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.
- 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.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions – (1No. position recently filled) dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ringbuoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Implementation of Summer Ready 2024 now complete. Review to commence to assess this year’s programme.



NEW PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING SIGNAGE INSTALLED THROUGHOUT CLIFDEN TOWN - BEFORE AND AFTER





2 NO. HIDDEN DISABILITY PARKING BAYS  
INSTALLED IN CLIFDEN TOWN



4 NO. NEW  
BENCHES  
INSTALLED IN  
CLIFDEN  
SQUARE –  
PRE AND  
POST WORK  
PHOTOS



CARNA -RECENTLY INSTALLED BUS  
SHELTER

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The completion of the 2024 Road Programme is currently the primary focus of all activity.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 21/24 (88%) Bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 20/45 (45%) Unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) projects completed.
- 27/28 (96%) Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects completed.
- 1/5 (20%) Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) completed.
- 2/6 (33%) Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience projects completed.
- 4/8 (50%) Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) completed.
- Dunkellin and Kilchreest Drainage District Maintenance – 80% complete
- 4No. Severe Weather Projects – Work on Tawnagh Causeway to commence this week.
- 3No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement (LCSI) Schemes. 2No. currently underway.

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



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON THE N65 AT HEATHLAWN FOLLOWING A ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION. A SINGLE LANE SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE IN OPERATION UNTIL REPAIR WORKS ARE COMPLETED





BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES OF A PRIVATE ROAD FOLLOWING WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME WORKS, DUNIRY



CUTTING OF 5 ACRES OF VEGETATION AT CORRY'S FIELD TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY AND CREATE A LONG-FLOWERING MEADOW. IT IS HOPED TO MAINTAIN A SMALL NUMBER OF GRASS PATHWAYS THROUGH THE MEADOW IN FUTURE YEARS.



ROAD RESURFACING WORKS COMPLETED AT MULLAGH BEGUNDER A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME





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CRAUGHWELL NATIONAL SCHOOL – NEW  
KERBING, DRAINAGE & OVERLAY WORKS



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RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT ON THE R461 AT INCHABOY, GORT.



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KILLEENARAN, REMOVAL OF IN-STREAM VEGETATION BLOCKAGE

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L-4511 RAHALY TO LOUGHAUNAWADDA – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT



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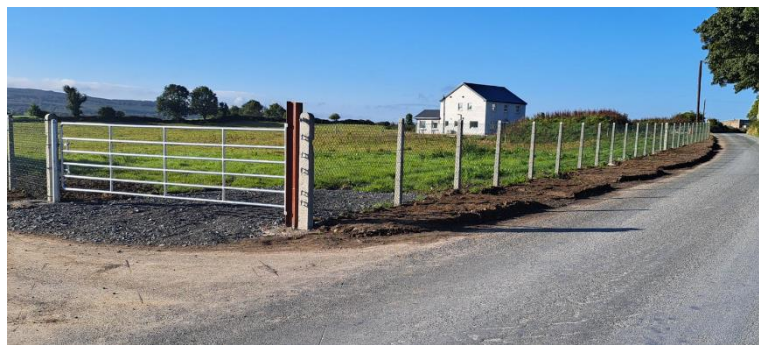
ROO, TIERNEVIN - OPW MINOR WORKS - FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS





L-8504 - TERMON LOUGH –  
SUPPLEMENTARY RESTORATION  
IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT

CIS PROJECT – ROXBOROUGH



MILESTONE MARKER UPGRADE WORKS –  
COOLE PARK

PEDESTRIAN BARRIER REPAIR WORKS  
ON THE R446/N65 INCLUDING  
EXTENSIVE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC  
MANAGEMENT AT LOUGHREA







BEFORE AND AFTER  
IMAGES OF MECHANICAL  
WEEDING AT TRAFFIC  
ISLANDS IN LOUGHREA



## TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Road improvement and road surfacing schemes continued over the summer months with all schemes to be concluded in September. To date 49 of the 59 road improvement schemes have been completed with 21 surface dressing schemes completed. Funding for 6 Local Improvement Schemes were granted in June with 5 completed and 1 scheme commenced.

The Department of Rural and Community Development recently announced funding for the Community Recognition fund to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries. Tuam Municipal District received over €74,000 for the Sensory Garden and a Dog Park in Palace Grounds in Tuam.

## SENSORY GARDEN



The groundworks commenced in the Sensory Garden in the Palace Grounds in Tuam by the direct labour crews. This project is being funded through the Community Recognition grant and Notice of Motion funding. Once the groundworks are completed the landscaping will start in the coming month



## RESURFACING WORKS



ROAD  
RECYCLING  
CLADDAGH  
WEST

LIS CLARETUAM



OVERLAY  
CORTOON





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ROAD RECONSTRUCTION GARDENFIELD

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SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENT  
WORKS DUNMORE



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CLIMATE  
ADAPTION  
WORKS  
KNOCKATEE AND  
GARDENFIELD

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MICROSURFACING TUAM TOWN





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## GALWAY GAA HOMECOMING



Tuam Municipal District office and the roads staff along with the Community Wardens across the county were heavily involved in organising and running the Civic reception for the homecoming of the Senior All Ireland Finalists Galway. Unfortunately, the result did not go the way of Galway but there still was a good turn out to greet the team.

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## PUBLIC CONSULTATION BALLYGADDY PARK

A public consultation process for the enhancement of Ballygaddy Park in Tuam Town was advertised on Consultgalway.ie in August to invite the public to have a say to help make the best possible Ballygaddy Park plan for Tuam town.

A public space already exists on the Ballygaddy Road in Tuam; however, it is currently predominantly a grassed area. It is located next to 300 houses and within 800m of the town centre. A design for the enhancement of the park has been completed by a landscape architect.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Have your Say !**

We invite your feedback by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

- Submit using the 'Make a Submission' link on this Consult.galway.ie page
- Email us at [tuamareaoffice@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tuamareaoffice@galwaycoco.ie) with the subject heading Ballygaddy Park submission
- Drop in to the Tuam Municipal District office High Street Tuam where the project will be on display

The proposed park enhancement will involve-

- Proposed pathways constructed from exposed aggregate concrete
- Creating loop walks around the park, and intermittent informal play features, and seating/rest locations.
- Seating areas for community engagement,
- Biodiversity planting with native species and wildflower spaces.

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## NATIONAL ROAD NETWORK GALWAY

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### WORKS FUNDED ON THE NATIONAL ROAD NETWORK IN GALWAY

A significant amount of survey work on the National Network in Galway has occurred since the beginning of the year with the anticipation of receiving funding on par with recent years. Currently there is about €1m worth of defects on the National roads that needs repair. There has been substantial deterioration of the road network over the past six months compared to other years due to weather and storm damage. Through the TII Defects

Management system which logs defects and allows to apply for additional funding Galway County Council received €180,000 in July.

This funding will allow significant faults and defects on the Network to be repaired in the coming months by the Municipal District office responsible for the location of the defect.

The following is a breakdown of the additional funding allocations.

<b>Job Description</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>Nat Secondary</b>	
N65 Loughrea Gortymadden Cross Pavement repairs	€ 40,000.00
N65 Loughrea - Kilmeen Pavement repair	€ 20,000.00
N83 Tuam - Corrandrum – drainage works	€ 8,000.00
N67 Gort - - Kinvara – rebuilding of seawalls	€ 22,000.00
N67 Gort -Kilcolgan Ballinderreen – drainage works	€ 6,000.00
N59 Conn N - Old Chapel Pavement repairs	€ 15,000.00
N59 Conn N -Newtown school – drainage works	€ 6,000.00
N59 Conn S - Ross Lake – pavement repairs	€ 15,000.00
N59 Conn S - - Drimnaheen – pavement repairs	€ 20,000.00
N59 Conn S - - Drumaveg- drainage works	€ 10,000.00
N84 Athenry – Cloonboo – pavement repairs completed	€ 18,000.00

## HD28 WORKS FUNDED

The TII have funded four schemes in 2024 under the HD28 programme. The HD28 locations below are sites on the National Road network which have been identified by TII surveys for having poor skid resistance. It is the recommendation of TII that these sites be resurfaced. The purpose of the HD28 schemes is to treat the existing surface by removing the existing surface at these locations and resurface to increase skid resistance. The works will include retexturing, milling/planing out of existing surfaces, disposal of waste to correct licensed facility and relaying new surface.

<b>Road number</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Treatment type</b>
<b>N63</b>	Abbeyknockmoy bridge	Resurface, Erect Warning Signs
<b>N67</b>	Clarinbridge Village	Resurface, Erect Warning Signs
<b>N67</b>	Oranmore Rocklands Junction	Resurface, Erect Warning Signs
<b>N65</b>	Loughrea –	Resurface, Erect Warning Signs

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## N63 ABBEYKNOCKMOY BRIDGE



N63 BEFORE WORKS

N63 AFTER WORKS



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## N67 CLARINBRIDGE



N67 BEFORE WORKS





N67 During works

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**