

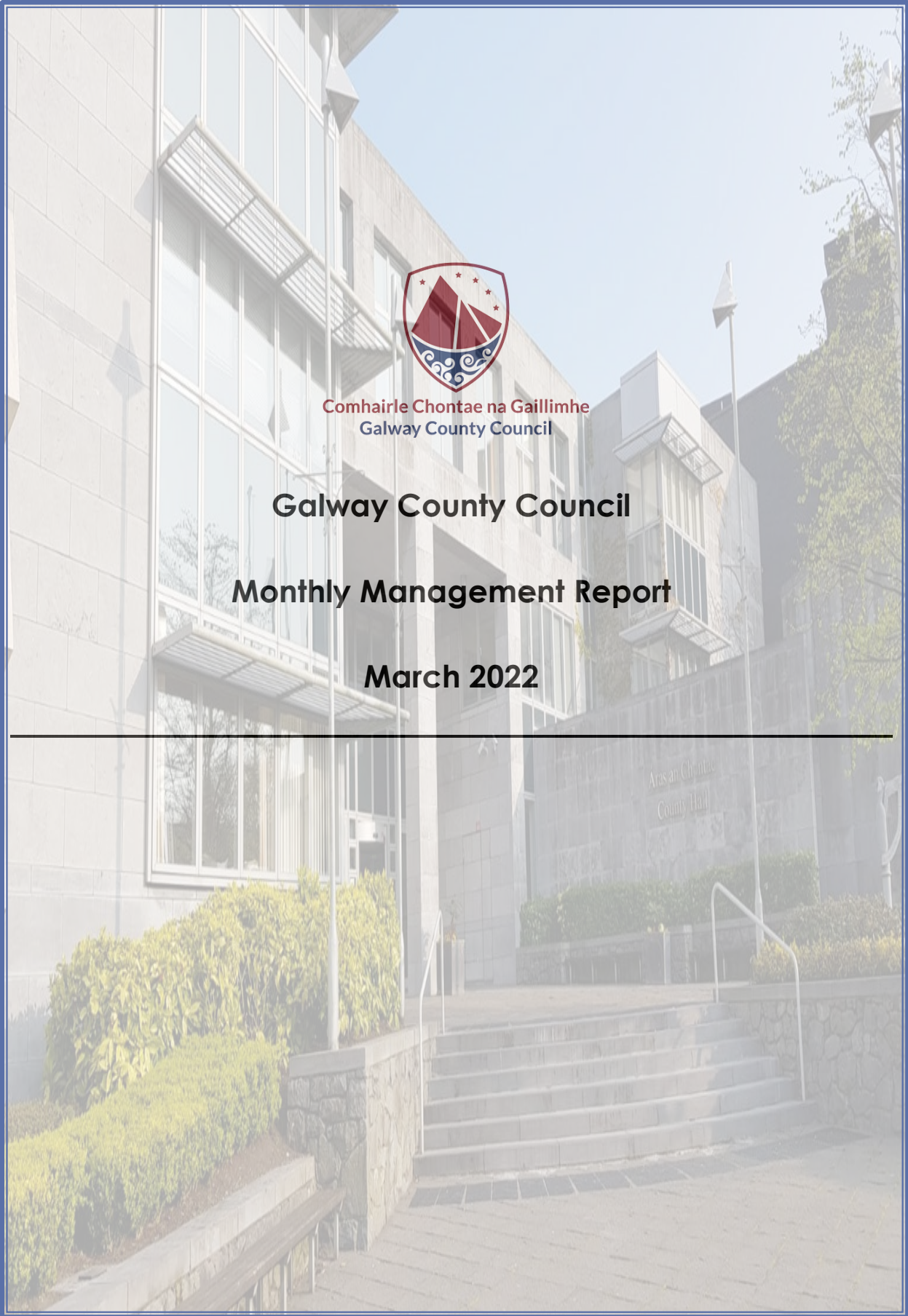


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council

Monthly Management Report

March 2022



Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection





The Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Peter Keaveney hosted a Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection in Rinville Park, Oranmore, on Sunday last, 20th March 2022. It was a commemoration of all those who passed away and who have been bereaved during the COVID 19 pandemic, whilst acknowledging and paying tribute to all those who guided us through the pandemic.

A reflective ceremony of readings, reflection and music was held. The ceremony included a reading by Bernadette Craughwell of her diary piece as published in the “Lockdown Diaries Galway” publication and a recital of a poem entitled “Cocooning” written by Joan Hardiman. The ceremony also included performances on Uilleann Pipes from Ger Fahy, renowned composer and musician as well as an address from the Cathaoirleach of Galway Co. Council.

A native Oak Tree was planted by the Cathaoirleach in Rinville Park in memory of all those who had lost their lives during the Pandemic and to signify a beacon of remembrance and support for all those who have been bereaved and continue to grieve.

Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Peter Keaveney said:

“Today, provides an opportunity for everyone across Ireland and for all communities across County Galway to remember those we have lost. We remember all those who have died during the pandemic and show our solidarity and support for everyone who has been bereaved and for all those who are still grieving. The number of deaths is very hard to comprehend, for behind each death is a person who was loved and has left behind friends,

partners, family and loved ones. The devastating impact of the pandemic has torn the hearts of thousands across our Country. For the past two years we have walked a long road together. There have been many twists and turns along the way. We know our journey is not over, the threat of COVID-19 is very much still with us. We will continue on our journey walking together in unity and solidarity and supporting each other.”

The ceremony represented an opportunity for the people of County Galway to pause and reflect, take time to remember all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic, and pay tribute to everyone who has contributed to how we have faced and continue to face the challenges of the pandemic together.

HOUSING & ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing Update

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE SITUATION – EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

On 3 March 2022, the Council of the European Union enacted the Temporary Protection Directive (Council Directive 2001/55/EC) in response to refugees arriving in the EU from Ukraine. The enactment of the Directive means persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine will have access to a ‘temporary protection status’ in EU Member States. Identification of Short-term Emergency Shelter and Accommodation.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is involved in crossgovernment discussions, led by the Department of An Taoiseach, to develop short and longterm responses that meet our obligations under the Temporary Protection Directive, including in respect of health, social protection, education and accommodation and housing. The DHLGH, as part of these engagements, and led by the Department of Equality, Children, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and in collaboration with other public service bodies, is looking at options to meet the temporary accommodation needs of those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. This is being led specifically by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), based in DCEDIY.

IPAS is currently exploring options including holiday homes, bed and breakfasts, hotels, caravan parks etc. It is also requesting other bodies and agencies to help identify other options. Given the likely influx of refugees in the coming weeks, options available to IPAS will be exhausted quickly, and other solutions will be needed: some of these options are being identified by Galway County Council.

Galway County Council compiled a list which identified potential multioccupancy accommodation¹ in County Galway this was followed by the DCEIY confirming a list of hotels to GCC that had been contracted² by IPAS for 30 day and three-month contracts.

A list of alternative possible hotel/guest house accommodation³ was sent by GCC to the DCEIY. This was a compilation of locations across the County. IPAS continue to work through this list and are in the process of arranging three-month contracts.

As part of the overall response to the crisis, the LCDC and the Community Response Forum were identified as coordinating mechanisms locally. In this regards Jim Cullen, Chief Executive, set up an Internal Steering Group to manage Galway County Council's response and held a short briefing for a limited number of the key agencies and GCC continues to liaise with accommodation providers, IPAS and DCEDIY.

It is intended that the Internal Steering Group will be under the Major Emergency Response for the foreseeable future.

This Group has (1) Identified hotels and other short/medium term accommodation options (2) Established Community responses via LCDC members (3) developed emergency response team including Council Housing Staff, Fire Service Members and Civil Defence Officer (and volunteers).

An FAQ has been issued to All Councillors and Staff regarding the issues.

Vacant Homes Officer:

- The first point of contact for the arrangement of initial consultations with parties interested in developing vacant buildings for residential purposes.
- Further develop, update, monitor and review the progress of Galway County Council Vacant Homes Action Plans
- Developing appropriate referral and feedback systems between relevant sections who may be dealing with vacant homes/properties in each local authority
- Carrying out or co-ordinating visual inspections / assessment of residential properties
- Identification of the registered owners of the properties deemed to be vacant from inspection, and contacting the owners on the options available to assist in bringing their properties back into use for private or social housing purposes,

¹ List which identified potential multioccupancy accommodation in County Galway

² List of hotels confirmed as having been contracted by IPAS

³ List which identified alternative accommodation (not on IPAS confirmed list) in County Galway

- The collation and provision of vacant homes data to the Department’s Vacant Homes Unit on an agreed timely basis, including confirmation of vacancy targets for that local authority and progress on achieving same.
- Role also involves the implementation and management of the following schemes
 - Repair and Lease
 - Buy and Renew
 - Long Term Leasing
 - Purchasing of properties for social housing
 - Selling of derelict units no longer seen as suitable for social housing

Derelict / Vacant Properties Data

Ballinasloe

- Progress has been achieved with the derelict units on Dunlo Street Ballinasloe. 11 units have been acquired for social housing and are due for delivery in Q3 2024
- St Brendan’s Terrace, Church Hill and some vacant units located in the Brackernagh area of town are being reviewed

Portumna

- St Brigid’s Road – a site was purchased in 2021 for regeneration purposes
- Efforts are currently underway in identifying the owners of the remaining vacant properties in the locality

Tuam:

- Units located in the town centre & in Gilmarton Rd area are being reviewed for the Buy & Renew Scheme

Oughterard, Headford and other locations

- Various units were identified for the Buy and Renew Scheme
- Legal issues relating to land registry is a significant hold up on a lot of regen developments.

Observations:

The VHO has received many queries from owners of vacant properties for the most part in very rural and remote locations that were not deemed suitable for social housing. These offers come through the Vacant homes’ website, by direct email or phone calls. Each property is reviewed by the Housing Supply Committee Members who discuss both the suitability, costs and sustainability of the properties.

Galway County Council focus on the regeneration of vacant properties in towns and villages and their close environs, with access to transport, schools and medical facilities critical for sustainable tenancies.

To qualify for the Repair and Leasing Scheme, a property must be vacant for 12 months. Many proposals refer to properties that are situated on working farms with a shared entrance and the property is the former family home on site.

Unlike other rental agreements such as HAP or RAS, where the landlord may interview the prospective tenants, under the Repair and Leasing Scheme (RLS), the owner has no input on who will be renting their property and are only responsible for structural maintenance. Currently, rents are paid at a rate of 80/85% of market rent. The leasing term may range from 5-25 years.

Peter Mc Verry Trust

Galway County Council and PMVT have been working very closely over the last 2 years to identify private properties under schemes that would be suitable for regeneration, to date this includes:

Leasing:

- 14 units successfully completed and tenanted to date. Tuam/Oranmore/Ballinasloe

Repair & Leasing:

- Two units were completed and tenanted in 2021 with more units currently under review.

CAS Acquisitions/ Buy and Renew

- Ballinasloe: Two units successfully completed in Brackernagh in 2021
- Portumna: One submission is under review for a one bed property
- Tuam: Two units being considered for CAS Acquisition
- Gort: An application for 5 units has recently been submitted to the Housing unit

Building Inspectorate

Stats on Year to date:

Inspections carried out as of 21st March 2022.

451 *Minimum Rental Standards* Inspections.

119 Housing Grants – M.A.G.'S / H.A.G.'s & H.A.O.P. Inspections.

8 Acquisitions Inspections.

2 Local Authority Home loan (mortgages) Inspections.

Housing Development at Bridge Court, Ahascragh.

Major works to re-develop an existing 16-unit social housing estate at Bridge Court Ahascragh are due to commence on 4th April next. Following a lengthy planning process with An Bord Pleanála and a competitive tender period at the end of 2021, the Contract was finally awarded by Galway County Council on 16th March last to C & N Higgins Construction Ltd. of Caltra, Ballinasloe.

The event was marked with a sod turning ceremony on site by the Cathaoirleach Mr. Peter Keaveney and fellow Councillors from the Ballinasloe MD.

The Department approved works valued at €4m (incl. VAT), will see the demolition of 10no. existing units and replacement with 12no. new units. The remaining 6no. existing units will be undergoing complete retrofit & renovation. All units will include air-to-water heat pump systems providing major enhancements supporting climate action and dramatically reducing running costs borne by the individual households.

A dramatically revamped estate offering a total of 18no. A2 rated social homes will come on stream in July 2023. It will address part of the housing need in the area and will also complement the village of Ahascragh in a very positive way.

Architectural Image of completed development



Sod Turning Ahascragh:



Properties Tenanted by MD in 2022 – year to date.

Count of TENANCYSTARTYEAR		
MD	PROPERTYACQUISITION	Total
Athenry	AHB CALF	6
	AHB CAS	1
	LA Acquired Property	1
	Long term leasing >10yrs	1
Athenry Total		9
Ballinasloe	AHB CALF	2
	LA Acquired Property	1
	LA Constructed Property	2
Ballinasloe Total		5
Connemara	AHB CALF	3
	AHB CAS	1
	LA Constructed Property	8
	LA Part V Property	2
	LA Turnkey Property	8
Connemara Total		22
Loughrea	AHB CALF	1
	AHB Leased–[3rd Party]	1
	LA Acquired Property	1
	LA Constructed Property	4
	LA Owned [on SLA to AHB]	1
	LA Turnkey Property	15
Loughrea Total		23
Tuam	AHB CALF	2
	AHB CAS	1
	AHB Leased–[3rd Party]	1
	LA Acquired Property	3
	LA Constructed Property	1
	LA Owned [on SLA to AHB]	3
	LA Part V Property	1
Tuam Total		12
Grand Total		71

ERCD Update

Local Community Development Committee

In accordance with Section 128B of the Local Government Act as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Annual Report of the LCDC is on the agenda for the March Plenary Meeting. This Report outlines the funding schemes and programmes which were implemented and adapted to respond to emerging needs throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the draft Healthy County Galway Plan, which provides a strategic framework to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across County Galway, will be presented to the LCDC Meeting on 23rd March 2022.

Age Friendly Programme

At the December 2021 Meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance, it was agreed that Galway City & County would proceed to establish 2 separate Older Peoples Councils, in order to represent the views and interests of older people as widely as possible. Appointments to the Galway County Older Peoples Council have now been made and the election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson completed. Ms. Aileen Heverin has been appointed as Chairperson and Ms. Anne Mitchell as Vice-Chairperson and the first meeting of the Council takes place on Monday 21st March 2022, to agree priorities for the Work Plan 2022.

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund

An initial element of Galway County Council's application under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund was to conduct a survey of People with Disabilities to identify their main priorities for inclusion in community life, and the primary accessibility issues to be addressed to facilitate further participation. The Survey will shortly be launched and the support of Elected Members in ensuring it reaches all People with Disabilities will be much appreciated. The survey will be available in English at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5DXN3TX> and 'as gaeilge' ag <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYK2C5T>

Community Centres Investment Fund

At a Departmental event on 10th March, Minister Heather Humphries T.D. announced the establishment of a Community Centres Investment Fund which will provide capital grants between €10,000 - €300,000 for the upgrade and refurbishment of existing Community Centres. It is expected that applications forms and guidelines will be available in the coming weeks and Community Centres Owners/Trustees will make application directly to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Connected Hubs

The 2022 Expression of interest deadline of the 4th March has passed with full applications due to be submitted by the 4th April. A number of individual hubs have submitted their EOIs and they have been provided with support as required. There is no multi hub EOI submitted given hubs in Galway in this call however, it is proposed to continue working with hubs around the county to determine collaborative options.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting is scheduled to take place on April 5th 2022 at the Bia Innovator Campus site in Athenry. Key inputs for discussion include Tourism, The Local Economic & Community Plan and the Bia Innovator Campus initiative. The SPC members will be given an opportunity to have a site visit to see the investment first hand and to highlight some of the benefits and opportunities that this Council led initiative provides for the sector and the West region.

Arts Office

- **Artist Support Bursaries** are currently being assessed and applicants will be notified in early April. Budget €20,000
- **Local Live Performance Scheme** Round 3: Expressions of Interest are open for music providers to a programme live events under the Ceol an tSamhraidh banner. Closing date is Monday 28th March. This programme of events will take place in May & June 2022 in collaboration with existing partners. The funding can only be used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances by engaging the services of locally based professional artists, musicians, crew and other staff members involved in live performances.
- **CSS Grants – Culture (Arts Grants)** have been assessed and submitted to Council for approval. **Total Funding Requested: €137,505.00. Total Awarded through CSS: €48,000.00** (€29,740 awarded to community arts programmes; €17300 to professional/funded arts organisations programmes). Due to the high level of applications this year and limited funding available we propose to support some CSS applications through the Arts Programme. These projects represent high quality, impactful arts programmes which align with the strategic priorities of the Arts Programme and merit funding. The Arts Office has long-standing strategic relationships with many of these organisations/groups. **Further allocations: € 11,200.00**
- **Public Art Management Group:** The group held their first meeting on the 3rd March. Next meeting will be held in late April to allow an opportunity for the Arts Office to compile a list of projects and budgets available.
- **Assistant Arts Officer** has commenced their three-year contract.

- **Platform 31** – Application window for this national initiative led by Local Authority Arts Officers and the Arts Council is currently open and closes on the 30th March. One Bursary will be available to a Galway County based artist for €8,000. Programme will commence in May 22.

Creative Ireland

- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2022** – Expressions of Interest are open for groups/organisations to run workshops or participatory events on the 11th of June.
- **Creative Ireland Bursaries 2022.** Bursaries are currently being assessed by the Culture Team. Received 19 applications and total allocation is €25,000. Funding will be awarded by 28th March.
- **Galway County Council Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027** – Process will begin to draft the next strategy in line with the national programme: Creative Communities 2023-2027. A review of existing and future local authority policies and plans relevant to our Creative Communities will need to be examined to identify strategic priorities for the next five years to include an implementation plan.
- Bi-lateral meeting being held with Creative Ireland National Team and the Galway County Council Culture Team on the 30th of March.

CLÁR 2022

Funding for up to 50k per project is available for Community Facilities and Amenities Measure 1 under the 2022 CLÁR Programme.

Galway County Council can make a maximum of 15 applications under Measure 1.

- **Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities, Apply to Galway County Council by midnight on Wednesday 20th April via email to clar@galwaycoco.ie .**
- Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport – Apply Direct to DRCD by April 8th
- Measure 3: “Our Islands” - Apply Direct to Department of Rural & Community Development by May 6th

Further information requests and queries can be submitted to clar@galwaycoco.ie or by contacting 091-509395 or text 087-9746271

A webinar on the Scheme in association with the Galway County Public Participation Network is scheduled for March 23rd at 7pm via Zoom.

The type of projects that will be considered under CLÁR Measure 1 are:

Measure 1 will support a variety of capital interventions provided that they contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities.

Applications can also include small scale renovation works to community facilities e.g. to convert into suitable meeting areas and community spaces for community groups such as youth clubs and Men's/Women's Sheds

(Note: a maximum of 5 of the 15 projects submitted by a Local Authority under Measure 1 can involve renovation works on community buildings).

All newly developed community facilities and amenities funded under the programme must be disability friendly.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 and 2022

Galway County received funding for three out of eight projects submitted in June 2021 which were announced by DRCD at end of February. In addition, an allocation has been provided for Project Development Costs to review Woodford Courthouse as a potential community facility.

GALWAY	Project / Location	Description	Allocation
Galway	Barnaderg	The proposed project will result in a number of enhancements to Barnaderg village which will improve access to community facilities,	€100,000
Galway	Galway Villages (5 locations)	Health Checks: Galway County Council is seeking investment to appoint a multi-disciplinary consultancy team to complete Village Health Checks for five individual areas.	€58,500
Galway	Leenane	Leenane Outdoor Recreational Facility: The proposed project will result in the development of Leenane Community Park on a 1.45 hectare site, which overlooks Killary Harbour. The proposed park will be for visitor and resident use.	€250,000
3	TOTAL	GALWAY	€408,500

DRCD have indicated that the 2022 Scheme will be announced in early April with Expression of Interest accepted in April and May 2022. tandv@galwaycoco.ie

The type of projects that will be prioritised by the Department include the following and further information will be circulated when the Scheme is published.

Priority A1	Projects that bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces and/or for residential occupancy.
Priority A1	Projects that bring vacant properties in Town Centres back into use as Remote Working Hubs.
Priority A2	Regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town and village centres
Priority A2	Projects to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades in towns and villages.
Priority A2	Projects to develop parks, green spaces and recreational amenities in town centres to make them vibrant hubs for community enjoyment, and to increase footfall for local businesses.
Priority A2	Marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent to their county/region; and promotion of specific town/villages to attract new customers and/or business investment.
Priority A2	Projects that support and enhance the night-time economy in line with emerging recommendations from the Night-Time Economy Taskforce.

The Department of Community and Rural Development have indicated that applications for Hubs, Co-Work Spaces, renewal of Derelict Properties and Upgrade Green or Public Spaces in Village Centres will be prioritised.

TOURISM:

Tourism Strategy: Consultation has begun on the County Tourism Strategy with a bi-lingual industry facing survey published on www.discovergalway.ie since St. Patrick's day. (The current closing date for industry survey submissions being 11 April). This has been circulated to industry databases and will gain additional promotion through local press from 28 March. One to one meetings / interviews with key personnel in the industry and state agencies have been taking place since early March. The SEA Scoping report has been issued to relevant authorities on 16th March, allowing four weeks for submissions (Closing date 18 April).

Consultants will brief the Galway County Council Management Team and Elected Representatives will be consulted through a special workshop in April (Date TBC). The consultation process will inform the Tourism input to the LECP.

Launch of The Connemara Coast and Islands VEDP Progress Report:

The Connemara Coast and Islands visitor experience development plan was launched in March 2018 and was one of the first of such plans nationally, bringing together public and private sector in a collaborative and progressive framework.

A key performance indicator for the Connemara & Islands visitor experience development plan was that 80% of the actions were in progress or have been progressed. Galway County Council have played a key role in many of the catalyst projects including the Tourism recovery marketing strategy of and brand development project (2021), and key infrastructure projects including supporting development of the signature Discovery Point at Derrygimlagh bog; ongoing development of the Connemara Greenway project and progression of the Clifden Destination Town award of 500k; coupled with the Category 2 RRDF award for town centre enhancement of Clifden. In addition to this, there was strong support for the Conamara Wild at Heart signage strategy and for the approval for Galway County Council's business case for the development of Inis Óírr pier by the Minister.

The plan was launched on Arann Mór on 8 March:



European Sustainable Tourism Indicator System for the Islands

The Tourism Officer met with IT Sligo and GMIT regarding European Sustainable Tourism Indicator System for the Islands. The 'Galway Islands' (na h'Oilean Arainn and Inishbofin) are being selected for a case study and the team from IT Sligo and GMIT have requested partnership from GCC, Údarás and Fáilte Ireland. The team will extend an invitation to other GCC teams to input as the project progresses.

This study and ETIS Dashboard will have the benefit of providing access to quantitative data; legible static dashboards that demonstrate trends over time (e.g. rising percentage of women in management roles; rising waste water quality; reduction in CO2 emissions, rising dissatisfaction in tourism in the community) and will support policy makers.

Accreditation Lough Derg Blueway:

The Tourism Officers of Galway, Clare and Tipperary collaborated with the team in Waterways Ireland to on the accreditation programme of the Lough Derg Blueway. It will be one of the first Blueway projects in the Country to achieve this accreditation. The same teams also engaged in stakeholder consultation in terms of the Lough Derg Blueway brand development.

Ballinasloe:

ERCD team members and Failte Ireland met with Ballinasloe Area Community Development to support the development of a BACD led tourism taskforce for the town and environs.

Banagher Tourism Masterplan:

The Tourism Officer and Ballinsaloe Area Office Engineer were invited to sit on the steering committee for the Banagher Marina and its Environs Architectural and Tourism Master Plan. Local consultation demonstrated an interest from communities on the Galway and Offaly side of the Shannon for aligned tourism development in the region.

Local Enterprise Office Update

LEO Galway 2021 outputs:

LEO Galway financially supported 270 small businesses in their portfolio across the city and county and these companies in turn employ 1187 people – an increase of 220 jobs on prior years figures.

The financial supports and job created are only part of the supports provided by the LEO Galway who may impact local Galway business positively through relevant training, workshops, management development programmes and grants to improve online and ecommerce capability. The LEO Galway through its own mentor panel and with access to Enterprise Ireland mentors also provide targeted business advice for business in business planning, financial and cash flow advice, marketing, and business development guidance as part of their mentoring supports.

In summary the impact or touch points for LEO Galway supports can be summarised for 2021 as follows:

LEO Galway – 2021 Output			
	Annual Target	2021 Output	% +/- Annual Target
No. of Clients Approved Funding 2021	25	23*	92% (96%)
Job Commitments associated with Priming /Business Expansion	65	234	360%
No. of Mentoring Participants	660	852	129%
No. of Training Participants	650	977	150%
No. of SYOB Programmes	10	13	130%
No. of SYOB Participants	140	167	119%
No. of Lean Projects	15	15	100%
No. of Green4Micro Projects	8	12	150%
No. of MFI Applications Submitted	32	12	38%
No. of TOVs Approved	150	307	205%
<i>*24 Projects approved/23 clients</i>			

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME 2022 AND 2023



The Council is pleased to confirm that the Regional and Local Roads Division of the Department of Transport has indicated of the funding allocations for both 2022 and 2023 under the CIS Programme of works.

Galway County Council	Allocation
2022	€ 964,160
2023	€ 1,131,840
Total	€ 2,096,000

The list of schemes for which funding has been sought was circulated via email to the members on Tuesday last 22nd March 2022 at 10.11am.

The Council would like to draw your attention to the following important changes to the CIS in 2022/2023:

The CIS will be based on a minimum community contribution of either 10% or 20% based on the criteria below. It is no longer permissible to carry out a CIS funded scheme where the local community contribution is a combination of monetary and works. Please see the following terms below:

- Where the local community contribution is monetary a minimum contribution rate of 10% will apply;

- Where the local community contribution comprises works the minimum contribution rate will be 20%;

No other grants allocated under Department of Transport grant programmes can be used for the community contribution.

Eligible works with relevant codes under the CIS

General (G):

- providing hard stands at field entrances; removal of grass verges or banks; site preparation works including the removal of grass from the centre of the road (where required).

Drainage (D):

- opening, deepening and generally maintaining drains alongside roadway and adjoining land including the laying of drainage pipes, where appropriate;
- providing gully traps at suitable locations and piping to drains, where appropriate;
- opening inlets; opening backshores; unblocking of shores/surface water drains;

Pavement Works (P):

- repair of potholes (P-RP); surface dressing works (P-SD); road strengthening works (P-SR for Surface Restoration, P-SO for Structural Overlay, P-RR Road Reconstruction)

Footpaths (F):

- repair of footpaths (FR); construction of new footpaths (FN)

BREXIT ADJUSTMENT: LOCAL AUTHORITY MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2022-2023 (Formerly Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme)



The Scheme has been designed having regard to the recommendations of the Seafood Taskforce on immediate measures to mitigate the impacts of the fish quota share reductions arising from the EU/UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on the Irish Fishing industry and on the coastal communities that depend on fisheries. Expenditure under this scheme will be proposed for funding under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Funding provided under the Scheme is for the purpose of eligible capital works. Funding for studies, surveys, planning and permit processes, consultants and/or design fees, etc. are not allowable as project costs under this Scheme.

The Council has applied for funding in 2022 to carry out the following remedial works at the locations identified.

Location	Project Total Costs (incl VAT)	Description of the Works
Inishbofin	90,000	<p>Old Pier Remove old fuel storage area and reinstate Toe rails to be installed around the pier Navigation light at slipway to be replaced 2nr. Recessed ladders at end of Pier</p> <p>New Pier Installation of 3nr. Mooring bollards Steel support for Fender at concrete steps</p>
Cleggan	40,000	Repair to PALFINGER crane
Blackweir	80,000	Repair to failed / cracking pier wall
Spiddal	37,000	Masonry repairs to storm wall Repair to undermined section of pier wall / storm wall
Inver	22,000	Handrails, safety / warning signage, toe rail, ring buoys
Loughaun Beg	12,500	Edge Rail required and handrails to be installed
Aircin	37,000	Repair to undermined section of slipway, warning signage, ring buoys, replace handrails, replace gate
Sconnsa	31,000	Repair to retaining / pier wall, warning signs, Guardrails, handrails, toe rails, ring buoys
Ballyconneely	70,000	Repair to damaged pier wall repair concrete deck Handrails and edge protection Ring buoys

ATHLONE TO GALWAY GREENWAY – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT ON PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR

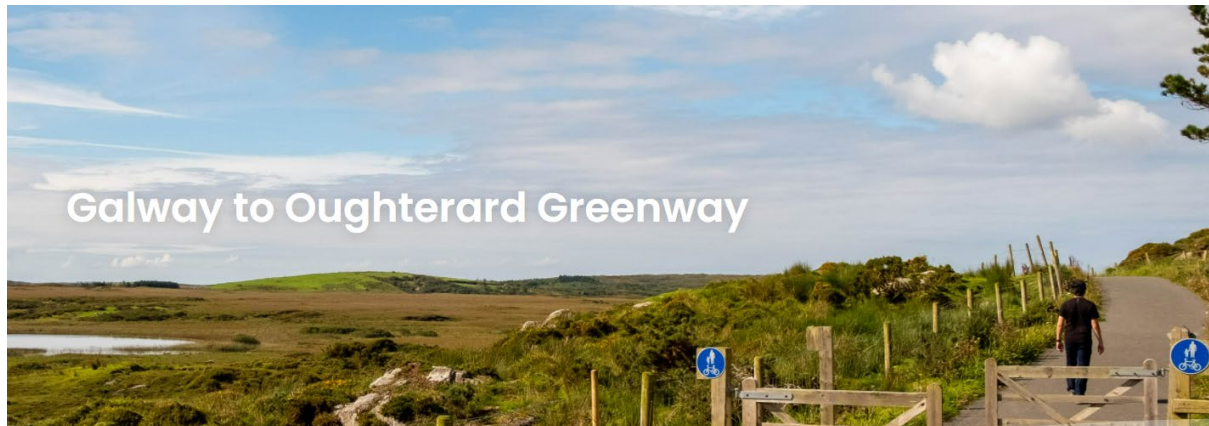


**WORKING
WITH YOU
AG OB AIR LEAT**

The Council is currently reviewing all the submissions received during the last public consultation event and is drafting a report on same. As a summary, the engagement with private landowners during the public consultation period can be summarized as follows:

- PLO Team have had 300+ no face to face or phone calls meetings with landowners in this period, within the consultation areas.
- Meeting with the East Galway Greenway Action Group in Eyrecourt Community Hall on 17/01/22 and in March 2022
- Meeting with a group of landowners in the Oranmore/Maree area 23/12/21, with follow up site visit on 09/01/2022.
- Zoom meeting with landowners from the Kilcolgan/Clarinbridge area on 01/02/22.
- Meeting with Councilor Joe Byrne and landowners on in Moran's the Weir 18/02/22
- Meeting with Group of commonage landowners in Clarinbridge 19/02/22
- Meeting with Cllr Ivan Canning earlier this week.

GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT ON STUDY AREA AND CONSTRAINTS



As with the Athlone to Galway Scheme, The Council is currently reviewing all the submissions received during the first public consultation event and is drafting a report on same. As a summary, the engagement with during the public consultation period can be summarized as follows:

PC1 Submissions

- Total Number of Online Submissions through the feedback form: 620
- The Council has also received another 15 email submissions
- It is anticipated we will receive a few more through this method now that official submissions are closed.

Website Stats (from 28-02-22 to present)

- Unique Website Visitors – 2,300
- Total Page Views – 6,700
- Majority of visits expectantly from Ireland (87%) but also visits from all over the world. 5% UK, 2% USA, the remainder from Netherlands, Spain, Germany, France, Finland, Belgium, New Zealand, UAE, Malta, Singapore, India, Canada, Denmark, Poland, Norway, Switzerland, Moldova, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Slovenia, Mexico, Australia, Luxembourg and Georgia.

As would be expected, activity on the website was visited a lot at the start, tapered off on weekdays, rose again at weekends and closer to the closing date experienced a large volume of traffic again.



APPROVAL BY AN BORD PLEANÁLA OF THE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER FOR ROUNDSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND PUMPING STATIONS.



On 3rd March 2022, An Bord Pleanála decided to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order for Roundstone Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping Stations. ABP306355-20

The Compulsory Purchase Order relates to the compulsory acquisition of rights over land including permanent acquisition of lands, wayleaves over land, temporary working rights and rights of way in various parcels of land, to provide a new wastewater treatment plant and associated infrastructure. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is to be located on elevated lands approximately 500m north of the village of Roundstone.

The purpose of the CPO is to provide new wastewater infrastructure so as to:

- Eliminate untreated wastewater discharging into Roundstone Bay.
- To provide a level of treatment that complies with general environmental regulations pertaining to wastewater and in particular to comply with the requirements of the Certificate of Authorisation issued by the EPA in 2011.
- To comply with all the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and national legislation.
- To provide sufficient capacity to allow for sustainable development within Roundstone.

PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

Planning & Sustainable Development

Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022 – 2028 - Proposed Material Alterations

Galway County Council has prepared Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022 – 2028.

A copy of the proposed Material Alterations and associated SEA and AA documents, including Screening Determinations, will be on public display and may be inspected from **Wednesday 09th March 2022 to 4.00pm Thursday 07th April 2022** inclusive during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- <https://consult.galway.ie/>
- **Planning Office, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX** (Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm)
- **Ballinasloe Library, Society Street, Ballinasloe** (Wednesday- Saturday 11am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)
- **Ballinasloe Area Office, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe** (Monday – Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)

Written Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan and associated SEA and AA documents, which include information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed material alterations, may be made within the above period and **before 4.00pm on Thursday 07th April 2022**. Written submissions or observations should be clearly marked ***'Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022 – 2028'*** and must be submitted either:

Online

Online by visiting <https://consult.galway.ie/>

By Email

Sent by email to forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie

In Writing

in writing and addressed to:

'Ballinasloe Local Area Plan' Forward Planning Section, Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway.

Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 75 of 2022)

The Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2018 - S.I. No. 30 of 2018 - which came into operation on 8 February 2018, provided for an exemption from the requirement to obtain planning permission in respect of the change of use of certain vacant commercial premises, including vacant areas above ground floor premises, to residential use. The regulations are primarily aimed at facilitating the productive re-use of qualifying vacant commercial buildings as homes, while also facilitating urban renewal and the bringing on stream of increased housing supply.

The Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 75 of 2022) extends to 31 December 2025 the exemption given by SI 30 of 2018 and satisfies the commitment given by action 20.3 of Housing for All.

In order to avail of the exemptions being provided for, the structure, or part of the structure, which is the subject of the change of use must have been vacant for at least 2 years immediately prior to the commencement of the relevant works, with such works being required to be completed by 31 December 2025.

In addition to the classes of use that qualified under the 2018 change of use exempted development provisions – i.e. Classes 1, 2, 3 and 6 – as outlined in Part 4 of Schedule 2 of the Principal Regulations, the new regulations extend the provisions to a new Class 12 - Use as a Public House, meaning a premises which has been licensed for the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor on the premises under the Licensing Acts 1833 to 2018.

The conditions and limitations that applied to the 2018 exempted development provisions will continue to apply under these regulations which include:

- Related works shall primarily affect the interior of the building, with limited external works being permitted which are in keeping with the building and neighbouring buildings, including the provision of on-street access to upper floors, and alterations to existing ground floor shop fronts in respect of window and architectural details.
- Works to the ground floor of any structure shall not conflict with an objective in a development plan for the structure to remain in retail use, with the exception, as mentioned above, of works solely for the provision of on-street access to upper floors.
- No more than 9 individual residential units can be provided in a building.
- Minimum standards shall apply to residential units being developed such as minimum requirements in relation to overall floor areas, storage space requirements and the need for adequate natural light in living rooms and bedrooms (see the *“Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities”*).
- Works to a protected structure shall not be permitted unless a section 57 declaration has been issued by a planning authority to indicate the works will not affect the character or elements of the structure which has been identified for protection.
- Works for the provision of on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems i.e. septic tanks, shall not be permitted under the exemption.
- Works shall not be permitted in a number of limited areas, such as areas of special planning control, areas to which special amenity area orders relate and within certain proximity distances of establishments to which the major accident regulations apply.
- Care should be taken to ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements in relation to the assessment of potential impacts on bats, their roosts and nesting birds arising from any proposed works in relevant buildings.

A number of other general restrictions as set out in Article 9 of the Principal Regulations are identified as applying to this exemption. In addition, development must not contravene a condition attached to a permission issued under the Act, including any condition specifying the permitted use of the building concerned.

Notification Requirement

As has applied since the introduction of the 2018 regulations, a planning authority must be notified in writing of the details of the development at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the proposed change of use, and related works, and the notification must include information on the location and details of residential units being developed. The new regulations further require that the notification must include the Eircode for the relevant property. A planning authority remains required to:

- maintain a record of any notifications received,
- make the record publicly available online and at their office, and
- submit annual returns to the Minister detailing the notifications received.

commencement of the proposed change of use, and related works, and the notification must include information on the location and details of residential units being developed. The new regulations further require that the notification must include the Eircode for the relevant property. A planning authority remains required to:

- maintain a record of any notifications received,
- make the record publicly available online and at their office, and
- submit annual returns to the Minister detailing the notifications received.

Heritage Council- Heritage Plan Funding Allocation to Galway County Council in 2022

In January 2022, Galway County Council submitted four funding applications to the Heritage Council. The four applications were successful in receiving funding totalling **€53,243** from the Heritage Council.

The following is a short outline of the four projects:

Project 1: Audit of Holy Wells of County Galway Phase 3 – 2022



Holy Wells are for the most part lesser-known aspects of our heritage and in order to gather together as much information as possible about this valuable aspect of our intangible heritage, the Audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway was initiated in 2020.

The Audit is an Action of the County Galway Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and is in line with the aims and objectives of the Heritage Councils Strategy 2018-2022 'Heritage at the Heart'.

The primary aims of the Audit are:

- (i) To undertake an audit of the Holy Wells in the County of Galway and to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of this cultural and built heritage resource among individuals and community groups in the county.
- (ii) Promote heritage best practice in relation to researching and undertaking works relating to this important heritage resource.
- (iii) Develop resources that showcase this lesser-known aspect of our heritage.

Due to the geographical size of the County, the number of recorded (Records of Monuments and Places – National Monuments Service) and potentially unrecorded holy wells present, the low level of current information on the holy wells of the County and the importance of allowing time for community involvement in the gathering of information for this project, it was decided that the Audit would be undertaken in a series of phases set over a number of years between the months of May to October.

Phase 1, which was completed in 2020 was designed to deal with:

- the desktop aspect of the project, based on a methodology comprising investigation of documentary sources;
- interrogation of the Record of Monuments & Places/Sites & Monuments Record, the Archaeological Survey of County Galway; map sources, Dúchas website etc.
- consultation with local history groups and local informants
- development of a digital survey sheet for collection of field data in the subsequent phases of the Audit and a searchable database for storage of information collected.

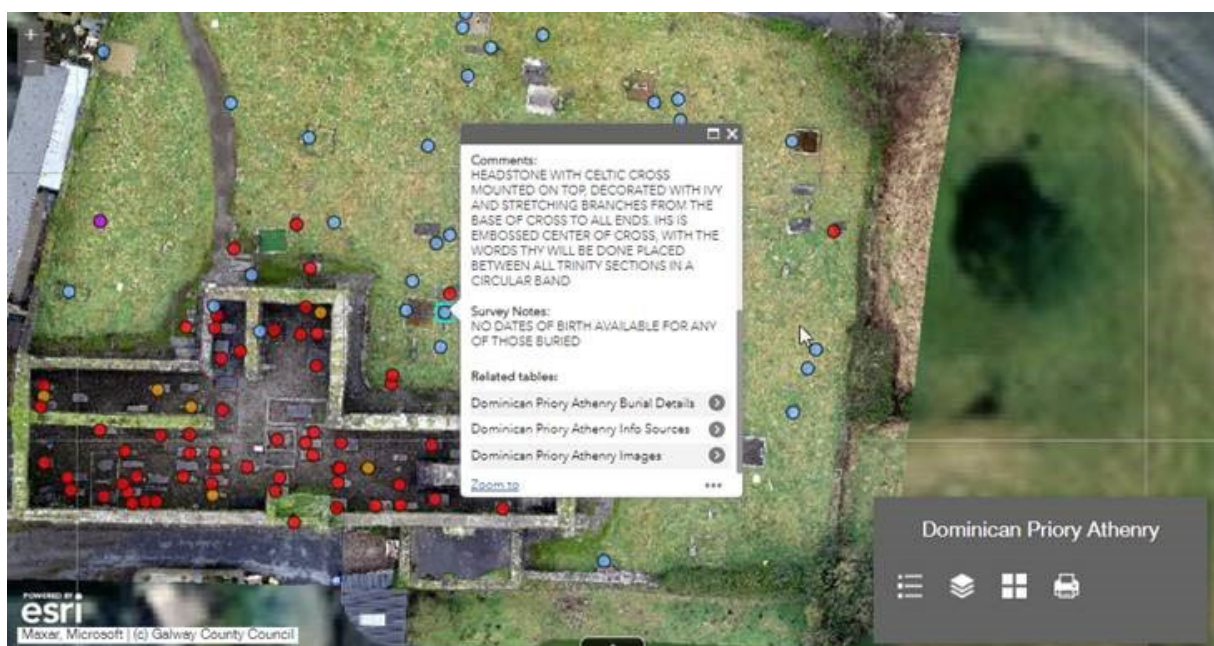


Representational spread of Holy wells in the County of Galway (data taken from National Monuments Service dataset)

The Municipal Districts will be used as the basic geographical unit for the completion of field survey. A total of two Municipal Areas will be audited per phase.

The details of 90 holy wells in the Municipal Districts of Loughrea and Ballinasloe were recorded in 2021 using the specially designed ‘Galway Holy Wells Survey 123 App’ developed during Phase 1 of the Audit. It is intended to audit the holy wells of the Tuam and Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District in 2022.

Project 2: Digital Mapping of Graveyards Project 2022



The aim of this project is to support our communities to connect with their past by unlocking valuable graveyard data sources and making them available as open-source data that will be free for all to use.

Project Background

Galway County Council working with various community groups in the county has been collecting, and will continue to collect, valuable data at both graveyard and individual memorial level for a number of years.

This data has been collected through a number of methods, both paper-based and digital, with the Council has recently developed and is making available a mobile app, and associated standardized survey schema, specifically for use by surveyors at the local level.

While the Council currently publishes some graveyard related data to data.gov.ie the Heritage section now wishes release the value of its more comprehensive data holdings by providing free and open access to the full wealth of heritage and local history information contained within the graveyard surveys.

Project Aims, Objectives & Outputs

The Heritage Section and GIS Section of Galway County Council have recently collaborated to develop a digital survey to replace previous paper based and semi digital methods used for carrying out surveys of graves (memorials) within graveyards in County Galway.

Used by both Council staff and by local community heritage groups, the survey captures both primary and secondary level data.

Built on top of the Council's Cloud GIS Platform the survey is made available to users through a mobile survey app. All data submitted is validated, centralized and managed through corresponding data maintenance applications.

Previously to the availability of the app graveyard surveys were carried using a combination of methods, both paper based and semi-digital, with all data collected residing with the Heritage Section of the Council in various formats and states, including documents, spreadsheets, and digital images.

To date approximately 4,500 individual memorials have been surveyed using the mobile app and a further 11,000 memorials have been previously surveyed using the older survey methods.

The Heritage & GIS Sections now propose to provide a mechanism for the publication and download of the data collected openly through the Council's Open Data Portal and

data.gov.ie. The Council will work with a number of groups throughout the county to make their graveyard data available to the public in 2022.

Project 3: Bi-lingual Geological Heritage Workbook for Junior Certificate (including videos and podcasts)

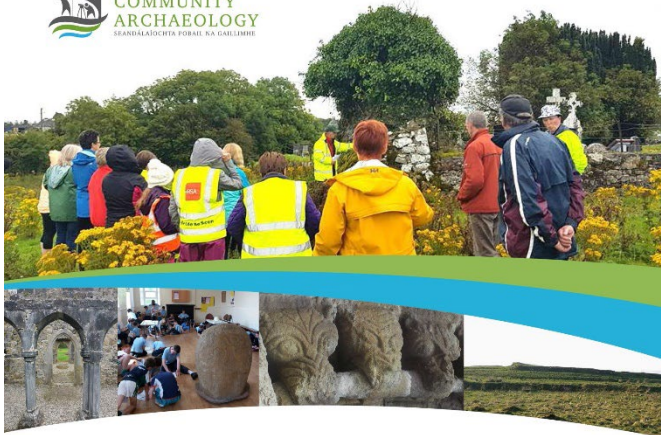


The aim of the project is to create a greater awareness, knowledge and understanding of the richness of the geological heritage resources of County Galway for teachers and students.

The new Junior Cycle Geography course commenced in 2018 with classroom-based assessments (CBAs) on local geography. Teachers and students need high quality varied resources to suit the learning and teaching needs. It is proposed to develop a bi-lingual workbook, podcasts and videos using local examples to explain complex geography and geology and it is hoped that will be of enormous benefit to the school community. This is a partnership project between the Heritage Office, Galway County Council and the Geological Survey of Ireland and it will utilise information that has been collected and collated as part of the Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway which has already been delivered.

Project 4: Galway County Community Archaeology Project 2022

GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST



The Galway Community Archaeologist provides advice and support relating to archaeological monuments in the community. She is available to answer your queries on maintenance, preservation, education and promotion of our diverse range of archaeology which spans over ten thousand years. Now available to liaise with educators, community groups, farmers, individuals and custodians of Galway's archaeological heritage.

Contact: Bernadette Doherty
Carra, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Mobile: 086 100 3888
Website: <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>
Email: g.c.archaeology@gmail.com
Facebook: Galway Community Archaeology

This project is funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council



Galway Community Archaeology Project aims to support owners, custodians, schools and communities in preserving, promoting and creating awareness and appreciation of our archaeological heritage.

The focus of the project is on raising awareness, community outreach, education through seminars and workshops, supporting community archaeology projects, educational materials and publications, data collection, promotion of best practice shall ensure the custodians of our archaeological heritage have the support, knowledge and appreciation required to protect and preserve it for future generations.

The programme is adaptable to provide on-site, in person and remote learning where-ever and whenever conditions

and restrictions allow. 2022 shall see further preparation in advancing national heritage priorities, nurture a sense of place and belonging while ensuring further contributions to our vibrant heritage sector.

The following is a very small example of projects we intend to deliver on in 2022:

Community and Local Engagement

- Support the invaluable role of local communities in conserving and promoting our built and cultural heritage throughout the county.
- Facilitate and develop partnerships, foster and increase links with all levels of the community including local groups, individuals, schools, academic institutions, statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- Promote and encourage the use of the Irish Language in our heritage, in our actions, projects, activities and resources.
- Encourage and support individuals, groups, NGOs and the education sector in applying for heritage funding and resources.

- Collect, record and share built and cultural heritage information and make this information available in an easily accessible format.
- Work with local communities in developing models of best heritage practice.
- Highlight, promote and assist the work of community groups through www.fieldmonuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org, social and other media.
- Assist communities including local groups to achieve their heritage projects and objectives to the standards of good heritage practice and to encourage cooperation and compliance with partners.
- Facilitate connections between local communities with stakeholders.
- Encourage and support local communities in applying for funding for built heritage projects.
- Promote and facilitate citizen participation in public science projects.

Exhibition of Our Archaeological Heritage

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/community-archaeology/galway-through-the-ages>

It is intended to facilitate an exhibition of our archaeological heritage – ‘Galway Through the Ages’. It is proposed that community groups concentrate on a specific era/find/site from their area. Co-ordinated by the Community Archaeologist, it is intended to talk/elaborate on the specific site/era/ find within the communities involved. This travelling exhibition can be ‘on show’ in each participating community using pull-up banners, easily transportable.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2022.

The quality of our historic built environment contributes to the vitality of our cities, towns, villages and countryside, instils a sense of pride of place, and enhances the quality of our everyday lives.

The historic built environment makes a significant contribution to economic prosperity by attracting investment, providing direct and indirect employment, as well as sustaining a traditional skills base for wider application. Our built heritage is one of the main attractions for visitors to Ireland so its conservation also reinforces and promotes our tourism industry as well as contributing to the regeneration of urban and rural areas.

The aim of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme is to leverage private capital for investment in a significant number of small-scale, labour-intensive conservation projects throughout the county and to support the employment of conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment.

The provisional allocations are set out below.

Our Ref No.	Projects	Type of works	Funding Allocated
BHIS22/GCO01	Former Presbyterian Church, Society Street Ballinasloe	repair of stained-glass windows.	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO02	Summerfield, Claregalway	rethatch front and comb	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO03	Kelly Monument, Killeroan, Ballygar	repair and reinstatement of historic metal work	€2,500
BHIS22/GCO04	Lisin an Oran, Corrandulla	repair of thatch	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO05	Old Barracks, Main Street, Oughterard	repair of boundary wall	€8,000
BHIS22/GCO06	Crumlin Park House, Ballyglunin	repair of windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO07	Clareville House, Oughterard	repair RWG, chimney flashing, chimney and render	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO08	Oranhill, Oranmore	render exterior	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO09	Lisbeg House, Eyrecourt	repair windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO10	Redemptorist Monastery, Esker Atherny	repair of doors and windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO11	Bunatober, Corrandulla	repair of thatch	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO12	Creggs House	repair of sash windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO13	Teacher's residence, Recess	reslate roof, repair damaged rafters and chimney	€8,000
BHIS22/GCO14	Former Barracks Gort	repair roof, valleys	€8,000
BHIS22/GCO15	Dalyston House, Kylebrack, Loughrea	repair rear wall of structure	€8,000
BHIS22/GCO16	Gate keepers Lodge, Atherny	repair of roof and timbers	€4,000
BHIS22/GCO17	The Cottage, Cave Clarinbridge	recoat of thatch	€7,000

BHIS22/GCO18	Kiltrasna, Headford	recoat of thatch	€3,500
BHIS22/GCO19	St Brendan's Annaghdown	repair windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO20	Stowlin House, Eyrecourt, Ballinsloe	repair capping of walled garden	€2,400
BHIS22/GCO21	Cluidrevagh, Corrandulla	repair windows	€1,000
BHIS22/GCO22	Carragh Music Cottage, Beagh More Tuam	repair windows	€5,000
BHIS22/GCO23	The Glebehouse, Ardrahan, Gort	consolidate masonry	€4,000
BHIS22/GCO24	St Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea	reslate roof	€10,000

Galway Public Libraries

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Seachtain na Gaeilge, March 1st to 17th March has been celebrated throughout the Library Service with storytimes and some wonderful displays of Irish language material available to borrow from the libraries. Irish language publications are available from all Library Branches for both adults and children. Galway Library Service is committed to allocating a percentage of its book fund each year for the purchase of Irish language material. We also have the Irish version of some board games available including Scrabble and Monopoly for the public to play while in the library.



Library Management System

Libraries nationwide will move to a new LMS (Library Management System) from 29th March. This will mean some disruption to services from Tuesday 22nd as items are migrated over to the new system. Patrons will still be able to return, borrow items but the request system may be limited during that period. All libraries remained open but full functionality of the LMS may not be possible for a number of days.

Little Library Book Bags



The next tranche of Little Library Book Bags, those for children aged 4/5 who will be starting school next September will be available through branch libraries from April onwards. Parents will be advised to call into their local branch library to collect their bag. Each will contain three books covering the themes of going to school, friendship, and being comfortable in yourself. The bags will also contain a social story card on the library and a leaflet/social story card on transitioning to school.

As Ukrainian displaced people arrive into our communities the Library Service will support them in whatever way possible by temporarily easing the requirement for proof of address



and generally reaching out to them to let them know that Library Services are free and that wifi and pcs are available for them to use to keep in touch with family still remaining in the Ukraine. Stock in Ukrainian is very limited, however, Libraries across the country are actively looking at ways to purchase same as resources allow.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE & MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES & INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES DIRECTORATE

Environment:

Environmental Awareness

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Galway County Council, in conjunction with GRETB (Galway and Roscommon Education Training Board), and Roscommon County Council presented week 3 of a 6-week online course on Climate change and sustainability. The course was well received and embraced by all participants.



FREE
ONLINE
COURSE

CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO GREENER LIVING AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
THINK GLOBALLY – ACT LOCALLY
GRETB COMMUNITY EDUCATION ONLINE COURSE
EVERY TUESDAY FOR 6 WKS – STARTING 15TH FEBRUARY, 11AM – 12PM

This course will have a sign language Interpreter to enable the participation of the Deaf Community



• WEEK 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY – AN INTRODUCTION
• WEEK 2 – FOOD WASTE – TIPS FOR REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN THE HOME AND COOKING OPTIONS
• WEEK 3 – DOMESTIC WASTE MANGEMENT & LOCAL RECYCLING SERVICES/AMENITIES. PRESENTATION BY BOTH GALWAY AND ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCILS.
• WEEK 4 – TEXTILE UPCYCLING – PRESENTATION AND DEMONSTRATION ON UPCYCLING GUEST SPEAKERS FROM RWN CYCLEUP PROJECT
• WEEK 5 – BIODIVERSITY & COMPOSTING – PRESENTATION AND GUIDELINES ON COMPOSTING
• WEEK 6 – ENERGY CONSERVATION – PRESENTATION BY SEAI ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GRANTS FOR HOUSEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITIES

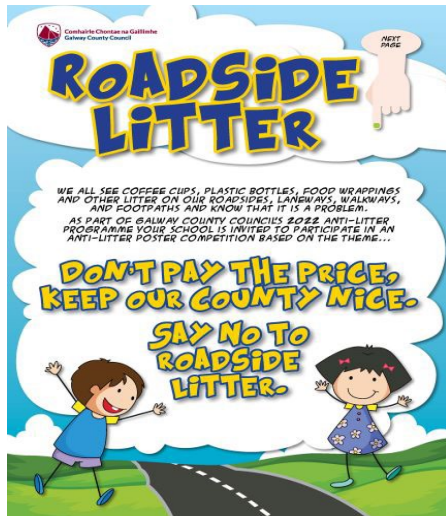
TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE EMAIL anne.mannion@gretb.ie OR PHONE ON 087 6266398







ROADSIDE LITTER ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITION



All schools in the County have been invited to take part in an Anti-Litter poster competition. The theme is roadside litter and the problems it creates.

National Tree Week 2022



National Tree Week 2022 will take place this year from 20th March - 26th March 2022. The Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte are working in partnership to promote the week. This year's theme is "More forests for a greener future".

In conjunction with the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte, Galway County Council will have tree saplings available free of charge to community groups, schools, and other voluntary organisations.

Social Media



Galway County Council promoted the Food waste prevention campaign on National Stop Food Waste Day on all its social media outlets.

Gort Civic Amenity Site

The Tenders have been issued for Technical Services for the development of Gort Civic Amenity Site.

Biodiversity Update

Biodiversity and Pollinator Municipal District Plans

Research with regards to the production of Biodiversity & Pollinator Plans for each municipal district has commenced.

The primary aim of Biodiversity & Pollinator Action Plans is to provide a framework for protecting, managing and/or enhancing natural heritage in each municipal district through actions led by the local authority (Area Office) and the local community. Given the size of the county and variation in landscape and natural heritage resources and the fact that the county is divided up into municipal districts with an area office of Galway County Council it was decided to use the municipal district as the basis of area in which the plans would be developed and implemented.

The process of producing and implementing a plan for each municipal district creates an opportunity to co-ordinate action among local groups, individuals, the local authority, statutory bodies, and other organisations at a local level which is more meaningful and achievable.

It is proposed that the plans will capture the objectives, targets and actions for biodiversity that will be undertaken by the local authority, local communities, organisations and individuals to achieve the objectives of the plan.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund: Galway County Council Applications

Galway County Council Heritage Office submitted eight funding applications to the Science and Biodiversity Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on behalf of Galway County Council in relation to this funding stream at the beginning of March. The fund aims to provide funding to assist local authorities with the implementation of projects that promote actions contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021.

Beekeeping Course

Galway County PPN working in partnership with the Heritage Office of Galway County Council has provided 10 free places for members of Tidy Towns, heritage & community groups on the Tribes Beekeepers Association Beekeeping Course. Details of the six- week course can be seen on the poster below.



The poster is titled 'TRIBES BEEKEEPING COURSE' in large orange letters, with two bees on either side. Below the title, it says 'FREE 6 Week Course'. The start date is 'Starting Wednesday 23rd February 2022' at '7:30pm'. The location is 'Tribes Clubhouse in the grounds of Kilcornan, Clarinbridge'. It notes 'Spaces limited, to sign up please email mmullen@galwaycoco.ie'. A list of topics to be covered includes: 1. Equipment, 2. Natural history of the honeybee, 3. Practical beekeeping, 4. Diseases, pests and poisoning, 5. Harvesting, and 6. Manipulation of a colony. Logos for Galway County Council, Galway County Public Participation Network, and the Heritage Office are at the bottom. The text 'Galway County PPN in partnership with GCC Heritage Office' is at the very bottom.

Fire and Emergency Services

Loughrea Fire Station: The tender has been accepted for the design of the station and contracts are expected to be finalised in the coming week to appoint the design team. It is anticipated that the Part 8 application will be lodged in March 2022.

Athenry Fire Station: Following the approval of the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District members of the Part 8 planning permission for the station in Athenry approval has been sought from the Department to proceed to the construction stage.

Mise, Le Meas,

Mr. Jim Cullen

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

24th March 2022