



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bealtaine 2023
May 2023

DEXCOM'S INVESTMENT IN ATHENRY

Galway County Council has welcomed the announcement by the IDA that med-tech firm Dexcom is to create 1,000 permanent jobs at its proposed new global manufacturing facility in Athenry, County Galway. Subject to the planning and development process, the new facility will see an investment of up to €300 million over 5 years, creating up to 1,000 high skilled jobs over the period with up to 500 jobs created during the construction phase

Dexcom is a leading developer, manufacturer and distributor of continuous glucose monitoring systems for diabetes management. The new facility will be Dexcom's first production plant in Europe and the proposal to locate it on the IDA Ireland owned land in Athenry and has been hailed as a "game changer" for the County and the Region. The lands in question are part of the Strategic Economic Corridor contained in the Galway County Development Plan 2022 –2028 and zoned for development as part of the Athenry Local Area Plan. The decision by Dexcom to invest in Athenry is testament to the work of this Council through the forward planning process and confirms the potential of the Strategic Economic Corridor in delivering significant numbers of high-quality jobs for Galway. The circa 30-hectare site was earmarked by IDA Ireland to accommodate exactly this type of investment and it is wonderful to have secure the investment for Ireland and the West in what is a highly competitive global market.



SITE FOR DEXCOM DEVELOPMENT ON IDA IRELAND LANDS AT ATHENRY

Galway County Council, in conjunction with the IDA, played a central role in attracting the investment by working closely with the IDA and company representatives over the last 18+ months to attract Dexcom to choose the site as their preferred location. The decision is a vote of confidence in Galway and one that it is hoped will encourage further investment in the county by Irish and other multinational companies that are considering investing in the County or expanding their footprint in the wider region.

County Council played key role in Athenry investment

BY DECLAN VARLEY
Galway County Council in conjunction with the IDA, played a central role in attracting the investment by providing Dexcom with a community and enterprise hub space in Athenry town centre that will serve as an initial base for the company ahead of the development of a permanent headquarter facility on IDA lands in the town.

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council, said the announcement follows many months of engagement between the IDA and the Local Authority on the overall project.

"We are working closely with the IDA and Dexcom to facilitate a quick start-up of the initial phase of the operation through the provision of office space in our town centre, and we look forward to the development of this significant national project in Athenry and the transition to the IDA

site for which planning permission is expected to be sought in the coming months," explained Mr. Conneally. "The foresight and forward planning of Galway County Council goes back many years when the landbank was purchased by the IDA and then inserted in the various County Development Plans as part of the Strategic Economic Corridor."

Mr. Conneally noted that the investment is strongly rooted in Galway's global reputation for the medtech industry, the quality of the workforce and its status as a place where people want to work and live.

"Dexcom has made a significant long-term commitment to Athenry and County Galway which I hope will influence other multinational and indigenous firms are considering investing here or expanding their existing operations in the wider region," added Mr. Conneally. "Through the work of Galway County Council,



Representatives of Galway County Council, Dexcom and IDA Ireland pictured at the announcement of 1,000 new jobs for Athenry. Photo: Aengus McMahon.

in collaboration with the IDA, we anticipate this announcement will attract further investment in our county and I am committed to working to make this happen."

Cllr Michael (Moegie) Maher, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, described the announcement as a "game-changer for Athenry and the Galway economy" and expressed his hope

that the investment by Dexcom will encourage other multinationals to consider the West of Ireland as an investment location.

"This announcement is a massive shot in the arm for the local economy. It is a vote of confidence in Galway and one that I hope will encourage Irish medical technology firms and other multinationals that are considering investing in the County or expanding their footprint

in the wider region," added Cllr Maher.

Alan Farrell, Director of Economic, Rural & Community Development and Athenry MD, Galway County Council, said Dexcom's commitment to County Galway would "build confidence in the county as a location to invest". "Dexcom's decision to develop a new global manufacturing facility in

Athenry demonstrates that through strategic planning and coordination between the development authorities, Galway can attract significant investment. There will be huge opportunities for spin offs and indigenous companies to benefit and grow many more jobs in the local economy. We recognise the importance of bringing new employment into the region and we look

forward to working with the IDA and Dexcom in delivering these highly skilled new jobs in the coming months and years."

"This major investment will act as a catalyst for the development of the wider county and the region," commented Mr. Farrell. "The announcement also coincides with Galway County Council's progressing of significant plans for the regeneration of Athenry town centre, including the delivery of enhanced public realm works."

"I am delighted that we have been able to work with Dexcom to secure them as our anchor tenants for the vacant town centre building which the Council bought with financial support from the Department of Rural & Community Development, and which means that company will have key jobs in the town centre while the project if going through the development process," he concluded.

The Council are continuing to work with the IDA and Dexcom to facilitate a quick start-up of the initial phase of the operation through the provision of office space in Athenry town centre. Agreement has been reached to progress the development of a community and enterprise hub space in Athenry town centre that will serve as an initial base for the company ahead of the development of a permanent facility on IDA lands in the town. Part VIII planning was approved by the Members of Athenry Municipal District at their meeting held on the 9th May and a works licence will be put in place to enable the delivery of the project pending the approval of a Section 183 notice by the Plenary Council to put a lease in place

PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE FACILITY IN ATHENRY





FAÇADE OF BUILDING



OWN DOOR OFFICES



RECEPTION AREA



FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT



CO-WORKING SPACE

The development of the facility contributes to the regeneration of Athenry town centre, while meeting the immediate need for office space for Dexcom’s leadership team in Ireland. The space has been designed so that is suitable for use by the community and so that it can meet future tenants of the hub with own door offices and co-working space available as well as meeting rooms.

As a follow on from the IDA announcement of the investment decision by Dexcom, a community engagement event was held on Friday 12th May 2023. Councillors from across the county were invited to attend along with local stakeholders and community groups. The event gave Dexcom an opportunity to provide more details to a wider audience regarding the project. Several

representatives from the Council attended the event which has been received extremely well with huge excitement about the project and what it can do for Galway and the West region.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHAEL LOHAN, IDA, RACHEL SHELLY, IDA, MINISTER SIMON COVENEY, BARRY REGAN, DEXCOM AND ADRIAN FUREY, DEXCOM



JUST TRANSITION FUND

To facilitate a just transition toward a low-carbon economy in the midlands the EU has awarded Fáilte Ireland €68 million for a Regenerative Tourism Scheme to invest in the sustainable development of tourism in the midlands with the aim of creating job and sustaining communities.

Fáilte Ireland are hosting drop-in clinics for the month of May around the midlands and in Ballinasloe. Just Transition is relevant to Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Paddy Matthews from Fáilte Ireland will present further information on the Just Transition Fund at the Council meeting on the 22nd May.

The EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism Scheme

As Ireland moves towards a low-carbon economy, Fáilte Ireland will deliver the Regenerative Tourism Scheme as part of the EU Just Transition Fund. Through this scheme, we'll develop tourism projects across the Midlands – sustaining jobs, businesses and communities.

Before we finalise our funding schemes, we'd like to hear your ideas at one of our drop-in clinics:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Longford Arms Hotel, Longford Town	Wednesday 10th May	18.30 – 20.30
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore	Monday 8th May	18.30 – 20.30
The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon	Tuesday 9th May	18.30 – 20.30
Anner Hotel, Thurles	Tuesday 9th May	18.30 – 20.30
Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise	Wednesday 10th May	18.30 – 20.30
Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar	Monday 15th May	18.30 – 20.30
Moyvalley Hotel, Maynooth	Wednesday 17th May	18.30 – 20.30
The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe	Monday 22nd May	18.30 – 20.30

Or share your views on our online portal www.failteireland.ie/JustTransition

EUROVELO 1 OFFICIAL NATIONAL LAUNCH OF CYCLE ROUTE

Staff working in the tourism function have been working with Sport Ireland in supporting the population of the EuroVelo 1 Ireland website, cycle route. The route is broken up into sections. In Co. Galway there are 4 sections, including one of which includes the city. The work that was required for the website was a description of each section, 3 points of interest for each section and suitable images added. Following internal consultation information was uploaded onto the system.

The official launch for the website on 18th May 2023 at Our Lady’s Island Community Centre Co. Wexford. Once the website goes live it will be available by link on Galway County Council’s website.

WILD ATLANTIC WAY, GALWAY TOURISM INDUSTRIAL NETWORKING EVENT

Fáilte Ireland hosted an in-person Industry Networking Event for tourism partners in Galway, and Islands on Thursday 4th May 2023.

The event supported tourism partners to maximise the cross-selling and referral opportunity in 2023 and followed the structured format of speed-networking appointments. Accommodation providers, visitor attractions, and experience/activity providers attended.

Galway County Council was delighted to attend this event and to continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Festivals & Events - County Galway 2023

APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
13th-16th Clifden Traditional Music Festival 28th-1st Connemara Mountain Walking Festival 28th-30th Wild West Musical Festival 29th-30th Connemara Isles Wellness Retreat	1st-2nd 14th Annual Garden Festival, Claregalway 11-16th Galway Film Fleadh 28th-30th South Galway Bay Music Festival 28th-6th Clonberne Festival 2023 30th-6th Cashel Together 30th Mountbellew Vintage Annual Show 20th-23rd Williamstown Summer Festival	1st-3rd Carna Walking Festival 2nd Clarinbridge Market Day 3rd Taispeántas Chois Fharráige Teo 7th-10th Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds 8th-10th Cleggan Fringe Festival 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 14th-24th Clifden Arts Festival 2023 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 16th-17th Athenry M.A.D Festival 22nd-24th Bia Bófinne Food Festival 22nd Culture Night 2023 26th-1st Three Rings	10th-15th Three Rings 13th-22nd Baboró International Arts Festival for Children 13th-22nd Glenamaddy Theatre Festival 21st-30th Connemara Sea Week 27th-30th Creggs Harvest Festival 27th-29th Kiltavna Festival 29th Halloween on the Green
MAY	AUGUST	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
5th-7th Féile Joe Éinníú 2023 19th-21st Galway Comhalta (Galway County Board of Comhaltas) 24th-28th Ballinasloe Tourism Sample Weekend	3rd-8th Ballygar Carnival 4th-13th Dunmore Annual Festival 4th-13th The Woman who built All Saints, Clonbur 11th-13th Clonbur August Summer Festival 12th-14th Cruinniú na mBad 15th-18th Connemara Pony Festival 19th Feile Lunasa An Cheathrú Rua 24th-27th The Dessie O' Halloran Music Weekend 26th-27th Féile Báid Seoil Inis Meáin 26th-27th Féile ná Sléibhte 26th-28th Feile an tSrutháin	1st-8th Ballinasloe Horse Fair 3rd-8th Three Rings 3rd Headford Community Arts Festival 3rd-8th Féile Chois Fharráige 6th-8th Éigse Dara Beag 6th-7th Cúirt Cheoil na mBan	12th-24th Galway Science & Technology Festival 25th Howl of the Moon
JUNE		DECEMBER	
2nd-4th Headfest 5th Féile An Spideal 18th Kilkerrin Festival		9th Christmas Walk in the Woods Mountbellew	

Staff in the Economic, Rural and Community Development unit along with in a number of other units are actively 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 2023, 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 67 communities were granted support through this scheme in 2023.

For any event/festival that is not on this calendar, details can be emailed to tourism@galwaycoco.ie

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

The LEO continued to support business and a number of events over the last month and a half, details of which are set out hereunder.

30TH MARCH – 12TH MAY UPDATE

- Two Lean for Micro Programmes with 12 participants were completed – 30th March.
- Valerie Kelly, A/Head of LEO attended the conference Thinking Beyond - J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, University of Galway in partnership with ITAG and Galway Chamber– 31st March.
- LEO Galway had an information stand at the Irish Tax Institute - Annual Conference in the Galmont Hotel – 31st March. This was attended by Valerie Kelly and Eoin Connaire.
- Strategic Growth Programme for Female Founders, a 2-year management development programme for established female entrepreneurs, commenced with 13 participants – 3rd April.
- Valerie Kelly attended Enterprise Ireland Summit - celebrating 25 years – 19th April.
- LEO Galway attended the CREW official launch (LEO Galway co-fund the Creative Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Development program); Portershed-a-Do official launch and the Mayors Lunch in Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill – 20th April.
- Caroline McDonagh on behalf of LEO Galway took part on an expert panel at an Agri Innovation event at the University of Galway – 22nd April.
- LEO Galway hosted an event ‘Strive for Growth’ in partnership with Network Galway in Galway Bay Golf Resort Hotel, Renville, Oranmore - 26th April. LEO Galway was represented by Stephanie Colombani.
- LEO Galway attended the Climate Action Economic Opportunities In Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise in Tullamore Court Hotel – 26th April.
- LEO Galway was represented by Valerie Kelly as a judge in the Phase 3 interviews of the Enterprise Ireland-funded, entrepreneurship New Frontiers programme – 27 & 28th April.
- LEO Galway staff participated in the organizing of the National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme in Croke Park - 5th May. Galway had three winners:
 - *Senior Category Winner, Fólens Smart Business Award: Tomas Mc Grath from Presentation College, Athenry, Galway.*
 - *2nd Place in Junior Category: Orlaith Connors from Gort Community School with her business Orlaith’s Derrybrien Honey.*
 - *Best Commercial Potential: Charlie Carroll, Adam Forde. Aaron Keane, Rian Coyle. Jack Nolan from Coláiste Einde in Salthill with their business Galway Engravers*
- LEO Galway was represented by Stephanie Colombani as a judge in the Network Galway Awards – 5th May.
- Caroline McDonagh on behalf of LEO Galway presented an overview on supports at the FORUM Conference in the Station House Hotel - 8th May.
- LEO Galway sponsored the Potters Market which took place on 30th April & 1st May
- LEO Galway provided the following supports to small businesses and entrepreneurs in April/May:
 - *22 mentoring assignments*
 - *66 business advisory (1-to-1) sessions*
 - *5 Trading Online Vouchers*
 - *7 Training courses – 82 participants*
- Social Media Statistics
 - *Facebook reach so far this year (to May 11th): 58,614*
 - *Instagram reach: 4,434*
 - *Visitors to website: 6,754*

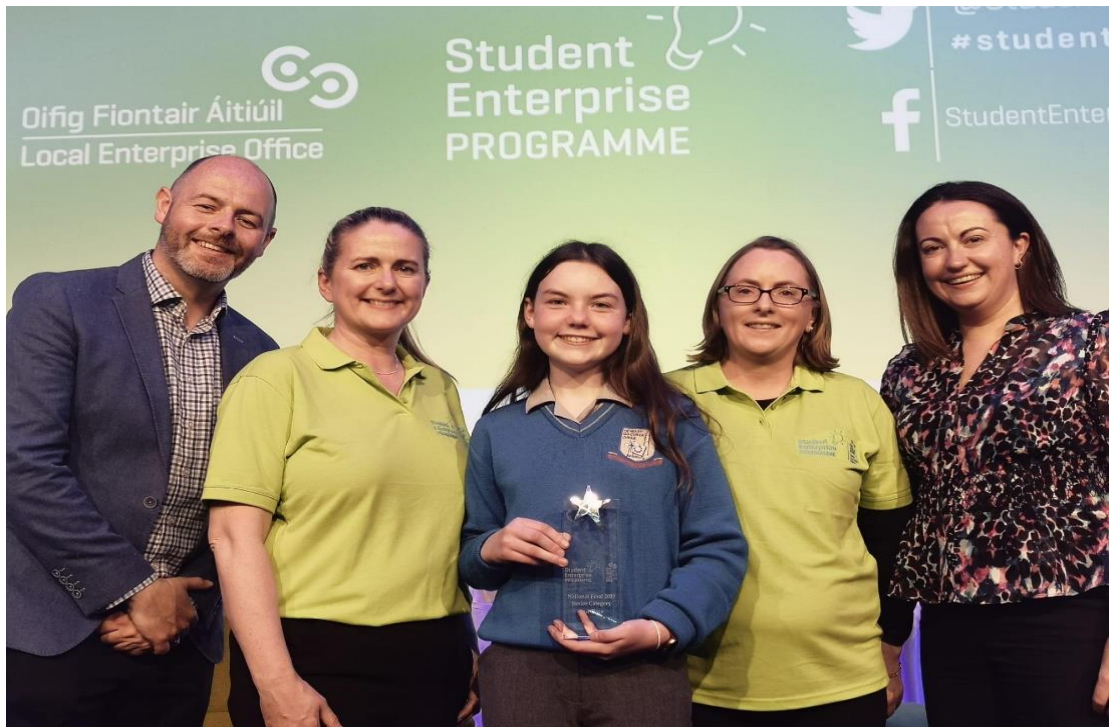
PHOTOS OF RECENT EVENTS:



PICTURED ABOVE L-R: EOIN CONNAIRE & VALERIE KELLY – LEO GALWAY - AT THE ITI ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



PICTURED ABOVE L-R: MINISTER OF STATE HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON, MEABH CONNAGHAN -ENTERPRISE IRELAND, MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY COUNCILOR CLODAGH HIGGINS, MINISTER SIMON COVENEY, VALERIE KELLY – LEO GALWAY, NOELEEN HUSSEY – ENTERPRISE IRELAND.



PICTURED ABOVE L-R: GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL TEACHER, NOREEN NIC DHONNACHA – LEO GALWAY, ORLAITH CONNORS, VALERIE KELLY - LEO GALWAY, PJ MULLIN (SEP COORDINATOR)

PICTURED ABOVE: LEO GALWAY REPRESENTATIVES– NOREEN NIC DHONNACHA, VALERIE KELLY & ARIANNA MCDONOGH - WITH GALWAY ENGRAVERS, COLÁISTE EINDE TEACHER AND PJ MULLIN.





PICTURED ABOVE: GALWAY COUNTY WINNERS IN THE SENIOR CATEGORY: THOOR FIREPITS FROM GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL – REPRESENTING LEO GALWAY IN CROKE PARK ON 5TH MAY.



PICTURED ABOVE: STEPHANIE COLOMBANI - LEO GALWAY – AT THE STRIVE FOR GROWTH EVENT, COHOSTED BY LEO GALWAY AND NETWORK GALWAY – IN THE GALWAY BAY GOLF RESORT HOTEL.



PICTURED ABOVE: LEO GALWAY CLIENT - LIVING GINGER DESIGN & ORLA CULLIGAN CERAMICS AT THE GALWAY POTTERS MARKET.

CLIENT STORIES IN NATIONAL PRESS:



PICTURED ABOVE LEFT: HEPTAGON HOUSES – LEO GALWAY CLIENT FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE BUSINESS SECTION IN THE SUNDAY TIMES – 23RD APRIL.

- Pictured above Middle: GH Agri – are the Galway city and county finalists for the National Enterprise Awards. They will be representing Galway city and county at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House on June 1st. Galway Advertiser – March 16th.
- Pictured above Right: Irish Independent Weekend Magazine featured Artist & Designer Ciara O’Neill – LEO Galway client - after launching her ‘wearable art’ collection which sold out in a couple of days – 15th April.
- <https://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/135456/awards-for-galway-students-at-national-enterprise-finals>



Gráinne Mullins - an award-winning pastry chef when she launched Grá Chocolates from her parents' shed in 2020 and supported by LEO Galway. The chocolate business, which features local Irish ingredients and hand-painted designs, has since won her six more awards and stockists including Brown Thomas and members of the Leading Hotels of the World group. Revenue last year (2022) was \$1 million.

SHARED ISLAND:

Galway County Council through the Economic, Rural & Community Development Unit is the lead partner and this project is a unique collaboration with a shared commitment of Galway and Leitrim County Councils partnered with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to develop Excellence Centres in Food Innovation and Agritech. Each of the Local Authorities is leading out on one of the three strands with signature events organised around this. ABC Borough Council have some key events on June 7th/8th, Leitrim County Council have June 22nd in the scheduled diary while Galway County Council are considering late early July to organise a climate conference subject to availability of appropriate speakers. The BIA Innovator Campus are central to the project and the potential for Ag Tech is coordinated with BIA in terms of scoping the potential to build out on the existing/planned services through the facility.

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY:

The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being incorporated into the wider public realm is currently being finalised for the Part VIII package. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. The work is being coordinated to ensure alignment the imminent Draft Local Area Plan and Local Transport Plan.

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL:

The Council have received approval from the Department of Rural & Community Development to proceed to tender for the renovation and development of Loughrea Town Hall. This is an important milestone in the revitalisation of this iconic building in Loughrea and follows on from the revised costing proposals and business case submitted to the Department. The funding uplift to support proposed works will be considered on presentation of the Tender Assessment Report, which will be submitted on completion of the procurement process. Instructions have issued to Aughey O Flaherty Architects who are the lead on the design team to re-mobilise with a view to entering Procurement phase as soon as is reasonable.

CLIFDEN:

Presentations made to Municipal District and Chamber of Commerce as part of the second phase of public consultation on the developing conceptual design for Clifden Town Centre. In general, the proposed designs are gaining in support which will allow the design to be progressed with a view to developing a Part 10 planning application. The Chamber of Commerce have been working alongside the team to assist the progression of the proposals and their report can be found on the following link <https://connemarachamber.ie/clifden-regeneration-2nd-round-feedback-connemara-chamber/>

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The Regeneration Team are currently reviewing the Draft Tender Documents for Portumna Courthouse. An updated ecological survey including Bat surveys is scheduled for the coming weeks.

PORTUMNA

RPS Consultants are progressing the Portumna public realm design with feedback on draft issued by Regen Team following the first phase of public consultation. It is anticipated that final draft will be submitted to the Council in the coming weeks and that the next phase of public consultation will take place in June. As part of the consideration of the public realm enhancements potential car parking sites have been identified, with negotiations continuing following the engagement of a valuer by the Council

The acquisition of the opportunity corner site on Abbey Street is nearing closure.

As part of the Portumna Streetscape Scheme two information events were held in Portumna and applications were invited in accordance with the scheme. The extended closing date was Monday 15th May and it is expected that assessments will be completed by the end of May.



STREETSCAPE INFORMATION EVENT IN PORTUMNA

GORT :

The second phase of the Public Consultation on the conceptual design for Gort was held in Gort on April 27th, 2023 and was attended by BDP Consultants and staff from the Council. While the feedback was mainly very positive, some local businesses have raised issues regarding elements of the proposals which will be considered by the team progressing the project. Further consultations with elected representatives and the business community will be scheduled and formal submissions from all concerned will be requested to inform assessment. In tandem with the public realm, the Gort Town Centre First Plan is being progressed. The consultation process remains open for both elements on <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/gort-town-centre-first-masterplan-public-realm-regeneration-scheme-0#/>



PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT HELD IN GORT

- Following a submission by the LCDC in March, the Department announced allocations for County Galway under the Community Support Fund (Community Enhancement Fund) - <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/a3c39-our-rural-future-ministers-humphreys-and-joe-obrien-announce-300432-for-193-local-projects-in-county-galway-under-the-community-support-fund-2022/> This Fund provided vital small-scale funding towards energy/running costs and small capital projects for 193 grassroots groups – the grants towards energy costs have been paid to all relevant groups in May to ensure they receive this much-needed support towards rising electricity and heating costs as quickly as possible.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development has advised that funding announcements under the Community Recognition Fund will be made on 18th May. This once-off fund will provide €1.2m in funding for vital community amenities and facilities in communities hosting Ukrainian Nationals.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- The Cathaoirleach Awards for 2023 were launched by the Cllr Michael ‘Moegie’ Maher, Cathaoirleach of the County, and were publicised through the PPN and local newspapers and media. There has been great interest in the nomination process across the 10 award categories and nominations will close on 12th May 2023.
- The closing date for the National Tidy Towns Competition for 2023 was 10th May, and staff from the Community Section assisted Corofin to enter the competition for the first time this year through grant assistance, a site visit, and funding towards a Biodiversity/Planting Plan. In 2022, 45 groups from the County entered the national competition which is among the highest number of entrants from any county nationally.
- The Community Section liaised with other Units to identify 2 towns/villages/groups/estates to represent County Galway in the Annual IPB All-Island Pride of Place Award, and the following have been nominated: Creggs Rural Development in the ‘Climate Action and Biodiversity’ category for their work in habitat mapping and raising awareness at local level, and Gort River Walk Group for their work to revitalise this important local amenity and make it accessible and usable by the wider community. A panel of judges will visit these 2 areas during the summer to review their work and Elected Members and Staff will be notified of the dates in due course. This follows on from a very successful Pride of Place for County Galway in 2022 with Lawrencetown winning the Best Village category and Woodford runner-up in the Creative Place category, and both groups will be recognised at a civic reception following the May Plenary Meeting.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- To celebrate the Bealtaine Festival, a series of events on the theme “Movies in May” will take place across the county, to encourage older people to attend theatres to view movies combined with a social occasion.
- A meeting of the Older People’s Council (OPC) Executive Committee took place on Monday 8th May and members of the Committee will attend an OPC National Convention in Tralee
- The Community Section has nominated staff to attend Cultural Competency Training on 19th May which has been organised through the Traveller Interagency Group.



MEMBERS OF LAWRENCETOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP BEING PRESENTED THEIR PRIDE OF PLACE ALL-ISLAND AWARD BY IPB INSURANCE CHAIRMAN DR. CHRISTOPHER MORAN, WITH MARTY WHELAN MC AND ANDREW MCBRIDE & MARY MCGANN FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Galway County and Galway Rural Development coordinated four “Healthy Islands” Health and Wellbeing Events on Inis Meáin, Inis Mór, Inis Óirr and Inisbofin. These events brought several local and national agencies over to the islands to help promote awareness of all the services that are available to people. A key part of these events are Free health checks provided by Croí and hearing tests provided by Chime. These events were well received by all four islands with both the local people and agencies benefitting from the events.

Oileáin Shláintiúla 2023

BÍGÍ LINN DON OCAID SPEisialta seo #OILEÁINSHLÁINTIÚLA,
AN TSLÁINTE AGUS FOLLÁINE A GHUR CHUN GINN
 Tástáil sláinte saor in aisce.
 Seastáin eolais agus Sólaistí
 Fáilte roimh chách

18ú Aibreán - Halla Naomh Eoin, Inis Meáin
20ú Aibreán - Halla Rónáin, Árainn
25ú Aibreán - An Halla, Inis Óirr
27ú Aibreán - Ionad pobail, Inis Bó Finne
 (Am: 12in -4in)



AGENCY GROUP PICTURE ON INIS MÓR – HEALTHY GALWAY COUNTY, GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK, AGE FRIENDLY HOMES, CROÍ, CHIME, PARKRUN IRELAND, ALONE, SEXUAL HEALTH WEST, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE, ALZHEIMER SOCIETY IRELAND, JIGSAW GALWAY, HSE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN sent out 4 Weekly Digest emails (each Friday), 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 9 mass emails to all 1,214 Member Groups.
 - Regular updates across the PPN's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) Updates from various other shareholders shared.
 - The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls and emails.
 - The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

BUILDING CAPACITY:

- PPN ran a series of workshops aimed at building the capacity of member groups. These workshops are free and took place online. The workshops covered Strategic Planning, Writing Funding Applications and Social Enterprise Development.
-

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- The PPN welcomed a new Secretariat member, George Francis, representing the Social Inclusion Pillar.

ARTS OFFICE

Artists in Schools Scheme: 5 county-based Schools will be awarded Artists in Schools Residencies with Galway County artists working on projects across a wide range of mediums including traditional arts, visual arts and film.

Interface Inagh Artist in Residence: Galway County Arts Office Residency for 2023 was awarded to Noeline Kavanagh. Noeline Kavanagh is an award-winning Galway County based director receiving critical acclaim for their pioneering approach to large scale outdoor and indoor spectacle. This annual artist residency is supported by Galway County Council Arts Office.



INTERFACE SHARED STUDIO SPACE IN THE INAGH VALLEY.

Galway Theatre Festival: Galway County Arts Office supported two key events for Galway Theatre Festival.

Salt, a multidisciplinary ritual beach performances that celebrate our ocean, took place in Kinvara on Trácht Beach and Ladies Beach in Salthill, Galway City. **SALT**, a collaboration between a community of sea-swimmers based in Kinvara, composer Robbie Blake, poet Mary Madec, and marine scientists, led and directed by theatre-maker Vanessa Earl and produced by Culture Works celebrated our connection to the sea as a coastal community.



SALT ON TRÁCHT BEACH, KINVARA.

Speed Creating at Galway Theatre Festival for our inaugural **Speed Creating** event. This is a chance for Galway County theatre artists to connect. During the event you will delve into short face-to-face conversations with fellow creatives to discuss any & all things arts-practice. This could be; talking through new ideas, overcoming creative block, inter-disciplinary work, engaging community participants, or the best pre-performance meal! This event is open to creatives of all disciplines based in Galway County and is facilitated by Galway Theatre Festival.

VISUAL ARTISTS NETWORKING GALWAY

Galway County and City Artist Networking morning took place on Friday 3rd May with over 50 County and City based visual artists networking with a range of local stakeholders at Portershed a Dó. The event is part of a series of professional development events for Galway County and City visual artists presented by Galway County Council Arts Office, Galway City Council Arts Office, and Galway Culture Company in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland.



GALWAY COUNTY ARTISTS AT THE EVENT, SPEAKING ABOUT THEIR PRACTICE.

MUSIC GENERATION GALWAY COUNTY

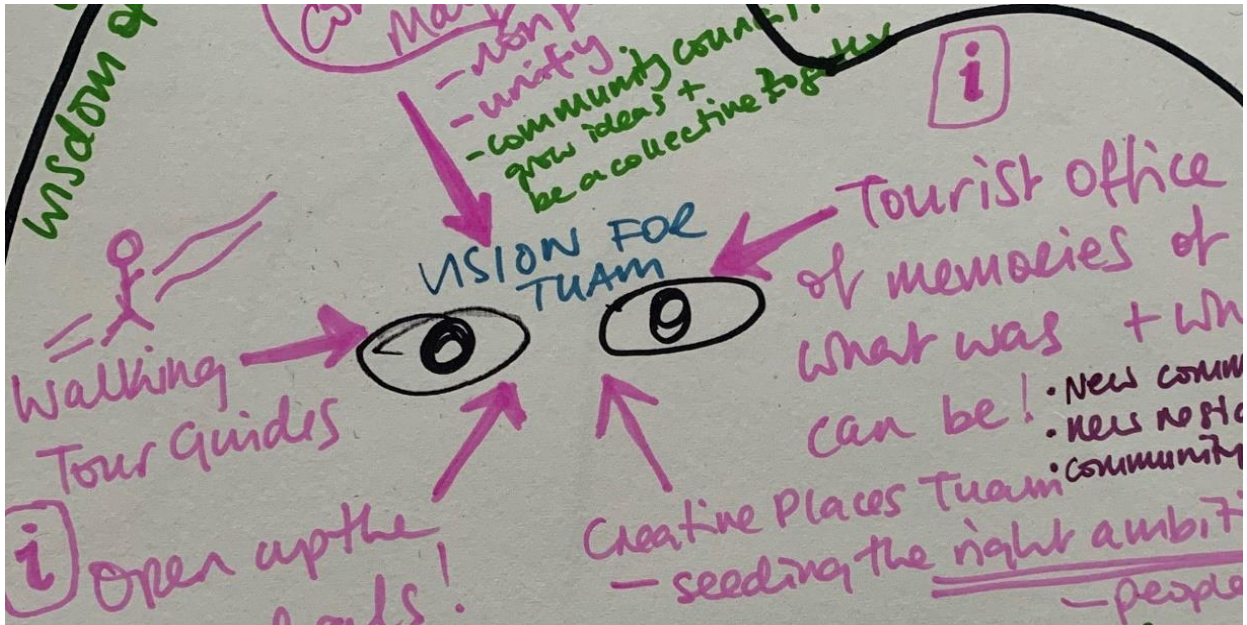
Our local Music Generation/ GRETB team were delighted to welcome Rosaleen Molloy (National Director, Music Generation) and a number of our local music education partners as they visited our programmes to see first-hand the transformative work Music Generation continues to do across our region on a daily basis. Pictured together in Tuam recently at the new Tuam Music Hub are (left to right) Sinéad Morgan (Director of Further Education & Training (GRETB)) Sharon O' Grady (Arts Officer, Galway County Council) together with Eric Cunningham (Music Development Officer, Music Generation Galway County/GRETB) & Rosaleen Molloy (National Director, Music Generation).

Music Generation Galway County is to showcase talented young songwriters, musicians and bands from Gort in Livefeed youth music event on May 13th, Gort Town Hall. Gort's youth music scene has been taking off recently due to the wealth of talented local young people interested in music performance and the massive support they get from hardworking music teachers, youth workers and Music Generation Galway County educators.

CREATIVE PLACES TUAM

Creative Places Tuam is in the final phase of its current Arts Council funding. This is an important time where the community's ownership of the programme guides the next steps. They are now currently seeking residents and locals to be part of a steering group, to guide thinking about what Creative Places Tuam can be after 2023. Local residents, organisations, community groups, workers, creatives and artists have been invited to meetings over April and May to have your say. The steering group will work together to think about, and deliver, the next series of actions for Tuam and the surrounding area. The first meeting took place on 3rd April 2023 in Tuam Town Hall, and featured Sinéad O'Reilly, Head of Local, Place and Public Art at The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, as well as Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer, Galway County Council and Damien McGlynn, Director of Create. The work will be coordinated with the work of the Galway County Council Regeneration Team and the Tuam Masterplan.





POETRY DAY IRELAND:

Galway County Arts Office supported Ploughed Field's event in Gort to mark Poetry Day on Thursday 27th April in the home of WB Yeats at Thoor Ballylee by running two events, firstly a reading from poets of the local Brothers of Charity arts project, the Coole Writers, and then following later that evening, we launched the first poetry collection of local contemporary poets, The Ploughed Field Review. Large audiences attend this event in Thoor Ballylee and we feel it was a historic and fitting setting to celebrate Poetry Day Ireland in the home of our most famous poet, and particularly this year as it is the centenary of Yeats Nobel Prize for Literature.



POETRY AT THE RIVER WALK, GORT FOR POETRY DAY.

GALWAY DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY 2023:



IMAGE: MAGDALENA HYLAK WITH HER COLLABORATOR LIONEL KASPARIAN. PHOTO: AVI RATNAYAKE

Galway County based dancer Magdalena Hylak as the Galway Dancer was recently awarded Dance Artist in Residence for 2023-2024. Supported by Galway County Council Arts Office and the Arts Council, Magdalena will develop her dance practice in the county between June 2023 and March 2024 and lead workshops and performances, promoting and opening up ideas around contemporary dance for all to enjoy. Magdalena Hylak is a performer and a choreographer based in Co Galway since 2004. With over 150 performances in 52 venues across 12 countries, she is known nationally for her work with Irish Modern Dance Theatre-John Scott (Dublin) and by touring internationally with Compagnie Nacera Belaza (Paris).

ARTS COUNCIL FESTIVAL MAKERS CONFERENCE 2023 – GALWAY

The Arts Office attended the national Arts Council Festival Conference in Galway alongside representatives from our local festivals including Clifden Arts Festival, Shorelines Arts Festival and North East Galway Fit up Festival.



The Arts Council in partnership with Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway and Creative Europe Desk Ireland presented the Festival Makers Conference (formerly Change Makers) on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 May 2023 in Galway City. The two-day conference provided opportunities for festival makers, festival stakeholders and artists making work in a festival context to exchange ideas, share, map sector developments and discuss practices relevant to festivals in Ireland. Many of the Galway County based performances and funded festivals showcased their work and acknowledged the support of Galway County Council Arts Office.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME 2023:

Tuam OPW Mural: Galway County Arts Office in collaboration with OPW and Department of Social Protection have issued an Artist brief to two mural artists for the creation of an original mural inspired by reflections with local Youthreach teenagers in Tuam. This work was facilitated by local artists Joanna McGlynn. The total budget for this commission is €12,000. Selection will take place in June 2023.



FRONT ELEVATION AND SIDE LANEWAY (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE), SHOP STREET, TUAM, CO. GALWAY

Craughwell Public Art: Led by Public Art Curator Rina Whyte in collaboration with Galway County Arts Officer, an artist's brief has been prepared for the commission of public art. Craughwell has been awarded a Per Cent for Art grant of €41,000 and a Public Art Working Group has been established as guardians and community representatives of this process.



The Public Art Working Group has selected a working title of 'The River Runs through it' for this commission based on the Dunkellin River which runs through Craughwell. Not every village has a river running through it and the Dunkellin has been a symbol of life, the basis for settlements from the Celtic era through to Norman, Christian and now modern multi national and denominational settlements. It flows into the Rahasane Turlough, the largest remaining wetland in Europe which is also of immense importance ecologically, economically and nostalgically that with the Dunkellin river has provided economies of blacksmithing, milling, fishing, farming, sport, horse racing and entertainment. The selection process will take the form of a Two Stage Open Competition. It is open to all interested professional artists or collaboratives at any stage of their career or experience who are interested in working on a commission that can reflect the considerations of the Public Art Working Group.

CREATIVE IRELAND

GALWAY COUNTY CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES

The closing date for the Galway County Creative Ireland Bursaries was Friday 12th May. We received a total of 46 applications and assessments will take place week of 22nd May. Total fund available: €50,000 with potential grants being awarded from €2,000 to €10,000.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG

Galway County will celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg, a National Day of Creativity for children and young people, with a host of FREE events and workshops on Saturday 10th June. The day is all about giving children and young people the opportunity to express themselves through cultural and creative activities while having fun! Events will take place throughout the county from Ballinasloe to Connemara and everywhere in between. Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 is a collaboration between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Creative Ireland Programme, local authorities and RTÉ. Galway County Council is delighted to once again partner with Creative

Ireland for Cruinniú na nÓg in presenting in-person diverse activities throughout the county for a wide range of ages.

There are many free, fun events including: *The Shape Shifting Slua* - a street performance created by Jojo Hynes & Midie Corcoran with the Creative Youth Committee in Tuam. Large-scale creatures will take to the streets of Tuam from 1:30pm. *Patterns of Invisible Life* is a visual art workshop with Madeleine Shinnick; children will create a large mandala and make lanterns from patterns and colours of the plant kingdom in Mountbellew Community Hall. Muintearas presents Slógadh na nÓg, a day of creativity in Rosmuc with a series of music and dance workshops aimed at teenagers culminating in a performance in Tír an Fhia, Leitir Móir & Pairc Péile Rosmuc. Drumadore will host a drop-in drumming session in Oughterard Community Centre for all ages.

Along with artists, community groups, schools and organisations offering creative activities to young people, Galway County Council is also curating a variety of events for the children and young people of the Ukrainian community in Galway county. Artists will visit nine different refugee centres offering workshops in drumming, print-making, circus skills, kite-making and music over the course of Cruinniú na nÓg. Additional online events available throughout the country on Saturday June 10th can be found at: <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/>



IMAGE: CATHAOIRLEACH MICHAEL MAHER, SHARON O'GRADY, GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER AND MINISTER ANNE RABBITTE, AT THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG PROGRAMME IN TUAM. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON



IMAGE: TUAM STARCATCHER'S AND DRUMADORE DRUMMERS WITH MINISTER ANNE RABBITTE, SHARON O'GRADY, GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER AND CATHAOIRLEACH MICHAEL MAHER AT THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY CRUINIÚ NA NÓG PROGRAMME IN TUAM. PHOTO: AENGUS MCMAHON

From 1 May 2023, the grant is being further expanded to provide for applications for one property which will be made available for rent, in addition to one property which will be a principal private residence of the owner.



(above image of a Galway property that has received Croi Conaithe grant aid)

A grant of up to a maximum of €50,0002 is available for: - the refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as a principal private residence, and - for properties which will be made available for rent, including the conversion of properties which have not been used as residential heretofore, subject to appropriate planning permission being in place.

This is subject to upper limits for the types of work, specified below, having regard to a reasonable cost assessment by the local authority. The grant is inclusive of the VAT cost of the works. Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous) or if the property is already on the local authority's Derelict Sites Register, bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €70,000.

In the case of a top-up grant in respect of a derelict property not on the Derelict Sites Register, an independent report prepared by an appropriately qualified professional is required to be submitted along with the application, confirming, to the satisfaction of the local authority, that the property is derelict.

Those applying for the grant are required to indicate on the application form if they are applying in respect of a property that will become their principal private residence or a property that will be made available for rent. This must be indicated at the outset as different conditions apply depending on the application type. Those applying for the grant are also required to indicate on the application form if they are applying for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant alone or the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant including the Derelict Property top-up Grant. The level of grant payable is contingent on the works approved by the local authority and is paid on completion of the works and

based on vouched expenditure following a final inspection by the local authority. An SEAI Better Energy Home Scheme Grant³ may be available in combination with this grant. However, works covered by SEAI Better Energy Homes Scheme will not also be provided for under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. The local authority must satisfy themselves that proposed works are not claimed for under any other grant. In respect of rental properties, all landlords are required by law to comply with the standards for rental housing and ensure that their properties are fully compliant with fire safety and minimum standards regulations for rental properties

GALWAY CROI CONAITHE APPLICATIONS

Year	MD	Number of Applications Received	Status
			Approved
2022	Athenry	2	1
2022	Ballinasloe	15	5
2022	Connemara	11	5
2022	Loughrea	15	6
2022	Tuam	8	4
2023	Athenry	5	2
2023	Ballinasloe	17	1
2023	Connemara	21	1
2023	Loughrea	18	3
2023	Tuam	11	3
Total Figures		123	31

A series of workshops will begin to be rolled out across the County now that we have the new application forms etc.

SOCIAL WORK TEAM [HOUSING]

STRUCTURE:

3 Staff: 2 staff grade Social Workers and 1 Senior Social Worker

Re-organising of caseload areas underway to increase efficiency, division of workloads:

ML: North Galway, including Claregalway and North & West Connemara (in progress)

EE: Oranmore, Athenry, Ballinasloe and Portumna KK: South Galway and Connemara Central

Above is a work in progress

UPDATE:

- Increase in referrals for East Galway and South Galway
- Increase in referrals for Disability MH clients.
- High volume of Disability referrals ongoing.
- Increase in referrals by SSW to Tusla under Child Protection Officer remit.

SOCIAL WORK CASES:

2023: May 2023

Open cases (Dec 2022)	New Referrals	Total
132	18	<u>152</u>

144 in Dec 2022

Closed 15 cases since Oct – Dec 22.

DEVELOPMENTS:

HSDG – Mental Health subgroup:

- Nomination for LAMA award
- Physical & Sensory subgroup now established
- Processes and systems now in place for all HSDG subgroups

'CAS for Care' (Aftercare)

- Recent meeting with Tusla, PMVT and G.co.co. PMVT progressing to seeking properties for 2-3 clients initially (medium to long term Aftercare clients).
- Separate project to the Youth Homelessness project (homeless unit) which will cater for the short to medium term progression for youth homeless clients - more urgent cases.

ENERGY RETROFITS

The energy refit programme continues to carry out significant work across the council including:

Ard Ghuire in Gort	Century Retrofit have completed 11 properties as an add on to the EE02-2022 contract and will retrofit the remaining 9 properties as an add on to EE02-2023
Country Meadows Tuam	C&N are completing the retrofit of 16 properties on the EE01-2023 contract
Parkmore in Tuam	C&N are commencing the retrofit of 3 properties here on the EE01-2023 contract

Castleview in Headford	C&N are commencing to retrofit properties here on the EE01-2023 contract
O’Keeffe Park in Glenamaddy	Century Retrofit are commencing the retrofits on the EE02-2023 contract
Laurence’s Fields in Loughrea	Century Retrofit are commencing the retrofit of 12 properties on the EE02-2023 contract Further 23 properties to be put out on the EE03-2023 contract

Further properties in Oranmore an Oughterard are also due for retrofit, along with some single rural dwellings.

MD	No of Houses	Value
Athenry - Oranmore	12	480,000
Connemara	8	372,000
Ballinasloe	12	623,000
Loughrea	55	2,356,000
Tuam	24	1,064,000
Total	111	4,895,000



TENANT IN SITU

As of the end of April:

- 52 HAP properties on Notice to Quit (up 5)
- 3 RAS properties on Notice to Quit (same)
- 19 Privately rented on Notice to Quit (not on HAP/RAS but on Housing list) (same)

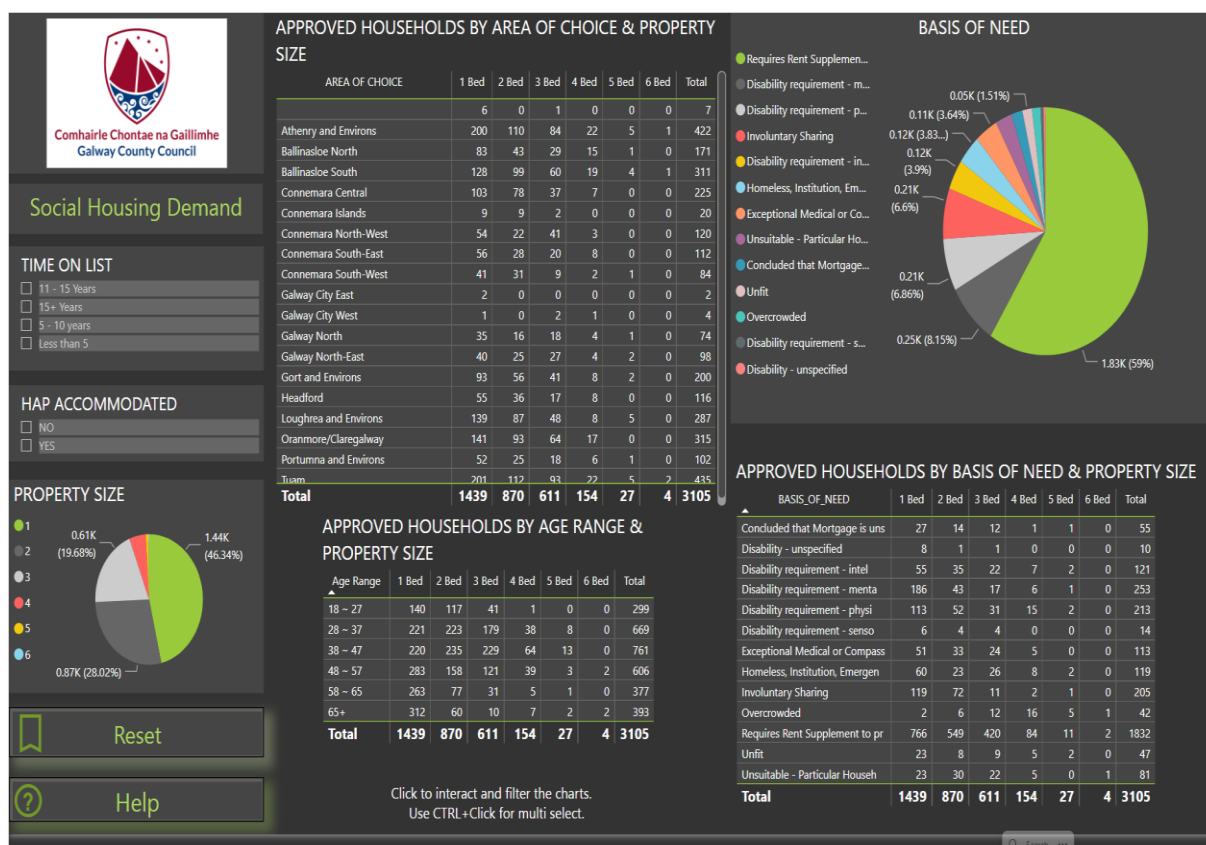
There are properties throughout the county currently being purchased using the “Tenant in Situ” scheme.

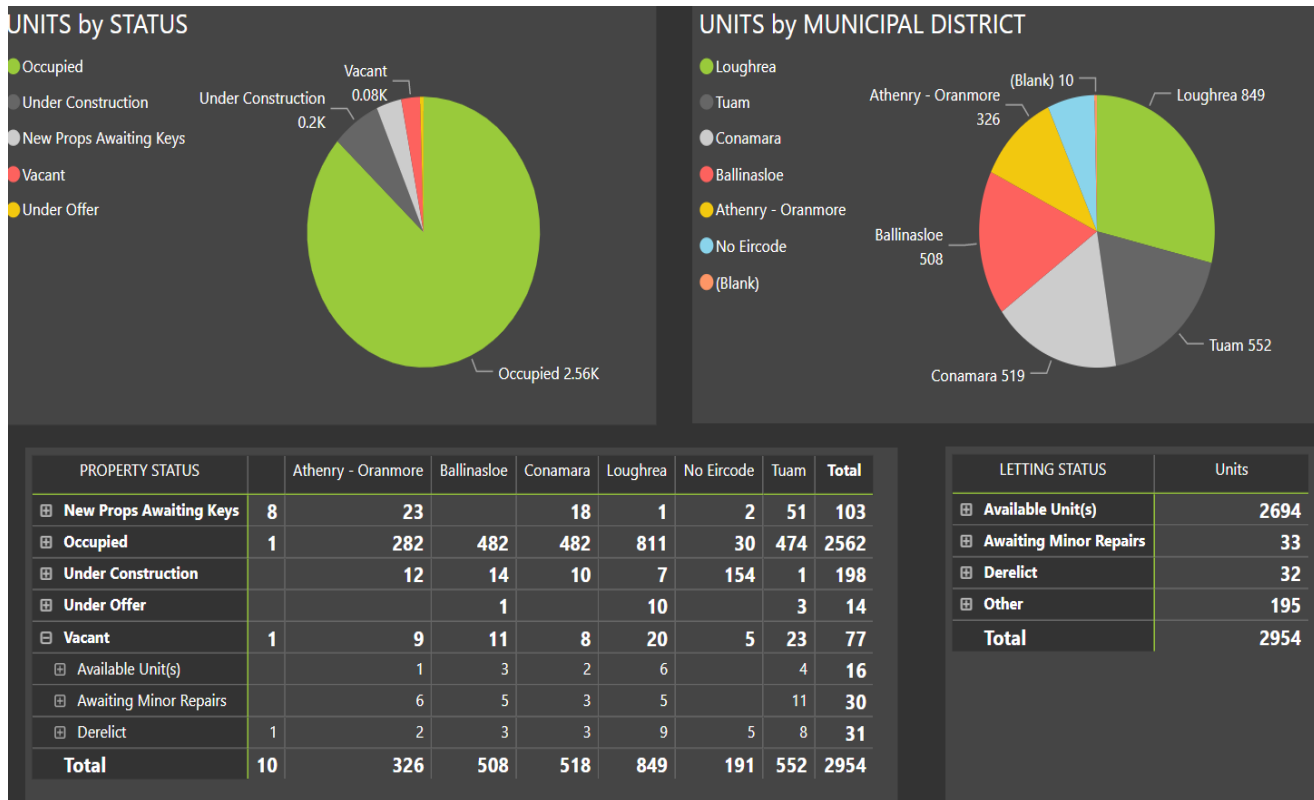
Number of enquiries for TIS acquisitions	62
Number under consideration / in train	14 (incl 1 at sale agreed)

A significant number of properties offered to us by owners do not fall into the ‘tenant in situ’ scheme, and several properties have been proposed by tenants without the landlord’s consent.

Other one-off purchases under Disability/Traveller Accommodation/Regeneration will be considered separately from the allocation.

HOUSING STATS MAY 2023 (1) DEMAND & (2) SUPPLY





GALWAY HOUSING TASKFORCE

The Galway Housing Taskforce for Galway City and County Council areas met on the 16th of May. The agenda included:

- Social Housing Delivery (2023 and onward pipeline)
- Housing Agency Presentation
- CALF funding model review
- Affordable Homes
- Homeless sub-group



Garrai Ghuire, Cartron, Kinvara.

Taken Friday 5th May before handover on Monday 8th May 2023.



Front Entrance - Perspective View

Artist Impression of 8-unit development at St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe.

Part 8 lodged on 11th April 2023.

N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS

Construction ongoing with works 75% complete. The most recent revised programme provides a completion date of 7 November 2023.



KNOCKFERRY ROAD OVERBRIDGE



STRUCTURE 11 PILED PLATFORM

N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

The application is with An Bord Pleanála after development consent was quashed by the High Court on 30 January 2023. A request for further information is expected and work is ongoing on traffic assessments and ecological surveys.

N84 GALWAY TO CURRAGHMORE

Barry Transportation are to be appointed as Technical Advisors for PMG Phases 0 to 1 with the contract to be signed 15 May 2023.

GALWAY TO OUGHTERARD GREENWAY

The project is currently nearing the completion of Phase 2: Options Selection process. In June 2022 the project team presented seven route corridor options following the completion of the Preliminary Options Assessment. Having considered feedback received from our previous consultations these options have been subject to a further detailed assessment in accordance with the TII Project Appraisal Guidelines and Common Appraisal Framework leading to the identification of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, which is being presented at this consultation.

A series of in-person public consultation events have taken place in Killannin, Oughterard and Galway City between Tuesday 16th May 2023 and Thursday 18th May 2023:

- **Killannin Community Centre, Rosscahill, County Galway**
 - Tuesday 16th May 2023 – 12:00-20:00
 - Over 300 members of the public attended this event
- **Oughterard Community Centre, Main Street, Oughterard, County Galway**
 - Wednesday 17th May 2023 – 12:00-20:00*
- **Human Biology Building Atrium, South Campus University of Galway, Galway City**
 - Thursday 18th May 2023 – 12:00-20:00

*at the time of drafting this report this event had not occurred so no numbers available.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT IN KILLANIN COMMUNITY CENTRE 16TH MAY 2023



PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT IN KILLANIN COMMUNITY CENTRE 16TH MAY 2023



CLIFDEN TO RECESS GREENWAY

Construction commenced on section west of Recess village.
Work progressing on utility diversions and landowner liaison.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS ONGOING NEAR RECESS



DERRYGIMLAGH TO KYLEMORE GREENWAY

AECOM currently progressing the Strategic Assessment Report and the options long list.

AT - N67 SOUTH OF BALLINDERREEN

Road Safety Audit carried out on site with report due w/c 15 May. Design Report to incorporate Road Safety Audit before seeking TII approval.

AT - N67 KINVARA VILLAGE

ROD / AECOM currently carrying out Route Selection Review with report due by end of May.

AT - N67 CLARINBRIDGE TO ORANMORE

Initial modelling and design completed. Constraints have been identified and the design will be reviewed to eliminate these where possible.

N59 OUGHTERARD BRIDGE SIGNALISATION

Design Report submitted for TII approval. Part 8 application to be submitted June 2023.

N59 OUGHTERARD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Feasibility and Options Report approved by TII Safety Section and handed over to TII Structures Section. Technical Advisors to be appointed.

CÉIBH INIS OÍRR IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION PROJECT

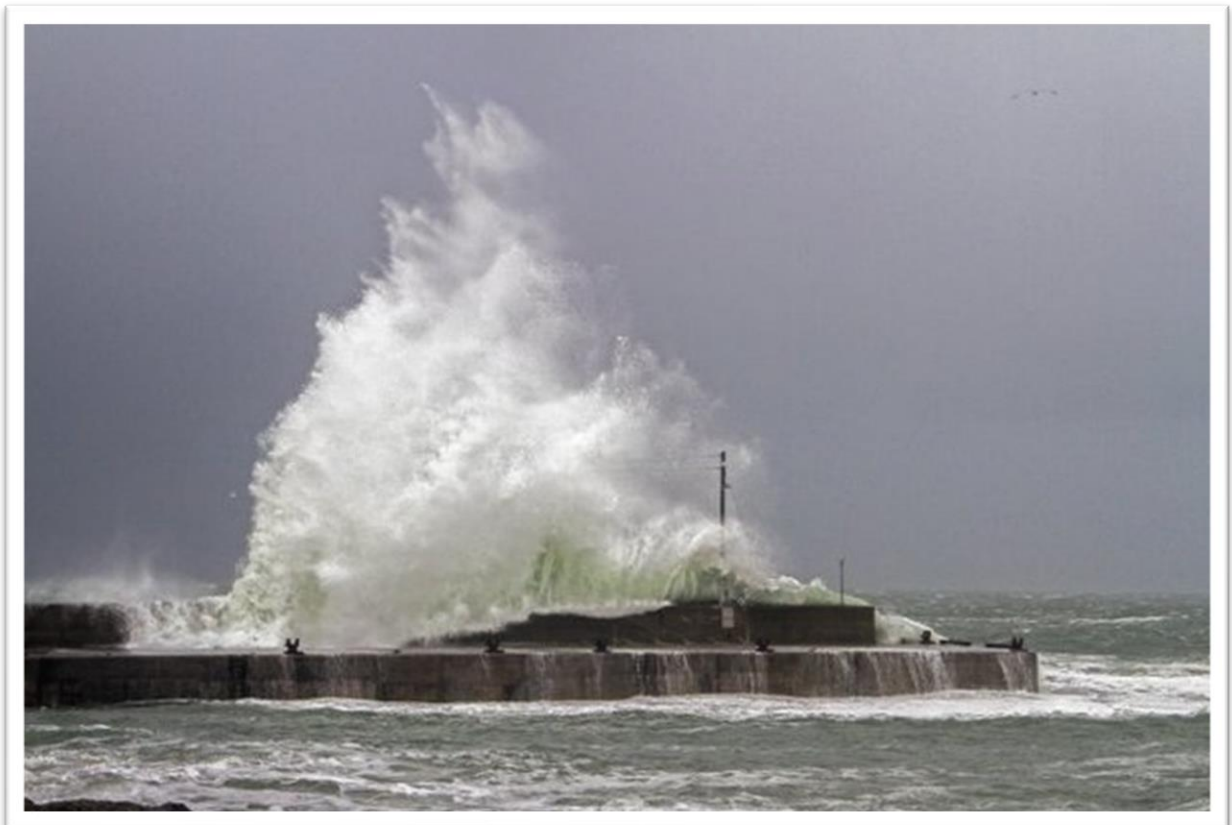
The project to extend Inis Oírr pier is progressing towards a contractor tender competition inside the next 6 weeks. The proposal to redevelop the pier came about in response to significant issues with the existing infrastructure. The primary concerns being frequent overtopping of the existing storm wall, congestion on the pier deck during tourist season, and berthing capacity for increasing cargo and passenger requirements.

The acquisition by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of all lands, terrestrial and foreshore, required for the project has been completed. The operative date for the CPO was the 28th April 2023.

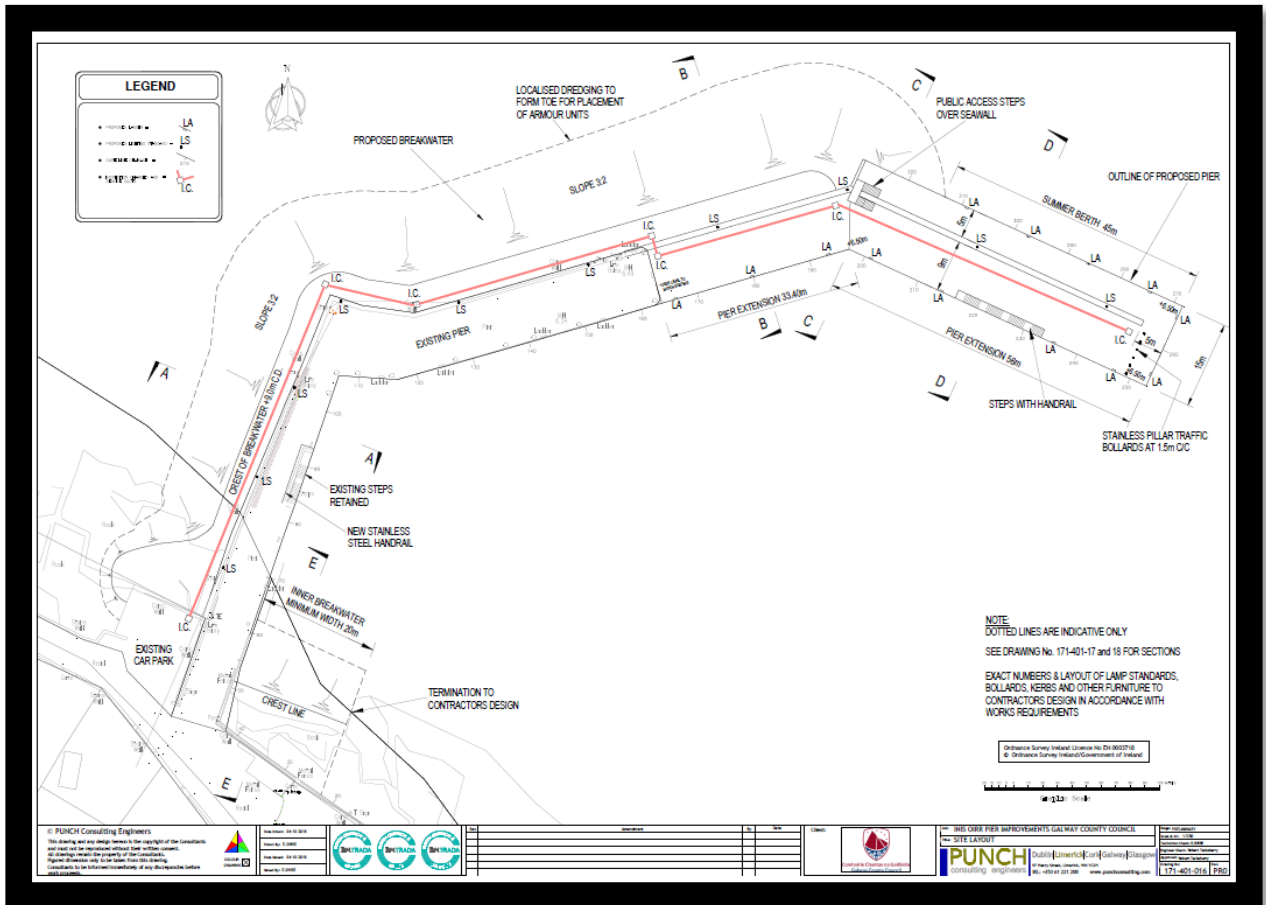
The formal approval of the approving authority, The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), is required in advance of publishing the tender documents for the proposed works. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code, engagement is ongoing, and approval is anticipated before the end of May 2023.

The Design & Build tender period will run from June to October 2023 with an appointment thereafter. It is aimed to have a contract award by the end of the year.

The works will take two years to complete, and the redeveloped pier will be available for use from the beginning of 2025 based on the current project programme.



Pictures above show the pier during storm conditions highlighting the need for additional protection by way of breakwater and increased height of storm wall.



DRAWING ABOVE SHOWS THE LAYOUT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Roads and Infrastructure MD teams throughout the County are actively working to complete Active Travel Footpath and Infrastructure Construction Projects in multiple Towns and Villages throughout the MDs.

Some recently completed Active Travel Projects include the following 2 projects which were implemented in Oranmore and Clifden.

INSTALLATION OF LIGHT SEGREGATION MEASURES IN ORANMORE VILLAGE

Light segregation measures were installed on one of the busy routes for Walking and Cycling to one of the 4 schools in the immediate area. This "Pop Up Infrastructure" installation will be monitored and assessed in the coming months and will ultimately be extended under the upcoming Safe Routes To School programme for Oranmore Schools.

The photos below were provided by a happy Oranmore parent whose children regularly cycle and walk to school.

ORANMORE MAREE ROAD - BEFORE



ORANMORE MAREE ROAD - AFTER



CLIFDEN – UPGRADE OF 11 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Works included the planning, design, procurement and implementation of multiple upgrades and installations of Pedestrian Crossing at 11 locations throughout Clifden Town.

This Active Travel project included the installation of new Belisha Lights, Tactile Paving and Line Marking works. The project was initially started in 2022 but was paused during the Summer months to facilitate the busy tourist season in Clifden. Works re-started in Q3 2022 and were fully completed in recent weeks.

Photos below were provided by Conamara North Roads Area Office technical staff.







CONDITIONS AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The temporary development contribution waiver arrangements will apply for 1 year to all permitted residential development –

- that commences on site between **25 April 2023** (the date of the Government Decision approving the measure) and **24 April 2024**, and
- is completed not later than **31 December 2025**.

This end date is to facilitate large schemes to be speedily brought forward and progressed, while also incentivising their completion as quickly as possible within a reasonable timeframe.

The waiver arrangements are being applied irrespective of the date of planning permission for residential development availing of the scheme. In addition, in recognition of the fact that developers are required to submit “commencement notices” or “7 day notices” to the local authority in accordance with the Building Control Regulations prior to the commencement of works, the waiver arrangements will also apply to developments in respect of which –

- (i) “commencement notices” were submitted to the local authority within the 28 day period prior to 25 April 2023 i.e. on or after 28 March 2023; or
- (ii) “7 day notices” were submitted to the local authority on or after 4 April 2023.

In terms of the practical operation and administration of the new measure, it is proposed that instead of developers/ project promoters having to pay the relevant development contributions to the local

authority in the normal manner (usually on commencement of construction or in accordance with an agreed phased payment plan with the local authority), the Department will, further to the submission

of commencement notices from developers to local planning authorities and verification by the planning authority that development has actually commenced on site, pay the relevant charges due to the local authority on behalf of the person liable for the contribution.

In this regard, the Minister is cognisant that the waiver scheme should not impact on local authorities ability to fund the ongoing provision of necessary infrastructure to support development in their functional areas or require the taking out of interim borrowing to prevent delays to infrastructure development works. In light of this, it will be necessary for efficient administrative arrangements to be put in place to ensure that local authorities are promptly compensated by the Department for development contributions that would normally be paid at commencement stage by developers. To facilitate this, local authorities will be required to invoice the Department on a monthly in arrears basis in respect of development contributions payable further to the receipt of commencement notices from developers. The Department will notify local authorities in relation to the detailed operation of the waiver arrangements – including how they will be administered, claimed and paid - as early as possible.

For information and clarification, it should also be noted that the **Uisce Eireann water and waste water connection charges** referenced in the new Government support package will still have to be paid upfront by developers in the normal manner, with the monies being subsequently refunded by Uisce Eireann on notification of the commencement of works i.e. in effect a rebate rather than a waiver arrangement.

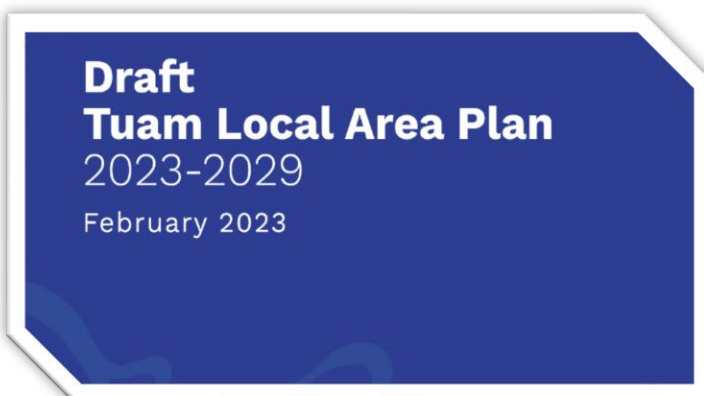
FINANCIAL SAFEGUARDS

A number of financial safeguards are in place to prevent profiteering by the sector and ensuring that the measures will benefit purchasers and help boost supply. Developers are already subject to compliance with specified regional price caps in relation to the First Home scheme and a €500,000 cap under the Help to Buy scheme. In addition, the Department applies unit cost recommendations on proposed social and affordable housing developments to ensure value for money. These requirements will remain in place as a price control mechanism under the new waiver arrangements.

Further conditions and requirements of the waiver scheme In order to ensure that the measure operates as intended, it will be important that appropriate arrangements are put in place to ensure compliance with the terms of the scheme, including that developers availing of the scheme sign an undertaking confirming that they agree to comply with the said conditions of the scheme. This will include the application of clawback/ refund arrangements in relation to development contributions paid to local authorities by the Department on behalf of the person liable for the contribution where the conditions of the scheme have not been met i.e. safeguarding against situations where – (i) reported commencements have not actually been started, and (ii) units have not been completed prior to the end date of the scheme. Verification arrangements will be required in both such instances.

These and other relevant requirements in relation to the practical operation of the scheme are currently being developed and will be notified to local authorities as early as possible.

The Tuam LAP 2023-2029 was placed on public display for 6 weeks, from Friday the Wednesday 8th of February 2023 until Thursday 23rd March 2023 (inclusive). A public consultation drop-in session was held in Tuam on Monday 6th March 2023. A Webinar Event was also held on Thursday 9th of March 2023. All events were well attended. A total of 62 submissions were received within the public consultation period.



The full contents of each submission have been considered in the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report. The report lists the persons that made submissions or observations during the public consultation period, summarises the issues raised in the submissions or observations, contains the opinion of the Chief Executive in relation to the issues raised, and their recommendation in relation to the submission, taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any Local Authority in the area and the relevant policies or objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government. The responses and recommendations set out in the Chief Executive's Report have been subject to SEA and AA screening and are considered to be appropriate and acceptable in terms of these requirements.

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received on the Draft Tuam LAP including the Draft Tuam Local Transport Plan issued on the 4th May 2023 to the Municipal District of Tuam and will be the subject of consideration by the Municipal District at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 6th June 2023.



GALWAY'S FORGED GATES PROJECT



A crowd of over 280 people from aged 9 to 90 attended “The Galway County Forged Gates Project” which was officially launched by Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Leas Chathaoirleach, Galway County Council, on Friday 5th May at Mountbellew Agricultural College/ATU Campus, Mountbellew, Co. Galway.

This project had very simple beginnings, when the Heritage Office of Galway County Council and the Skehana & District Heritage had independently embarked on separate initiatives relating to collecting and collating information, oral heritage and images of forged gates, the craft of the blacksmith and the forge. It was only when the two groups crossed paths, that the project blossomed and resulted in the start of the Galway Forged Gates Project.

Cllr Eileen Mannion, Leas Chathaoirleach of the County of Galway said “that the project captures and preserves the significance of the blacksmith and the forge as told by blacksmiths themselves and their descendants as they recall and relay their recollections from childhood memories and stories from their ancestors.” She also said “Thanks to this new Creative Ireland and Galway County Council funded initiative and the voluntary contribution of Skehana and District Heritage Group and Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, all this very valuable information is captured on short films, audio interviews and recordings, photographs, pull-up banners and postcards which were produced with the assistance and contributions of local volunteers and media professionals and is now available free of charge for all to appreciate and use.”



Jimmy Laffey, PRO, Skehana and District Heritage Group said “In Ireland, the blacksmith traditionally played an important role in the community and while they primarily shod farm horses, ponies and donkeys as farriers, they also repaired and manufactured agricultural implements, shod wheels and made gates and railings amongst many other tasks to include making their own tools of the trade. It used to be that every town and village in Ireland had at the very least, one forge and a blacksmith. Another key service which their premises provided was that of a community gathering point as a social outlet where locals exchanged ideas, advice, stories, news and without doubt some gossip as well.”

Speaking at the launch Emma Laffey, as principal project co-ordinator with the Skehana & District Heritage Group, recalls “for me it started in a very simple way really as I began to notice the huge number of wrought iron gates on the roadsides as I drove to work and around the Skehana area. I started to take pictures of the more local ones, just on my phone, getting permissions from the landowners and householders as well as any story or history associated with the gates from them. It was amazing the local communities response and information they had. So I decided to put all the

information I had gathered into an online hardback book as a keepsake for the Skehana & District Heritage Group. I printed a couple of copies and with Jimmy Laffey's suggestion I sent a copy to our Galway Heritage Officer Marie Mannion, that I realised she already had the skeleton of a larger project on forges and blacksmiths in the melting pot. The rest is history and has culminated in the final product that we, as a team, now have. I found it to be a most rewarding journey along which I met and worked with so many wonderful people and learned so much from them. I am so grateful to each and everyone of them. I also learned that it is so important to capture what you can before it is too late as we have lost two brilliant participants and reservoirs of information for the project, John Mannion and John Joe Ward, just in the last few months."

According to Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council "The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape in county Galway. 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 are 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 throughout the county, as the older forged wrought iron field gates became too small to accommodate new big machines entering fields. However, to the careful observer there are still many beautifully crafted wrought iron field gate to be found around the county.

Therefore, the aim of this project was to identify, record, raise awareness and knowledge of the wealth of wrought iron field gates that are to be found in the county of Galway. It sought to identify the names of the local blacksmiths and their forges. As this project shows the best way to capture this information is to work with our local communities and Skehana & District Heritage Group who have a great understanding and knowledge of their local heritage. Working with Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew we have now uncovered a wealth of our rich hidden local heritage."





Following the launch proper a presentation, of a beautiful fully functional, swinging and latching, replica gate complete with pillars was made to participants involved in audio recordings, film making and publications as well as the steering committee members. In addition, a special presentation was made to John Feeney, a retired blacksmith from Ballyedmond, who made a great comeback last year to make four wonderful films for the archives. This was a beautiful true to life painting of John working at his forge fire, as he made a sheep crook, with the reflection of the red glow on his face and glasses being most striking features. This was done by Eve Murray from Skehana who is a second year art student in Limerick and is a credit to her undoubted talents.



Forged Gates Project is only at beginning of its journey

— Staff of Blacksmiths Ireland

By Steve Breen

The project to create a unique archive of iconic gates in the county is well advanced, with the first volume of the 'Forged Gates' project, 'The Forged Gates Project: A Unique Archive of Iconic Gates in the County', published by Blacksmiths Ireland. The book, which is available for purchase, is a collection of photographs and information about the gates, and is the first of a series of books that will be published over the next few years. The project is a joint venture between the Wicklow County Council and the Gateway Forged Gates Project, and is a testament to the county's rich cultural heritage.

PREMIER LAUNCH

The book was launched at a special event at the Wicklow County Council, where Councillor Michael Conroy, Councillor Eoin O'Connell, and Councillor John O'Connell were present. The event was attended by a number of other members of the council and the public. The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history and culture of the county, and is a must-read for anyone who loves the county's iconic gates.

BUS CONNECTS GALWAY

PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

The Galway City Council has announced a series of public information events for the 'Bus Connects Galway' project. The events will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and to provide feedback on the proposed routes. The events will be held at various locations throughout the city, and will be open to all members of the public. The project is a major initiative to improve public transport in Galway, and the council is committed to ensuring that the public has a say in the project's development.

Location	Date	Time
The Millikin Hotel, Upper Hill St, Galway, H81 2G9	Tuesday 16th May	10am - 1pm
Public Hall, O'Connell Street, Galway, H81 2EA	Wednesday 17th May	10am - 1pm
The Millikin, Upper Hill St, Galway, H81 2G9	Thursday 18th May	10am - 1pm

This project, developed by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council in partnership with Skehana and District Heritage Group and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew, was funded by Creative Ireland and Galway County Council with voluntary contributions from Skehana & District Heritage Group and Holy Rosary College Mountbellew. It is an action of *Galway County Heritage Plan 2017-2022*

For further information please see our website:
<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/galway-forged-gates-project>

Ever and Always The Marvellous Story of Aleen Cust ‘Britain And Ireland’s First Female Vet’ (a Bilingual Primary School workbook)





Niamh Ní Chróinín, TG4’s newly appointed ambassador for children and presenter of the dedicated children’s channel Cula4 and Cllr Michael Maher, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway launched a bilingual workbook on Aleen Cust; the first female veterinary surgeon to work in Ireland, or indeed the world, in 1900 in Mountbellew Agricultural College ATU on April 21st.

In the region of 150 students from Mountbellew National School, Moylough National School, Holy Rosary College, Coláiste an Chreagáin and members of the public attended the launch. In attendance was Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Cllr Roger Kennedy, Tipperary County Council, Cllr. Joe Murphy, Chairperson of County Roscommon Heritage Forum, Cllr Dr Evelyn Parsons, Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District and Senator Victor Boyhan.



Eithne O'Halloran of Kylemore Abbey wrote the text and designed the layout aided by superb illustrations of Sara Nylund. The workbook is in a bilingual format and will appeal to a wide audience of younger readers, has added educational value, each section having an exercise to provoke searching minds, quizzes, word games and artistic challenges. Feedback to date suggests that the book will entertain both young and indeed older readers.

Aleen Cust was Irish born at Cordangan Manor, close to Tipperary town in 1868 to Leopold and Lady Cust, a land agent for the Smith-Barry estate. After Leopold's untimely death in 1878 at forty-six years of age, the family moved back to England and Aleen became a ward of the Widdrington family of Newton Hall, Northumberland, close to the Scottish border. Aleen always wanted to be a vet and despite being disowned by her family she went to the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh and graduated with merit in 1900. The Royal College in London refused her permission to sit their final examinations because she was a woman. Undeterred Aleen returned to Ireland and took a position assisting a well-known veterinary surgeon in Athleague, Co. Roscommon, William Augustine Byrne. Aleen was an excellent practitioner and a very fine horse woman; accepted by the community and kind and compassionate to her clientele. In 1905 Aleen obtained a controversial position as a Local Authority Veterinary Inspector for the Mountbellew district (described by the *Western People* as 'disgusting, if not absolutely indecent'), which she held until 1915 when she drove her own car to France to assist the treatment of injured horses during World War 1.



'Miss Cust' or 'Vet Cust' as she was known rode a white Arabian stallion in her earlier years at work and is remembered in Galway and Roscommon for her integrity, intelligence, wit, charm, determination. The women who followed in her footsteps found employment difficult as societal prejudices and economic depression were formidable barriers in the earlier years. In the present time the intake of females far surpasses that of male applicants to veterinary schools around the world. The feminisation of the veterinary profession is well and truly complete.

Cllr Michael 'Moegie' Maher, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway speaking at the launch said "Well thankfully things have changed and one hundred year's later the majority of the 3000 plus registered vets in Ireland today are female. I am delighted that this bi-lingual workbook which tells Aleen's story will be available for all schools in Galway, Roscommon and Tipperary." Addressing the students present he added "I hope that Aleen's story inspires you and that by believing in yourself anything is possible".





NEWS
LAUNCH OF EVER AND ALWAYS: THE MARVELLOUS STORY OF ALEEN CUST
BRITAIN'S AND IRELAND'S FIRST FEMALE VET



AUTHOR Eithne O'Halloran with Niamh Ni Chróinín, TG4 Children's Ambassador, and Cllr Michael 'Moegle' Maher, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, the latter two of whom officially launched the new children's workbook on Aleen Cust, Ireland's first female vet.



HISTORIAN and Tuam Herald Company Director Mary Burke, Cllr Joe Murphy, Chairperson of County Roscommon Heritage Forum, and Marie Gillooly, Historian and Tour Guide.



AT THE launch were, back row, Anne Power, Mairtín MacDomhnaigh, Martina Creaven and Bernie Doherty; and front row, Ita Gordon and Marie Mannion.



PUPILS from St Mary's National School, Mountbellew, at the launch.



THE Tuam Herald Editor Stephen Glennon (left) with his parents and Sylvester Glennon, Athleague, at the launch of Ever and Always.



STUDENTS from Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew, attending the Aleen Cust launch at Mountbellew Agricultural College ATU recently.



AN OPEN BOOK: Ascinta Kilroy, Aleen Cust Memorial Society; Eithne O'Halloran, author of workbook; Brendan Gardiner, Aleen Cust Memorial Society; and Donal Connolly, Aleen Cust Memorial Society, at the launch.

Veterinarians Brendan Gardiner, Donal Connolly and Ascinta Kilroy of the Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer of the Galway County Council, Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer, Roscommon County Council and Róisín O'Grady, Heritage Officer, Tipperary County Council managed and directed the project.

Edna Curley, Principal of Mountbellew Agricultural College (ATU) said she was “delighted to be hosting the launch in the college given Aleen’s work with the farming community in Mountbellew”.



Brendan Gardiner of the The Aleen Cust Society said that the Society “regard this bi-lingual schools workbook as an eternal legacy to the memory of this trailblazing, courageous woman”

This workbook was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Decade of Centenaries Local Authority Funding); Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council and Tipperary County Council. It is an action of Galway County Council’s Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023. A digital copy of the workbook is available on the following link: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/people/aleen-cust/ever-and-always>

GALWAY COMMUNITY HERITAGE – ICAN (IRISH COMMUNITY ARCHIVE NETWORK) MEETING IN SKEHANA



A meeting of the members of Galway Community Heritage – ICAN took place on Wednesday 10th May in Screens of Guilkagh. Members from Oughterard Heritage Group, Moycullen Heritage Group, Claregalway Heritage Group, Killarerin Heritage Group, Moylough Heritage Group, Skehana Heritage Group, Abbey Heritage Group, Galway Community Archaeology and Woodlawn Heritage Group attended as well as Lorna Elms and Hassan Dabbagh from the National Museum of County Life. It was the first in-person meeting since February 2020. Meetings were held online for the intervening 3 years.

Each group gave a presentation on their work and projects as well as issues and opportunities that they faced. Oughterard Heritage Group had a magnificent display and exhibition with regards to the archaeological heritage and Skehana Heritage had an exhibition of their Midwife Project and book. In addition to this Abbey Heritage gave each member copies of their bi-lingual publication “*South East Galway: Aspects of its heritage: CINEÁL FHÉICHÍN AGUS SÍOL ANMCHA*”.

DECADE OF COMMEMORATION FUNDING 2023

A total of € 69,000 was sanctioned to Galway County Council from the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to deliver the following projects in 2023:

HISTORIAN IN RESIDENCE

The events of the decade between 1913 and 1923 were momentous and defining ones. It was the decade that influenced relationships for a generation and was a period which saw the achievement of Irish independence and the foundation of our State.

It was also a period of transformation and cultural renewal in Irish society, following on electoral reform, land reform, education reform and migration. The demand for constitutional change was in parallel with the assertion of workers’ rights and women’s rights.

The decade was one of the most momentous of modern Irish history and justifies a comprehensive commemorative programme that recognises its importance, acknowledges the achievements of its generation and enhances the understanding today of the events that shaped our society.

While the events that occurred between 1913 and 1923 had a huge impact nationally they had a particular relevance in the County of Galway.

Therefore, Galway County Council in the context of its role in providing civic leadership recognises the importance of playing a positive and proactive role in leading commemorative celebrations and activities during the course of the decade and had decided to contract a Historian in Residence for 2023; this is following on for very successful projects in 2021 and 2022.

RESPOND REFLECT REJOICE: 1923 THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CREATIVES

Respond Reflect Rejoice: 1923 Through the Lens of our Literary and Artistic Creatives is a series of talks, commissions, residencies exploring and remembering our writers, artists and musicians and their contribution to events that occurred during a significant period of time in Irish History. The approach is creative, collaborative, and participative in nature - artists, creatives, community groups, academics and writers will come together to create a platform to encourage reflection and creative responses. The purpose – a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role and influence of the creative arts in Ireland in 1923. The outcome – a programme of engaging and informative talks; artistic residencies/commissions which will be embedded in communities in Galway County municipal Districts. The programme of public talks led by experts will **reflect** on writers such as Elizabeth Bowen, Sean O’Casey & Liam O’ Flaherty **respond** to artists such as Mainie Jellet’s and her abstract paintings **rejoice** on WB Yeats’ winning the Nobel Prize in Literature. Our commissions/residencies will be informed and inspired by events that happened both locally and nationally during this significant period of time in Irish History

BI-LINGUAL BOOK: A HISTORY OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA IN COUNTY GALWAY: A CENTURY OF SERVICE

This will be a 250 page full colour bi-lingual publication. It will deal with the formation of An Garda Síochána, the coming of the force to Galway on 25 September 1922. It will also give how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It also aims to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. This publication will also compliment the exhibition entitled *Gardaí in Galway 1922 – 2022*. The publication will be distributed to libraries, schools and the wider community free of charge.

STORYMAP OF MEMORIAL SITES IN COUNTY GALWAY RELATING TO THE DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS 1916 – 1923

Galway County Council's Heritage Office intends to record Memorial Sites in County Galway relating to the Decade of Commemorations 1916 – 1923 and to create a number of StoryMaps to help create an awareness of these very important memorials and to will seek to tell the stories about these memorials. . Built on leading edge geospatial technology it is hoped that these custom storymaps will inform and inspire people to explore the memorials relating to 1916 -1923 that is available right on their doorstep.

These StoryMaps bring together the latest mapping technology with text, images and multimedia content to tell powerful location based stories accessible from any internet enabled device with a Web Browser including Tablets and Phones. They are therefore an ideal tool to communicate the story of the memorials and the events, people and locations that they commemorate.

WORKBOOK ON AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA IN COUNTY GALWAY: A CENTURY OF SERVICE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

This bi-lingual workbook is aimed at 5th and 6th class students will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland and the role of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. It is proposed to embed videos and podcast into the workbook and this will assist in brining history to life in the classroom.

FORGETTING & REMEMBERING IN THE WEST OF IRELAND: GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE DECADE OF CENTENARIES, 1913-23

It is proposed to hold this closing event for the Decade of Commemorations in October 2023 in Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway. It will be an evening of reflection on the events that took place in County Galway commemorating the period of 1913 – 2023. This will be delivered by a series of lectures, music, song and dance.

The seminal events that shaped modern Ireland during the revolutionary decade from 1913 to 1923, saw an unprecedented public engagement with Ireland's revolutionary past during Ireland's Decade of Centenaries. Galway County Council was at the forefront of a widespread and unprecedented series of public events that engaged and re-discovered our communal past, with over a decade of community based acts of remembrance and historical discovery, public debate, commemoration and education. The recovery of communal and familial memory, the unforgetting of the painful events of the past, and the re-assessment of the impact of national and internal conflict on small communities across Galway has left an indelible educational and historical legacy. Dr Conor McNamara, Historian-in-Residence for Galway County Council, will provide an overview of the Decade of Centenaries in Galway and explored what was achieved by Galway County Council, in terms of remembrance, research, publications, commemoration and communal engagement. It is proposed to film this event and to make it available on www.galwaydecadeofcommemorations.com website.



Galway County Council was awarded funding for the following projects in 2023:

ATHENRY TOWN WALLS CAPITAL WORKS PROJECT: AWARD: €40,000

The work programme for 2023 will be to repair and consolidation of parts of the south wall which are part of the medieval defences in Athenry.



ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY: AWARD: €18,000

The aim of Athenry Walled Town Day is to have a heritage and educational experience where all sectors of the community can gain a greater awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the medieval town walls and the town of Athenry.



LOUGHREA MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL: AWARD: € 17,000

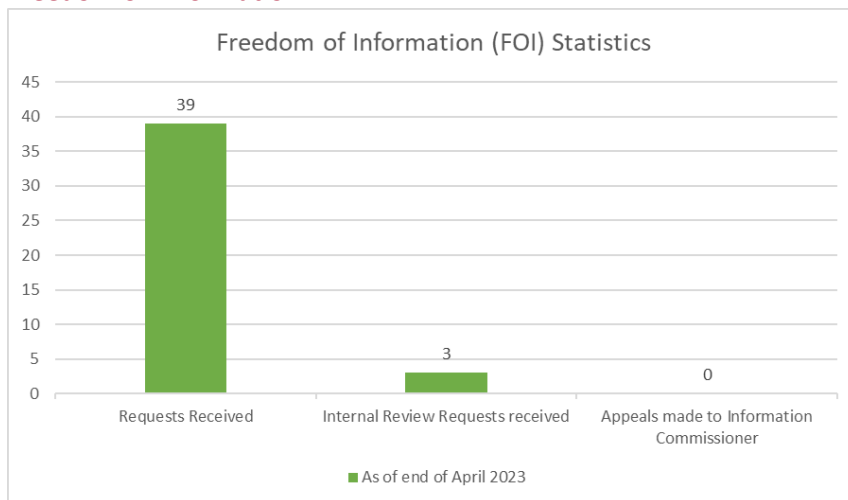


The aim of Loughrea Medieval Festival is to increase awareness, knowledge & understanding of Loughrea's rich medieval heritage among locals & visitors. Provide educational & memorable fund days & creating a local heritage tourism resource.

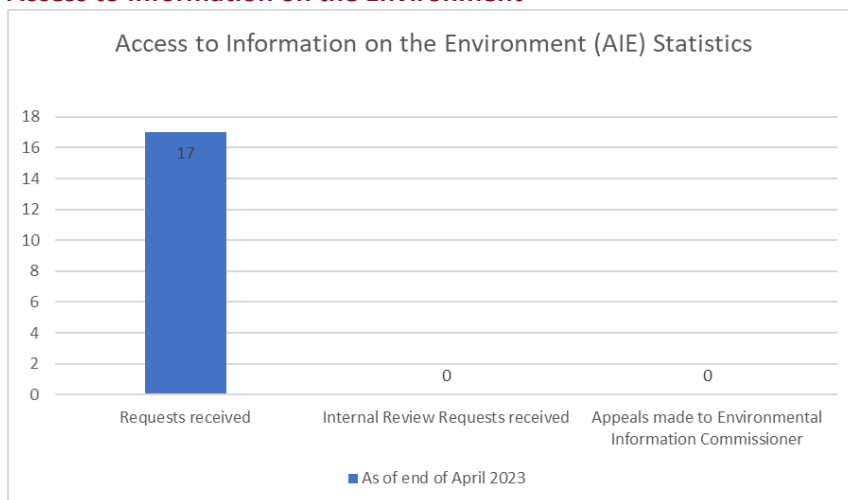
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.04.23

Freedom of Information



Access to Information on the Environment



Data Protection

- 6 Data Access Requests
- 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g. Gardaí
- GDPR/Data Protection Training
- Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to Staff in Quarter 1
- DPO delivered in-person GDPR Awareness briefings as part of H&S seminars & Lifeguard Induction
- Online Data Protection and GDPR Training Workshop delivered to the Elected Members in May 2023
- Guidance and clarification regarding compliance with Section 40 of the Data Protection Act 2018 in respect of Elected Members Representations recirculated to the Members

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



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission wrote to the Chief Executive in April 2023 to note that Local Elections and subsequent new corporate planning cycle for

local authorities will take place in 2024 and take the opportunity to highlight Galway County Council's statutory obligations under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 ("the Duty") which is to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and protect human rights; of all service users, policy beneficiaries and employees, across all function areas.

The correspondence advises that the Commission will develop and implement a strategic programme of work applicable to the local government sector during 2023/24 to support local authorities in meeting their obligations under the duty.



Section 42(2) (a) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires an organisation to set out in its strategic plan "an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of the body and the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address those issues."

In advance of the forthcoming corporate planning cycle Galway County Council is progressing an initiative to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty). A cross-organisational working group has been established to create the conditions necessary for effectively and efficiently implementing the Duty. The core task for the working group is to create the conditions for implementation of the Duty. This will involve working with an external consultant to develop key foundations of:

- An equality and human rights values statement to provide a frame and benchmarks for implementing the Duty;
- Assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to the functions of Galway County Council, the first step required under the Duty; and
- Implementation Plan for the Duty in Galway County Council.

The initiative will ensure inclusive policies and practices continue while informing the implementation of the Duty in this new corporate planning cycle.



Galway County Council will publish, its human rights and equality assessment, and the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address the issues identified in the assessment, in a manner that is accessible to the public in our strategic plan. In addition, we will report, in a manner that is accessible to the public, on developments and achievements – in respect of the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address issues identified in our assessment - in our annual report.

AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO IRELAND VISITS GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Ambassador of Mexico, Ms Carolina Zaragoza visited Áras an Chontae on 11th May 2023 to meet with the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway Cllr. Michael (Moegie) Maher and the Chief Executive Liam Conneally. They were joined by the Leas- Cathaoirleach of the County Cllr. Eileen Mannion and Director of Services Michael Owens.

Accompanying the Ambassador was Mr. Tomàs Olvera, Head of Consular Section and Cultural Promotion and Mr. David Niland, Honorary Consul of Mexico and Ms. Gloria Avalos, lecturer in the college of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science in the University of Galway.

A Twinning Agreement between Clifden and the Borough of Coyocan, Mexico City was signed in 2012. The visit marked an important milestone to further strengthen the close friendship ties and the continued economic co-operation and support between the two communities.







COMHAR CHUIGÉAL, LEITIR MEALLAIN

Glór na nGael was founded in 1961 as a language development tool through competition between community groups.



In 2014 Glór na nGael was appointed as the lead organisation for the Irish language, one of the six lead organisations funded by Foras na Gaeilge. Glór na nGael has a particular responsibility in three areas of work, the development of Irish in the family, the development of Irish among community groups and the development of Irish among enterprise and business groups

The Glór na nGael national competition is open to committees, community groups, Irish language sub-committees of larger groups whose main aim is to promote Irish in their local community. The competition is open to groups on the island of Ireland regardless of population, location or on whether the group has paid employees or is wholly voluntary. There were eight categories in the competition including Youth, The Family, Education, Mental and Physical Health, The State and Business Projects, Protecting the Environment, Heritage and Spirituality Events and opportunities to speak Irish An Ghaeltacht as well as Special Prizes for the Competition.

Each year Galway County Council presents a prize of €1,500 to an award winner in the county of Galway in the Special Prizes for the Competition.

This year's awards presentation of the Glór na nGael National Competition took place in the Armagh City Hotel on the night of Saturday 15th April 2023. The Galway County Council's Prize was presented to Comhar Chuigéal, Leitir Meallain, Co. na Gaillimhe

Comhar Chuigéal is a community based co-operative organisation providing facilities for public events, Day Care Centre for the elderly, Family activities, Outdoor recreational events, Kayaking club, Heritage centre and Seaweed centre.

As part of the competition process Comhar Chuigéal were assessed on the overall services they provide to the community in general and received the special recognition award sponsored by Galway County Council.

BATTLE OF AUGHHRIM VISITOR CENTRE

The Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre re-opened on the 16th May 2023 where visitors can learn about how three rival European Kings took hold of Ireland in their struggle for power with over 45,000 soldiers gathering in Aughrim in 1691.

The centre is located in the heart of Aughrim Village just 7km from Ballinasloe and 22km from Loughrea.

The centre offers visitors:

- Interpretative and artefacts display
- New Educational/Learning zone
- Children’s worksheets, costume dress-up
- Self-guided driving, cycling or walking trail of the battlefield (full trail route approx. 10km)
- Free car parking & baby changing facilities
- Fully accessible
- Children’s playground and park adjacent to Centre
- Guided tours of battlefield on request

Seasonal opening of the Centre is from May –September with opening times from Tuesday – Saturday, 10.30am - 4.30pm and Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Schools tours, groups, special interest & educational tours are all welcome and enquiries can be sent to battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie

Battle of Aughrim
Visitor Centre Tour
Guide – Ronan Killeen



WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD DELEGATION VISIT TO GALWAY CO. COUNCIL APRIL 2022 FOR THE RENEWAL OF SISTER COUNTY PARTNERSHIP– 24TH APRIL 2022

A Delegation from Washington County, Wisconsin visited Galway County Council in honour of the 20-year Sister Partnership between Washington County, State of Wisconsin, USA, and the County of Galway. The Delegation arrived at Dublin Airport on April 22nd, 2023, to begin their five-day trip to County Galway.

The members of the delegation from Washington County, Wisconsin included County Board Chairman Jeffrey Schleif and his wife Pam, County Board Vice-Chair Carroll Merry and his spouse Jean, County Board Supervisor Lois Krueger-Gundrum, State Representative Rick Gundrum, County Board Supervisor John Schodron and his wife Dawn, County Board Supervisor Pam Konrath and County Board Supervisor Tony Thoma and his spouse Susan.

At the Plenary meeting on April 24th 2023 The Cathaoirleach along with the Chairman of the Washington County Board Mr Jeffrey Schleif signed a Charter to further strengthen the friendship ties and cooperation that join the County of Galway and Washington County. The Cathaoirleach presented Washington County with a wall hanging 'Contours' a replica of the wall hanging outside the Council Chamber that reflects the design and inspiration for the bespoke carpet that forms the central design element for the Council Chamber. After the presentation and exchange of gifts the delegation and members of the Council gathered outside Áras and Chontae for a tree planting ceremony. Later that evening in County Hall a Cultural Evening was held which was a celebration and showcase of Galway culture through music, poetry, song, and dance.

The Delegation from Washington were accompanied by both officials and members throughout their five-day trip to County Galway. They visited Loughrea, Connemara, Clifden, Portumna, Athenry, Ballinasloe and Inis Mor Island as part of their extensive itinerary.













JAPANESE AMBASSADOR VISIT

The Japanese Ambassador visited Galway County Council and met with the Cathaoirleach of County Galway and the Deputy Chief Executive of Galway County Council on 20th April 2023



Aras an Chontae was opened in 1998 and the lighting system in the atrium has become outdated and inefficient. The original lighting was still in place, but the efficiency of the lighting has diminished due to this now outdated technology. This coupled with the age of the fittings and the location of the fittings at a very high level the maintenance costs are escalating year on year. Several of the fittings failed and needed some maintenance works. The location of the lighting results in expensive and time-consuming maintenance.

These lights were up graded to new fittings and the projected savings are outlined below.

.....
ATRIUM AREA IN COUNTY HALL



CONSUMPTION COMPARISON

A range of IP54 recessed downlights designed with quality materials, components & SMD LED lightsource. These high efficiency energy saving luminaires are available in a range of sizes, wattages and colour renderings, making them the perfect solution for modernisation to energy saving where the aesthetics are vital without the need

to compromise on results. They are suitable for all retail and commercial lighting installations with an emphasis on corridors, reception, restrooms and retail space.



- Projected reduction of 5,062 kWh per annum.
- The new LED luminaires do not require scheduled re-lamping and have lifespan of 30,000 hours.
- Estimating electricity costing 40 cent per kWh ex vat
- Estimated saving on electricity cost per year €2,024 ex vat
- With expect life span to be 30,000 hours the projected lifetime is 20 years
- Based on today's electricity prices versus the cost of running today's technology there is a projected cost saving of €40,480 ex vat over the lifetime of these lamps.

MAINTENANCE

With the new lamps the maintenance cost will be reduced as the life of the new lights are a projected 20 years.

REPLACEMENT PARTS - FUTUREPROOFING

Warranty on these luminaires is 5-years.

CONCLUSION

The Facilities Section undertook a review of the energy usage of County Hall and highlighted that significant energy costs savings could be achieved by replacing the 150 Watt recessed downlighting in the Atrium with 30 Watt LED lighting having similar illumination at Ground floor level. This energy saving project will yield an estimated saving on electricity cost per year €2,024 ex vat or €40,480 ex vat over the lifetime of these lamps.

LIBRARY SERVICES

BALLYBANE LIBRARY - VISIT OF UKRAINIAN STUDENTS

Ballybane Library was delighted to recently welcome a group of Ukrainian students from 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes from Radharc na Mara NS, Mervue. The students were thrilled to check out the new Maker Space, to play board games and to feed the fish.





BALLINASLOE LIBRARY - EUROPE DAY

As part of Europe Day 2023 the Europe Direct Centre based in Ballinasloe organised a number of exciting activities. First up was a visit to the Centre by students from Scoil Mhuire, Ballygar who met Blue Wise Marine / SmartBay community liaison coordinator Sinéad Ní Fhátharta, who talked to them about alternative energies and showed them a live feed of the facility. The students then took a trip to Galway Atlantaquaria to meet Dr. Noirin Burke, an ocean literacy marine education specialist who hosted an interactive workshop on ocean energy focusing on wave / tidal and offshore wind.

The Centre is also currently hosting "Into Europe", an exhibition that celebrates Ireland's 50 years in the European Union. The exhibition consists of 12 thematic panels in Irish and English which focus on various aspects of Ireland's transformative relationship with the European Union.

"Into Europe" is a Royal Irish Academy exhibition commissioned by EU50 and the Department of Foreign Affairs and was curated by the historian and author Miriam Nyhan Grey.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY - BARN OWL PROJECT

Special guest *Erin the Barn Owl*, the ambassador of the Barn Owl project was welcomed by staff and the public to Loughrea Library this month. A wonderful talk was given by John Carraig and Dan Doorhy from the project on Barn Owls and Barn Owl conservation.



LOUGHREA LONG POINT, OUTDOOR AMENITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Proposals for the Long Point Amenity Enhancement Project which are being prepared by a design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects in partnership with Galway County Council were on display in Loughrea Library for public viewing and comment.

CLIFDEN – VISIT TO CLIFDEN LIBRARY WITH DELEGATION FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY

We were delighted to welcome our Washington County visitors to the newly refurbished library in Clifden as part of their scenic tour of Connemara. While the MOL project is still a work in progress the group were delighted to see and hear all about it from Senior Executive Librarian Una Kelly. Also in attendance was the Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Eileen Mannion as well as other local representatives.



LAI/CILIP JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LAI/CILIP Joint Annual Conference took place in Dundalk this month. The theme of the Conference 'Libraries making a difference' saw Galway Public Libraries Senior Executive Librarian Liz Keane presenting on our DRCD funded project Fierce Close.

The Fierce Close project saw groups of young people come together to create a podcase series focusing on climate action. The series is available to listen to on Spotify.

Liz also presented at the LAI Youth Libraries group on a collaboration with Galway Atlantaquaria showcasing marine conservation.



COUNTY LIBRARIAN BERNIE KELLY'S RETIREMENT

Our esteemed colleague and friend Bernie Kelly decided to concentrate on her running, dancing and gardening/tunnelling and left us after 43 years dedicated service on 7th April 2023.

During her long career Bernie was instrumental in the establishment of Westside, Oranmore and Ballybane libraries and has been the overseer on many other library building projects.

Throughout her career, Bernie has always been invested in the service and the staff and will be missed for her dedication, attention to detail, support, good humour and work ethos.

We will miss her greatly!



ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

The An Taisce National Spring Clean campaign closed for 2023 with 183 groups registered in Co. Galway. Galway County Council continues to support local clean-ups throughout the year.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A social media campaign was re-run in relation to Dog Fouling and the Green Dog Walkers programme.

CINEMA ADVERT

In conjunction with Galway City, An Anti-Dog Fouling campaign is running in 6 cinemas in Galway City and County to encourage people to clean up after their dogs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clarinbridge Cáirde Club

A presentation on waste prevention, food waste prevention and littering were delivered to Clarinbridge Cáirde club as part of their weekly events programme.

Northampton National School

As part of their Climate Ambassador programme, a presentation was given to senior classes of Northampton National school on food waste prevention and various types of composting options.

Galway County Council is replacing its existing Litter Management Plan in accordance with Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 which requires local authorities to review its Litter Management Plan every 3 years.

The Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025 sets out objectives for the prevention and eradication of litter throughout County Galway.

The Plan will be advertised on Friday 12 May 2023 and will be available for public viewing. The plan will give everyone the opportunity to have input into the Plan by making a submission or observation from Friday 12 May 2023 until Friday 26 May 2023 on our consultation portal

<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/draft-galway-co-council-litter-management-plan-2023-2025>



Draft Litter Management Plan 2023 - 2025

Adopted by Galway County Council on the



Please Play Your Part – Keep County Galway Litter Free

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- 2 water pollution complaints were investigated during April.
- Follow-up with previous Section 12 Notices issued continued.
- 10 river monitoring sites were sampled as part of the Water Framework Directive monitoring programme.
- 4 septic tanks were inspected as part of the EPA's National Inspection Plan.
- 27 inspections of Discharge Licenced sites, issued under Section 4 of the Water Pollution Act, were carried out.
- 1 inspection was carried out at Craughwell National School as part of issuing of a new discharge licence.

OIL POLLUTION.

On the 23rd of April Galway County Council received a call re the presence of oil in the Owenriff River in Oughterard. Galway County Council mobilised the Fire Service and staff from the Environment section to assess the site and take immediate measures as necessary on the 23rd. Verde Remediation Specialists were then contracted by Deloitte (the owners of the site) on the 26th to carry out investigations and remediation at the site.

Investigations and remediation are still on going at this site.

ENFORCEMENT

- Enforcement included issuing four Section 12 Notices under the Water Pollution Act.
- 3 warning letters were issued.

DRINKING WATER

- Boil Water Notice lifted on the part of Spiddal PWS served by the Rossaveel Reservoir.
- BWN for part of Loughrea Town was lifted. 520 customers remain on the BWN.

SOLVENTS AND DECO PAINTS REGULATIONS

A Deco Paint Certificate of Compliance was issued in April.

PLANNING

21 planning files were assessed, and reports were provided to the planners. One member of staff attended a pre-planning meeting in relation to a large development.

BATHING WATERS

Preparation continued for 2023 season with meetings with the EPA and the Water Safety Officer. A number of alterations to the Bathing Water posters are required and this is being arranged.

BLUE FLAG BEACH ART COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

Galway County Council invited all primary schools in County Galway to participate in a Blue Flag Beach Art Competition. The students have been requested to design and paint a picture. The closing date is 31st May 2023.

Each winning poster will receive a voucher and their poster will be displayed on the Notice board at the relevant beach over the summer months and on the Council website www.galway.ie



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Inspection of households for compliance with the Waste Presentation Bye Laws began in April with approximately 120 households in Tuam town being visited. As a result of these inspections a number of Warning Letters and Section Notices under the Waste Management Act will be issued for non-compliance with the bye laws.

Five commercial food premises were inspected for compliance with the Food Waste regulations during April.

Inspections in relation to WEEE, Batteries and the Plastic Bag Levy were started in April.

During the month of April 70 waste complaints were submitted to the Environment Section for investigation by Community Wardens and Technical Staff.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

A number of Warning letters, Section 18 Notices and Section 55 Notices under the Waste Management Act 96 were issued in April.

One court case for prosecution in the District Court in April was adjourned.

TYRE REMEDIATION SITE

Over 4000 tonnes of tyres have been removed from the site at Lurgan, Killimor. It is envisaged that the site will be cleared completely by the end of May

SOLID FUEL REGULATIONS

Meetings were held in April between the Environment Section, Roscommon County Council and Mayo County Council in relation to completing a joint application for funding under the Solid Fuel Regulations. The scope of the project was agreed on and an application was made in early May. A separate application for funding to carry out awareness of the regulations and to create a register of solid fuel producers was also submitted solely by the Environment Section of GCC.

BURIAL GROUNDS

BURIAL GROUND MAINTENANCE GRANTS

The Council will be advertising the annual Burial Ground Maintenance Grants to assist voluntary groups in the upkeep of the burial grounds, in May 2023 with a closing date of Friday 18th August 2023. It is requested that groups keep all receipts in relation to work undertaken at the burial ground.

LANDFILL DEVELOPMENTS

EAST GALWAY ECO PARK

Galway County Council hosted a well-attended Public Information Day on Thursday 11th May at Kilconnell Hall, Ballinasloe for the proposed East Galway Eco Park on the site of the former landfill in Kilconnell.

School children from St Gabriel's National School, Cappataggle National School and New Inn National School attended the event with much energy and enthusiasm for the proposal and offered valuable inputs. Members of the local communities and businesses in the area were equally enthused by the vision Galway County Council have for this development and provided valuable input into this consultation process.



The consultation period to allow the local community to “Have Your Say” remains open until 1st June. Our design team of Brady Shipman Martin and Fehily Timoney will then embark on finalising a design for a planning submission later this year. Further details on the project can be found at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/east-galway-eco-park-0#/>

CLIMATE CHANGE



We were delighted to have been involved in organising the Galway County Youth Climate Assembly on the 19th of April in conjunction with SAUTI Youth Project and Youth Work Ireland Galway. The event was hosted by the BIA Innovator Campus, and they were very helpful in embracing the low-carbon food concept as part of the event.

The Youth Climate Assembly was one of the first assemblies of its type to happen at a local level in Ireland. The event provided a space for 57 young people from 13 of our secondary schools and youth organisations to gather to discuss climate action in the county. The participants were introduced to policies, projects and research being undertaken in County Galway to tackle the Climate and

Biodiversity Crises and were encouraged to initiate positive change through their school and/or youth/community group. The feedback from the event is currently being gathered into a report to be presented to Galway County Council and their ideas will be incorporated into our Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. In this way, young people are being supported to influence and shape local government policies.

There were presentations and contributions from Cathaoirleach Michael Maher, Director of Service Eileen Ruane, Tina Ryan, Rosina Joyce, Marie Mannion and Mark Molloy from Galway County Council, Dr Gordon Bromley and Dr Kathy Reilly from the University of Galway, Michelle Chiperi Aivazova from the SAUTI Youth Project, Colm Foley from the BIA Innovator Campus, and Breda Larkin from the Talamh Beo Project.

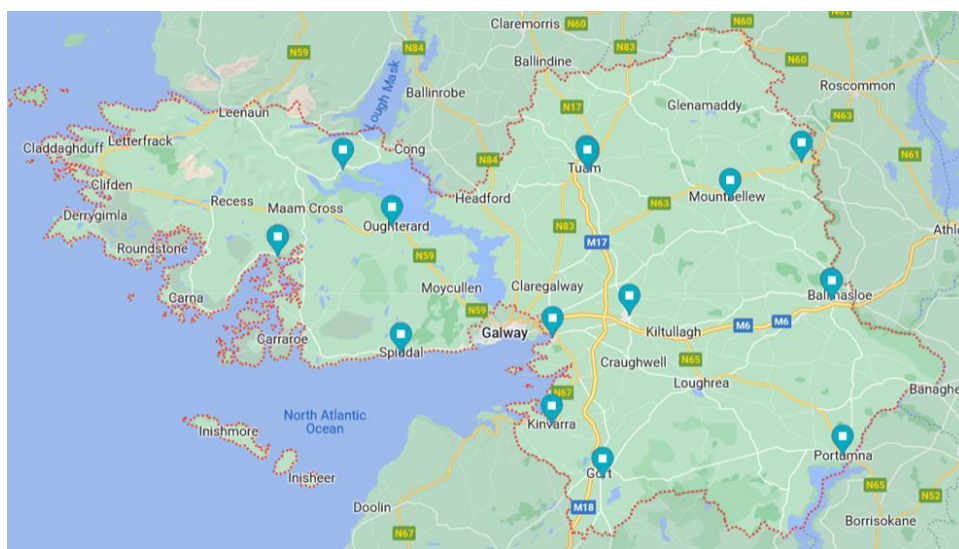
Feedback from the young attendees included:

“I really enjoyed the Q&A and the way we could express how we feel about climate change, and we learned what we could do to help change Galway for the better”.

“I enjoyed Breda talking about farming and how she is planning on going organic, I think she inspired all the young farmers with her speech”.

“There is a bigger community concerned about climate change than I previously thought. You can combat climate change in any career and there’s a lot of opportunity to get involved”.

“I would love to regularly participate in events like these with like-minded young people”.



Schools that participated in the County Youth Climate Assembly



NEW BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

The Galway County Council Biodiversity Officer Position was officially filled on the 2nd May 2023 by Rosina Joyce. This role falls under the remit of the Planning and Sustainable Development Section with collaboration already underway on projects and plans with other sections in the organisation. The post is 100% funded by the Heritage Council in year one, reducing to 75% in year two and 25% in year three.

CLIMATE YOUTH ASSEMBLY: BIODIVERSITY PRESENTATION

A presentation on how Galway County Council are addressing the issues facing Biodiversity in the county was given at the Climate Youth Assembly, in Athenry on 19th April. The presentation explored the pressure climate change places on ecosystems and how young people can direct and bring about change. A display stand outside the main hall allowed for direct engagement and interaction with the students and provided them with Biodiversity resources on everything from pollinators to hedgehogs.



SCHOOL TALKS

School talks were given to all the children at Scoil Náisiúnta, An Fháirce and Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Padraig, An Chloch Bhreac on how the students can protect biodiversity in their local community. These talks were given in association with the Clonbur/Cloghbrack Pride of Place Group.

THE GALWAY BUZZ CELEBRATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2023 (19- 28 MAY)

A Social Media Campaign promoting events as part of the Galway Buzz celebrating National Biodiversity Week 2023 (19- 28 May) is currently underway. The Sustainable Gardening workshop in Loughrea is already booked out with 50 attendees and a waiting list in operation and the Wildflower Workshop in Brigit's Garden only has a few places remaining. A workshop on Orchard Management will take place in Headford Community Orchard and will be delivered by Irish Seed Savers will also take place during the week.

- Galway County Council has recently succeeded in prosecuting a property owner in Connemara for unauthorised construction of a dwellinghouse in circumstances where planning permission had been granted for a shed. The conviction and Court Order arising includes an Order for compliance with the Enforcement Notice issued and removal of the unauthorised structure within a period of 4 months. The council have also recovered all expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this offence by way of Court Order for costs.
- Galway County Council has assisted the various Directorates of the council and the parties involved in securing the initial base in Ireland for Dexcom and its enterprise at Athenry, Co. Galway. The Law Agent Dept. will play a crucial role in laying out the legal footprint for this future development whilst assisting in putting in place the necessary formal agreements between the various stakeholders involved.
- Galway County Council. recently succeeded in re-entering before the courts the matter of a failure to comply with a Court Order previously obtained for removal of an unauthorised structure. It is hoped to bring this matter to a successful conclusion by way of enforcement of this Court Order.

1. Restoration Improvement – Contract Awarded contractor to begin shortly

- a. Roanmore
- b. Annagh Hill
- c. Gorteen
- d. Kiltullagh
- e. Castlelambert
- f. Cloonboo
- g. Lydican
- h. Garraun/Ardaun

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. Surface dressing Has been tendered Contract awarded
 - i. Belville Cross/Hundred Acres
 - ii. Parkcurry
 - iii. Carnakelly South
 - iv. Glennagloghaun/Cloonkeen
 - v. Kilskeagh
 - vi. Castleturvin
 - vii. Gardenham
 - viii. Moneymore
 - ix. Maonbaun
 - x. Annaghdown
 - xi. Killoughter
 - xii. Tiaquin demesne
- b. Works completed by direct labour crews – works beginning this week
 - i. Farravaun
 - ii. Gortbrack
 - iii. Rockfield
 - iv. Killoughter
- c. Recycling Contract – Contract awarded with other MD's we are in negotiations with the preferred bidder to agree on a programme of works.
 - i. Aghafadda
 - ii. Clooncah
 - iii. Bushfield
 - iv. Muckrush
 - v. Annagh West
 - vi. Monard

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Design documents are being checked and approved will be ready to be put out this week
- b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) SW/PG to look at this to ascertain requirements
- c. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) To be completed with Derrydonnell beg
- d. Cregmore Bridge Civil works completed awaiting ESB to power traffic lights kiosk

4. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher
- b. L7125 Ballydavid
- c. L3112 Gloves West
- d. L2117 Lisheenananoran
- e. L3117 Cormachugh

5. Community Involvement Scheme

Allocations not issued yet once they have been issued, we will complete designs and plan works.

6. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment Contact ongoing with Landowners consultant completing Part 8 application information
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River Revised application sent to OPW for minor works fund – no reply to date
- c. Lavally Drainage District More works planned for this year
- d. Athenry Pedestrian Bridge Pavement works to be completed.
- e. Dual carriageway Oranmore Re-surfacing planned this summer for section on Eastbound carriageway
- f. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue Drone survey completed; CCTV planned once water levels drop enough to complete underground assessment.



FIG.1 – RAFFERTY'S CROSS ANTI-SKID



FIG.2 – BAUNMORE ROUNDABOUT RE-SURFACING



FIG.3 – POUND ROAD JUNCTION RE-SURFACING



FIG.4 – BALLYGURRAUN DRAINAGE WORKS



FIG.5 – DERRYDONNELL DRAINAGE WORKS



FIG.6 – ANNAGHDOWN FOOTPATH WORKS - COMMENCING



FIG.7 – CYCLE LANE IN ORANMORE



FIG.8 – NEW BENCH KILLIMOREDALY PLAYGROUND

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The March Ballinasloe MD meeting included:

- Update and presentation by DOS on Just Transition Programme
- Housing update on Nurses Home purchase and Dunlo St & St Joseph's Part 8s
- Information on East Galway Eco Park at Kilconnell Open Day



WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTPATH WORKS ONGOING



CREAGH GRAVEYARD EXTENSION

The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works have been tendered and a Most Economically Advantageous Tender Identified. It is expected that work will commence at the end of May

The road works on the islands (DRCD funding) was tendered in February but due to higher than expected tenders the DRCD has requested to proceed in a different manner and the works will be re-tendered later in the year.

The base course will be completed after the tourism season and final surfacing will be completed in 2024. Discussions are ongoing with the DRCD in relation to the scope of works.

The Strategic Infrastructure scheme at the Causeways is at design stage.

An application has been made to the Department of Transport for a Strategic Infrastructure scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address the flooding.

Safety Improvement Works €115,000 (3 projects)

Climate Change Projects to be progressed €150,000 (3 projects).

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES:

- 1 scheme on Inis Bofin is complete.
- 4 schemes in Connemara north engineering area to go to Tender.
- 3 schemes Aran islands will be carried out by direct labour in August 2023.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme 2023
- 5 No. pier locations
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches-
- Summer ready preparing for provision of public toilets and bins at a number of beaches for June, July & August.

ACTIVE TRAVEL CONNEMARA MD

Construction Projects

- NTA Design Review held with the NTA Active Travel Programme Management Team and approval granted to start construction works in An Ceathru Rua – works started
- Footpath works continue in Roundstone and Claddaduff

Design Projects

- SRTS Round 1 schools – Active Travel team is working on Design Briefs for Consultants – 1 of these schools has now been selected for a regional Pilot National Road Safety Scheme
- SRTS Round 2 schools – Conamara MD and Active Travel teams working with An Taisce SRTS team, site visits, sharing information, meetings.

(i) Round 1 Schools

- Scoil Baile Nua, Maigh Cuillin *
- St. Pauls Secondary School, Oughterard

An Taisce SRTS Team has completed a SRTS Delivery Plan for each of the 2 Round 1 schools – this plan is a high level set of Design Concepts which has been handed over to GCC Roads Active Travel Team to Plan, Design and Implement. Active Travel Team is currently working on a Design Brief to procure Design Consultants to bring the project through the required Design and Statutory Processes stages.

* Additionally Scoil Baile Nua, Maigh Cuillin has been selected as 1 of 3 schools nationally to participate in a TII National Road Safety Pilot project – more to follow

(ii) Round 2 Schools

- Furbo National School
- Scoil Saleirna, Inverin
- An Taisce SRTS team is now actively working with the schools doing the ground work – site inspections, front of school surveys, audits. Etc. GCC Roads Active Travel team is actively involved in this work. SRTS Delivery Plans expected 3Q 2023

CLADDAGHDUFF

- (1) **63m of new 1.5m wide footpath & Stone Wall. Ducting for future works including ducting for Street Lighting.**

Before:



CLAREMOUNT

- (1) 70m of new footpath & Stone Wall. New kerb on both sides of the road and new Street Lighting.

Before:



After:



- (1) 102m of new 1.2m wide footpath & Stone Wall. Ducting for future works including ducting for Street Lighting and one new Steet Light to replace an old one.

Before:



After:



CLIFDEN REGENERATION TOWN PROJECT

- Presentations were made to the Municipal District and the Chamber of Commerce as part of the second phase of public consultation on the developing conceptual design for Clifden Town Centre.
- It is anticipated that the Chamber of Commerce will make a formal submission to Galway County Council.
- The proposed designs are gaining in support which will allow the design to be submitted for a Part 10 planning application.

BALAMI FUNDED PIER & HARBOUR PROJECTS

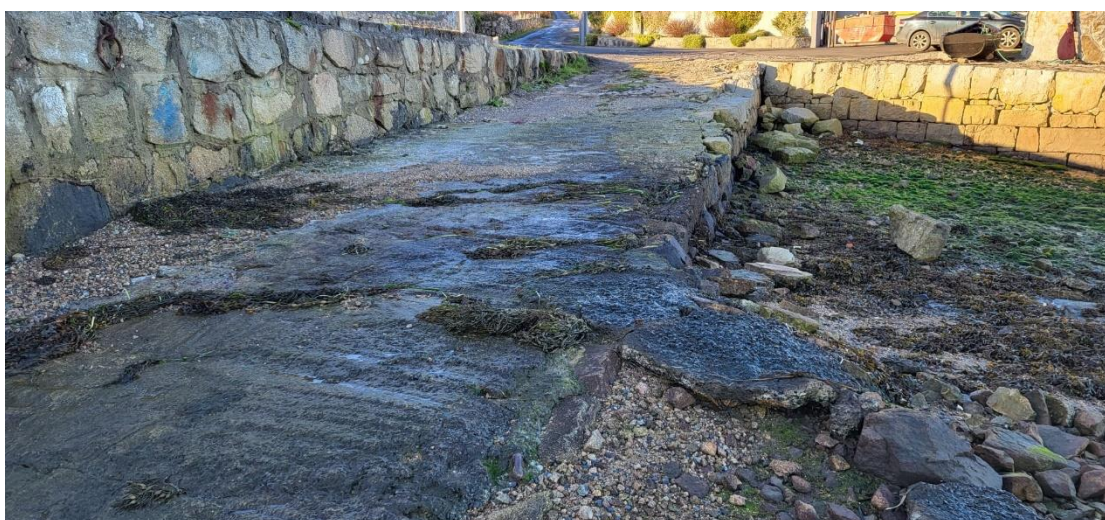
Total funding of €1,225,975 across 2022 And 2023 has been received for works to Piers and Harbours in the Galway County Council functional area from the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI). Matched funding at 5% of the works value is provided from Galway County Council's own budget to bring the total provision to €1,290,500.

The majority of this spend is in the Conamara Municipal District area, comprising works at 16 locations with a combined allocation of €1,125,500. Most of the works have been completed and the remainder are on track for completion ahead of the funding drawdown deadline of November 2023.

The largest of the projects include the construction of a storm wall at Bealcarra Pier and the installation of pontoons at Kilronan, Inis Mór. The pontoon installation contract has been awarded and the pontoons are scheduled to be in place by the end of September 2023.

The pictures below show the before and after conditions at a number of the relevant landing places.

KILKIERAN HARBOUR– REPLACEMENT SLIPWAY AND WALL





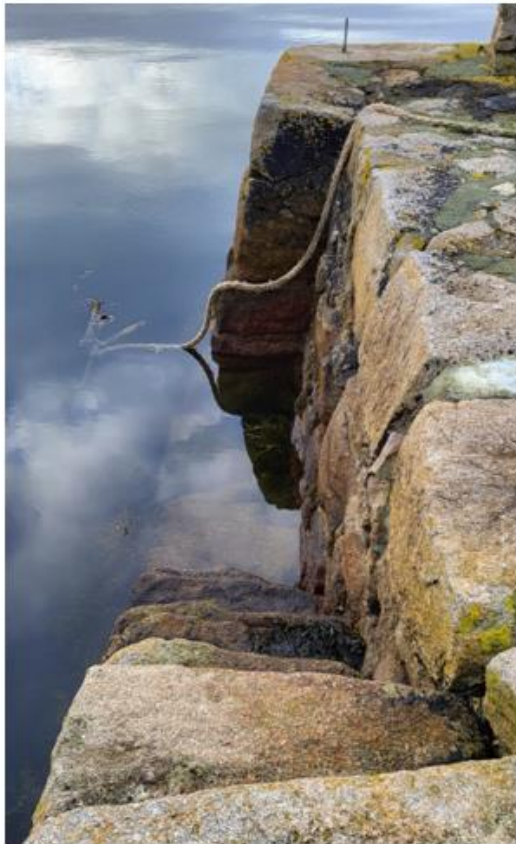
CASHEL PIER - DECK IMPROVEMENTS & HANDRAILS



CASHEL NO 1 – REPLACEMENT SLIPWAY



Garafin Pier – Copping Replacement, Toe Rails & Handrails



ROADS PROGRAMME - PROJECTS COMPLETED:

- **4 No. Restoration Improvement Grant Roads**
 - L-4309 - Gurtymadden to Mullagh
 - L-8761 - Green Door
 - L-8211 - Wastelands Cross/Derreennamucka
 - L-71717 – Carraun More

- **6 No. Discretionary Road Grants**
 - L-4193 - Turoe
 - L-87492 - Laughil
 - L-87491 - Cloonoolish
 - L-8211 - Wastelands Cross/Derreennamucka
 - L-87431 - Stowlin
 - L-43032 - Carrowreagh

- **Restoration Maintenance Grant roads expected to commence in next two weeks**

Significant Projects Completed

- N67 Defect Repair - Dunguire Castle, Kinvara
- Road resurfacing adjacent to new footpath at Derrycrag, Woodford.
- Resurfacing of Casual Trading Bays in Loughrea Town
- Resurfacing works at Meelick Weir. Access road and parking facilities.

Other Minor Works

- New paving, Seating and Planters in Portumna in memory of our dear colleague Bernie Egan, RIP
- Installation of Water Bottle Refill at Long Point Loughrea
- LIS – Cregpark Farm
- New Flower Planters in Loughrea Town
- Landscaping in Kinvara with the Community Employment Scheme

Note – Photographs included as Appendix 1

RESURFACING WORKS AT MEELICK WEIR. ACCESS ROAD AND PARKING FACILITIES.



FIG. 1. BEFORE IMAGE



FIG. 2. AFTER IMAGE

OVERLAY AT GURTYMADDEN



ROAD RESURFACING AT TUROE, LOUGHREA



NEW PAVING MEMORIAL BENCH AND PLANTERS TO FRONT OF PORTUMNA LIBRARY
IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE BERNIE EGAN (RIP).

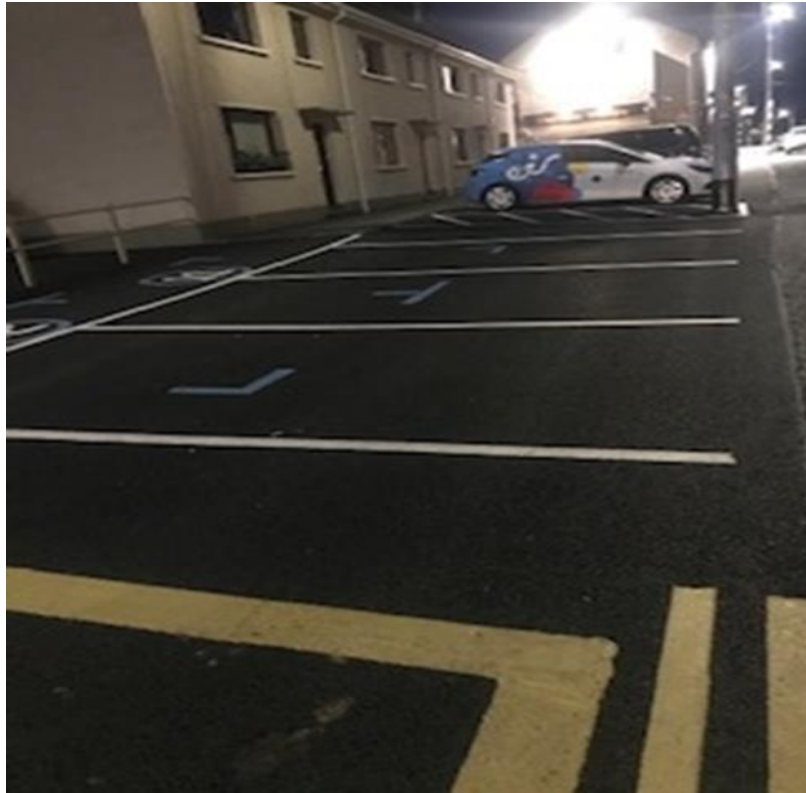
Bernie was a member of Galway County Council and provided a valuable service to the local community in the Portumna Office for many years.





FIG. 1. BEFORE IMAGES

FIG. 2. AFTER IMAGES



ROAD WORKS AT DERRYCRAG, WOODFORD.



FIG. 1. CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON-GOING

FIG. 2. WORKS COMPLETE



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME – LANDSCAPING AT KINVARA



WATER BOTTLE REFILL POINT AT LONG POINT, LOUGHREA



NEW PLANTERS IN LOUGHREA TOWN



TUAM EAST:

- Roadworks Programme underway in Tuam East with Road Improvement and Road Maintenance works being carried out by Direct Crews and various subcontractors (HCQ for Overlays & Colas for SD works). Works have been completed for numerous roads which include the following; Ballyroe, Clooncun, Laughill, Ballinlass and Kilavogeher



- Our Direct MD Crew has completed a number of drainage projects recently including the Climate Adaption Scheme in Pollacorrage and several Drainage Improvement Projects on the N17. This week our MD Crew has also commenced works on the LIS in Rosmearan.
- Upgrade works of existing signage has been completed at a number of locations in Tuam East over the past month (R328, R362 & R332)





PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CAHERLISTRANE

We are working currently on Stage 3 of the Caherlistrane project, which involves the construction of a Pedestrian Crossing near the GAA pitch, with a short section of additional footpaths. We have also included ducting for a future upgrade of the public lighting to LED. Reduction in ground staff numbers has resulted in this project being delayed, we hope to have the Civils part completed by the end of next week and all works will be done this summer.

STREETSCAPE SCHEMES

The investment in the visual upgrading of our towns and villages is ongoing in 2023 based on the success of Schemes in eight locations to date.

Over thirty premises in Tuam Town Centre have been offered funding to improve their facades and works are due to commence in Summer 2023.

Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

18th May 2023