



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Deireadh Fómhair 2023
October 2023

COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

LECP:

Work is progressing to finalise the Issues Paper / Socio-Economic Statement for the LECP and engage consultants to carry out public consultation for the plan.

LCDC MEMBERSHIP

Following the resignation of Mr. Michael Keady, the HSE Representative on the LCDC, Elected Members are requested to approve his replacement, Mr. Laurence Gaughan, Regional Project Manager HSE, effective from October 2023. A meeting will then be arranged to brief Mr. Gaughan on the LCDC programmes, particularly in Health & Wellbeing as he will assume the role of Chair of this LCDC Sub-Committee.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Most small-scale grants awarded under the Community Recognition Fund have been completed and site inspections are being carried out which is a requirement of the scheme prior to drawdown. While it was not possible to complete 60% of all larger projects due to the tight timescales for Year 1 of the Fund, it is hoped to complete a substantial drawdown of funding by end 2023 and discussions are ongoing with the Department of Rural and Community Development in this regard.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Following purchase of a Property Marking Machine under this funding scheme, and completion of training for Men's Sheds, and underspends have been reallocated towards a bulk purchase of signage for this community safety programme, following which meetings will be arranged with An Garda Síochána and Men's Sheds to finalise a booking system for the machine and formally launch the initiative.

HEALTHY ISLANDS PROJECT

Healthy Galway and Galway Rural Development showcased their "Healthy Islands" project which was shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Award to a panel of judges on 3rd October in Galway County Council. Healthy Islands was a series of health and wellbeing events on the 4 offshore islands, where over 20 agencies were coordinated to provide a series of health and wellbeing days aimed at breaking down the barriers to accessing services and information on the islands. We will find out the result of the process at the National Awards Ceremony at the end of November.



L-R FRANCIS KANE, AGE FRIENDLY HOMES, PADRAIG FAHY, PARKRUN IRELAND, ANNE CASSIDY, GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT, EILEEN HUGHES, AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND, MADELINE QUIRKE, AGE FRIENDLY JUDGE, LIAM CONNEALLY, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MARY MCGANN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, NORAH QUINN, CROÍ, ANNIE COSTELLO, CROÍ, PETER HYNES, AGE FRIENDLY JUDGE, ANDREW MCBRIDE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTHY IRELAND

As part of October World Mental Health Month Healthy Galway City and County in partnership with Mental Health Ireland, HSE, Jigsaw and Galway Mental Health Association hosted a Connected Galway Event in the Menlo Hotel on 29th September. This was the second year of this event with over 60 people in attendance. Galway Connects is an opportunity to acknowledge the work being carried out in this area, allow for collaboration, and identifying potential gaps and new partnerships.



L-R AINE HURLEY, MENTAL HEALTH IRELAND, JOHN WARD, GALWAY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, EOGHAN MAC DOMHAILL, JIGSAW, MAYOR OF GALWAY - CLLR EDDIE HOARE, CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR LIAM CARROLL, ANDREW MC BRIDE, HEALTHY GALWAY COUNTY, AISLING COLREAVY, HEALTHY GALWAY CITY, MARY O'SULLIVAN, HSE.



TIDY TOWNS

Tidy Towns Groups across County Galway continue to improve their marks in the Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition results year-on-year, while carrying out invaluable work in their respective communities. First place in the County, and their Gold Medal, was retained by **Miltown**, while **Abbey** retained second place in the County and their Silver Medal status. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals are awarded to entrants who fall within a specified number of marks of the overall winner of the competition, and this demonstrates the high quality of improvement works being carried out in these communities. In this regard, **An Spidéal** retained third place in the County and their Bronze Medal, which they first achieved last year – they also received a special mention by Mary Kennedy at the Awards Ceremony for the substantial improvements they have achieved over the last 2 years – An Spidéal Abú! Every year, there is also an Endeavour Award which recognizes the community who have achieved the highest increase in marks in the County – huge congratulations to **Tullycross** who achieved a whopping increase of 37 marks since last year – the Community Section cannot recall ever seeing an increase in marks of that size! In addition to the Medal Awards, there are a number of Special Award Categories in the Tidy Towns Competition to recognize excellence in particular areas of the competition, and County Galway continued its proud record of high achievement in this area with the following honoured with special prizes at the Awards Ceremony:

- **Williamstown** Tidy Towns was the overall winner of the National Heritage Award
- **Monivea** Tidy Towns was the overall winner of the Gum Litter Taskforce Award
- **Northampton National School** was a regional winner of the Supervalu Schools Award
- **Woodford Parish Development** were Highly Commended for their work towards the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

PILOT PROJECT ON NURSING HOMES

Age Friendly Ireland have partnered with Trinity College Dublin Research Centre to conduct a research project into the quality of life and resilience of residential long-term care settings, and one of the settings chosen for the project is St. Brendan's Nursing Home Loughrea. In addition to focus group consultations to be conducted by the Research Team, the Age Friendly Programme Manager will liaise with the Nursing Home staff and residents to conduct a Walkability Audit of the key outdoor settings and environs of the Nursing Home to identify how the built environment can enhance quality of life for residents, staff, and visitors alike. It is hoped that the pilot project will lead to the development of Universal Design and Best Practice Guidelines for the ongoing development of Nursing Home facilities and their integration into the surrounding community setting. Training sessions and templates will be developed in October with a view to carrying out the Walkability Audit in November.

POSITIVE AGEING WEEK EXHIBITION

The Local Heroes Exhibitions to honour 30 people from across the City and County who epitomize positive and healthy ageing, took place in Ballinasloe Library, Galway City Library, and Oughterard Courthouse, during Positive Ageing Week 2023 (1st to 7th October 2023). Cllr. Liam Carroll Cathaoirleach of the County, and Cllr. Evelyn Parsons, Leas-Cathaoirleach of the County, attended the events and presented a memento of the exhibition panel to each participant. Research tells us that our own ageing journey is impacted by what we see and hear about ageing, therefore, it is so important to shine a light on older people who are living life to the full and are so often valuable members of clubs, groups, or are vital supports to their families and enrich the lives of those around them so much. The exhibitions and events were very heartwarming and the biographies of the participants.

POSITIVE AGEING WEEK 2023 OUR LOCAL HEROES

Reframing how we think, feel, and act about older age



MIKE SHAUGHNESSY

Margaret lives in Cashel, Connemara and is almost 80 years. She has six children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Margaret cared for her late husband and best friend Josie until his death in 2022 and had cared for her late parents also. She is a wonderful and considerate neighbour.

Margaret is very well known in her community for her voluntary work. She and her late husband set up St. Conal's Social Club in 1992, to provide social support for older people. She is a lady ahead of her time, who was helping to prevent social isolation in her rural community, before we had research showing the impact of loneliness on people's health. She and her small team of volunteers fundraised to provide weekly meetings, breakfast, annual Christmas dinners, a respite weekend break and day trips for the older people.

Margaret has sat on the Board of Management of the local school and has represented the Cashel Pony Show Committee for 30 years. Margaret believes in the importance of keeping the mind and body active, and walks regularly, reads every day, and she loves her weekly crosswords.

Margaret epitomises the old Irish term 'Meitheal' and is truly an inspiration to us all.



FOR A FULL LISTING
OF ALL OUR HEROES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

PPN membership now stands at 1,258 member groups spread across three pillars: Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion, and Environmental.

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN sent out 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 7 mass emails to all 1,258 Member Groups.
- Regular updates across the PPN's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and updates from various other shareholders shared via email.
- The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls, website and emails.

- The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

BUILDING CAPACITY:

- To celebrate and highlight European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) 20 September – 26 September 2023 the PPN ran two Sustainable Development Goals workshops specifically tailored to Tidy Towns groups. The aim of the workshops was to help Tidy Towns Groups to: Align their work to the SDG's, learn how to map their projects to the SDGs in the Tidy Towns Entry Form & Special Award Category and, learn how to promote the SDG's in their community through their work. Two workshops were held, one in Claregalway and the other in Furbo.

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- PPN Representatives attended the Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC, Transport SPC, LCDC, JPC meetings with reports sent on to PPN workers for member engagement.
- The PPN attended the National PPN Conference 5th and 6th October, hosted by County Wicklow PPN. The two-day conference brought together workers, volunteers, and representatives from across the Country, celebrating the work of PPN's and their vital role in community engagement and participation.



ARTS OFFICE

SCHOOLS MOBILE LIBRARY PROJECT

Galway County Council's Arts Office and Library Service are delighted to work with artist, writer and illustrator Chris Judge to give our mobile library a new lease of life.

Chris worked with students at Clontuskert NS and Scoil an Croí Naofa as a starting point for the artwork. This project intends to give the existing simple, grey exterior of the mobile library an appropriate new look that inspires a love of reading, reflects the inner world of our county's children and to inspire wonder. The project will be complete in mid-November 2023.



CHRIS JUDGE SHOWING STUDENTS HIS WORK IN SCOIL AN CROÍ NAOFA, BALLINASLOE



A STUDENT DRAWING ON A WORKSHEET AT CLONTUSKERT NATIONAL SCHOOL

NORTH-EAST GALWAY FIT-UP FESTIVAL SEPT/OCT

The North-East Galway Fit-Up Theatre Festival returned to County Galway for its third year at the end of September 2023. Rural villages in North-East Galway enjoyed three weeks of fantastic theatre from Tuesday September 26th until Sunday 15th October. The Three Rings in association with Galway County Council Arts Office and the Arts Council, presented three high quality productions in six venues over a three-week period. Opening this year's three-week festival, the Three Rings welcome Hubcap Theatre with their hilarious, heart-warming play, *The Parish* written and performed by Michael Ryan and Sean Kelleher.

Sept 26 – Oct 15, 2023 NORTH EAST GALWAY

Fit-up Theatre Festival

Bringing Three Weeks of Professional Theatre to Six Rural Communities

The Parish **Gombean** **Wake**

| Week One: The Parish | Week Two: Gombean | Week Three: Wake |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 26 Sept | Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 3 Oct | Skehana Community Centre 8pm, Tuesday 20 Oct |
| Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 27 Sept | Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 4 Oct | Newbridge Community Centre 8pm, Wednesday 23 Oct |
| Dunmore Town Hall 8pm, Thursday 28 Sept | Dunmore Town Hall 8pm, Thursday 5 Oct | Dunmore Town Hall 8pm, Thursday 12 Oct |
| Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 29 Sept | Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 6 Oct | Fohenagh Community Centre 8pm, Friday 13 Oct |
| The Mall Theatre, Tuam 8pm, Saturday 30 Sept | The Mall Theatre, Tuam 8pm, Saturday 7 Oct | The Mall Theatre, Tuam 8pm, Saturday 14 Oct |
| Abbeyknockmoy Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 1 Oct | Abbeyknockmoy Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 8 Oct | Abbeyknockmoy Community Centre 8pm, Sunday 15 Oct |

The North East Galway Fit-up Festival has been funded by Galway County Council Arts Office and The Arts Council

Booking 087 8677732 **Tickets €15**
 087 2372820 **Concessions €12.50**
 Season Ticket €40

For the second week of the festival, Sligo native Niamh McGrath will perform her critically acclaimed play Gombean across this year’s six Fit-Up venues from Tues 3rd Oct until Sun 8th October. Gombean, written by Niamh and directed by Seamus O Rourke is set in a sleepy town in Sligo. For this year’s festival finale week, the Three Rings welcome Irene Kelleher with her play Wake, directed by Geoff Gould. This new show performed and written by Sligo native Kelleher will tour our venues from Tuesday 10th Oct until Sunday 15th October.

With audiences of between 60 and over 120 each night in Skehana Community Centre, Newbridge Community Centre, Dunmore Town Hall, Fohenagh Community Centre, The Mall Theatre Tuam and Abbeyknockmoy Community Centre the Fit-Up Festival 2023 was a huge success.

SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL – HEADFORD OCTOBER 2023

Headford's inaugural Community Arts weekend, Something in The Water, takes place across various venues around Headford town, from the 4th to the 8th of October this year. The event organisers, Headford and District Association, a voluntary community development group in the area created a new community arts festival celebrating and recognising the artistic and creative community in Headford. Galway County Council Arts Office directly supported this festival.



HEART OF HEADFORD SQUARE LAUNCH CREDIT AENGUS MCMAHON

On Friday night, The Big Sing, with three local choirs, offered some magical musical entertainment, and a chance for the audience to enjoy the opportunity of a pop-up choir. On Saturday night, Songs From The Water's Edge, in the historical Ballycurrin House, highlights the finest song writing

talent in the area, including Dave Clancy, Tara Stacy, Niamh Langan and Sarah Brookfield.



DANCE PERFORMANCE
IN HEADFORD
COMMUNITY ORCHARD
CREDIT AENGUS
MCMAHON



THE BIG SING HEADFORD CREDIT AENGUS MC MAHON



FESTIVAL TEAM WITH LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVES AND CATHAOIRLEACH
LIAM CARROLL CREDIT AENGUS MC MAHON



**BARCELO BROTHERS IN FURSY HALL,
HEADFORD - SOMETHING IN THE WATER
FESTIVAL**

The festival ended on Sunday evening with a family-friendly concert by the Barcelo Brothers and their own explosive mix of rootsy grooves infused with modern R&B, Soul, Funk and Reggae music!

Festival also included an art and photographic exhibitions, a pop-up shop selling the wares of local makers and crafters, dance performances in Headford

Community Orchard, family juggling workshops, a poetry workshop with Jimi McDonnell, and an offering from Galway Dance Residency.



Award winning and bestselling author, Donal Ryan, also visited Headford that weekend, for a Sunday Service of sorts in one of Headford's favourite houses of worship, Campbell's Tavern. At this informal gathering, Donal read some of his favourite works, and discussed them with the audience, and the event host, Aisling Keogh.

**DONAL RYAN WITH AISLING KEOGH AT
SOMETHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL 2023**

CULTURE UP ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (AIR) ON THE EDGE

AIR ON THE EDGE ARTISTS DANIEL MOCCI (LEFT) AND NOELLE GALLAGHER (RIGHT)



AIR on the Edge is a one-month international artist residency exchange between Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands and Serbia. It focuses on artists professional development, creating opportunities for artists to engage with rural communities and is rooted in rural places and cities on the edges of Europe.



128 applications were received from artists in our 5 partner countries before the deadline for this international residency opportunity. Out of 16 artists who applied from Ireland 9 of those were eligible artists based in Galway County.

We are delighted to announce the 2 Galway County artists who will travel to our [AIR on the Edge](#) partners for month-long residencies. Noelle Gallagher will work with Brogården Kulturvæksthus in Denmark. Daniel Mocci will work with Arcadia in The Netherlands.

DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY

Magdalena Hylak Galway County's dance artist in residence continues to meet groups and make connections in Headford and Tuam in preparation for upcoming workshops in October/November and in early 2024. Magdalena and her collaborator Lionel Kasparian were also invited to deliver a workshop for adults as part of the inaugural Something in the Water festival in Headford.

MAGDALENA HYLAK (LEFT) AND LIONEL KASPARIAN (RIGHT) OUTSIDE NUN'S ISLAND THEATRE WITH A BANNER ADVERTISING THEIR RESIDENCY DATES FOR 2023.



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS WITH LIONEL KASPARIAN AND MAGDALENA HYLAK AT SOEMTHING IN THE WATER FESTIVAL, ST FURSA'S HALL, HEADFORD.

GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL SPEED CREATING

20 artists and creatives attended two Galway Theatre Festival Speed Creating workshops that took place on 02 May and 17 September. During the professional development workshops facilitated by Aoife Noone, the artists devised new work, shared ideas and made connections with other county-based creatives. Participants were also encouraged to apply for Galway Theatre Festival's 2024 Open Call to be considered for their programme next year.



ARTISTS AND CREATIVES SHARING NEW WORK DURING A SPEED CREATING WORKSHOP

IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE'S SIX IN THE ATTIC PROGRAMME

The Arts Office is delighted to be one of six strategic local authority partners for Irish Theatre Institute's Six in the Attic programme 2023/2024. ITI is the national resource organisation for theatre, and this is their key artistic development programme for theatre makers.

A selected Galway County artist will engage in a thoughtfully created programme of:

- Artist gatherings online and in person meet ups arranged for the group building a community of peers.
- Professional development workshops focused on areas that upskill freelance artists.
- Introductions and networking with other independent artists and arts organisations nationally and internationally. One-to-one mentoring from Director Niamh O'Donnell and Programme Manager Leigh Hussey.
- Access to a shared workspace, rehearsal/meeting room spaces for development and collaboration sessions in ITI's offices located on 17 Eustace Street, Temple Bar Dublin 2.
- Access to short term dedicated desk in selected national venues or cultural spaces for non-Dublin based artists.
- An artist practice bursary of €1,300.

The open call for applications was announced on 12 October and the deadline is 09 November. We look forward to seeing who applies and who is successful.



SIX IN THE ATTIC PARTICIPANTS ATTEND A WORKSHOP AT IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE IN DUBLIN

MUSIC FOR GALWAY COUNTY WIDE PROGRAMME

On Thursday 19 October Music for Galway in partnership with Galway County Arts Office and Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre will present a performance of *Elégie: Rachmaninov - A Heart in Exile* in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry.

MFG | MUSIC for GALWAY

Thursday 19th October
Raheen Woods Hotel
8.00pm

**ELÉGIE:
RACHMANINOV –
A HEART IN EXILE**
Lucy Parham, piano | Simon Russell Beale, narrator
Scripted by Lucy Parham

Tickets: Standard €20 | Concession €18 | Social Inclusion €10 | MFG Friends €16
Booking: www.musicforgalway.ie or 091 705962

In association with Galway County Arts Office, Athenry Music School and Athenry Heritage Centre.

CULTURE NIGHT 2023

Culture Night took place on Friday 22 September. Culture Night is an annual national event that invites everyone, everywhere on one joyful night, to discover and celebrate all that our culture is today. All events are free, and everyone is welcome. Through our open call the Arts Office funded 40 events in 18 locations across the county.

The events and workshops spanned craft, literature, music, poetry, street art and spectacle, theatre, trad arts and visual art. Culture Night events were programmed across all of our Municipal Districts in An Spidéal (1), Athenry (3), Ballinasloe (3), Ballinderreen (1), Clarinbridge (1), Clifden (1), Gort (4), Headford (3), Inagh Valley (1), Indreabhán (1), Inis Óírr (1), Inishbofin (1), Loughrea (1), Maigh Cuilinn (1), Newbridge (1), Online (2), Oranmore (3), Roundstone (1) and Tuam (7).

Highlights included **Take a Walk with Crom** by Macnas in Athenry, **Oíche le Ros na Rún** in An Spidéal, **A Celebration of Traveller Culture and Heritage** in Ballinasloe, **North African & Middle Eastern Music and Poetry** in Tuam, **Music on the Move** by Coole Music in Gort, **Oíche Airneáin leis an Ollamh Lillis**

Ó Laoire in Loughrea Library and Bringing the Magic, Mystery and History of Holy Wells to Life by Jennifer Cunningham at Tuam Library.

Thank you to all our event organisers and audiences who came out to support arts and culture in their local communities. It was a joyous night of culture that has left a year-long impact on our local places and artists.



COOLE MUSIC STUDENTS PERFORMING MUSIC MOVES AT GORT RIVER WALK FOR CULTURE NIGHT



LILLIS Ó LAOIRE (RIGHT) PERFORMS SEAN NÓS AT LOUGHREA LIBRARY FOR CULTURE NIGHT



ARTIST JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM (LEFT) AT THE OPENING OF BRINGING THE MAGIC, MYSTERY, AND HISTORY OF HOLY WELLS TO LIFE TUAM LIBRARY FOR CULTURE NIGHT



ARTIST BESIDE THEIR PORTRAIT AT THE OPENING OF SNAPSHOTS OF WHO WE ARE AT SKYLARK BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES, ATHENRY FOR CULTURE NIGHT



ARTIST JOJO HYNES PERFORMS HANG OUT WITH SPARKCATCHERS! COMET IN TUAM FOR CULTURE NIGHT. PHOTO: RAY RAY PHOTOGRAPHY

CULTURE NIGHT LATE 2023

Galway County Council Arts Office in partnership with Macnas and Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre presented **Take a Walk with Crom**, a Culture Night Late event with funding from the Arts Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Galway County Council.

An estimated 5,000 people lined the streets of Athenry to witness a spectacular Culture Night event by Macnas in partnership with Galway County Arts Office and Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre. Take a Walk with Crom involved 64 artists and performers and 43 community volunteers, alongside staff and crew.

Take a Walk with Crom added tremendous value to our overall Culture Night programme. On the lead up we got great publicity and shares on social which garnered an audience for Take a Walk with Crom and events in Athenry but also shone a light on our 40+ open call events across the county. This was a major coup for the Arts Office and Galway County Council. It was also a great success economically for local businesses and community groups drawing visitors from all over the county.

Receiving Culture Night Late funding was an incredible opportunity for the Arts Office to produce a large-scale event with incredible partners. This was a clear step up of ambition for our Culture Night programme. It allowed us to appeal to a broader audience across the county and work closely with the community of Athenry to strengthen their relationship with Macnas.



TORCHBEARERS AND GUARDIANS OF CROM, TY STUDENTS AT COLÁISTE AN EACHRÉIDH, ATHENRY. PHOTO: ALAN BURGESS

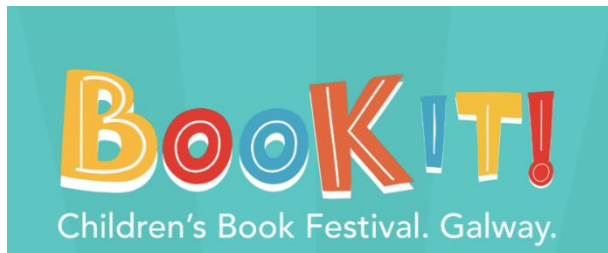


CROWDS IN ATHENRY ENJOY TAKE A WALK WITH CROM ON CULTURE NIGHT. PHOTOS: EMILIJA JEFREMOVA



LEFT: ATHENRY TIDY TOWNS VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FOR CROM'S ARRIVAL IN THE SQUARE. RIGHT: CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. LIAM CARROLL WITH PERFORMERS AND TY STUDENTS AT COLÁISTE AN EACHRÉIDH, ATHENRY.

Book IT! Children's Book Festival



The Arts Office funds and supports the Library Service's Book It! Children's Book Festival. The annual festival programmes an excellent series of exciting events in libraries and schools across the county. It celebrates reading, writing, storytelling and imagination.



LEFT: FIONA DOWLING'S STORYTELLING EVENT AT TUAM LIBRARY
RIGHT: MIKE MOYLAN ENTHRALLS STUDENTS WITH TALES OF VIKINGS AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

CREATIVE IRELAND

As we approach drawdown, several Creative Ireland Bursary projects are wrapping up.

Centenary Events at Thoor Ballylee



The Galway County Council Creative Ireland Programme has sponsored a series of events to commemorate the centenary of W.B. Yeats' historic Nobel Prize win. Yeats was the first Irish person to be awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize, so it is fitting that the occasion was highly celebrated.

CAST OF 'NOBEL WORDS' A ONE ACT PLAY BY PEGGY MONAHAN WHICH WAS PERFORMED IN THE GORT TOWN HALL TO SOLD OUT AUDIENCES.



COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES IN GORT



CATRIONA YEATS, GRANDDAUGHTER OF W.B. YEATS PRESENTED PRIZES AS PART OF A POETRY COMPETITION.



of photographs of the inspiring pieces that each participant selected from the Workhouse. These will be edited by Gerry and become a part of the Workhouse collection. A reading will also take place to launch the publication.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORDS FROM THE WORKHOUSE PROGRAMME PICTURED WITH FACILITATOR GERRY HANBERRY.

Words from the Workhouse

As part of a new initiative in the arts and in collaboration with Portumna Arts Group and the Portumna Pen Pushers Group, the Irish Workhouse Centre is currently hosting a 5-day writing workshop on site, facilitated by Gerard Hanberry, Galway poet, writer, and musician. Following an introductory tour of the Irish Workhouse Centre, the group are producing a series of writings on the Workhouse. These will be then edited and published alongside a series

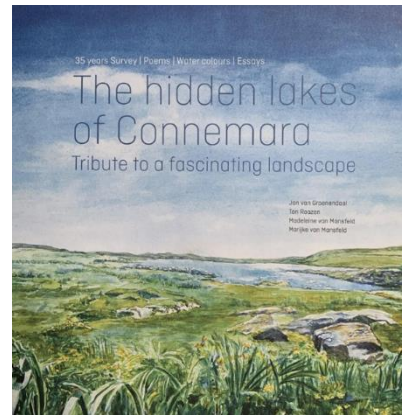


GERRY HANBERRY DELIVERING FEEDBACK ON POETRY AND PROSE WRITTEN DURING THE PROJECT

Artisan House – Hidden Lakes of Connemara

Artisan House, with support from Galway County Council’s Creative Ireland Programme, are publishing this collection of surveys, poetry, paintings, and essays on the beautiful lakes of Connemara.

The official launch will take place in Letterfrack on the 28th of October as part of Connemara Sea Week.



TOURISM

Following the Tourism Strategy Briefing that was held in the Raheen Woods, Athenry, the County Galway Tourism Strategy commenced its final project stage incorporating stakeholder and agency feedback on draft documents.

Minogue and Associates completed the following environmental documents:

1. SEA Environmental Report
2. SEA Non-Technical Summary of SEA ER, and
3. Natura Impact Statement including AA screening report.



The Tourism Strategy and these environmental documents were sent to the statutory bodies from the Planning department. There is a timeframe of 6 weeks for NIS and 4 weeks for SEA documents, there may be adjustments based on this feedback before the final strategy is launched and come before

Council for consideration and adoption in November. These environmental documents are due to all be returned by the week beginning 6th November.

Ahascragh Distillery



Staff working in the tourism function in Galway County Council and the Director Alan Farrell were invited to the Distillery by Gareth & Michelle McAllister to showcase their unique offering.

The new Ahascragh Distillery and Visitor Centre is well worth a visit. The building itself, a restored corn mill, is stunning and gives a lift to the entire community. Ahascragh Distillery and Café has given a boost of tourism to Ahascragh.



A visit to the centre comes with a guided tour showcasing their whiskey and gin produced there. The old Ahascragh mill dates to the early 1800s and up until the 1950s processed grain into flour.

With an overall investment of €10 million, this project has created over 20 direct jobs in the rural village of Ahascragh and surrounding areas. The company will also support a further 60-70 indirect jobs through local supply chains.

The distillery has been recently named a finalist in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Awards (SEAI). The distillery achieves temperatures exceeding 115 degrees, a first in Ireland and the UK, this results in a remarkable reduction of 706 tones and CO₂ annually and a 40% cost saving.

Ahascragh distillery is the first in the world to use a heat pump system for all its heat needs, setting the bar for sustainability and showcasing the incredible potential of heat pump technology in global decarbonisation efforts.

This tour was a very impressive and highly informative, Ahascragh Distillery and Visitor Centre is a major tourism edition to Ahascragh and surrounding areas, congratulations to all involved, the tourism function in Galway County Council looks forward to promoting, supporting, and highlighting this state-of-the-art Distillery.



DEDP CONFERENCE 2023



This is the first time that a conference has taken place between two Wild Atlantic Way Destination Experience Development Plan area. Dingle and Connemara & Islands were chosen given their life cycle stages, and their geographic and thematic similarities.

other DEDP's. Dingle DEDP launched January 2021 is approximately halfway through its five-year period.

Both DEDPs are located on the Wild Atlantic Way and are well established with the brand names of 'Connemara' and 'Dingle' showing strong levels of recognition with both the domestic and international markets. Both are coastal communities, have Gaeltacht areas and Islands and a rich cultural heritage, these USP's are defining and overarching them for both areas.



This conference was an opportunity to collaborate spirit, encourage networking and build opportunities for business cross-selling and business learnings. It was a very successful conference and a great experience, exchange of ideas, knowledge and to bond and learn with team members. Staff working in the tourism function in Galway County Council look forward to continuing to work together with our tourism partners to realise our shared vision for Tourism development.

Advertising

Staff in the Economic, Rural and Community Development unit continue to invest in a County based marketing spread with **'This is Galway'**. Next edition is in relation to Moycullen, a feature & map for the area.

This feature on Moycullen in the next magazine will coincide with the launch of the new Love Moycullen campaign and the opening of the new bypass. Wildlands on behalf of Moycullen business group have been hugely impressed by our previous features that have been done for other towns in the county and would like to see something similar for Moycullen that would positively impact in the build up to Christmas!

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Inclusive Triathlon

Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with



Healthy Galway, Triathlon Ireland and Brothers of Charity Services held the second Inclusive Triathlon on 26th September 2023 on the grounds of Kilcornan, Co. Galway. There were 37 participants who took part in the triathlon on the day (11 teams OF 3 MADE UP OF 1X SWIMMER, 1X TRIKER/BIKER AND 1X WALKER/RUNNER) AND 2 INDIVIDUALS WHO COMPLETED the full triathlon themselves! This was a fantastic event with supporters from each residential/day service present to cheer on the teams and the local primary school lined the roads to cheer the participants on during the trike/bike/walk/run elements. This is an annual event with planning already started to make next years even better!

Positive Ageing Week



To celebrate Positive Ageing Week Galway Sports Partnership hosted two events in Galway County to help promote physical activity and showcase a variety of activities available to older adults throughout Galway.



On 3rd October Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway and Galway Rural Development hosted over 60 people in Kilcornan, Co. Galway. The event included a Positive Ageing Panel Discussion which highlighted the benefits of being physically active, different ways to increase your physical activity levels, supports to help individuals and groups to be more active. The panel was made up of representatives from Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway, Galway Rural Development, Siel Bleu Ireland and a member of Clarinbridge

Cairde Club. This was followed by a variety of Physical Activity Tasters with the highlights being a Siel Bleu Ireland Sample Class and an Activator Pole Walk around the grounds of Kilcornan.



On 5th October Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway hosted a 'Come and Try' event in Oughterard Community Centre. This was a partnership with Clann Resource Centre and Oughterard Community Centre to help increase the offerings for Older Adults in Oughterard and the surrounding areas. Over 40 people were in attendance on the day and sampled indoor bowls, scooch, boccia, line dancing and the hugely popular activator poles! It is hoped that these activities will continue to be offered

through Oughterard community Centre with support through training and equipment loans from Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway

Activator Training

On the 7th October Galway Sports Partnership hosted Activator Tutor training in SCCUL Sanctuary in Kilcornan, Co. Galway. This training was delivered by Frank Fahey from FitWalk Ireland. There were 13 participants taking part from local active retirement groups, ICA's and tutors who are looking to deliver these sessions on behalf of Galway Sports Partnership. This training was delivered through HSE funding received by Galway Sports Partnership.

Shared Island

A number of events have happened in September and October as part of the Galway County Council led Shared Island initiative. The Immersion day took place on September 6th. This included a 'Lunch & Learn' visit to the Foods of Athenry and then to Ahascragh Distillery. The Co-creation event on September 7th hosted a series of speakers at the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine facility at the Mellows Campus in Athenry. Inputs ranged from the ag innovate world to the relationship between business, technology, and customers and from sustainable farm diversification through agri tourism and food business innovation to a presentation on the Bia Innovator campus.

The Shared Island Cross Border Climate Action Conference (which is the signature Galway event) took place at the BIA Innovator Campus Athenry Co. Galway on October 19th. The Climate Action Conference 'From the Ground Up | Cultivating Innovation & Growth' had four themes: Health & Wellbeing, Sustainable Energy, Food & Agri-foods and Agri-tourism with various speakers from these sectors. Keynote inputs ranged from commercial agri-food diversification for regenerative farmers to advancing food waste solutions and from agri tourism to innovating in foods for health and sustainability. An input from Galway County Councils climate action plans to support the sector was also provided.



Shared Island Climate Action Conference

'From the Ground Up | Cultivating Innovation & Growth'



**19
OCT**



**BIA Innovator Campus,
Athenry, County Galway.
H65 F961.**





Agri-Food



**Sustainable
Energy**



Agri-Tourism



**Health &
Wellbeing**

BOOK NOW 





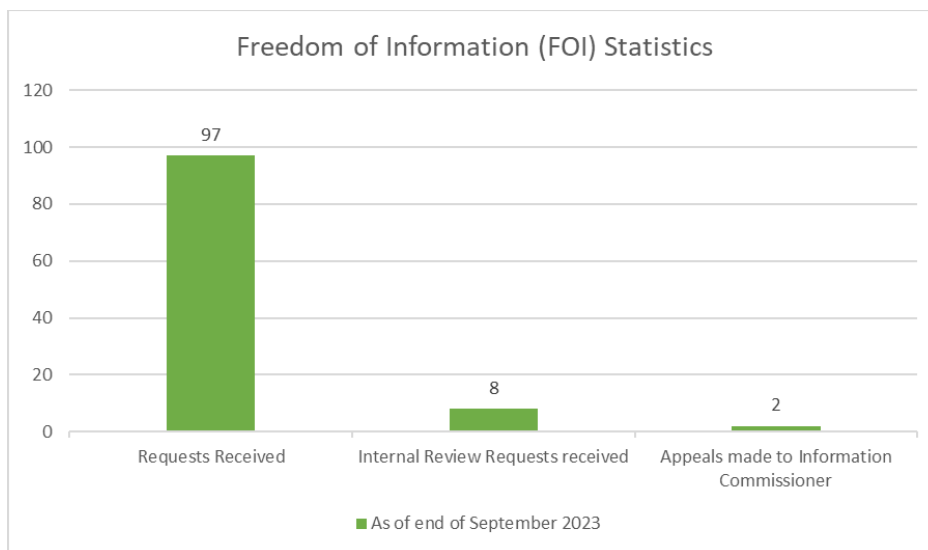


CORPORATE SERVICES

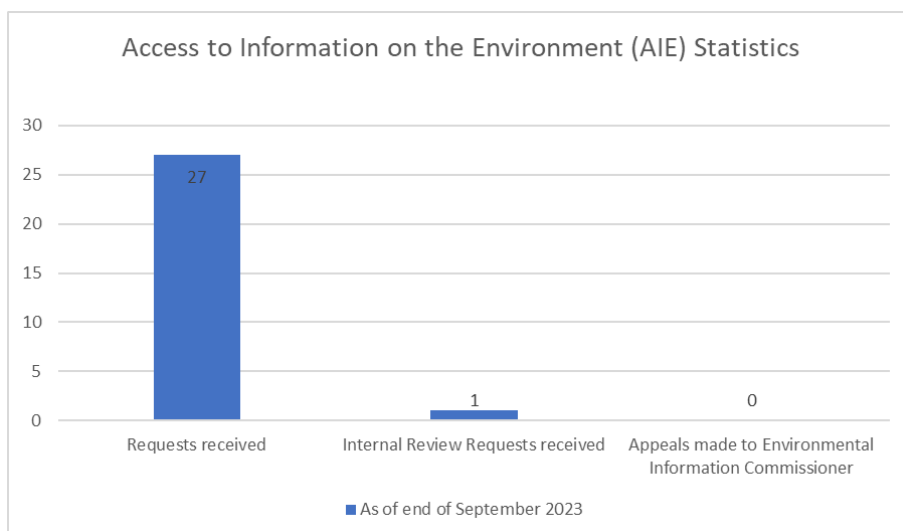
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.09.23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

- **11 Data Access Requests**

 - 6 Data Subject Access Requests -

 - 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g., Gardaí

- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**

 - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff

NATIONAL OVERSIGHT AUDIT COMMITTEE (NOAC)

The NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2022 has now been published and includes statistics in relation to Galway County Council. NOAC is reporting on 44 indicators under 11 headings in total. The report can be viewed on the NOAC website at <https://www.noac.ie/> by [clicking here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

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



www.facebook.com/galwaycounty

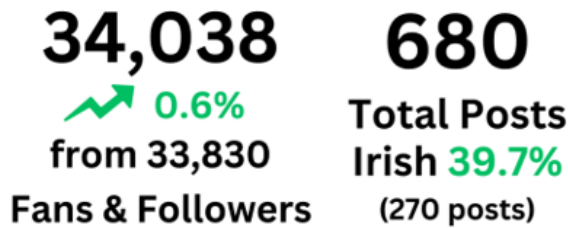


www.twitter.com/galwaycoco



www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY



FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 156 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook this month sharing 9 stories with followers. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 32,607, an increase of 8.7% compared to the previous month.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 65 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of September 30th, 2023, to 15,904.

Galway County Council’s Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.6% of this age group are women and 10.7% are men.

In total, 31.7% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 68.3% are female.

SEPTEMBER’S TOP THREE POSTS - FACEBOOK

| WEEE Ireland | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Carra | Braybankin, Sheelafield/Carra | Carra, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Lisfrink | 217, 2nd Floor, 217A | 217, 2nd Floor, 217A | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |
| Monday 3 rd October 2023 | 10am - 3pm | Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney, Co. Galway | 0010033 |

15.04 % engagement rate

7.51 % engagement rate


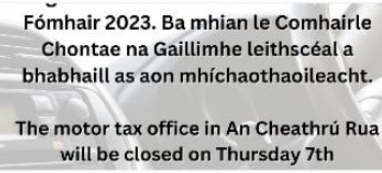




7.26 % engagement rate

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 171 tweets with 61k impressions.

Galway County Council’s account gained a total of 14 new followers in this period, bringing the total following to 16,479.

SEPTEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS - X

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
|  @GalwayCoCo Sep 08, 13:09 |  @GalwayCoCo Sep 06, 14:58 |  @GalwayCoCo Sep 09, 14:00 |
| https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/170014166346465550/photo/1 | https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1699436842037157903/photo/1 | https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1700509523989909709/photo/1 |
| 33.64 % engagement rate | 7.56 % engagement rate | 7.34 % engagement rate |

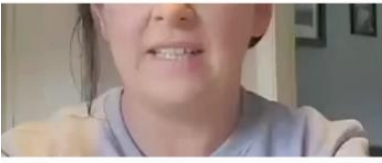





AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council’s Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council’s Facebook page.

Galway County Council’s Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 70.2% being female and 29.8% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 36.1% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 25% women and 11.1% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers by 9.27% bringing the total to 684. The overall reach for this period increased by 31.6% compared to the previous period.

SEPTEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS - INSTAGRAM

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
|  galwaycountycouncil Sep 27, 17:53 |  galwaycountycouncil Sep 27, 09:10 |  galwaycountycouncil Sep 26, 15:29 |
| 129 impressions 0 % engagement rate | 125 impressions | 120 impressions |

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council’s account gained 39 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,451.

Galway County Council shared 94 posts with 6.3k impressions this month.

SEPTEMBER'S TOP THREE POSTS - LINKEDIN

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Galway County Council Sep 14, 11:33</p> <p>Construction Contract signing, 13 September 2023, between Galway County Council and Finna Construction Ltd., for a new Housing Development at Ballymoe, Co. Galway. #galway #gaillimh</p> <p>20.42 % engagement rate</p> | <p>NOW HIRING!</p> <p>Local Authority Activator</p> <p>Galway County Council Sep 14, 18:02</p> <p>Vacancy - Local Authority Activator Closing Date: 4pm Thursday, 21st September 2023. https://ow.ly/ehhW50PIFMM #jobfair #gaillimh #galway</p> <p>10.49 % engagement rate</p> | <p>AG EARCÚ!</p> <p>Cigire Tréidliachta</p> <p>Galway County Council Sep 01, 13:10</p> <p>Folúntais - Cigire Tréidliachta Dáta Deireadh 4:00pm Déardaoin 14 Meán Fómhair 2023 https://ow.ly/NK3H50PGMxW #jobfair #gaillimh #galway</p> <p>9.17 % engagement rate</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

Currently there are 26 subscribers, with 2 new subscribers in September. The channel received 287 views and the Connemara Blue Dot campaign received 35.3% of those views with a total of 156. The Environment section’s inaugural Sea Shore Event video also received 88 views over this period.

Galway County Council’s YouTube audience ranges between 35-54, with the main audience being those aged between 35-44 years old, a total of 69.9%. Overall, 59.8% of Galway County Council’s YouTube subscribers are male and 40.2% are female.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Summer Stars

The **Right to Read Programme** was launched in 2017 and includes initiatives for children and families throughout the year. **The Summer Stars** is one of these initiatives and was extremely successful in our libraries throughout the summer months. We continue its roll-out of prize-giving ceremonies in libraries across Galway in Late September/early October. Children were delighted to receive their medals and certs from the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Carroll and Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons. Many thanks for their continued support.





TUAM LIBRARY



DOUGHTERARD LIBRARY



EYRECOURT LIBRARY



KILLIMOR LIBRARY

Culture Night

Culture Night/Oíche Chultúir is an annual, all-island public event which celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. It is a night to promote our rich and varied culture and showcase that it is treasured and nurtured in people's lives.

Galway Public Libraries hosted events in 6 libraries covering a variety of creative arts including a showcase of traditional crafts on Gort, a podcasting session in Galway city and traditional music and song in Oranmore. Ballybane Library hosted a poetry evening with renowned poet Rita Anne Higgins while Tuam Library offered an exhibition of drawings, a documentary and an artist exploring the history, heritage, folklore, and rituals associated with wells surrounding the Tuam area.

A particular highlight of the night was the visit to Ballinasloe of the Tallest Smallest Theatre Company who undertook a number of sessions to over 200 children and adults. A gigantic time was had by all.



PODCASTING IN GALWAY CITY



TUAM LIBRARY



THE BFG AND CIRCUS FUN IN BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries City project “Reflections: A Commemoration to the Irish women of 1923” is a project presented by Galway City Council, Galway Public Libraries and Galway City Museum, to honour the legacy of Irish women, whose stories and accomplishments have often been overlooked or marginalized in historical narratives continues in our three City Libraries. The artists include Tracy Bruen Galway singer-songwriter, Poet Emily Cullen and Visual artist Áine Philips

Ballybane is hosting visual artist Áine Philips and a women’s group who are creating and making visual banners reminiscent of the work created by Susan ‘Lily’ and Elizabeth ‘Lolly’ Yeats in 1923.



BANNER MAKING IN BALLYBANE



The Decade of Centenaries County project **Respond Reflect Rejoice: 1923 Through the Lens of our Literary and Artistic Creatives** will take part throughout October and November in our various branch libraries throughout the County. This project includes an exhibition alongside a series of lectures, artistic creations and residencies that commemorate creatives such as Elizabeth Bowen, Sean O’Casey, W.B. Yeats, Mainie Jellet and Liam O’Flaherty who crafted their master pieces during a chaotic time in Ireland in the early 1920s.

Positive Ageing Week

Positive Ageing Week (PAW) is an initiative by Age Action to celebrate the contributions of older people and to promote their agency. The theme of Positive Ageing Week 2023 was *Challenging Ageism – Reframing How We Think, Feel and Act towards ageing and older persons*. Galway Public Libraries, through our events, challenged stereotypes and misconceptions about aging and highlighted the positivity and vitality of older age.

Galway City Library and Ballinasloe Library celebrated Positive Ageing Week with photographic exhibitions of Our Local Heroes. Friends and family of participants were thrilled to see their loved ones celebrated in a public venue in both libraries.

Thanks to the Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Eddie Hoare and to the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Cllr’s Liam Carroll and Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons for being in attendance and celebrating the event.



POSITIVE AGEING WEEK AT GALWAY CITY LIBRARY



GALWAY CITY



Positive Ageing Week Ballinasloe

As part of Positive Ageing Week Galway Public Libraries was delighted to offer 4 sessions with Francis Kane co-ordinator of the Healthy Ireland Friendly Homes initiative. All 4 events were very well attended and it is hoped to collaborate more closely with this network to support Age Friendly initiatives.



Francis Kane in Loughrea Library

Childrens Book Festival (Right To Read Initiative)

Children's Book Festival *Bookit!* is full of fun and frolics, engagement and enjoyment as children are enthralled by the magic and the mystery of our authors, artists and storytellers who visit our libraries and schools throughout the month of October.



Out and About

Galway Public Library staff attended a number of events in October to promote the service. Colette attended the Heartfest event in CROÍ Galway and Una and Colette hosted a stall for Galway Public Libraries and Europe Direct at the Glenamaddy Ploughing championships. It was uplifting to see how many people who loved their library service and great to welcome many more people to the library service.



Heartfest



SDG Week

Ireland's second Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week took place this year from 23 September - 1 October. The SDGs belong to everyone, and Galway Libraries promoted them with various activities and book promotions.

Energy saving event Ballinasloe:

Ballinasloe Library hosted a major Sustainable Energy Saving Event on Sat 23rd to kick start SDG week. The event gave the public the opportunity to:

💰 The Europe Direct Centre also gave one lucky person the opportunity to win a heat loss survey worth up to €900.

🔥 Talk to Unitherm about heating your home.

☀️ JFW Renewables will be here to talk about solar panels for your home or business.

📄 An expert from SEAI was on hand to help fill out those SEAI grant forms.

🔑 Attendees got to try out a Home Energy Saving Kit

(HESK) that are available to borrow from libraries across the county. The kits have been funded by the Environment Dept and Europe Direct.

HOUSING & UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

HOUSING DELIVERY – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Galway County Council requested interest parties to submit expression of interests for housing delivery in County Galway. The three expressions of interests are as follows:

1. Advance purchase arrangements for residential developments through turnkey agreements
2. Call for Expression of Interest to develop local authority owned lands at Lavally, Gort, Galway.

3. Call for Expressions of Interest for selection of an Approved Housing Body to Design, Finance, Build and Operate a Residential Scheme on Galway County Council owned lands at Station Road, Oughterard

Further details of each Expression of Interest and a guide to making a submission are available on the Council's website under www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/, available on www.etenders.ie and by emailing capital@galwaycoco.ie

The latest date and time for receipt of submissions is **Thursday the 2nd of November 2023 @ 17.00**

CROÍ CÓNAITHE – VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT



Two information evenings have been held on Croí Cónaithe Grants one in Podumna in Portumna in conjunction with Community Development and one in Kinvara Community Centre in conjunction with SEAI. Both evenings were well attended and very successful.



HOUSING GRANTS

The following is a summary of housing grants for 2023:

Table: Information from 1st January 2023 to 1st August 2023

| | Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a disability | Mobility Aids Grant | Housing Aid for Older People Grant | Total |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. No. of Applications Received | 113 | 208 | 431 | 752 |
| 2. No. of grants awarded | 22 | 16 | 164 | 202 |
| 3. The value of grants paid to date (2023) (€) | €910,118 | €496,743 | €1,259,875 | €2,666,736 |

BEFORE

AFTER



LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOAN

Under the **Rebuilding Ireland** loan scheme all *Approval in Principle* offers have now expired and all Applicants will now be managed through the **Housing for All** loan scheme. There is one Self-Build approved under Rebuilding Ireland that is still under construction and it is expected that the final stage payment will be drawn down before year end.

The following table shows the status of housing loans from the start of 2023, under **Housing for All** to end of September 2023

| Applications | Number |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Number of LAHL Applications Received | 56 |
| LAHL Awaiting Credit Committee Decision | 1 |
| Total LAHL Loans Approvals in Principle | 31 |
| Refused | 19 |
| LAHL Approved by Appeal Committee | 2 |

In financial terms the situation is as follows to the end of September.

| Applications | Number | Value |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Total LAHL Loans Approved in Principle | 31 | €5,519,795.00 |
| LAHL Loans Paid / Drawn down by Borrowers | 8 | €1,104,664.00 |
| Expired LAHL Loan Approvals in 2023 from 2023 AIP | 5 | €1,045,400.00 |
| Outstanding LAHL 'LIVE' Approvals in Principle Remaining from 2023 AIP | 18 | €3,369,731.00 |

In general loans are refused for several reasons including:

- Insufficient savings,
- Cannot demonstrate ability to repay the loan
- Amount requested is more than credit policy limits
- Poor Credit history following CCR check
- Outside Income limits
- Have not received refusals from other lenders

GALWAY SOCIAL HOUSING TASKFORCE

The Galway Social Housing Taskforce met on Thursday 14th September in the Council Chamber. This is a joint Taskforce between Galway City and County and attended by senior members of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office. The main topics discussed were the delivery of social houses Housing Delivery Action Plan targets for 2023 and 2024, Approved Housing Body Delivery following the CALF review, Affordable Homes, and Homelessness. The final meeting of the year is scheduled for November.

Construction Contract signing, 13 September 2023, between Galway County Council and Finna Construction Ltd., for a new Housing Development at Ballymoe, Co. Galway.

Galway County Council is pleased to announce that a contract has been signed with Finna Construction Ltd. for the construction of 8 no. houses at Durrow & Ballaghymurry, Ballymoe,

In conjunction with, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Galway County Council appointed a multi-disciplinary Design Team, led by Hassett Leyden Flynn Architects to assist with delivery of this housing development.

Planning was granted in July 2022 and following a competitive tendering process for construction Finna Construction Ltd. were deemed the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer.

The development consists of 8 no. houses comprising; 2no. single storey two-bed houses, 6 no. two-storey two-bed houses and all ancillary site development works, including road enhancement works along the R360 Regional Road.

Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Cllr. Liam Carroll, welcomed the signing of the contract, stating that it is great to see the Local Authority's own build programme progressing to deliver new high-quality, energy efficient social housing across the county.

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council remarked that he was *delighted with the number of housing projects which are being delivered by the Council with the support of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage under 'Housing for All', noting that it's particularly exciting to see a wide range of projects which will provide much needed homes for people in many rural towns and villages.*

Acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the housing staff, Director of Services for Housing and Ukrainian Response, Michael Owens stated that the provision of 8 new homes in Ballymoe was a further example of the commitment by the local authority to deliver high quality homes for families and individuals, in their local communities *where people want to live and where they will help sustain our local schools, shops, clubs and services."*

New housing developments are being provided and the delivery pipeline for housing will deliver 1,717, new homes in County Galway under Housing for All by 2026.

The overall value of the project is in excess of €1.6m and is funded under the Government's 'Housing for All' Plan to 2030.' Completion is expected in Autumn 2024.



L-R: JASON LAVELLE GCC, MAX KRAUS HASSETT LEYDEN FLYNN ARCHITECTS, VINCENT LYDON, FINNA CONSTRUCTION, CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, EITHNE MURPHY GCC, DAMIEN MITCHELL GCC AND CARMEL KILCOYNE GCC.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a social housing support that has been in operation in Galway County Council since November 2015. HAP is available to anyone with a confirmed social housing need.

HAP recipients can work full-time and retain their HAP support - thus removing a barrier to employment. HAP recipients source their own accommodation in the private rented market and enter into a tenancy agreement with the landlord of the property.

Those households eligible for HAP are:

- Any household that qualifies for social housing support;
- Any current Rent Supplement recipients who qualify for social housing support.

In order to further assist homeless households in exiting emergency accommodation, the Homeless Place Finder Service is also available in Galway County Council. It is a targeted support for homeless households who are finding it difficult to secure HAP tenancies. It provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords.

There are a total of 1443 applicants receiving HAP support currently. 104 of these applicants are currently living outside Galway County Council's functional area. This facility is replicated throughout each Local Authority across the country whereby LAs are permitted to HAP their applicants outside their functional area. Galway County Council also have 9 applications currently being processed through the system. Table below shows Hap applications by year of submission. To get a true picture of the level of activity, you need to consider both the open and closed tables together.

The two tables below showing closed statistics. Both tables refer to closed applications, however the top table refers to the year the closed application was received, the 2nd table refers to the year they were closed.

| HAP Tenancies Received By Year Now Closed | | Applicants with HAP Tenancies Opened By Year | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| HAP | Status | HAP | Status | Open Not yet Submitted to HAP HUB | Completed by LA Not Yet Approved By HAP | Total Open & Closed HAP |
| Year | Closed | Year | Current HAP | | | |
| 2016 | 186 | 2016 | 80 | | | 266 |
| 2017 | 212 | 2017 | 97 | | | 309 |
| 2018 | 168 | 2018 | 146 | | | 314 |
| 2019 | 169 | 2019 | 186 | | | 355 |
| 2020 | 147 | 2020 | 218 | | | 365 |
| 2021 | 100 | 2021 | 249 | | | 349 |
| 2022 | 29 | 2022 | 205 | | | 234 |
| 2023 | 7 | 2023 | 262 | 5 | 4 | 269 |
| Total | 1018 | Total | 1443 | 5 | 4 | 2461 |

| HAP Tenancies By Year Closed | | Applicants with HAP Tenancies Opened By Year | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| HAP | Status | HAP | Status | Open Not yet Submitted to HAP HUB | Completed by LA Not Yet Approved By HAP | |
| Year | Closed | Year | Current HAP | | | |
| 2016 | 10 | 2016 | 80 | | | |
| 2017 | 58 | 2017 | 97 | | | |
| 2018 | 98 | 2018 | 146 | | | |
| 2019 | 149 | 2019 | 186 | | | |
| 2020 | 123 | 2020 | 218 | | | |
| 2021 | 206 | 2021 | 249 | | | |
| 2022 | 206 | 2022 | 205 | | | |
| 2023 | 169 | 2023 | 262 | 5 | 4 | |
| Total | 1019 | Total | 1443 | 5 | 4 | |

The following table refers to open HAP applications by Municipal Districts and includes applicants living outside of the functional area of Galway County Council referenced above.

| Applicants with HAP Tenancies By MD | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| HAP Clients | | Status | Open Not yet Submitted to HAP HUB | Completed by LA Not Yet Approved By HAP | Total |
| Municipal Area/Local | Current HAP | | | | |
| Athenry/Oranmore | 175 | | 1 | | 176 |
| Ballinasloe | 220 | | | 1 | 221 |
| Connemara | 230 | | 1 | | 231 |
| Loughrea | 339 | | 1 | 1 | 341 |
| Other LA | 104 | | | | 104 |
| Tuam | 375 | | 2 | 2 | 379 |
| Total | 1443 | | 5 | 4 | 1452 |

Of the total number of open HAP applicants (1,443), the HAP Placefinder secured HAP accommodation for 169 Homeless applicants in the following areas: -

| Homeless Applicants Accommodated by HAP By MD | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| HAP Clients | Status | Open Not yet Submitted to HAP HUB | Completed by LA Not Yet Approved By HAP | Total |
| Municipal Area/Local Authority | Current HAP | | | |
| Athenry/Dranmore | | 19 | | 19 |
| Ballinasloe | | 41 | 1 | 42 |
| Connemara | | 12 | | 12 |
| Loughrea | | 33 | | 33 |
| Other LA | | 20 | | 20 |
| Tuam | | 42 | 1 | 43 |
| Total | | 167 | 1 | 169 |

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS

The Inspectorate Unit of Galway County Council is tasked with Inspection of Private Rented Dwellings for compliance with the *Minimum Standards in Rented Accommodation*, as is required by Legislation, in the jurisdiction of Galway County. The following is a summary of activity by the Inspectorate Unit during Q3 2023.

| No. | INSPECTION STATISTICS | Physical on-site inspections carried out in this period | Virtual inspections carried out in this period |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | RAS | 10 | 0 |
| 2 | HAP | 273 | 0 |
| 3 | COMPLAINTS (i.e. Total number of inspections conducted as a result of receiving a complaint EXCLUDING any already included under Question No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 in this table). | 3 | 0 |
| New 4 | PURPOSE-BUILT STUDENT SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION (For the purposes of subvention the inspection of one shared kitchen/living room and adjacent bedroom units counts as one inspection) | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 5 | OTHER (i.e. Total number of OTHER inspections conducted EXCLUDING any already included under Question No. 1, 2, 3 or 4 in this table). | 156 | 0 |
| 6 | PHYSICAL & VIRTUAL INSPECTIONS/RE-INSPECTIONS | 442 | 0 |
| | TOTAL INSPECTIONS | 442 | |

DOMESTIC ABUSE REFUGE

Galway County Council continues to engage with the HSE in relation to the potential for the former St Brigid's Nurses Home, Ballinasloe to serve as a possible location for the development of a Domestic Abuse Refuge for the wider region.

In June 2023, the HSE advised that one of the HSE Services have also expressed an interest in the Former Nurses' Home in St. Brigid's, Ballinasloe. The Service will be undertaking their own review of this building, so there is a possibility that the Former Nurses' Home may not be included in the property assets identified as surplus to HSE's requirement for subsequent disposal.

Further to recent engagement, the HSE advised that as part of developing a disposal strategy, valuations will be completed for various plots and that this should be well progressed by year end.

Regarding the former Nurses Home site, the HSE suggested that a Property Transaction Application Form PTAF is completed and formally submitted on behalf of Galway County Council. This will assist in providing the clarity needed. A meeting with the HSE Estate Manager for the area is to be scheduled for late October/early November to facilitate the progression of the Property Transaction Application Form.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

OFFER A HOME PROGRAMME

Galway County Council continues to work on the Ukraine response with the administration of www.offerahome.ie programme. Under the 'Offer a Home' programme, local authorities are appealing for offers of houses, apartments, or holiday homes for use as temporary accommodation for those arriving from Ukraine. Ideally, properties would be available for at least six months. Property owners can offer homes at www.offerahome.ie or by contacting the local authority in which the property is located – dedicated contact details for each local authority are available at offerahome.ie. The local authority in which the property is located will be the point of contact for owners throughout the offer and assessment process. Owners can expect to be contacted by the local authority within 5 working days of making an offer and an assessment of the property is carried out shortly after.

The owner of the property is informed throughout the process and anybody who offers a property through the website can check the status of their offer at any stage through the site. Suitable properties are matched with Ukrainian beneficiaries with by our implementing partner IOM and provide support in agreeing licence agreement and other arrangements.

PATHWAYS

Outlined below are the various pathways depending on the accommodation type that is being offered:

- To offer an unoccupied property please register on the following website:

www.offerahome.ie

Galway County Council is operating the Offer a Home programme – which is for offers of unoccupied homes.

- To pledge a room in your house please do so via the Red Cross:

<https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie/#/>

- All offers of commercial accommodation are to be made via the DCEDIY using the form below:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1kz3hc5GbkiOn5I9PDFbr_Cz53O-RQRNm66T3C8QKQVUMjhOMEVRN1BVWFgxNDVKVUVSTEE2MzIBNy4u

Please note that commercial contracts are progressed by the Department of Children and Equality (DCEDIY).

OFFER A HOME

Galway County Council is operating the Offer a Home programme – which is for offers of unoccupied homes.

To date there have been 89 offers to this programme.

- 31 have been allocated.
- 16 have been withdrawn from the programme.
- 8 are no longer available.
- 2 were assessed as not suitable.
- 21 are being progressed by our implementing partner IOM.
- 11 are currently being inspected.



- Helping Irish Hosts work in partnership with IOM, IRC, & Peter McVerry Trust, to activate pledged accommodation on behalf of DCEDIY. Helping Irish Hosts are running a nationwide

Host Roadshow series aimed at providing support to existing hosts and information to those who are considering opening their homes to displaced Ukrainians.

- A roadshow session in Galway is scheduled for the **25th of October at 7pm at the Oranmore Lodge Hotel**. Hosts/potential hosts can find all the [event details here](#). These events are a fantastic way to get together with community members, thank those who have been hosting for a long time, support those who are newer to the experience, and recruit new hosts to take up the baton as the need for accommodation continues.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Galway County Council's implementing partner is an organisation called the International Organization for Migration (IOM); it is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM is part of the United Nations system. As our implementing partner the IOM identify beneficiaries suitable for the properties that have been offered.

UKRAINIAN MODULAR HOMES PROGRAMME

As part of the State's humanitarian response to the Ukrainian crisis, the government is rolling out a rapid build housing programme to provide accommodation for families fleeing the war in Ukraine. The programme aims to provide short-term accommodation to Ukrainians at several sites across Ireland. While rapid build homes will initially be used to temporarily house people fleeing Ukraine, they have the potential to be utilised to address other accommodation challenges, including social housing and student accommodation.

A rapid build home is a high-quality dwelling that is mostly built off-site from the planned location and then delivered and finished on site. This means they can be put in place quicker than standard accommodation and there is less construction disruption to the area. The Office of Public Works (OPW), working with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), has responsibility for delivering the Programme.

A Galway County Council site at Pollboy, Ballinasloe is currently under active consideration by the OPW/DCEDIY for the provision of rapid build housing project to provide approx. modular homes. A briefing for the Ballinasloe MD was held in September and arrangements are being finalised for a public information event to be held in early November in Ballinasloe.

NRPO UPDATE

N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS



The N59 Moycullen Bypass is currently under construction. The works are 95% complete and are due for substantial completion in November 2023.

N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

N83 CLAREGALWAY

The advanced works Archaeology contract commenced in August 2023. An Archaeology Open Day was held on Friday 6 October, in collaboration with Claregalway Castle.

N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNED

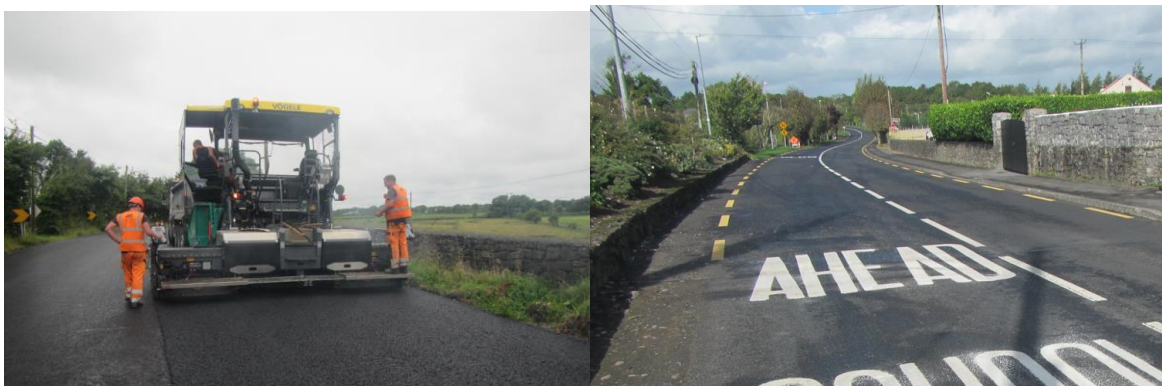
The advanced works Ground Investigations contract is ongoing. Landowner negotiation with Lisney representing the Galway County Council.

N59 KENTFIELD

Road Safety Audit has been carried out on site with recommendations to be considered in the design before submitting application to An Bord Pleanála.

N65 KILLIMOR TO RAMORE CROSS PAVEMENT SCHEME

Construction has commenced on site with works with pavement now substantially complete.



NEW PAVEMENT AND ROAD MARKING AT N65 KILLIMOR

N59 DERRYNACLEIGH PAVEMENT SCHEME



CONSTRUCTION HAS COMMENCED ON N59 DERRYNACLEIGH WITH WORKS TO BE COMPLETE IN OCTOBER.

AT - N67 KINVARA VILLAGE

Ecological Surveys and preliminary design ongoing.

AT - N67 SOUTH OF BALLINDERREEN

Road Safety Audit approved by TII. A Design Report is with TII for approval with Part 8 application to follow.

AT - N67 CLARINBRIDGE TO ORANMORE

Cycleway standards are being assessed to determine the feasibility of incorporating the scheme within the road boundaries.

AT - N63 ABBEYKNOCKMOY VILLAGE

A Design Report has been submitted to TII for approval with Part 8 application to follow.

N83 CLOONREELAGH ROAD SAFETY SCHEME



CONSTRUCTION HAS COMMENCED ON A NEW FOOTPATH AND LIGHTS.



NEW FOOTPATH AT N83 CLOONREELAGH

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

- The Athenry Local Transport Plan (LTP) is effectively complete and the final stages of the adoption of the LTP and LAP are in train. Preparation of Loughrea LTP has commenced in conjunction with the drafting of the Loughrea Local Area Plan. The Planning Section has indicated that the LAP will go on display prior to year-end. The preparation of the Gort LTP has also commenced and is expected to go on display together with the draft LAP in early 2024. Work has also commenced on a Galway East Metropolitan Area LTP plan to include a transport assessment for Oranmore and an ABTA for Briarhill. Our consultants Systra recently spent a day in Oranmore, reviewing existing traffic and transport arrangements and street layouts.
- Initial work has also commenced on the Community Transport Studies – locations included are Headford, Kinvara, Clifden, Oughterard, Portumna, and Maigh Cuilinn.
- The NTA has approved an additional staffing allocation to Galway County Council in recognition of the strategic nature of the transportation planning work currently taking place. We look forward to this position, together with an existing vacancy, being filled as soon as possible.

STRATEGIC REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS: ATHENRY NORTHERN RING ROAD

- In early October the Department of Transport approved the issuing of Notices to Treat on the Athenry Northern Ring Road – Western Section. Negotiations and discussions with landowners are ongoing – including on the section towards the Monivea Road (where the DoT has given approval to acquire lands in advance).
- A new staff member (Executive Engineer) commenced work on this scheme on 2nd October. This is a dedicated resource specifically for this project and will help in the progression of the tender documents for construction. This position is funded by the DoT.

PILOT PROJECT BETWEEN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT TO INFORM THE NEW REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ROADS OVER PEAT



On 24th August 2023 the DoTSO ran a trial in Galway on how to complete a basic Ground Investigation using manual equipment.

- This was an ancillary piece in respect of the revision of the Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat (re-drafting is underway).
- The trial took place over the course of one day on the L-3210 in the Ballinasloe MD. This is a relatively strategic road linking Mountbellew to Ballyforan in Co. Roscommon (and on to Athlone).
- The role of GCC was to provide TM and to assist the DoT in the GI works, with the aim of proving the concept of manual GI works can be completed in reality on the ground.
- This road was mentioned in the original guidelines from the 1990s – which is why it was selected. And this particular road has been the subject of several major interventions in recent decades at various locations; – digging out of peat, using tyres as an infill material and geotextile.

at various locations; – digging out of peat, using tyres as an infill material and geotextile.

The equipment used:



1. Peat probe rods (measure depth of peat)
 2. Handheld Shear Vane (indication of undrained shear strength)
 3. Russian peat bore sampler (to take a sample of peat from the ground)
 4. Sample container for cores (MCV testing will be completed in the lab)
- The DoTSO (DoT Support Office – works out of Kildare CoCo) recorded all results and will aim to build a ground model that

can be used to help design future RI works.

- We encountered depths of peat greater than 5m and in one of the photos you can see we encountered the old geotextile.
- The DoT was delighted with how the trial went, and the GI processes were videoed.



- Thanks to Philip McGlynn, Derek Troy and the Ballinasloe outdoor workers that assisted on the day.



TIC – TAKEN IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge section is small unit within the Roads Department.

For those not familiar with what is meant by the term Taking in Charge, this is where Developers/ Residents seek to have a completed private residential development taken in charge by the Council. In the case of developers, it may also include request return / release of Bond provided in accordance with grant of planning not just for residential estates but for other developments.

The Taking in Charge of a development is a formal legal process by which the responsibility for certain public areas, structures and services in a private residential development or estate are transferred to or are taken in charge by the local authority.

The Taking in Charge section arranges the taking in charge of residential estates and/or the release of bonds on various developments subject to the developments being in compliance with all grant(s) of planning permission and attached schedule of conditions. However, there are some residential developments currently excluded for taking in charge, namely: - Holiday Homes; Gated Communities; Developments with private on-site infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants. This infrastructure provided by developers as part of the housing development and where such infrastructure cannot be connected to the public water and wastewater networks for which Uisce Eireann is now responsible.

The work within the Taking in Charge section includes interaction with a wide variety of clients such as those listed hereunder.

- Councillors and other Elected Representatives
- Residents; Resident Associations & Management Companies
- Developers and their Agents
- Bondholders and Receivers

works undertaken by the Taking in Charge section that enables us to progress estates and bring them to required standard for taking in charge.

The following is a summary of the process undertaken for the Sli an Bhradain estate in Claregalway which was taken in charge in January 2023.

- Sli an Bhradain estate was subject of IBRC bond claim.
- Taking in Charge section commenced engagement with Receiver – Special Liquidator in 2015
- The Estate was reviewed; CCTV Surveys of underground pipe network carried out & Cost Estimate prepared and submitted with Bond Claim
- Following evaluation of our claim, the Special Liquidator made a payment to the Council as an unsecured creditor of IBRC. Payment received in 2 installments – final monies received December 2018
- Residents were consulted regarding Remedial Works and Residents submitted Taking in Charge application in February 2022
- Taking in Charge section arranged to have the Remedial Works carried out in accordance with Procurement Guidelines and subject to available bond monies.
 - Works Tendered the Works;
 - Contractor engaged subject to Insurance and Health & Safety requirements.
 - Taking in Charge conducted site checks and sign-off on completion of work.
- Taking in Charge consulted with Uisce Eireann (formerly Irish Water); Local Area Engineer and Water Services and received agreement to proposed Taking in Charge prior to finalizing Taking in Charge report and recommendation.
- Taking in Charge recommendation for the estate.
- Formal commencement of the Taking in Charge process.
 - CE Order for proposed Taking in Charge of estate.
 - Estate Advertised
 - Report to Elected Members of Athenry/Oranmore MD for consideration after latest date for submissions.
 - Members agreed to take estate in charge at meeting held on 10th January 2023.
 - Minute of meeting received and circulated to all relevant parties.

Recent Taking in Charge projects highlight the growing legal complexities with bond claims for developments, wayleaves, Uisce Eireann - Site Resolutions Plans, transfer of common open space areas, bond claims, etc. When a visual inspection of estate is carried out, it may seem in order, it is the hidden works and legal requirements that seriously impedes our progress, coupled that with a high staff turnover.

The Taking in Charge section is currently finalizing works on an estate in Oranmore called Tudor Vale. Tudor Vale is one of our older historical estates with no bond funding available. The works on this estate is being funded jointly by Uisce Eireann and Galway County Council.

- Initial Meeting held with the Residents of Tudor Vale in 2015 wherein the taking in charge process was outlined, highlighting that the progress in having the estate taken in charge was subject to appropriate funding being available.

With this consideration, the Residents to advance their Taking in Charge application, funded and submitted the CCTV surveys. Formal Application received in March 2018.

- The CCTV surveys confirmed that the network crossed into private property and wayleaves were required.
- The Taking in Charge section prepared the wayleave maps and documentation for issue to relevant parties – 14 No. Wayleaves
- The Taking in Charge section also made a submission to Uisce Eireann (formerly Irish Water) for funding under the Site Resolution Scheme.
- Uisce Eireann agreed the Site Resolution Plan agreed allocating €50,000 for water and foul sewer repairs.
- Galway County Council is funding the remaining works on the estate.

The Works were tendered and the contract for the remedial works awarded to John Madden & Sons Limited. Works commenced on the estate in September 2023 and are currently nearing completion. Final reports to be prepared and sign off with Uisce Eireann. After which the Formal Taking in Process to commence.

WATER SERVICES

Process proving commenced at Spiddal WWTP on 6th September. Still on-going. Results to date from the plant have been well within compliance limits. Coffey Water Ltd. will operate the plant for 11 more months once fully commissioned. Caretaker and area operational training is due to commence over the coming weeks.

Ahascragh WWTP will commence process proving in the coming weeks. There has been an issue with some bulging in the GRP primary and final settlement tanks, so some remediation works are being carried out here. Full commissioning can't proceed until this work is complete. It will follow the same process as the Spiddal plant once the remedial works are complete.

Kilrickle & Kilcooley GWS Capital Project: The TK Earthworks, has installed 73% (30.3km) of the water mains on this project of 41.5km. The pipelaying process is by directional drilling and is proving to be a fast method of installation with less impact on the road pavement than conventional open cut method. Customers are not yet receiving water because pressure reducing valves will have to be installed which will be done in the next 6 weeks. Following mains disinfection customers will be able to connect to the meter boxes at their front boundaries. All works are currently in the Kilrickle GWS area with pipelaying progressing towards Mullagh Cross. Work to reinstate the Kilcooley network is expected to commence in November 2023.

All pipe laying is expected to be completed by mid Q1, 2024 with final completion expected in early Q2, 2024.

WINTER SERVICES PLAN

BACKGROUND

The Winter Service period for 2023-2024 will extend from the week commencing 16th October 2023 to the week ending 28th April 2024. An updated Winter Service Plan has been prepared and this forms the basis for the service which will be delivered by Galway County Council over the relevant timeframe.

Winter maintenance on national roads is carried out by Galway County Council on behalf of the TII and is funded by the TII. Winter maintenance on local and regional roads is funded by a combination of the Discretionary Maintenance Grant and the Local Authorities own funds.

ROUTES COVERED

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

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

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

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

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

Between P1, P2 and P3 routes, 1,140 km of road length is covered. That breaks down into 18km National Primary, 282km National Secondary and 840km Regional and Local Road.

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

SERVICE DELIVERY

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

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

BALAMI FUNDED PIER & HARBOUR PROJECTS

Total funding approval 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 table below identifies the location of the works, the grant funding provided and the total cost.

| Location | BALAMI Provision | Funding | Eligible Project Cost |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Inishbofin harbour | €85,500 | | €90,000 |
| Cleggan | €38,000 | | €40,000 |
| Blackweir | €76,000 | | €80,000 |
| Spiddal | €35,150 | | €37,000 |
| Inver | €20,900 | | €22,000 |
| Loughaun Beg | €11,875 | | €12,500 |
| Aircin | €35,150 | | €37,000 |
| Sconnsa | €29,450 | | €31,000 |
| Ballyconneely | €66,500 | | €70,000 |
| Bealcarra Pier | €80,750 | | €85,000 |
| Kileenaran Pier | €38,000 | | €40,000 |
| DerryInver | €38,000 | | €40,000 |
| Maumeen Pier | €23,750 | | €25,000 |
| Kilkieran Pier | €26,600 | | €28,000 |
| Kilronan Pier and Harbour | €475,000 | | €500,000 |
| Roundstone | €52,250 | | €55,000 |
| Kinvara Pier and Harbour | €23,750 | | €25,000 |
| Garafin Pier | €20,900 | | €22,000 |
| Cashel No. 1 | €29,450 | | €31,000 |
| Pollagh | €19,000 | | €20,000 |
| | €1,225,975 | | €1,290,500 |

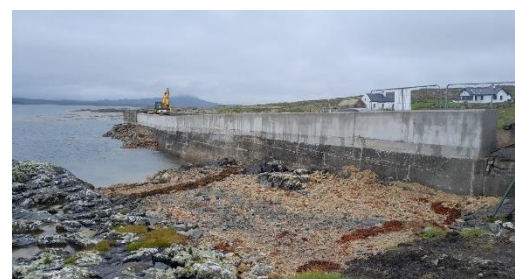
Works at all locations have been completed ahead of the funding drawdown deadline in November 2023.

The most significant of the projects included the construction of a storm wall at Bealcarra Pier, the installation of pontoons at Kilronan, Inis Mór, and the stabilisation of Blackweir Pier. It is hoped to replicate the installation of pontoons at other suitable piers, on a phased basis dependant on funding, in the coming years.

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



BEALCARRA PIER





BLACKWEIR PIER



KILLEENARAN PIER



KILRONAN PIER



OPERATIONS

Galway Fire and Rescue Service responded to 140 incidents in the Month of September, consisting of 39 Fire Incidents, 97 Special Service incidents (Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), Ambulance Assists, etc. The full-time station in Galway City had an average turnout time of just under 2 minutes to all incidents and the retained stations in the County had average turnout times ranging from 4.45 minutes in Carraroe to 9.5 minutes in Tuam. The variation in turnout times in County stations is dictated by the time of day of the incidents and the urban nature of some of the stations and traffic congestion associated with same.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

The construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is progressing at pace with the steel frame full erected and the building due to be watertight in the next number of days. Claims have been made to the NDFEM for drawdown of funding spent to date.

PRESENTATION 1916 COMMEMORATION MEDAL.

On Friday 13th October a presentation ceremony for the 1916 Commemoration Medal was held in Clifden Fire Station. The medals were presented to all members serving in Clifden Fire Brigade (some now retired) in the year 2016. While it is some years after the medals were received by the Fire Authority, the members in Clifden wanted to wait until after the COVID-19 pandemic to formally present the medals.

The ceremony was attended by some of the local Councillors, the Director of Service (DOS) for Operations and Infrastructure, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO), the current serving and retired members of the brigade in 2016 and their family members. The medals were presented by Councillor Gerry King.

In their speeches, the Cllr King, the DOS Mr Derek Pender and the Chief Fire Officer Mr Gerry O'Malley all recognised the dedication and commitment to the community of Clifden and surrounding areas of the personnel of Clifden Fire Brigade. This was further acknowledged by Mr O'Malley by virtue of the fact that many of the fire fighters in the brigade are also members of the RNLI. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

RECIPIENTS OF THE 1916 COMMEMORATION MEDAL WITH GCC STAFF AND COUNCILLORS.

Back (left to right): FF Kenneth Flaherty, Sub O Sean Heanue, FF Vincent Heffernan, FF John Heffernan



(Retd), SO Gerard King (Retd), FF David Bann (Retd), FF Joe Acton (Retd), FF Michael Carey, FF Adam Conroy,

Front (left to right): Ms Sinead Mullen (on behalf of Sub O Brendan Mullen, RIP), Cllr Eileen Mannion, SO Dave McNamara, CFO Gerry O'Malley, DOS Mr Derek Pender, Cllr Gerry King, FF Neil Gallery

THE FAMILY OF SUB O BRENDAN MULLIN WITH DOS, CFO AND CLLR EILEEN MANNION



Back (left to right): DOS Mr Derek Pender, Ms Sinead Mullen (Daughter of Sub O Brendan Mullen RIP), Cllr Eileen Mannion, CFO Gerry O'Malley

Front (left to right): Rebecca and Charlotte Kenny (Daughters of Sinead Mullen)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

PLANNING

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 181 planning enforcement complaints were received to date 11th October 2023. A total of 142 files were closed year to date. The number of Warning Letters served is 96 and Enforcement Notices 52.

There are 1,272 open Enforcement files at various stages of investigation.

COURT PROCEEDING FOR 2023

| Month | Number of cases |
|-----------|-------------------|
| January | 4 |
| February | 8 |
| March | 8 |
| April | 9 |
| May | 9 |
| June | 12 |
| July | 8 |
| August | Court not sitting |
| September | 9 |
| October | 10 Listed to date |
| November | 4 Listed to date |
| December | 3 Listed to date |

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 1,624 planning applications were received ytd 11th October 2023 of which 75% were efiles and 25% paper.

BREAKDOWN OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2023

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Planning Applications Received | 1,575 |
| Planning Applications Granted | 938 |
| Planning Applications Refused | 269 |
| Further Information Requested | 671 |
| Further Information Received | 509 |
| Invalid Applications | 369 |

DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

The LEO continued to support business and ran several events over the last month, details of which are set out below.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach year to date: 73,926
- Instagram reach year to date: 6,423
- Facebook followers: 8,165
- Instagram followers: 2,701

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet specific business requirements. The Autumn schedule of Short Training Courses are now up and running.

SEPTEMBER TRAINING

19th How to Sell at Markets and Pop Ups

OCTOBER TRAINING

3rd & 4th October Pricing and Costing – Setting the Right Price

10th October How to Sell on Amazon

12th & 19th Octoer Create Christmas Themed Marketing Videos

13th & 20th October Create Brand Videos on a Shoestring Budget

16th October Social Media Marketing for Beginners

24th & 25th October Online Revenue Returns

26th October Financials for Small Business

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs SYOB programmes monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. Start dates for the upcoming programmes are as follows:

October 2nd – evening course

November - Date TBC - evening course

LEAN FOR BUSINESS

LEO Galway delivers the Lean For Business programme twice a year with up to 12 participants on each programme. Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation.

LEO Galway ran a free online webinar on 12th Sept at 1pm for businesses. Participants learnt about the upcoming Lean for Business Programme and subsequently attended an in-person workshop on September 27th in the Menlo Park Hotel. This kicked off the programme which will run on into early 2024 and was attended by Caroline McDonagh (LEO Galway).

CREW – CREATIVE ENTERPRISE WEST

CREW “Creative Enterprise West” is a collaborative initiative led by Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Galway the Western Development Commission (WDC) and Ardán (formally the Galway Film Centre). CREW supports enterprises in areas such as design, film and TV production, animation, gaming, content development and AR/VR from its base at the ATU Galway campus at Cluain Mhuire, Galway.

The CREW CEED (Creative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development) incubation programme helps turn a creative idea into a sustainable business in a variety of disciplines (TV & Film, Virtual Production, Games, Animation, Content Development, Digital Arts, Immersive Technologies, Digital Design, Creative Technologies & more). LEO Galway financially supports the CREW programme and

are involved in recruitment, course delivery and follow up and assessment and any further interventions for the participants.



On September 4th Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) took part in the interviewing process for the shortlisting and selection of participants on the CREW programme with CEED and ATU.

The programme commenced on September 15th.

Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) and Caroline McDonagh (LEO Galway) attended the introductory workshop in ATU on September 15th and met with all of the new participants.

GREEN FOR BUSINESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

Green for Business is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving small businesses access to a green consultant to develop a 'greener' policy, which can offer many benefits to a business, including:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation.
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts

Businesses can sign up for the Green for Business programme via the LEO Galway website.

Energy Efficient Grant is a new support delivered by LEO Galway which will enable small businesses to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient. The grant will be available to companies who, through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes, have identified the technology and equipment need & benefits. The grant will cover up to 50% of the costs to a maximum amount of €5,000. The scheme will reduce the impact of small businesses on the environment and may help them to reduce costs over time to enable them to become more competitive.

There were 10 approved nationwide and the first one was approved in Galway at the end of September for EUR5000.

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Held in September in Co. Laois, Martha Begley Shade represented LEO Galway with her business, Galway Fairytales. She had a very successful three days there and met with both the President of Ireland and Minister Simon Coveney TD. Valerie Kelly (LEO Galway) attended on the Thursday and met with Martha along with other LEO clients outside of the LEO village such as GH Agri, Creva International and Heptagon Houses.



Top Picture: LEO Galway client Martha Begley (Galway Fairytales) and Valerie Kelly (LEO Galway) at the National Ploughing Championships

PORTUMA CHAMBER EVENING EVENT

Valerie Kelly (LEO Galway) was invited to speak to the PCoC Tuesday 26th September to outline LEO supports and services and speak to business owners afterwards in an informal setting.

COMWORKS

Valerie Kelly (LEO Galway) attended the official opening of the Enterprise Hub in Loughrea on Friday 22nd September, opened by Minister Ann Rabbitte TD, part-funded by GRD but operating as a commercial business. Enterprise hub with hot-desks and units for longer term tenants. It will enable employees and business owners in rural East Galway to access a fully equipped office space with fast broadband, meeting rooms, podcast booth and video conferencing facilities.

BPW NETWORK



Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) represented LEO Galway at a Business Seminar for Ukrainian female entrepreneurs held in University of Galway on Tuesday 26th September, where he gave a talk on LEO supports and answered queries about setting up a business in Ireland.

Picture: Eoin Connaire (LEO Galway) presenting at BPW Galway



BEGIN TO EXPORT

Begin to Export, started on October 5th with an in-person workshop in the Portershed. One of three export programmes run by LEO Galway, aimed at established business who will work with IMS on an internationalisation plan. Designed to maximise export success, clients Identify a market where the business wants to export to, and a strategic approach is developed with IMS.

There are three participants – Gran Grans, Gra Chocolates and Connemara Distillers (MICIL). The fourth, Axiom already completed it as a one-to-one programme to progress quickly to EVAC with an internationalisation plan.



LEO clients attending final Sales and Export Accelerator programme workshop in Tuam after returning from business meetings arranged on their behalf in Ireland, Northern Ireland, UK and Belgium.



BLAS NA HÉIREANN

In its 16th year, Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards is one of the biggest competitions for quality Irish produce on the island of Ireland. This year alone the awards seen over 3000 products entered the competition. Products from every county in Ireland were in with a chance to win a bronze, silver, or gold awards.

16 producers from Galway reached the finalists competition, winning 23 awards between them in the food and drinks categories. 10 Gold, 6 Silver and 7 Bronze were won throughout the competition ranging from Hot Chocolate, Granola to locally produced Gin.

Galway also got to see Lán Kitchen win the Best in County award which was sponsored by the Local Enterprise Office Galway.

Valerie Kelly and Stephanie Colombani attended on behalf of LEO Galway on September 28th and 29th.



Left to right: Valerie Kelly (LEO Galway), Arlene Dooley (Lán Kitchen), Fallon Moore (Blas na hÉireann – The Irish Food Awards)



Left to right: Jenya (Builín Blasta) Stephanie Colombani (LEO Galway) and Heather Flaherty (Builin Blasta)

STRATEGIC GROWTH FOR FEMALE FOUNDERS

On September 18th, 1 – 1 mentoring session took place with the 12 participants on the programme.

LEAN LAUNCH PROGRAMME

LEO Galway delivers the Lean Launch programme twice a year. Lean Launch is a 'hands-on' real world entrepreneurial start up situation where the individual has an idea, and the purpose of this workshop is to immediately start testing the business model. The Lean Launch programme commenced on October 3rd with 12 participants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is holding a series of free events regionally for businesses which will highlight the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and decarbonisation. The Department invites all businesses in the West to a free event to help your business navigate the green journey and boost your business performance through digital transformation. This event takes place on Friday 13th October 2023 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Ballina Arts Centre, Barrett Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo and includes:

- Opening session: Including remarks from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- Panel discussions: With business leaders and experts and on the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and the transition to a low carbon.
- Business supports: Experts will be on hand to talk you through the range of supports available from government.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with other businesses who have taken steps on their digital and green journeys.

Valerie Kelly and Stephanie Colombani are attending on behalf of LEO Galway.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

The Student Enterprise Programme is run by the national network of LEOs. It is the largest and most successful student enterprise programme with over 25,000 students taking part each year. It runs from September to May each year and students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing & writing a business plan. County Finals take place in February/March each year in each county. One student team goes forward to take part in the National Final in May 2024 to be named Student Enterprise of the Year.

LEO Galway will be commencing our local SEP programme in September with over 30 schools expected to participate.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

LEO Galway in conjunction with LEO Mayo & LEO Roscommon are holding their West Region NWED event – Empowering Business Together - on October 19th in Kilronan Castle. There will be over 120 attendees on the day with the event fully booked out.

NWED is Ireland’s largest female enterprise event, promotes, encourages, and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland.

Speakers on the day include:

- Mairead O’ Shea - Communications Manager ‘See Her Elected’ an initiative which aims to empower women all over rural Ireland to run for local election by equipping them with skills, confidence, and knowledge.

Difig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

National Women's Enterprise Day

Guest Speaker
Mairead O'Shea
Communications Manager 'See Her Elected' an initiative which aims to empower women all over rural Ireland to run for local election by equipping them with skills, confidence, and knowledge.

Kilronan Castle Estate & Spa
Thursday 19th October

Difig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

National Women's Enterprise Day

Keynote Speaker
Eimear Noone
Galway-born Eimear Noone (originally from Kiltconnell) is an award-winning Irish composer and conductor of film and video game music, known for her work on World of Warcraft, The Legend of Zelda, and more. With a catalogue of more than 25 compositions and hundreds of performances from the Royal Albert Hall to the Beijing Olympic Stadium, her music has reached upwards of 100 million people, inspiring audience members and fellow musicians alike.

Kilronan Castle Estate & Spa
Thursday 19th October

- Eimear Noone – Award winning, Galway-born conductor, composer, and entrepreneur.

LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT GIFT FAIR



FRIDAY 1ST TO SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2023 - BLACK BOX THEATRE, DYKE ROAD

Difig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

LOCAL
FOOD & CRAFT GIFT FAIR

In partnership with



Since 2012, the Local Food and Craft Fair has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. Starting with a reception on the Friday evening, crowds throng to the Fair all throughout the weekend with a significant increase in footfall year-on-year. More than 50 local crafts people specialising in artisan food, drinks, art, jewellery and more will converge on the Black Box theatre Galway City for this year's event. This two-day fair is great opportunity to find unique gifts before Christmas, along with a wide range of artisan jams, jellies, chutneys, cakes, cheeses, vegan foods, juices, and craft brews. Beautiful creations of local craft

experts will be on show ranging from handmade ceramics, leather work, wooden carvings, household decorations, gifts, jewellery and more.

The 2023 event takes place from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. Free entry.

SHOWCASE 2024 – 21-23 JANUARY

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design and the Showcase trade fair is the international launchpad for so many Irish makers to achieve this recognition. With more than 380 exhibitors at the show across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day trade fair expects to welcome more than 4,000 registered trade buyers from Ireland and UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network has 105 stands and LEO Galway has seven clients taking part.

These include:

- Sketchico,
- Wild Atlantic Wicks,
- Orla Culligan Ceramics,
- Fiona Concannon Art,
- Socksociety
- Galway Fairytales and
- Emer Whelan Designs

LEO Galway is working with these clients in advance to ensure the clients are fully prepared in terms of visual merchandising, pricing, supply chain logistics to maximise this opportunity with international buyers.

TRAINING HELD:

- October 10th: Good Financial and Revenue Management
- October 11th: Taking your craft/design enterprise to the next level.
- October 12th: Branding, website design and functionality and UX
- National Showcase Training
 - October 11th - Online Briefing for Showcase held online for all Showcase clients and the LEO Network was represented by Caroline McDonagh
 - October 23rd - In Person sales and marketing training for Showcase organised by LEO Galway will be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel and will be attended by Noreen Donohoe and Caroline McDonagh



LEO Galway clients taking part in Showcase training in the Galway County Council chamber.

REGENERATION SCHEMES

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL:

The Fire Safety Certification and the Disability Access Certifications have been received.

The revised cost plan and Bill of Quantities are due to be received in Regen in the coming weeks with a view to publishing the Tender Docs in November 2023.



TUAM

The Regen Team is reviewing the proposed submission for funding under CAT 1 RRDF for Tuam Town Hall. In anticipation of this call, which is expected before year end, the Architectural staff of the Regen team are advancing detailed conceptual drawings for the Shambles. This development was favorably received by Tuam MD Councillors at a meeting with the TRO in the past weeks.

CLIFDEN



The Planning package for the Public Realm for the Town Centre, the Community Park and Beach Road is due to be submitted to the Regen Team of Galway County Council by the end of October. This will lead to the milestone of submission to An Bord Pleanála as forecasted in Q4, 2023.

The impact of the proposals for the public realm on the existing Beacon installation on Market Square was the subject of positive discussions between Sharon O Grady, Arts Officer, Declan Breen, original commissioned Artist, Regen Team, and LUC consultants. This collaboration will continue through the development process.

Destination Towns projects are advancing through the procurement phase in consultation with Fáilte Ireland. Works are expected to commence on these works when successful tendering processes have been completed.

THE BEACON – MARKET SQUARE, CLIFDEN

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Galway County Councils Regeneration Team have advertised on e-tenders for suitable contractors to undertake proposed works at Portumna Courthouse, consisting of:

- Change of use from former courthouse and living quarters to office and exhibition / event spaces.
- Demolition of a single storey annex to the side and rear of the courthouse.
- Demolition of internal elements to provide new exhibition / event spaces, first floor walkway and ancillary accommodation.
- Repair and replacement of timber sash windows, rainwater goods and repointing of stonework.
- New single storey extension to facilitate a cafe / ancillary office space.
- New entrance and the formation of a patio space adjacent to the public footpath and to the rear courtyard.
- Alterations to site works to include new security gates, boundary treatments, landscaping and connections to public sewer.
- New signage and external uplighters.

Closing date for receipt of tenders is 13th October 2023.

Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificate applications for the works were lodged mid-September.

VISUALISATIONS OF PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE



PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

A vision that will be pivotal in shaping the future of Portumna town will go on public display for the first time at an upcoming public engagement evening. Tuesday, October 24th will see Galway County Council display a draft masterplan for the town centre public realm following detailed consideration of public feedback over the past 12 months. The public consultation will take place from 6pm to 9pm at the Irish Workhouse Centre, St. Brigid's Road, H53 EK74. Representatives of the Galway County Council Design Team will be on hand to take members of the public through the scheme design, which will include potential opportunities for a town centre that has undoubted transformational potential, having been recently designated a key destination hub with Irelands Hidden Heartlands. A press release and further communications will issue next week. The public consultation pack will issue to elected members in advance.

Staff continue to monitor and supervise the completion of the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (sample before and after images attached)

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE AND AFTER – STREETScape ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

GORT

The Town regeneration Officer has reviewed the Environmental Screening reports submitted by BDP for the Town Centre First (TCF) plan for Gort. The plan, in its closing stages of completion, has been sent to prescribed bodies for review and comment with an expectation to have a formal launch of the final plan in November. The public realm project is in its final stages of detailed design in preparation for the submission of a planning application in quarter 4 of 2023. Environmental Reports and pre planning pack are due to be with the Regen Team prior to the end of October.

Meetings are taking place between Regen, Infrastructure and Operations and Forward Planning facilitating synergies between Gort Public Realm, Gort LAP and Gort LTP.

URDF CALL 3 - TUAM, BALLINASLOE, ORANMORE

Cross Directorate meetings have been held between Regen, Forward Planning, Housing and Environment to garner historical and current data on the properties identified in the successful bid for the rolling funding under URDF Call 3. This collaboration between sections will be supported with further searches, identifying ownership of the vacant and derelict properties which will be brought to the market in line with the scheme objectives.

ATHENRY



The Environmental screening reports required for the Public Realm Part 8 application are due to issue to Regen on October 13th, 2023. It is anticipated that the Newspaper publication date for the Part 8 will be the 27th of October.

HERITAGE

FÉILE NA GCLOCH, INIS OÍRR



Féile na gCloch held on Inis Oírr, has concluded its most successful year to date. The festival, themed "Hands Across Europe," brought together drystone walling enthusiasts, skilled artisans, and cultural dignitaries from across the continent. Inis Oírr was abuzz with vibrant activities, informative lectures, and engaging workshops that celebrated the art of drystone walling and showcased sustainable practices.

This year Cllr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway welcomed attendees and crafts people from various parts of Ireland, fourteen European countries, the United States of America, Canada, Japan, England, Scotland, Wales and The Princes Foundation.

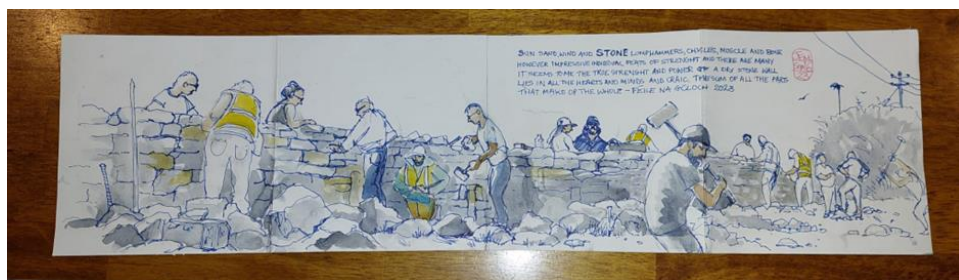


The festival was a true celebration of all things stone-related, offering participants the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities. From lectures on the techniques and sustainable use of drystone walls to stone carving and stone lettering workshops, participants were able to hone their skills and deepen their understanding of traditional craftsmanship. The festival also provided hot lime mortar demonstration, where attendees witnessed the process of using this versatile material in construction, ensuring the preservation of the island's rich architectural heritage.

Renowned instructors Tom Little, Aileen Anne Brannigan, and Nettie Emerson led stone carving and letter carving workshops, providing participants of all skill levels - from beginners to advanced practitioners - with a unique opportunity to learn, improve, and share their craft.

The construction of the 40-meter international drystone wall stands as a testament to the dedication and craftsmanship exhibited during the Féile na gCloch Inis Oírr stone festival. Led by highly skilled instructors from Ireland and the EU, participants were able to learn and collaborate in this hands-on experience. The wall represents a harmonious blend of techniques, ideas, and cultural influences, creating a stunning display of drystone walling artistry.

The use of hotlime mortar is another testament to the versatility of stone. Properly prepared, hotlime mortar ensures the longevity of structures while maintaining the authenticity and character of the stonework. It is a craft that requires precision and knowledge, and those who have mastered it such as Eoin Madigan are truly remarkable. Eoin shared his skills with a large number of participants over the weekend.



Another highlight of Féile na gCloch was the sketching sessions around the island, allowing artists and enthusiasts to

capture the essence of the island and its unique stonework through their artistic interpretations. These 'Craggy Island' Sketch outs were lead by artists James Moore and Jessica Peel - Yates. The breathtaking landscapes and historic structures served as inspiration for both seasoned artists and budding creatives.

Adding to the prestige of the festival, Féile na gCloch welcomed esteemed guests, including the Cathaoirleach of the County Galway, Cllr Liam Carroll, Chief Executive Liam Conneally, Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development & Planning and Alan Farrell, Director of Services Community & Rural Development and Corporate Services & Athenry Municipal District.



This year's Féile na gCloch exceeded expectations, showcasing the enthusiasm and dedication to preserving our heritage through the art of drystone walling. It was an honour to bring together talented artisans, experts, and enthusiasts from across Europe, creating an unparalleled atmosphere of learning and cultural exchange.










2023 marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the *UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. The *Art of dry stone walling, knowledge and techniques* was officially inscribed on the *UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity* in 2018. Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland were included in this initial inscription. In March 2023 an application was submitted to UNESCO seeking to add Ireland, Austria, Andorra, Belgium and Luxembourg to the inscription. UNESCO’s decision on this application is expected in December 2024.

Cllr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway formally launch a tri-lingual exhibition and booklet entitled “Hands across Europe: Lámha trasna na hEorpa”. The exhibition and booklet celebrate the craftsmanship, heritage, and the timeless beauty of stonework that is to be found in



Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg, Slovenia and Spain. It seeks to showcase the rich traditional artistry of drystone wall building that can be found throughout Europe. It is hoped that this exhibition will travel to other parts of Ireland and Europe and that it will assist in the exchange of knowledge and skills, while also celebrating cultural heritage among the drystone walling communities of Europe.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | Slán abhaile to all our participants, tutors and friends @ Féile na gCloch, Inis Oírr ó Oifigeachta Oidhreacht CCG/Heritage Office, Galway County Council Bainisteoir, @Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr agus Polasaí Cultúrtha Idirnáisiúnta, An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt & Meán The Heritage Council Comhar... Sun, Sep 17 | Post reach 2,243 | Engagement 202 |
|  | Cllr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach Galway County Council, Liam Conneally, Chief Executive Galway County Council, Liam Hanrahan Director of Services, Galway County Council & Alan Farrell, Director of Services, Galway County Council visiting all those undertaking the stone carving and some lettering workshops @Féile na gCloch, Inis Oírr, The... Sun, Sep 17 | Post reach 294 | Engagement 76 |
|  | -- Sun, Sep 17 | Post reach 166 | Engagement 25 |
|  | Thanks to Feile na gCloch afternoon speakers from @Slovenia, Belgium, Croatia Comhar Caomhán Inis Oírr Galway County Council The Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland The Heritage Council Partnerstvo kraške suhozidne gradnje Ministrstvo za kulturo Dréchemaueren Lëtzebuerg Embassy of Luxembourg in Dublin Zavod za varstvo kulturne... Sat, Sep 16 | Post reach 369 | Engagement 44 |
|  | Marie Mannion introduces Boris"žok, Slovenia who speaks on karst drystone walling typology and techniques. Galway County Council Comhar Caomhán Inis Oírr Galway Community Archaeology The Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland The Heritage Council Διεύθυνση Νεότερης Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts,... Sat, Sep 16 | Post reach 951 | Engagement 123 |
|  | Go raibh míle maith agat Inisoirr Photography #feilenagloch The Heritage Council Comhar Caomhán Inis Oírr Galway Bay FM The Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland Ministrstvo za kulturo Διεύθυνση Νεότερης Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς Dréchemaueren Lëtzebuerg Embassy of Luxembourg in Dublin Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine... Sat, Sep 16 | Post reach 483 | Engagement 61 |
|  | Talks under way at an halla with Stavroula-Villy Fotopoulou and Demetra Tsiaouktsoglou, #feilenagloch, Galway County Council Boulouki The Heritage Council Comhar Caomhán Inis Oírr The Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland Διεύθυνση Νεότερης Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, Embassy of Luxembour... Sat, Sep 16 | Post reach 2,447 | Engagement 262 |



COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND

CMF Project 2020 - 23: Abbeygormican

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/abbeygormican-2>



Several meetings were held with regards to proposed works at Abbeygormican Graveyard Interpretation Strategy which is being funded under the Community Monument Fund. The Community Archaeologist held a number of site visits and consultation with contractors on various archaeological sites that have received funding under the Community Monuments Fund 2023. Ongoing promotion and acknowledgement of funding on social media has also taken place.

Great to see progress at St. Kerrills, Gurteen Community Council received #CMF2023 funding from National Monuments Service - Archaeology Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. CMF is administered through Galway County Council Galway County Heritage Office with support from Galway Community Archaeology The Heritage Council, Malcolm Noonan T.D. Galway County Public Participation Network Galway Bay FM, Connacht Tribune - Galway City Tribune, Galway Public Librarie... See more



Amazing details from the past being revealed by the conservation work at St. Kerrill's Abbey
Galway Community Archaeology National Monuments Service - Archaeology Galway Stone



COUNTY HERITAGE OFFICE FACEBOOK PAGE STATS


Page Overview 📄 Create a post Last 28 days
Followers: 2,967

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 🌐 Post reach ⓘ | 10,121 |
| 👤 Post Engagement ⓘ | 3,052 |
| 👍 New Page likes ⓘ | 20 |
| ✅ New followers ⓘ | 57 |

[See Details](#)

Top post See all
Last 28 days

Boost this post to reach up to 1787 more people with every €14 you spend.



Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2023 Galway County Council won The Best Community Engagement Award for Galway County...

Published by Bernie Doherty · October 5 at 11:13 PM · 🌐

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Post Impressions | Post reach | Post Engagement |
| 2,531 | 2,234 | 583 |

Over 10,000 individuals on Facebook were reached in past 28 days under Galway County Heritage Office Facebook.

Most engaged posts include Feile na gCloch 2023 and Awards for Best Community Engagement for Galway County Digital Mapping of Graveyards.

technology and to undertake drone mapping of graveyards resulting in a public release of 40,000 records from across the county via the Local Authority's Open Data Portal.

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, said, "The success of the Digital Mapping of Graveyards Project has been years in the making and is the result of forensic research and cutting-edge surveying work by the Local Authority's Heritage department and local communities across Galway. This has resulted in a body of work that will be of benefit to the diaspora and academia at home and abroad for years to come."

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council, commented, "In congratulating everybody involved, I wish to emphasise the significance of the award win for the future development of this innovative project and similar digital projects that seek to record, preserve and share details of Galway heritage for the benefit of future generations. In an effort to digitalise our services Galway County Council has begun the preparation of a Council Digital Strategy and im happy to say this is the first instalment of this progress. I am delighted to confirm that it is proposed to transfer and update more memorial records and to map graveyards and record further memorial inscriptions in the coming months and years."

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning, Galway County Council, said the award win is testament to the ambition of everyone involved in the development of the project.

"The project is a collaborative effort between the staff of Galway County Council, state agencies and local community groups who have invested considerable time, ingenuity and due diligence into producing an invaluable public resource," he said.

Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Human Resources, Environment, It and Digital Transformation, Galway County Council, stated, "Galway County Council, through its GIS team, has identified the capability of advanced technology to record Galway's rich heritage in a way that makes it accessible to a much wider audience, as well as providing a valuable resource for researchers and academia. We are immensely proud of our achievement and look forward to developing existing and new projects into the future."

According to Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer for Galway County Council, "The aim of the project is to support our diaspora and communities to connect with their past by unlocking valuable graveyard information and making it available as open-source data that is free to use. We are delighted with the positive reaction we have received to making the records publicly available online and this national award will inspire us to further expand the project and develop similar heritage-based digital projects."

As part of the project, Connemara West mapped seven graveyards in Ballinakill Parish, Renvyle, Tooreena, Salrock, Letterfrack Boys Cemetery, Banogues, St Thomas and Ballinakill.

Janet O'Toole of Connemara West said, "The project's success is the result of dedicated volunteers giving over their time, and expert guidance delivered by the County Heritage Officer, Marie Mannion with her team in the County Council."

She continued, "We have mapped seven graveyards in this area, and they are now part of this bigger project from the local authority. It's online and anybody can enter their surname to find where their ancestors are buried."

Digitally mapping the past

■ High-tech analysis of Connemara's cemeteries allows descendants trace their roots

BY STEPHEN CORRIGAN

DIGITAL maps of seven Connemara graveyards were officially launched this week, offering the key to unlock the past for the residents and diaspora of Ballinakill Parish.

The project, which involved hundreds of hours of volunteer work, got underway in Covid as part of community development agency Connemara West's 50th anniversary celebrations.

And after two years of recording headstone inscriptions, digital maps of the seven graveyards in Ballinakill Parish are now available on Galway County Council's dedicated graveyard heritage website.

Janet O'Toole of Connemara West said the launch of the digitised maps was the result of dedicated volunteers giving over their time, and expert guidance delivered by the County Heritage Officer, Marie Mannion with her team in the County Council.

"We have mapped seven graveyards in this area and they are now part of this bigger project from the County Council. It's online and anybody can enter their surname to find where their ancestors are buried," she said.

The graveyards covered as part of this project are Kenwyle, Tooreena, Salrock, Letterfrack Boys' Cemetery, Banogues, St Thomas' and Ballinakill.

The system works using information gathered by volunteers from headstones in the cemeteries combined with drone photos which allow users to pinpoint the exact plot they're looking for.

While there are many graves that are unmarked by a headstone, Ms O'Toole said by launching the digital maps this week, they hope some of those gaps may be filled in.

"At this stage of the project, Connemara West is holding a number of open days in the Connemara West Centre where the maps will be available. Local

people's knowledge and expertise is an essential component of the project and could help identify unknown graves," she said, adding that the maps would be available in Letterfrack daily until October 28 for people to call in and view.

Ms O'Toole said as Connemara West's 50th year came around during Covid, they were looking for a way to mark the occasion and graveyard mapping offered the perfect "Covid project".

As well as providing a window into the heritage of Ballinakill, it was a practical project during Covid restrictions as the work of gathering information could be done in the great outdoors.

"When we launched it, we knew it was something people in the area would be interested in. We had three talks on Zoom and around 120 people turned up to each one of them.

"The volunteers went out to gather the information from the headstones. We had some volunteers that were treating it like nearly a full-time job and others who were interested and helped out when they could," said Ms O'Toole.

"There was just great enthusiasm for it - people were out in graveyards in rain, hail or shine, dealing with midges and horseflies and trying to get through the ferns to gather the information we needed," she continued.

With the map now online, Ms O'Toole said it will offer a useful resource on a number of levels.

"On a very simple level, a person in Australia could look at a grandparent's grave back home.

"On another level, it will be a useful research tool for people looking for their roots in Connemara," she said.

The project is supported by the Council's Heritage Office and Forum Connemara through the Leader Programme.

To view the digital maps, visit www.galway.ie/graveyardsmap



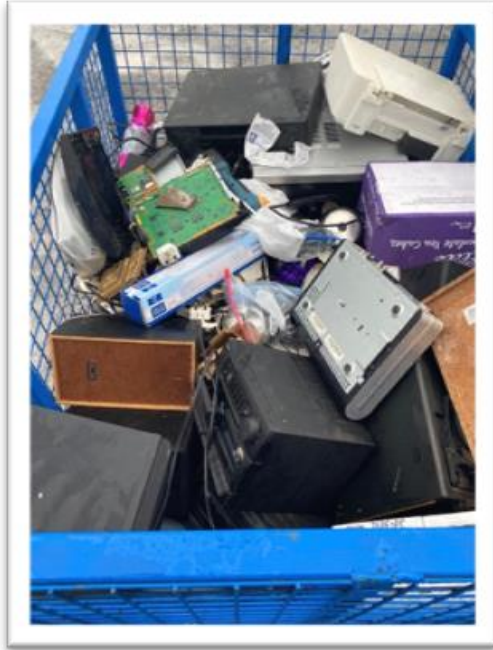
Connemara West staff and graveyard mapping volunteers pictured at this week's launch in Ellis Hall, Letterfrack. From left, Brenda Conroy, Colie Clarke, Dolores Walsh, Janet O'Toole, Carol Cronnelly, Fiona Lydon, Patricia Glynn, Eina Ruddy, Jeremy Madden and Desree Flynn-O'Rourke.



Volunteers gathering information at Salrock Graveyard.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



17 local WEEE collections organised by WEEE Ireland and supported by Galway County Council are occurring throughout the County during October/November.



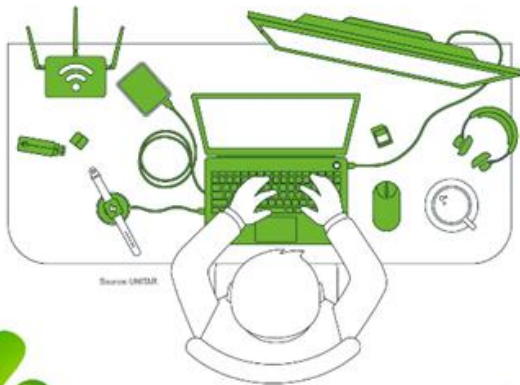
SOCIAL MEDIA



Social media campaigns were organised for REUSE, WEEE Recycling, and cigarette litter.



Almost **2 billion items of small IT equipment** such as USB sticks, mice and routers, **became redundant in 2022**. What did you do with yours?



CLUB GROUNDS ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

CLG Naomh Anna has joined the club ground's anti-Litter campaign with support signage on the roadside outside the pitch and in the club grounds. As part of the campaign the club commits to keeping their grounds' litter free and calls on all members and the local community to keep Ceantar Na nOileán litter free.



SCHOOLS' BATTERY RECYCLING COMPETITION



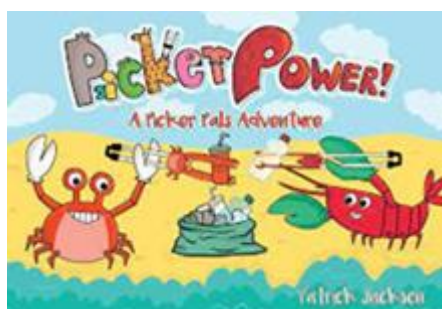
All schools in the county were invited to take part in The WEEE Ireland School's Battery Recycling Competition.

Last year the equivalent of 2 million AA batteries used was collected and recycled - the weight of around five school buses!!

This year schools have a chance to win one of six €2,000 sports equipment vouchers - all in aid of [LauraLynn – Ireland's Children's Hospice](#).

<https://www.weeeireland.ie/.../schools-battery-recycling.../>

PICKER PALS



Galway County Council will continue to support the Picker Pals programme in Co. Galway. In conjunction with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Voice Ireland. Sixty-six classrooms will be supported in this programme. Schools, parents, guardians, and pupils work together on the Anti-Litter programme.

DOG'S BAY BEACH ROUNDSTONE

Littered



This 'Special Area of Conversation' is beautifully scenic with extensive white sandy beaches. Approach and signage at the small car parking area were in good condition. While there does appear to be maintenance / management associated with the beach, it was the marine related litter which really brought down the litter grade - the majority of this was at the high tide line e.g., fishing line, net, rope, crates, buoys etc. The area wasn't immune to food related items either e.g., coffee cups, plastic bottles, sweet wrappers. Non-food items included car parts, dog fouling and cigarette butts.

IN RELATION TO DOG'S BAY A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WARDEN STATES:

“From time-to-time members of the public gather rubbish and leave it at the side of the concrete slip at the entrance to Dogs Bay beach. I collect it when I do a routine inspection and we collect it when we get informed there is rubbish there.

Connemara Forum has a person working on the beach for 5 days working 19.5 hours over the week.

They do trojan work. I spoke to the supervisor for Connemara Forum, and I was told they will put a second person on the beach in the coming weeks. (SEE PICTURE OF VAN ABOVE).

In my experience, some beaches are spotless while others are littered. The reasons been, the shape of the beach, wind direction, movements of sea currents and popularity of the beach.”

Also new signage has been erected at the beach, as above, and it is planned to run a beach awareness day in 2024 in this area. (As above)



BURIAL GROUND DEVELOPMENTS

The Environment Section supports the Municipal Districts, Burial Ground Committees and CE Schemes regarding the maintenance, general upkeep of the burial grounds and minor works in some of the burial grounds. Works have been carried out recently on the Celtic Cross at Abbeyknockmoy Burial Ground: -



BEFORE WORK WAS CARRIED OUT:

OUTCOME OF THE WORK DONE



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

LOCAL AUTHORITY NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS WORKSHOP



An EPA workshop was held on the 12th of September in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise and was attended by GCC environment staff. The workshop included presentations on all work in relation to agricultural inspections carried out by local authorities across the country in 2022, including case studies of enforcement activities. The lack of improvement in river and lake water quality was discussed and the need for more local authority

inspections emphasized. Funding has been allocated for 17 positions for LAs across the country for roles to focus solely on agricultural inspections. Galway County Council did not receive funding for a position as it does not have enough water bodies at risk of not meeting quality objectives. It is hoped that more positions will be funded next year, and that Galway County Council will have someone in place to focus on this work.

LAWPRO WESTERN REGIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The 3rd meeting of the LAWPRO Western Regional Operational Committee was held in Roscommon County Council main buildings on the 4th of September. Staff from LAWPRO, Local Authorities, Teagasc, NPWS, Inland Fisheries, Coillte, EPA and the National Group Water Scheme Federation attended. Progress with implementation of the River Basin Management Plan was outlined by each organization. Noel Meehan, Programme Manager with Teagasc presented on the roll out of European Innovation Partnership funding for water quality improvement measures on farms. This is vital work needed to reverse water quality trends in rivers and lakes.





EPA AUDIT

The EPA carried out an audit of Galway County Council's Environment Department on the 29th of September which covered various areas including:

- Progress in relation to National Enforcement Priorities
- Environmental Complaint management
- Implementation of the Environmental Inspection Plan for 2023 and review of plan for 2022
- Implementation of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Systems

BATHING WATERS



Our Blue Flag season for 2023 finished on the 15th of September. We had a very successful blue flag Art Competition for the schools in 2023. All the winners were awarded their prize at an awards ceremony held in County Hall during the summer. Here are the winning pictures.

JUNIOR INFANTS – TUAM ETNS



SENIOR INFANTS – CREGGS NS



1ST CLASS – BARNADERG NS



2ND CLASS – ST. ITA'S NS



3RD CLASS – CREGGS NS



4TH CLASS – COLLINAMUCK NS



5TH CLASS – COLLINAMUCK NS



6TH CLASS – TUAM ETNS



SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNER – BARNADERG NS

PROSECUTIONS UNDER WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT

KILRONAN DISTRICT COURT

Court Order was granted under Section 58 of the Waste Management Act by Judge Mary Fahy directing an individual to cease operating an unauthorised garage that was causing environmental pollution.

TUAM DISTRICT COURT

Prosecutions under Section 32 and Section 34 of the Waste Management act were secured against an individual who was transporting waste without a permit.

Prosecution under Section 32 secured for unauthorised transport and deposition of Construction and Demolition Waste.

2 other cases were struck out due to compliance with Notices issued under the Waste Management Act.

Waste Management and Enforcement

BULKY GOODS COLLECTIONS

Bulky goods collections were run in Loughrea and Gort Marts as part of the 2023 Anti-Dumping initiative. Both dates were fully booked out with a large amount of bulky waste and mattresses collected over the 2 days.



CLEAN-UP OF FAHY GARDENS

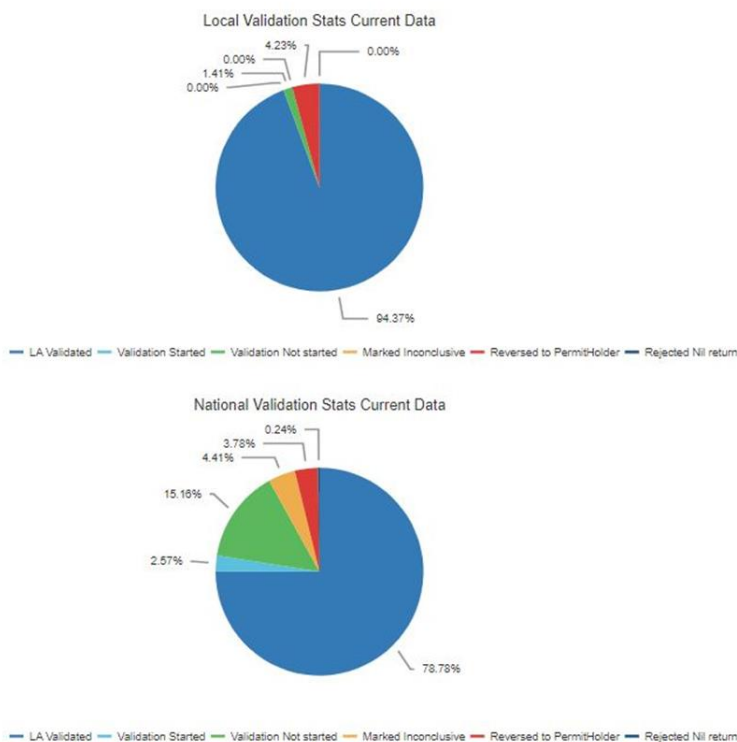


A clean up was carried out at Fahy Gardens Estate in Loughrea. A large amount of domestic waste had been dumped in a field at the rear of the estate over the last few years. Area office Staff assisted in removing 3 skips of waste from the field. The Housing Section is to follow up with works to secure the site. Waste Enforcement Officers carried out door to door inspections under the Waste Presentation Bye Laws to ensure all households were disposing of their waste correctly.



WASTE DATA VALIDATIONS

The validation of data submitted by permitted waste collectors and facilities for waste movement during 2022 was continued in September.



PROGRESS ON VALIDATION OF WASTE COLLECTION PERMITS RETURNS – GALWAY ON TOP VERSES NATIONAL FIGURES

WASTE FACILITY PERMITTED SITES.

3 Waste Facility Permit sites were inspected in September.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED.

Three Section 14 Directions and one Section 55 Notice were issued for waste offences in September.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

There were 10 inspections carried out on unauthorised C and D waste sites.

WASTE PRESENTATION BYE LAW INSPECTIONS

There were 38 inspections carried out under the Bye Laws by Waste Enforcement Officers in September.

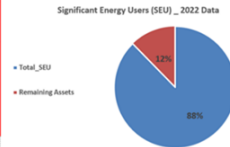
CLIMATE ACTION UNIT

ENERGY TEAM

Our significant energy users have been identified and work is ongoing to reduce energy use.

Significant Energy Users

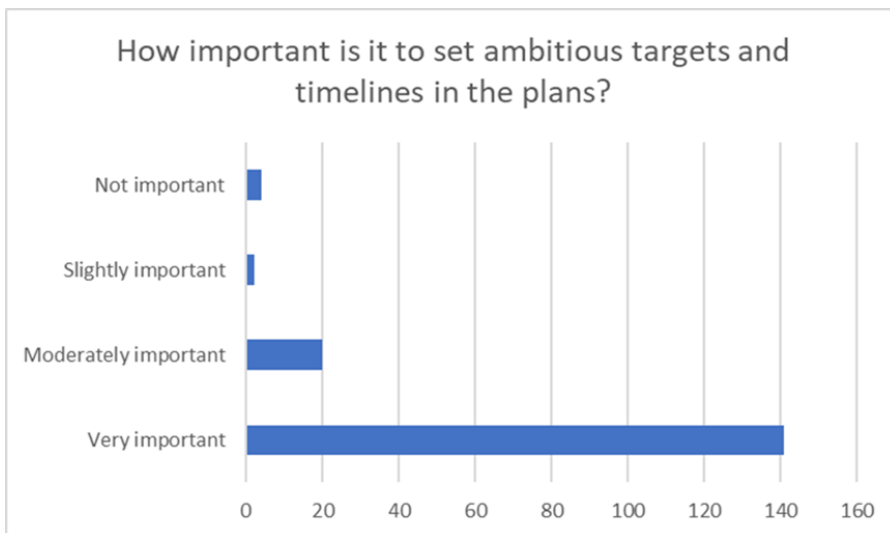
| MPRN | Significant Energy Users (SEU) | Total Consumption_2022 (kWh) | % of Total Consumption_2022 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Fleet | 6,426,796 | 37.6% |
| | Public Lighting | 4,382,836 | 25.6% |
| 10300936192 | Tuam Leisure Centre | 1,604,571 | 9.4% |
| 10020230608 | Ballinalsoe Leisure Centre | 1,479,218 | 8.6% |
| 10000066182 | County HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY | 689,401 | 4.0% |
| 10306018410 | Ballinasloe Library, Society St. | 252,752 | 1.5% |
| 10304588779 | Regional Offices & Library, High Street, Tuam, Co. Galway | 164,078 | 1.0% |
| | Total Consumption by SEUs | 14,999,652 | 87.7% |
| | Remaining Assets | 2,103,957 | 12.3% |
| | Total | 17,103,609 | 100.0% |



Preliminary work for the Pathfinder Projects for retrofit of GCC buildings is ongoing. Asbestos Surveys were completed in four buildings and Air Permeability Testing is ongoing. Tender submissions for an energy data management system were reviewed and a panel

of approved contractors is being established. It is expected that work on the installation of the system will commence in Q4 2023.

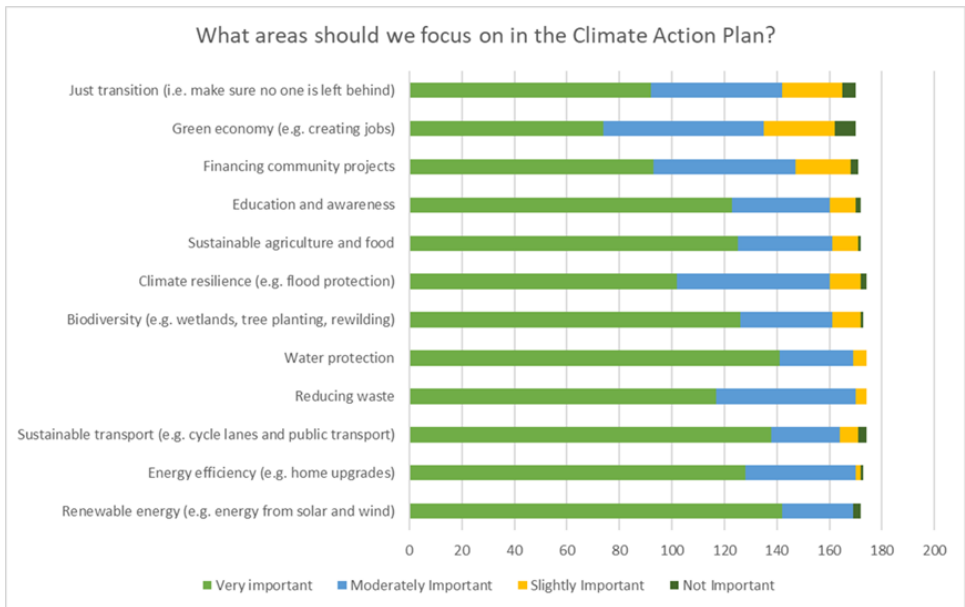
CLIMATE ACTION



The pre-draft on-line consultation to inform the Climate Action Plan was completed in September. We received 177 submissions from individuals and submissions from a number of groups including The Heritage Council, LAWPRO, National Federation of

Group Water Schemes, Science Foundation Ireland, and youth organisations.

Respondents were very supportive of the inclusion of ambitious targets and timelines in the plan. The top priorities for ongoing focus were Education and Awareness, Renewable Energy, Water Protection and Energy Efficiency.



A Baseline Emissions Inventory for the Aran Islands Decarbonisation Zone was completed and the SEA/AA screening process for the Climate Action Plan has commenced.



In conjunction with the Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann, a workshop was held with representatives

PLEAN GNÍOMHAÍOCHTA AERÁIDE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Aran Islands Hotel (H91 DH27) 11/10/2023

Sceideal don imeacht
11:30 AM - Fáilte & sólaistí
12:30 PM - Réamhrá
12:45 PM - Plé & Ceardlann
3:45 PM - Conclúid agus Críoch



Scan anseo chun clárú roimh 04/10/23 nó téacsáil 087 415 8419 le d'ainm agus seoladh ríomhphoist



Fuinneamh Oileáin Árann
Aran Islands Energy



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

from the community and businesses on Inis Mór on the 11th of October to identify actions for the Decarbonisation Zone. Workshops were also held with the Infrastructure and Operations Department and the Climate and Biodiversity SPC.

The Cities4Forests' Partner ForestProgram launched a collaboration with the Atlantic Technological University and Galway County Council on the 3rd of October. Advanced design and woodworking



students will build full-scale fully functional public space infrastructure to demonstrate carbon negative circular design and how FSC certified Conservation Timber can be used in Galway County urban regeneration projects. Conservation Timber is wood harvested from well-managed natural forests at below replacement rates that support community livelihoods and prevents deforestation. As part of the project, we are working with the Cities4Forests' Partner Forest Program and Greenville Consulting to develop a comprehensive sustainable wood procurement policy for the council.

FINANCE & MOTOR TAX

Unfunded Capital Projects, as with Funded Capital Projects, are reported in the Balance Sheet of the Annual Financial Statements.

Funding for such Capital Projects comes from various resources, to include:

1. Development contributions where applicable.
2. Government grants.
3. Sale of assets/lands.
4. Budget provisions in the revenue account; and
5. Draw down a long-term loan to be funded from the revenue budget.

The requirement to address the unfunded capital payments is under continuous review and once the Council is in a financial position to fund such projects they will be addressed as a matter of priority. There is an overdraft facility to accommodate cashflow in the event of a number of large capital payments being made and drawn on the bank account at the same time. The overdraft sanction is specific to a financial year, a new sanction is required for each year, and members approval is required for same. Following this the Minister issues the sanction, and this is lodged with Bank of Ireland.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

1. Restoration Improvement – Contractor on Site

- a. Roanmore -
- b. Annagh Hill -
- c. Gorteen - Complete
- d. Kiltullagh - Complete
- e. Castlambert - Complete
- f. Cloonboo - Complete
- g. Lydican - Complete
- h. Garraun/Ardaun – Complete
- i. Baunmore – Complete
- j. Cullairbaun –
- k. Monivea – Complete

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. **Surface dressing** - Ongoing
 - i. Belville Cross/Hundred Acres - Complete
 - ii. Parkcurry - Complete
 - iii. Carnakelly South - Complete
 - iv. Glennagloghaun/Cloonkeen - Complete
 - v. Kilskeagh - Complete
 - vi. Castleturvin - Complete
 - vii. Gardenham - Complete
 - viii. Moneymore - Complete
 - ix. Maonbaun - Complete
 - x. Annaghdown - Complete
 - xi. Killoughter - Complete
 - xii. Tiaquin demesne – Complete
 - xiii. Ballinloughaun - Complete
- b. **Works completed by direct labour crews.**
 - i. Farravaun - Complete
 - ii. Gortbrack - Complete
 - iii. Rockfield - Complete
 - iv. Killoughter- Complete
 - v. Ballygurraun – Complete
 - vi. Clamperpark - Complete
- c. **Recycling Contract – Contract awarded issues with personnel.**
 - i. Aghafadda
 - ii. Clooncah - Complete
 - iii. Bushfield - Complete
 - iv. Muckrush - Complete
 - v. Annagh West - Complete
 - vi. Monard - Complete

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Preliminary Design Review complete design report ongoing
- b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) Discussions with Landowner
- c. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Preliminary Design Phase
- d. Cregmore Bridge ESB Issue sorted switch on once sequence agreed with contractor.

4. Climate Change

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

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.86.21 L-31165 Curry Gurteen
- b. CIS.69.21 L-3112 Montpellier Athenry - Complete
- c. CIS.73.21 L-2119 Baunmore/ Gardenham – Issue with Landowner consent
- d. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Trees removed.
- e. CIS.32.21 L-7119 Mirah Turloughmore – planned for this month.
- f. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Roanmore

6. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. R1LIS/266/21 Gorthue - Complete
- b. R1LIS/193/21 Post Office Corner - Complete
- c. R1LIS/187/21 Park – Incomplete Application
- d. R1LIS/186/21 Well Road - Complete
- e. R1LIS/40/21 Mountain Road – Complete

7. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment Issues resolving agreement Landowner Meeting with all landowners to convey Latest information
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River Funding Approved by OPW – Tender Documents being produced.
- c. Lavally Drainage District AA screening complete - works planned.
- d. Dual carriageway Oranmore Re-Tendered as contractor unable to compete works in programme.
- e. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue Drone survey completed; CCTV completed – awaiting full report.
- f. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore Cycling options included in Design, Road safety audit planned – updated cross section issued to NTA.
- g. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd. Contractor Started works.

- h. Caheroyne Avenue Footpaths
- i. Cross St/Bridge St Sealing

Footpath Bay repairs Ongoing
Line-marking delayed by weather.

8. Figures and Pictures



FIG.1 – COOLARNE CCTV



FIG.2 – ARD AOIBHEANN RAILING



FIG.3 – MAREE ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



FIG.4 – ANNAGHDOWN FOOTPATH WORKS - COMPLETE



FIG.5 – ORANMORE BOYS SCHOOL – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME



FIG. 6 - OAKFIELD ESTATE - FOOTPATHS

9. Restoration Improvement – Contractor on Site

- a. Roanmore -
- b. Annagh Hill -
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11. Safety Improvement Works

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14. Local Improvement Schemes

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15. Other Items

- | | |
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| c. Lavally Drainage District | AA screening complete - works planned. |
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FIGURES AND PICTURES



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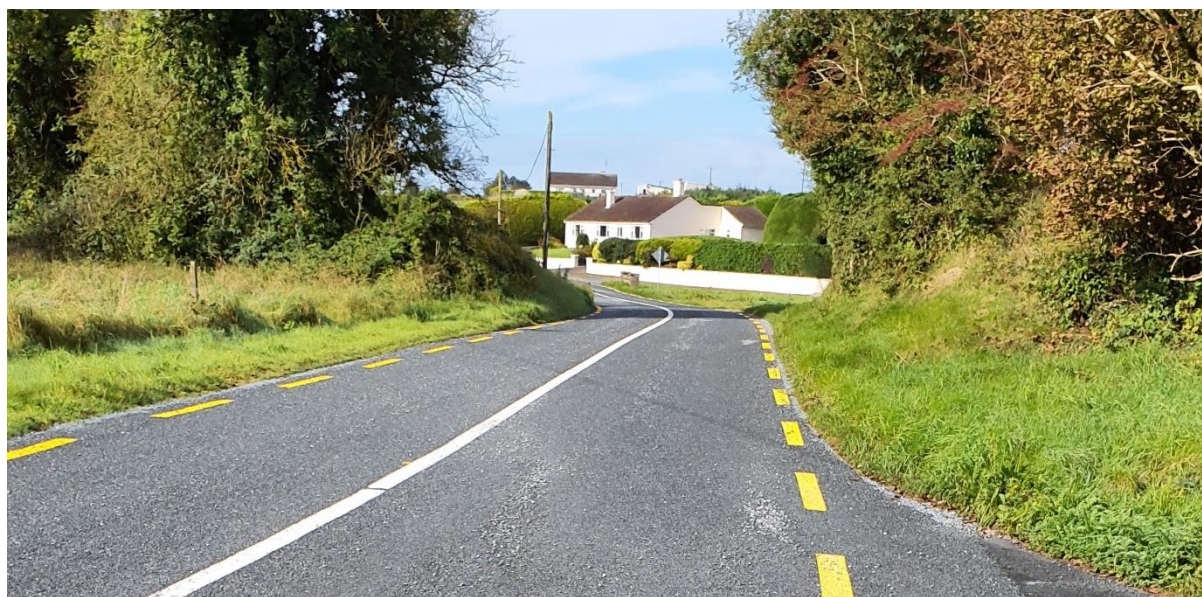
BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

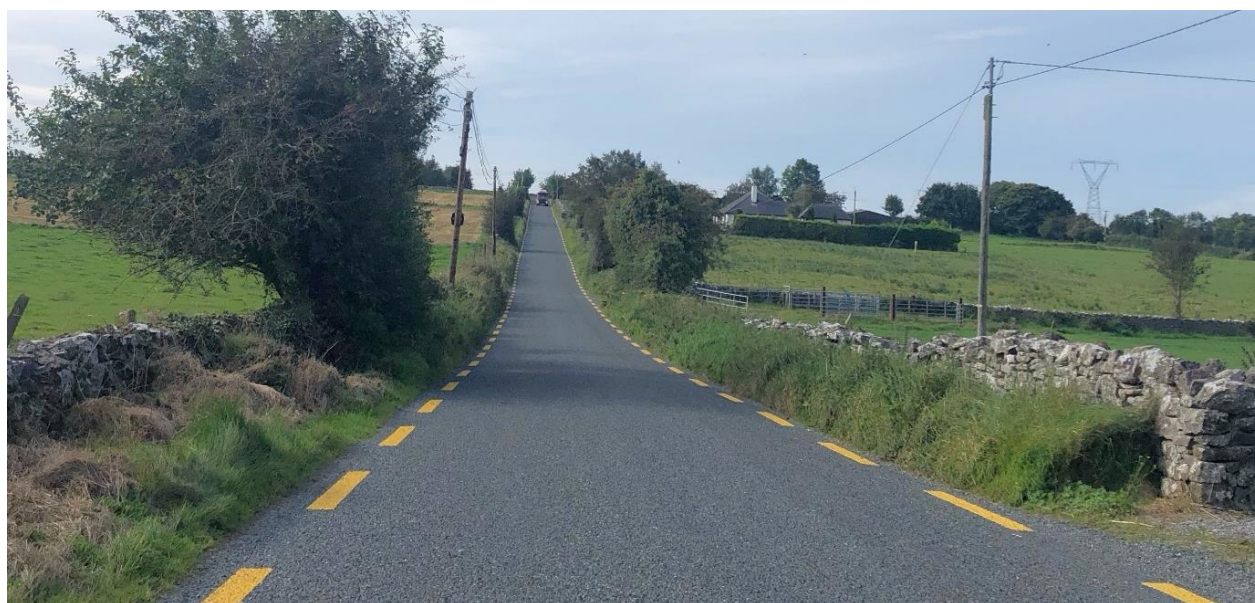
During August and September, a significant portion of the roadworks programme was completed, both restoration maintenance (RM) (surface dressing) and restoration improvement (RI) (strengthening/overlay). 100% of the RM grant funded roadworks were completed by mid-September. 90% of the RI roads are completed, with the remaining SMA (Stone Mastic Asphalt) projects scheduled

for October. It is worth noting, that during July 2023, roadworks were delayed on several occasions due to the poor weather conditions, and that this along with contractor availability has caused the programme to be pushed later into the year.

Below are examples of the work completed under the 2023 Roadworks Programme:



PARK EAST - SURFACE DRESSING (RM)



TURLOUGH, BALLYMOE - SURFACE DRESSING (RM)



COOLCARTA – STRENGTHENING OVERLAY (RI) – AS WORKS ARE BEING



UNDERTAKEN.CLOONRELEAGH - SURFACE DRESSING (RM)

BALLINASLOE MD - VARIOUS

In advance of the Ballinasloe October Fair, significant resources were directed towards traffic management planning and implementation, waste management, and preparation of the Fair Green and surrounding areas. Works also included the installation of the Ballinasloe Orb, including lighting, which is now permanently located in the park between New Road and Bolger's Lane / Sli na Abhainn.



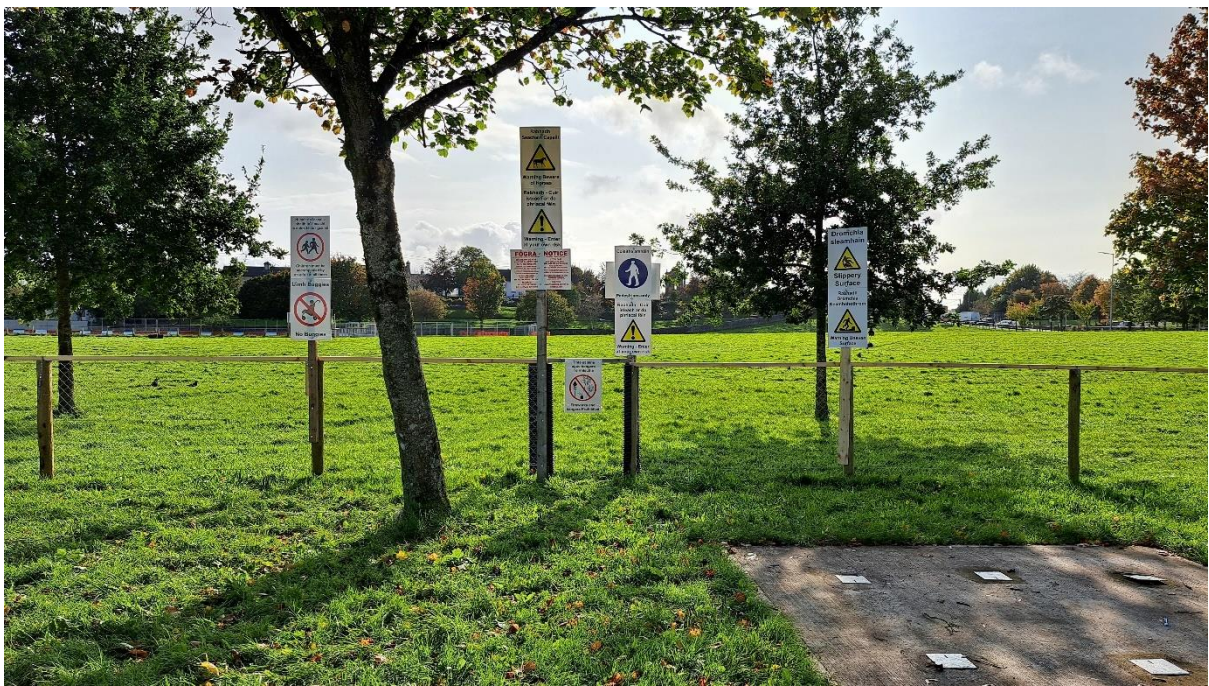
ORB INSTALLATION AT BALLINASLOE



FAIR GREEN, BALLINASLOE – OCTOBER FAIR PREPARATORY WORKS



FAIR GREEN, BALLINASLOE – OCTOBER FAIR PREPARATORY WORKS



FAIR GREEN, BALLINASLOE – OCTOBER FAIR PREPARATORY WORKS



ON THE WEST BRIDGE, BALLINASLOE - COUNTYWIDE BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.



NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING INSTALLATION COMPLETED ON HARRIS ROAD, BALLINASLOE.

Footpath construction works are ongoing at Cloonreleagh, on the N63 - Moylough Road, Mountbellew. These works include provision of approximately 600m of accessible footpath, improvements to drainage and public lighting, and are expected to be fully complete in Q4 2023.



N63 CLOONRELEAGH - MOYLROUGH ROAD, MOUNTBELLEW.

NTA Active Travel footpath works are ongoing at Beechlawn Phase 2. Initial drainage and accommodation works have been completed successfully and the project design review has now been approved by the NTA. Works at this location have resumed and are expected to be completed by December 2023.

A review has been undertaken by Galway County Council engineering and Health & Safety staff on both the existing Derrymullan flood defense measures, and the overall Ballinasloe flood defense plan. Consultants on behalf of the OPW are continuing to work on the Ballinasloe Town Flood Relief Scheme. Updated details of same can be found at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/>

Engagement meetings with the OPW, Bord na Mona, Consulting and Local Authority engineers have been undertaken on Clonfert OPW Minor Works Flood Relief Scheme. Discussions are ongoing to agree on a final design and to begin engagement with landowners.



BEFORE

AFTER

INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT LITTER BINS IN BALLINASLOE TOWN, AT MEADOWBROOK CLOSE, AND NEVIN AVENUE / FAIR GREEN



AUGHRIM ROAD SAFETY PROJECT IMPROVING SIGHT LINES – (FUNDED BY A NOTICE OF MOTION ALLOCATION) – BEFORE



AUGHRIM ROAD SAFETY PROJECT IMPROVING SIGHT LINES – (FUNDED BY A NOTICE OF MOTION ALLOCATION) – AFTER

BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



LISSARD RAILWAY BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTION – ADVANCED WARNING SIGNS UPGRADE INSTALLATION

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

- The October meeting of the Conamara Municipal District was held in Áras an Chontae on Friday, 13th November 2023. The items under consideration included an update on the Part 8 planning process for the provision of traffic lights on the bridge in Oughterard and the proposal for the provision of a Pedestrian Bridge in Oughterard. Other issues included the re-allocation of a €10,000 contribution towards the Oughterard playground, bus parking in Oughterard and the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Cornamona.

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – OCTOBER 2023:

- Connemara MD Roads Programme Complete
- Mionobreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 work complete.
- The Strategic Infrastructure scheme at the Causeways is progressing through design.
- An application has been made to the Department of Transport for a Strategic Infrastructure scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.

- Safety Improvement Works €115,000 (3 projects) 3 No. Completed.
- Climate Change Projects €150,000 (3 projects). 2 No Completed.
- Local Improvement Schemes: Round 1 on mainland and 4No islands complete. Round 2 on mainland and islands ongoing
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme, ongoing roads programme works (surface dressing) & drainage works.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions, 1 vacant (new position being filled 31st October 2023) - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ringbuoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme 2023 5 No. pier locations
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- provision of public toilets, bins at a number of beaches for June, July & August and early September now at an end for the season.
- Active Travel Projects- 2023 Project Carraroe Complete.
- Clifden and Cleggan received over 20 new Pay & Display machines.



NEW AND OLD PAY & DISPLAY MACHINES

JULY/AUGUST OVERVIEW

ROADS PROGRAMME – CURRENT STATUS:

20 of 21 (95%) bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.

38 of 42 (90%) unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.

30 of 32 (94%) of the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) roads are now completed.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS COMPLETED

RMG - 3kms of Surface Dressing on the R446 involving the provision of a new surface on both the existing surface and a newly laid AC base.

Road Recycling - 9 No. projects completed e.g. Earlsparck, Kilnadeema West, Roo, Fahymactibbot

RIG – L-4194 (2.4km), R446 (500m) and Shannon Park Housing Estate, Portumna

OTHER MINOR WORKS

Cleaning of Main Street, Car Park, Loughrea

Installation of Bicycle Parking Infrastructure in Kinvara (GCC/CE Scheme)

Cleaning of R351 approach to Loughrea Town from the Long Point.

Waste removal and cleaning at bottle bank sites

Replanting of 7-tier planters Loughrea

Installation of rock armour and railing at Lacken, Abbey Village - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Project



BICYCLE PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE IN KINVARA (GCC/CE SCHEME)



RESURFACING AT SHANNON PARK HOUSING ESTATE, PORTUMNA

ROAD RESURFACING AT KNOCKAWUDDY, MAREE



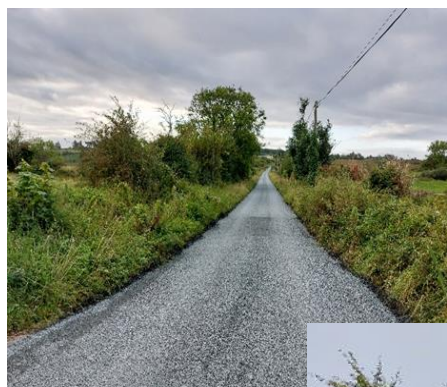
ROAD RESURFACING AT KILLEENARAN, BALLINDERREEN



ROAD RECYCLING AT EARLSPARK, LOUGHREA.



ROAD RECYCLING AT KILEENADEEMA WEST, LOUGHREA.



ROCK ARMOUR AND RAILING – LACKEN, ABBEY VILLAGE - CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE



L4194 - RIG OVERLAY ON KILREEKILL TO BULLAUN ROAD



SURFACE DRESSING ON L-85801 AT CASTLEGAR, KILCOLGAN



PLANTERS IN BLOOM AT LOUGHREA CATHEDRAL



REMOVAL OF VEGETATION AND WEEDS AT WEAVER'S CAR PARK, LOUGHREA



CLEANING OF FOOTPATH AT THE GROVE, LOUGHREA



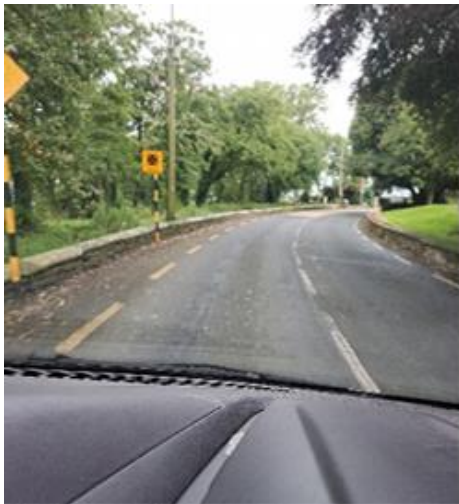
REPLACING FLOWERS AT FITZY'S CORNER LOUGHREA



R351 - LAKE ROAD CLEAN UP, LOUGHREA



Before



After

REGULAR CLEAN-UPS AT BOTTLE BANK SITES





CURRENT WORKS STATUS

RI FUNDING

The 2023 Restoration Improvement programme is 88% complete to date with 100% of the Galway County Council Direct Labour schemes completed.

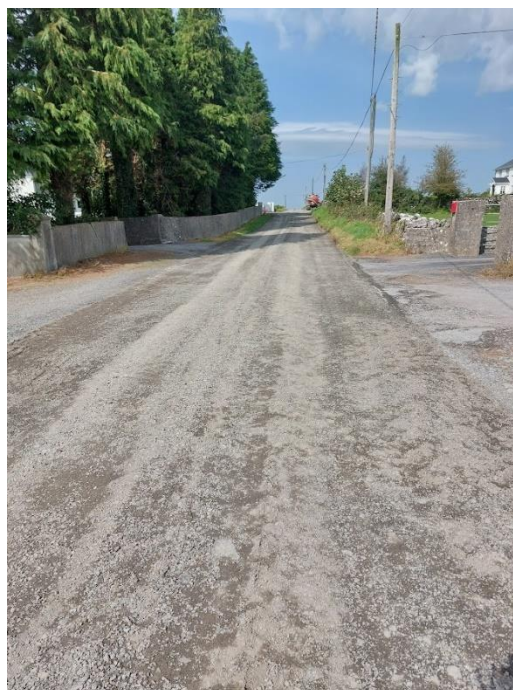
Pictures below show completed section of Overlay along the R332 earlier this month. Over the past 5 years the Tuam MD has overlaid from the Kilconly GAA pitch to the turn off the R332 to Kilconly Village (5km). This section of pavement was previously in poor condition with the recent works making a huge improvement for road users. This section will tie in with the Kilbannon Scheme on the R328 and when complete the entire R332 from Tuam to the County Boundary at Foxhall will have been overlaid with DBM and surface dressed. This has been one of the largest overlay schemes in the Tuam MD in recent years.

DURING OVERLAY WORKS ON THE R332 COMPLETED WORKS ON R332



Over the past 10 years, cold in-situ recycling has become large part of the Tuam MD roads programme for rehabilitation of local and regional roads. The process consists of mixing a bitumen emulsion with the recycled material from the existing pavement, in situ, to create a new cold-

mix asphalt layer. From an environmental point of view Tuam MD is reducing the use of valuable resources, i.e., bitumen and aggregates as well as REDUCING the carbon footprint and REDUCING CO2 EMISSIONS through road RECYCLING.





CARRYING OUT ROAD RECYCLING ON L2126 BRACKLOON

RM FUNDING

The 2023 Restoration Maintenance programme (surface dressing programme) is 100% complete.

DG FUNDING

The 2023 Discretionary Grant programme (Local Tertiary programme) is 100% complete.

CLIMATE ACTION SCHEMES

8 schemes in total were funded by the Department of Transport in this year's roads programme for Tuam MD. 4 schemes are complete and 4 schemes have commenced in the last week.

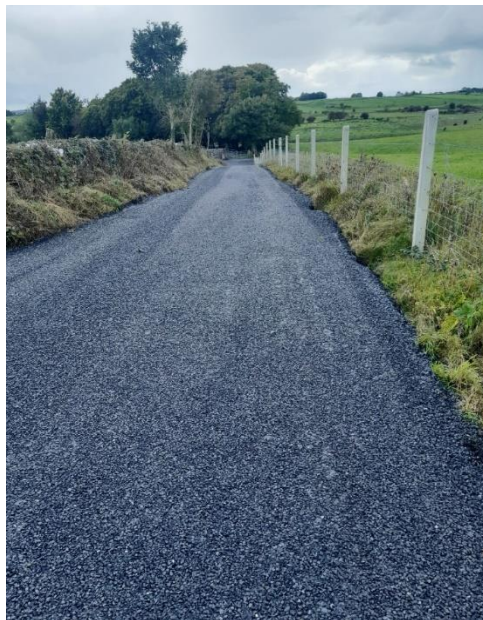
CLIMATE ADAPTION WORKS R360 NORTH OF DUNMORE

LIS SCHEMES 2023

4 local improvement schemes were approved and funded and have been completed in the Tuam MD from 1st round. 2 schemes were approved on 2nd round of funding. 1 scheme in Gardenfield is complete and 1 scheme at Knockma is ongoing.



LIS GARDENFIELD



BEFORE WORKS

AFTER WORKS

HEDGE CUTTING

National and Regional roads hedgecutting has commenced by contractors recently. Local road hedge cutting has commenced by local area staff and will continue up to 29th February 2024

TOWN AND VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEMES

Barnadearg village pedestrian crossing facility and footpath improvement works are ongoing. Additional funding given recently from Department of Transport for overlay works and drainage which will be final stage of the project. This will completely enhance the village of Barnadearg which lies on the busy R332 road as well as a safer and more pedestrian friendly village.



BARNADEARG VILLAGE WORKS



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

All 2023 Community involvement schemes have commenced or in the process of starting. The Community Involvement Scheme is a joint venture approach between the Council and local Communities, for the purpose of carrying out maintenance and improvement works on suitable Regional and Local Roads. There were 11 schemes in total approved for Tuam MD. 8 schemes are being carried out by local contractors and 3 are being carried out by the Tuam MD direct labour staff.

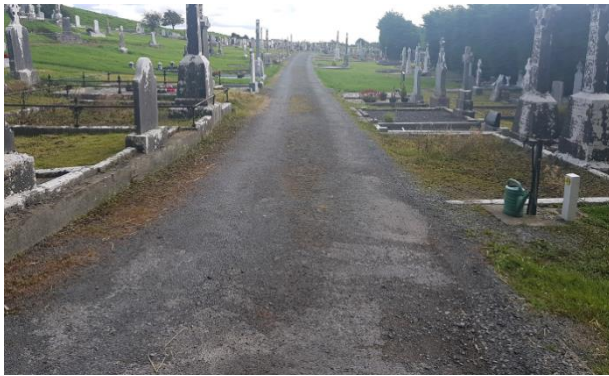


CIS CAHERLISTRANE

OTHER WORKS

CORTOON GRAVEYARD WORKS.

Resurfacing works carried out by the Dunmore MD Crew in Cortoon Graveyard and the approach roads. Funding was allocated to the Tuam MD from the Environmental Section of Galway County Council



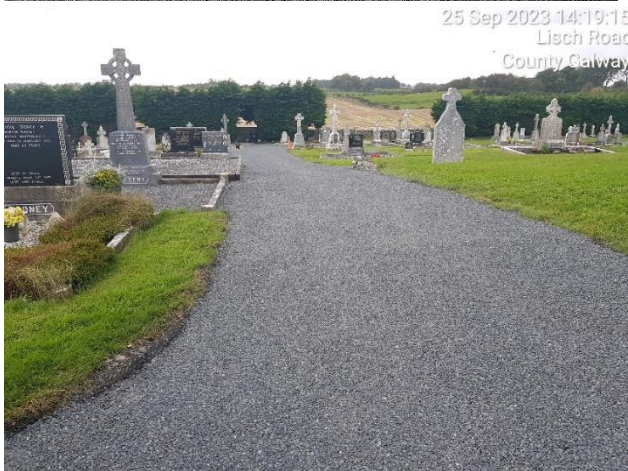
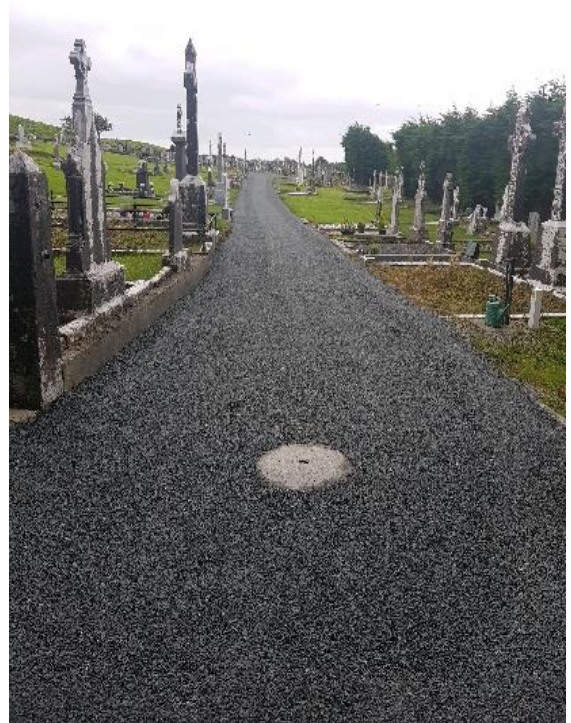
BEFORE WORKS.

AFTER WORKS



25 Sep 2023 14:17:41

25 Sep 2023 14:17:51
Unnamed Road
County Galway



25 Sep 2023 14:19:15
Lisch Road
County Galway

RETROFITTING OF FENCING ON NATIONAL ROADS

Fencing works on the N17 between Milltown to Ballindine to improve Road safety.



3 Oct 2023 11:23:45
N17
County Galway

BEFORE FENCING WORKS



AFTER WORKS

TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT NEWS

TUAM TOWN NEWS – GREEN FLAG AWARD

Eight Green Flag awards have been awarded to public parks and other green community spaces in Galway this year. The Green Flag Award, managed by An Taisce in Ireland, was awarded to 101 parks, gardens, grounds and wildlife sanctuaries around the country. The award benchmarks excellence in the management of green spaces which are open free the public. 150 parks were awarded flags today around Europe, with Ireland leading the way. The Palace Grounds in Tuam has retained its Green Flag, and also receiving Green Heritage Site Accreditation.



Outside of public parks Green Flag Community Awards were awarded to Ballyglunin Railway Restoration Project and the Headford Community Orchard.



BALLYGLUNIN RAILWAY RESTORATION PROJECT



HEADFORD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

MILLTOWN NEWS – TIDY TOWNS

Milltown has been named as the cleanest town in Galway in the 2023 Supervalu Tidy Towns awards. This is the 9th year in a row Milltown has topped the list in County Galway and 20th time overall it has claimed the highest spot in the County. This follows on from the village being selected as this year's winner of Galway County Council's Cathaoirleach Award in the category 'Best Contribution to Heritage' in May.





COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME TUAM

MAINTENANCE WORKS AT GLASS AVENUE - a beautiful walk linking the Athenry Road at the railway bridge to the Dublin Road.



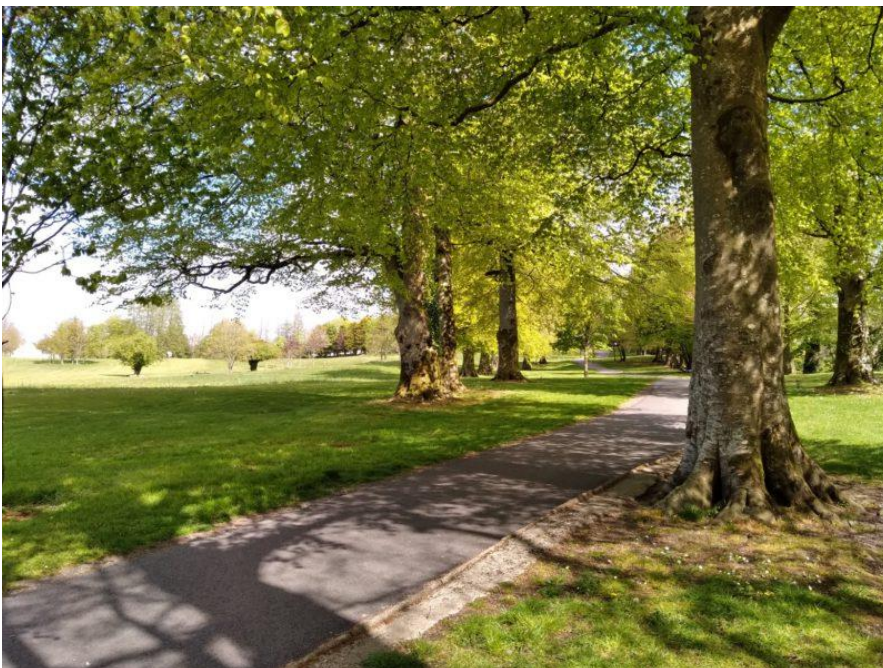
BEFORE WORKS



AFTER WORKS



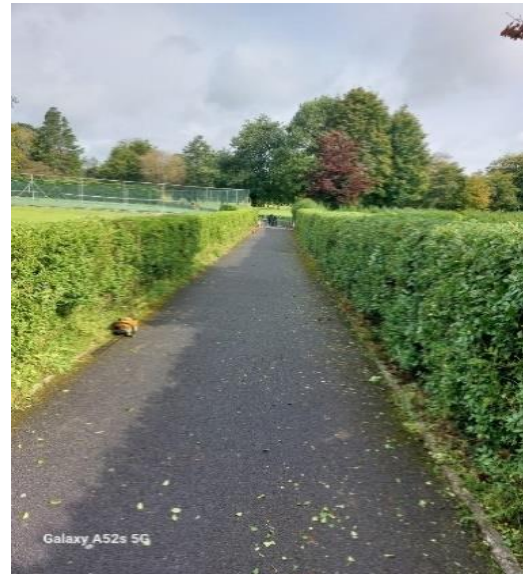
BULB PLANTING PALACE GROUNDS



PALACE
TUAM

GROUNDS

HEDGE CUTTING IN PALACE GROUNDS



TIR BUI ESTATE MAINTENANCE



Mise, le meas,

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

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

20th October 2023