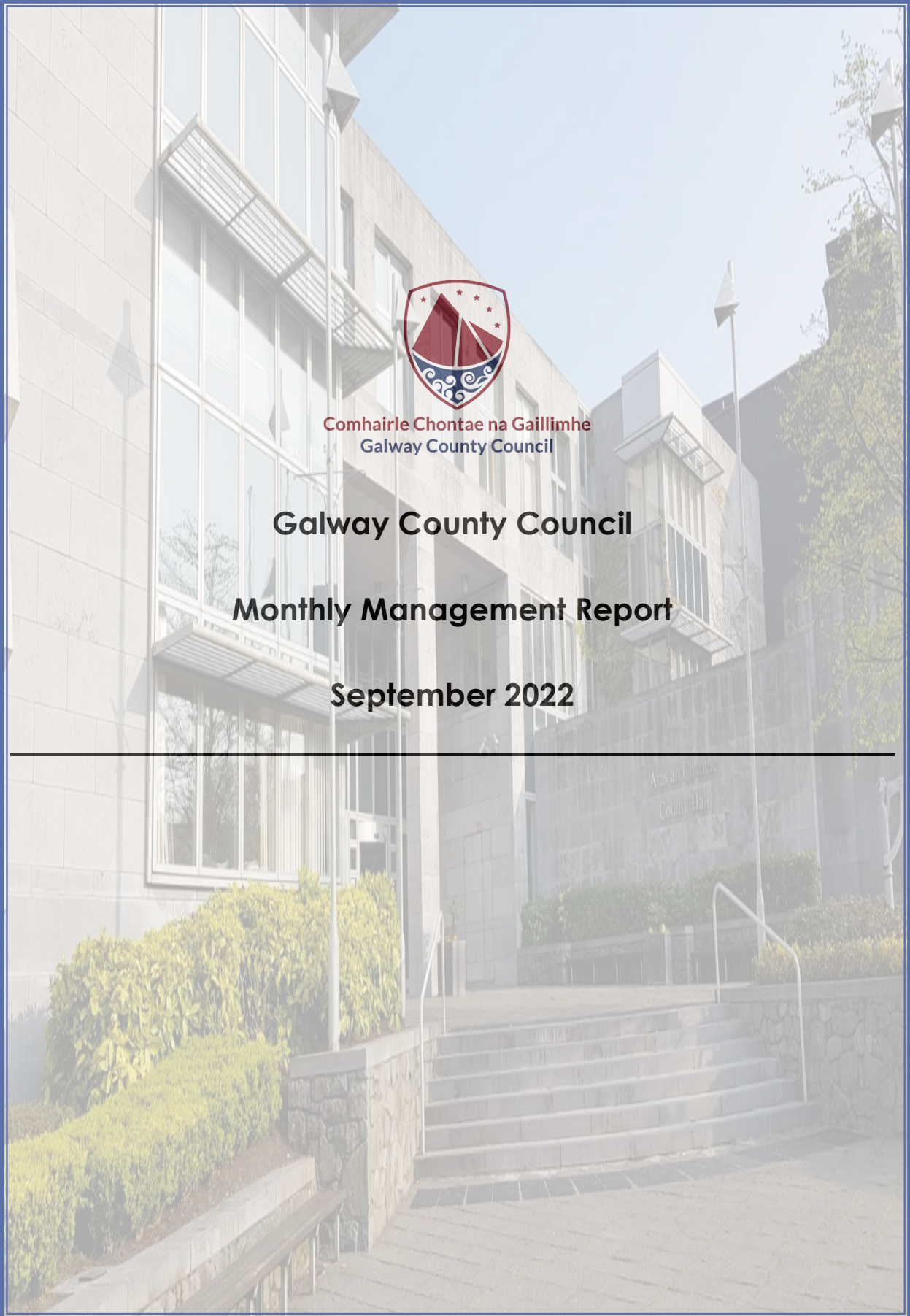




Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**Galway County Council**  
**Monthly Management Report**  
**September 2022**



#### UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Galway County Council has continued to liaise with the Department on the use of Hotels and guesthouses. The Council has used one hotel to provide weekend cover for emergencies instead of using community centres and while we have not stood up the emergency community centre accommodation at this point we remain on alert to do so if required.

The pledge list of private offers of vacant units and shared accommodation has been reviewed and followed up on by IOM (lead NGO agency) to place people in appropriately vetted and inspected properties.

IOM have advised that pledges have been slow to materialise. A new call for pledges is due to be launched in Autumn involving Local Authorities.

The interagency response continues to meet with HSE, TUSLA, Social Protection, Local Development Companies and GRETB putting services into the centres in various locations.

In response to significant number of queries where no school transport service has been provided to an accommodation centre or if there is an anticipated long delay, the schools affected (rather than the families, C&V organisations or local authorities) should contact the section [transportapplications@education.gov.ie](mailto:transportapplications@education.gov.ie).

The Dept of Education may be willing to support interim solutions but will deal with all queries on a case-by-case basis.

#### CROÍ CÓNAITHE – STREAM 2 LAUNCH

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund, to be delivered by local authorities, provides new choices for people to live in towns and villages in Ireland. Stream 1 was launched on 14th July 2022 and provides grant funding to support the refurbishment of vacant properties in towns and villages for residential use, where the level of vacancy/dereliction is high.

**Stream 2** will see local authorities make available serviced sites at reduced cost to support self-build home ownership. The Fund is targeted to deliver some 2,000 homes by 2025.

Under Stream 2, local authorities will make serviced sites in towns and villages available to potential individual purchasers. These sites will be available at a discount on the market value of the site for the building of a property for occupation as the principal private residence of the purchaser. It is intended that the local authority will develop existing site(s) in their control or purchase site(s) and make them available for development by providing services and access to the site(s) concerned.

The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the local authority before the sale of the site with discounts up to a maximum of €30,000. The amount of such discount will be reflected in the sale price of the site to the purchaser

Qualifying sites must be within the existing town or village as per the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census Mapping with a preference for infill and more centrally located sites where available. It may also apply to some smaller villages, which may not be defined as villages for the purposes of the CSO Census mapping but with sufficient provision of services and amenities

Small in scale, walkable to town/village centre along public footpaths primarily and have direct access to adequate mains water supply and mains waste-water disposal infrastructure.

The buyer of the site is required to reside in the dwelling built on the site as his or her principal private residence on completion of the dwelling. Priority will for first time buyers, or for people who have specific needs that requires them to sell their current property.

## INCOME THRESHOLD

The Minister for Housing has advised of the planned change to the social housing income eligibility thresholds and the move of five local authorities, including Galway County Council, from Band 3 to Band 2. The change will be implemented via Ministerial Regulations and will most likely come into effect from 1 October 2022. The baseline income eligibility threshold for the affected local authority areas – Carlow, Clare, Galway County, Laois and Westmeath – will increase from €25,000 to €30,000 from that date. Accordingly, social housing applications decided by local authorities after 1 October 2022 should be assessed per the revised thresholds. Applications already decided prior to the effective date, deemed to exceed the extant threshold, but which meet the new income thresholds, can be resubmitted by applicants for assessment.

Calculations reflect that:

- Single Adult – income threshold will be 30K
- Single Parent plus 2 children - €31500 (30k per adult plus €750 per child allowance)
- 2 adults plus 3 children - €35250 (30k plus 1500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ault and 750 per child allowance)

Band 2 (New County) Max	30000	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant	Child Occupant
Additional Adult Occupant(Max 10%)	1500	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Additional Child Occupant	750											
Main Applicant		30000	30750	31500	32250	33000	33750	34500	35250	36000	36750	37500
Adult Occupant	1	31500	32250	33000	33750	34500	35250	36000	36750	37500	38250	39000
Adult Occupant	2	33000	33750	34500	35250	36000	36750	37500	38250	39000	39750	40500

## TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024, in relation to the provision of Traveller Accommodation in the functional area of Galway County Council was prepared and adopted by the Council in July 2019 as required by the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. The Act requires that the Council reviews the Traveller Accommodation Programme at least once every three years, or as directed by the Minister.

- A Circular issued to all Local Authorities on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 directing the commencement of a mid-term review of the current TAP to be carried out no later than 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Subsequent notification from the Department permitted the review to be completed by a later date with additional time allowed for consultation.

Galway County Council issued correspondence to 15 different statutory and non-statutory bodies inviting submissions and observations on Galway County Councils Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2022, including adjoining Local Authorities and local Traveller representative organisations.

- 4 responses were received
- 26 Recommendations included in these responses.

These have been presented to the LTACC and accepted for inclusion in the finalized draft review to be presented back to the LTACC in early October.

## ADVANCE PURCHASE (TURNKEY) OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND/OR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Galway County Council has sought expressions of interest for the provision of turnkey housing developments for delivery of both social and affordable housing in Galway.

Turnkey developments, to be of interest to the Council, should ideally be in close proximity to services within an urban settlement/town/village, and within walking distance of shops, schools and local amenities. Housing Design and Construction Standards must at a minimum meet the requirements of all relevant statutory planning and building control requirements. Of particular interest is the regeneration of existing units within towns and villages.

Further details of this scheme and a guide to making a submission are available on the Council's website under [www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/](http://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/) or by emailing [capital@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:capital@galwaycoco.ie)

The date and time for receipt of submission was **12noon on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022**. The Capital team will then review and engage with developers to progress a number across the county/

Please note that Galway County Council is not obliged to purchase any turnkey housing development submitted as part of this process.

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The MHFA course is a 12-hour course (4 modules, each 3 hours) that teaches people how to assist someone who is developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis.

The course was provided by the HSE free of charge to local authority staff in the region. Galway County Council provided the room space in the Chamber. There was 15 participants in total - all from LA housing sections: 2 from Roscommon, 1 from Galway city and 12 from Galway County Council. The course was well delivered, and the content was informative and relevant.

## CAPITAL DELIVERY PROGRAMME

The Galway Housing Taskforce met on 20<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Updates were provided on the following:

Scheme	Project Name	Project Status	Projected Completion	Total Units Expected
CAS Const	Letterfrack		Complete	11
Ship Turnkey	Tubber Road		Complete	5
CAS Const	Ballylee House Gort		Complete	6
AHB CALF Turnkey	Gort na Fuinse, Headford(Phase 1)	On-site	31/08/2022	4
AHB CALF Turnkey	Weir Road Tuam	On-site	25/08/2022	5
CALF Part V	Gort na Fuinse, Headford(Phase 1)	On-site	31/08/2022	7
LA Part V	Coill Ard /Bun na Coille Mt Rd Moycullen	On-site	01/10/2022	5
LA Part V	An Saileachán, Athenry(The Willows), Athenry)	On-site	30/11/2022	3
LA Part V	Garrai Glas Park (7 units) and Garrai Glas Drive (1 unit), Ballydavid, Athenry	On-site	15/10/2022	5
LA Part V	Coill Clocha , Oranmore	On-site	30/11/2022	7
LA Part V	Gairdin Cul ,Loughrea	On-site	30/10/2022	1
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Garraí Ghuaire, Cartron, Kinvara	On-site	15/10/2022	10
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Gort na gCloch Hospital Road, Clifden	On-site	15/12/2022	8



SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Gort na gCloch Hospital Road, Clifden	On-site	30/09/2022	18
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Fana Bhuí, Tuam (phase 1)	On-site	08/12/2022	16
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Fana Bhuí, Tuam (phase 2)	On-site	15/10/2022	16
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Cullairbaun Athenry (phase 2 of 4) Contract 1	Funding Approved Turnkey	30/11/2022	13
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Cullairbaun Athenry (phase 1 of 4) Contract 1	Funding Approved Turnkey	15/10/2022	14
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Garrai Glas Athenry	Funding Approved Turnkey	15/10/2022	7
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161</b>
	Late 2022 completion but not ready for allocation			
pV/Turnkey and CALF	Dunlo, Ballinasloe	On-site	<b>Full site delivery 2023</b>	<b>16</b>
	Cullairbaun (pv)			<b>12</b>
	Calf/Turnkeys being negotiated		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

- Build progression
- Potential end of year count
- Affordable units
- AHB Delivery
- Homeless numbers.

Fana Bhuí: Final build snag and nominations begun:



## ERCD UPDATE

### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- On 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, Minister Joe O'Brien, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, visited a number of community initiatives across the City and County, including a meeting with Galway County PPN, the Galway County Ukraine Community Response Forum, and visits to both Forum Connemara CLG and Galway Rural Development CLG to meet staff working on various initiatives such as SICAP, RSS, TUS, etc. Speaking about his visit, Minister O'Brien said "it is great to visit Galway

and engage with the various fora that are responding to current challenges and it is encouraging to see the collaboration and responsiveness of these groups”.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Audits of Disabled Parking Spaces in Loughrea and Portumna will take place during September in partnership with the Area Office & PPN’s Disability Forum, and Access Audits at Beaches with Beach Wheelchairs have also been conducted to feed into pilot projects to remove barriers to participation under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund. The PPN’s Disability Forum are also holding a Make Way Day Event on 30<sup>th</sup> September and a radio advert and campaign highlighting misuse of Disabled Parking Spaces.
- Positive Ageing Week 2022 runs from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October and the Council, working in collaboration with other agencies, have organised a range of events under the theme of “Challenging Ageism – Reframing how we think, feel and act towards ageing and older persons”, e.g. “Come and Try” Events for physical activity programmes for older people, “Come and Meet Us” Events to encourage older people to join local activities and groups, a workshop for businesses to become Age Friendly, and an online Self-Care Workshop for older people.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

- The PPN will hold a Plenary Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September in Claregalway, which is a networking and information opportunity for all PPN Members

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

- Judging for the IPB National Pride of Place Awards took place on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in Woodford (am) and Lawrencetown (pm). Both communities made a presentation to the Judges and organised a tour of their community showcasing activities, facilities, and initiatives. There was a great turnout of individuals and groups highlighting the fantastic work that goes on in both communities. The judges will meet in September to agree the national award winners which will be presented at a National Awards Ceremony in January 2023.

## ARTS OFFICE

### **Local Live Performance Scheme Round 4/Ceol an Fhómhair**

Galway County Council Arts Office presents Ceol an Fhómhair - a programme of dynamic music events taking place during September and October 2022 as part of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme. Ceol an Fhómhair began on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of



September, bringing the much-loved Festival in a Van to the Shorelines Arts Festival for three stellar shows per day from Pen Pushers, Eclectic & Hot Fuss (15th) and Rhythm Africana (16th). Admission to these shows is free. On the 16th of September, country singer Mike Denver performed in Clifden Town Hall as part of the Clifden Arts Festival.

On Sunday the 18th of September, Ceol an Fhómhair presented Paddy Casey and Mundy with support from Saoirse Casey as part of Athenry MAD Festival to a crowd of over 1500. This all-ages event began at 4pm in Athenry Community Park and was free for all the families and supported by Athenry Heritage Centre.



**Ceol an Fhómhair** is also supporting a **full Culture Night Programme** of musical events across Galway County featuring:

- Sing Along Social who will bring the party with their ABBA vs Fleetwood Mac musical showdown in Mullarkey's Bar, Clifden.
- FUSE Trad Night who will feature local musicians, singers and storytellers in The Abbey Tavern, Tuam
- Molly O'Mahony who will play an intimate set with support from Matthew Noone in Brazco Oranmore
- Choro Sounds - an event where Aria Latina collaborate with Treo Ensemble, a collective of young musicians associated with Music Matters. The combined forces will perform South and Central American inspired music in a concert at Mountbellew Community Centre.

- Roughish, Galway's newest folk trio composed of Mark Costello, Caoimhe Newell and Davin Costello who will be performing in Ballygar Courthouse.
- **Cúirt Cheoil na mBan** a night of trad music on Inis Oírr. Women ceoltóirí will travel from house to house ending with a beautiful concert at the iconic Áras Éanna.
- The High Tide String Band and Paddy McKeown play at St Mary's Church, Roundstone



For more information on these Ceol an Fhómhair/Culture Night events check out [www.culturenight.ie/galway-county](http://www.culturenight.ie/galway-county)

The Local Live Performance Programming Scheme is used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors by providing live performances through engaging with local professional artists, musicians, crew and staff members involved in live performances across Galway County.

**Culture Night** - 37 Culture Night events have been funded through the Arts Office this year. 30 through an open call (€24,905) and 7 through the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (€19,100). **Highlights include:**

- Sing Along Social at Mullarkey's in Clifden
- Cuairt Ceoil na mBan a night of traditional Irish music with 10 women ceoltóirí travelling from house to house ending with a concert in Inis Oírr and Áras Éanna (Hybrid with online)
- Shadow Navigation an evening of music with Jo Beth Young at Thoor Ballylee Yeats Tower
- An Artful Brew tea ceremony and workshop by Pavithra Kannan produced by Three Rings in Tuam at Ballyglunin Station

- Origins by Órla Mc Govern, a site-specific performance with musicians Liz & Yvonne Kane and a music event with artist in residence Anna Jurkiewicz in Inagh Valley at Interface
- Wild Women Poets readings and conversation with Rita Ann Higgins, Sarah Clancy & Elaine Feeney in Clarinbridge at SCCUL Sanctuary. (Hybrid with online)

**No Magic Pill** will have its Galway premiere at The Black Box with performances 27th-30th September. The Galway County Arts Office has directly supported this ground-breaking performance written by Christian O'Reilly and directed by Raymond Keane. No Magic Pill is based on the real life of county Galway disability activist Martin Naughton and his campaign for independence for disabled people in Ireland. The production, which is ground-breaking for Ireland in its casting of disabled actors on stage for the first time ever in Irish theatre. Tickets can be purchased and information about accessibility can be found via [www.tht.ie](http://www.tht.ie) | Email: [thtsales@galwaycity.ie](mailto:thtsales@galwaycity.ie) | Tel: 091 569777.

**Culture Up – Erasmus+:** Visit to Tampere/Sastamala Finland. The Arts Office with its venue partner Arás Éanna visited several locations in Sastamala & Tampere as part of the capacity building programme. Key in-depth topics included meeting with the Legacy Project of Tampere26 ECoC – Plan B to discuss how they are approaching legacy in the rural regions. Visits also included meeting with City of Tampere Cultural Department and how they are supporting culture in suburbs and non-urban areas, a key art in education model and arts in healthcare and older years settings. The final visit of this programme will take place in Galway County in October 2022.

**Invitation to Collaboration 2023-** Galway County Arts Office has submitted an application to the Arts Council under this scheme to develop and create an Artist Network and Exchange Platform for professional artists based in Galway City and County. We plan to explore opportunities for Galway artist to collaborate nationally and internationally. We propose to offer dedicated & structured support to artists of all artforms in an artist led exchange forum. This application was led by Galway County Arts Office in partnership with Galway City Arts Office and Galway Culture Programme and will potentially have an overall budget of €110,000 subject to a successful award.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

The Galway Wandering Kite Festival is taking place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September on Omev Island Strand. This festival is funded and managed by members of the Galway County Creative Ireland Team as part of the Tourism/Community Development brief alongside the Creative

Ireland Project Manager. Here is the link to register for tickets and please feel free to share this information far and wide: <https://bit.ly/3qusKU6>



Work has begun on the **Galway County Creative Ireland Strategy 2023-2027**. The Culture Team met with Creative Ireland to discuss priorities and plans for the programme nationally over the next five years which should inform the local strategy. The timeline for delivery of the draft Strategy is mid-October 2022.

### RURAL SCHEMES



### STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE, TUAM



On August 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the 26 towns and villages that will benefit from a **€2.6 million fund** to support the enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts. Tuam was nominated by Galway County Council in June 2022 as part of a follow-on suite of actions under the Framework of the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan. This initiative is

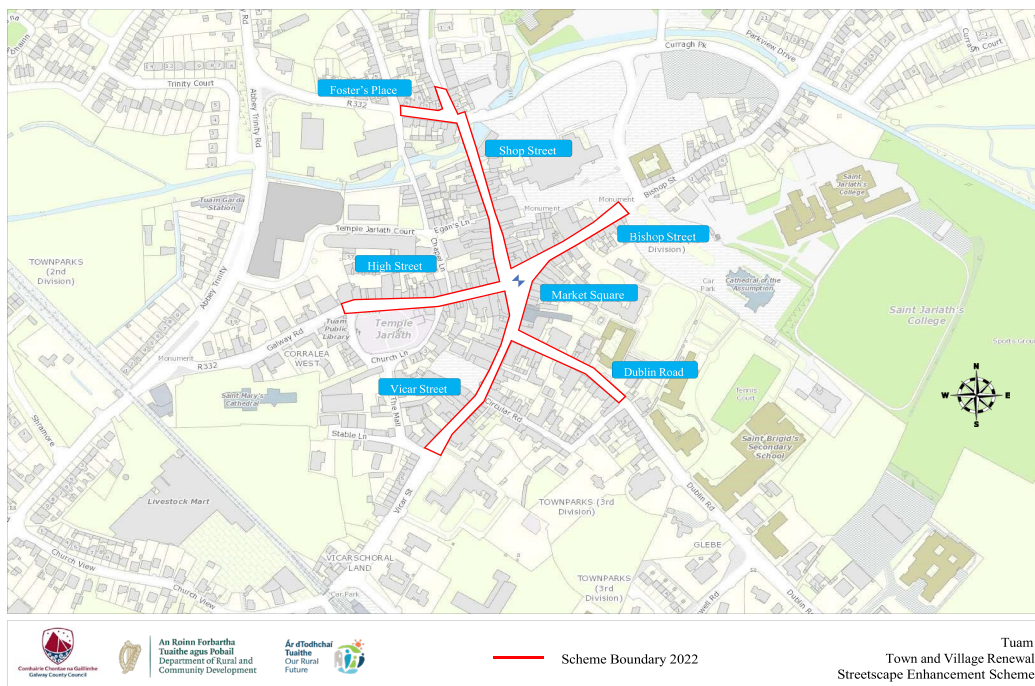


administered by ERCD Section with support of the Regeneration Team and Municipal District Office.

Under the **Streetscape Enhancement Initiative**, retailers and property owners can apply for grants up to maximum limits of 80% and maximum grant amounts (eg: 3.5k for painting) that, they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies. The overall purpose of the Initiative is to give towns and villages a facelift and make them more attractive places to live, work or visit. An allocation of 100k will be made available to Local Authorities who are asked to submit detailed Schemes in October 2022 to DRCD. Given this Departmental timeline Galway County Council has asked for application from Tuam by Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. DRCD stated that works can be completed up to August 2023.

A Public Information Workshop was held in Tuam on Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> with 24 attending. Options for group applications or 'streets' collaborating on seeking joint quotes for painting works were tabled. Tuam Tidy Towns and Tuam Lions Club have assisted in further promotion and ERCD staff are available in the Tuam office each Wednesday to assist and advise applicants. A photographic audit of the Town Centre is complete. Applications with quotes are sought by October 7<sup>th</sup> 2022, from Property Owners or Tenants in the Tuam Centre Area. A condition of the Initiative as set out by the Department is, three adjacent properties should apply together.

Guidelines and On-Line Applications are available at Community and Enterprise Grant Schemes on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) or contact [tandv@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tandv@galwaycoco.ie) <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/communityenterpriseeconomicdevelopment/grantschemes/enhance/>



## CLÁR SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

A second tranche of grant funding was announced earlier this month by the Department of Rural & Community Development. A further 5 projects have been awarded funding in addition to the 10 as previously reported. This brings the total funding awarded under CLÁR 2022 to € 612,863.07. The 15 projects awarded funding are outlined in the table below.

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
1	Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán Teo	Development of a community cinema and drop in youth hub facility at the Hall Pobail Tir an Fhia to include library, coffee dock & game area.	€ 41,827.23
2	Mountbellew Moylough GAA Club	Construction of 1.1km walking/running track around site perimeter. Enhancements also to parking and lighting on site.	€ 50,000.00
3	Cleggan - Claddaghduff Community Council	Enhancement to surface and surrounds of ballcourt at Cleggan Community Centre	€ 36,492.00
4	Kilchreest National School BOM	Development of a car parking facility to allow access to community walking track and pitch area.	€ 50,000.00
5	Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd	Enhancement to access roadway allowing for increased & accessible use of existing community facilities. Associated landscaping works & development of a pollinator area.	€ 50,000.00

6	Gort GAA Club	Development of an 850m accessible perimeter walkway around the 20acre site for community use.	€ 45,000.00
7	Ahascragh Fohenagh GAA Club	Level existing car park, improvements to site accessibility, drainage, surfacing and lined finish.	€ 49,500.00
8	Ballinasloe Rugby Club	Develop a walking track around the perimeter of their site encompassing two pitches.	€ 32,400.00
9	Clontuskert Community Development Group	Resurfacing and lining of parking area, upgrade to lighting, install CCTV, painting of building facade, heating system upgrade, seating & garden area also being developed	€ 30,267.00
10	Ionad Oideachas Pobail Glinnsce & Caiseal	Development of safe accessible parking facilities at the education centre.	€ 27,000.00
11	Galway County Council	Enhancements to the community playground in Portumna	€ 36,472.50
12	Skehana Community Development	Upgrade to car parking area at existing Skehana Community Facility	€ 50,000.00
13	Killyan Community Field	Upgrades to include works on walkway and lighting around perimeter of pitches. Plans also include improvements to site drainage and installation of seating area.	€ 45,000.00

14	Collins Park Playground Committee	To enhance facilities at the community playground	€ 18,904.34
15	Donaghpatrick National School	Development of a community walkway and small playground on the school grounds which will be accessible to the wider community.	€ 50,000.00

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022**

The Following Projects were approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development, under the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 – Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement issued to Galway Co. Co. Funding Agreements to issue to Groups as follows.



Scheme Measure	Project Name:	Project Description (less than 30 words):	Amount of ORIS funding requested
M1	Connemara Greenway Maintenance	General maintenance of the completed 15kms of the Connemara Greenway along section between the town of Clifden and the village of Recess. Works to include grass cutting to verges and pruning of overhanging trees	28,350
M1	Connemara Greenway Marketing	Marketing materials and promotion of the Connemara Greenway section from Clifden to Recess	27,000
M1	Monivea Woods Trail	Enhancement to Monivea Woods walking, running and cycling trails to include the upgrading of signage and pathways and the development of marketing infrastructure for the trail.	27,000
M1	Carrabane Forest Muddy Walks	The "Mucky Boots Trail" - "Feel the Forest" will be a multi-use family trail at Carrabane Forest Walk to add to the enjoyment of a visit to our forest.	29,250
M1	Gort Riverwalk	Upgrade of an old village road to a class 2 trail and the completion and registration of a 3.5km looped trail from Gort Town Centre	27,424
M1	Glenamaddy Walking Trails- Frass Looped Walks Phase 2	Second of two environmental walking trail loops around the Frass Clooncon Bog Inner at Glenamaddy. Establishing a link return to the start point which restores the trail as a loop rather than its current 'out and back' design.	21,071.70
Project Dev	East Galway Eco Park	The development of a trailed eco park on a former landfill site offering experiences in Amenity & Recreation, Biodiversity and Heritage, Health & Wellbeing, Educational and Sustainable Practices.	50,000
Project Dev	Portumna Outdoor Recreation Park	The development of an overall masterplan for the future development of Portumna Forest Park and Bathing Areas incorporating new activity and recreation zones, visitor hub, performance areas and enhanced public realm	49,950

**Lead Contact**

Bernie Donnellan A/AO

## TOURISM

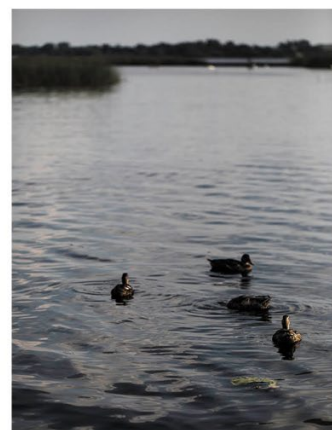
### TOURISM STRATEGY

The Galway County Tourism Strategy 2022-2030 has been developed to draft with key stakeholders reviewing documents at this phase. Significant work is being carried out by GCC teams to ensure that the project delivers across service areas. AA and SEA reports are being prepared for public consultation with the reports being issued to relevant bodies for a five-week period concurrent with public display of strategy and reports.

It is planned that the tourism strategy will be delivered in Q 4 2022.

### DESTINATION GALWAY BRAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

The Tourism Destination brand project is now in development phase with design work; copywriting and project team engagement taking place until end September. GCC Tourism sought and attained a further €4000 funding from Fáilte Ireland 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' team to capture additional images from E Galway in the shoulder season for the forthcoming brand implementation projects.



# ATTRACTIONS MAP

An initial draft visitor attractions map has been developed to provide industry with a 'key highlights' brochure. This was used at Milwaukee and will be developed in line with the Tourism Strategy recommendations – this brochure will be translated ; printed and distributed when budget becomes available.



# FESTIVAL AND EVENTS



Galway County Council continue to support festivals and events with 50 communities granted supported through the scheme now complete. Galway County Council supports value at €69,250 with Fáilte Ireland supplying an additional €18,000.

Total funding allocated for

2022 Regional, Economic and Festival & events stands at €87,250.00



The objective is to ensure that CSS supported festivals gain additional marketing support in the shoulder season (outside summer months) and we will arrange to deliver individually produced festival brochures to partners managing Tourism Information Points and Knock and Shannon Airports.



www.discovergalway.ie



Regional Festivals Funded by Failte Ireland	Amount Granted	Amount Drawn down
<b>2022</b>	<b>18,000</b>	
	7 Granted	0 drawn down
Economic Grants including Festival funding	Amount Granted	Amount Drawn down
<b>2022</b>	<b>Total Funding 69,250</b>	<b>Drawn down to date €23,100</b>
Festivals & Events	36 Granted	9 drawn down to date
Economic Initiative	14 Granted	2 drawn down to date



## CONNEMARA GREENWAY PROMOTION

### ORIS Grant

Funding has been approved through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme valued at €30,000 which was granted in September 2022. The proposal includes the following work packages for the year ahead:



1. **Brochure development and mapping;** including graphic design toolkit (to be created for future signage strategies etc); content creation; mapping; with storytelling and clear, accessible content being key; and considerations of universal access included so that content is relevant to visitors to the Greenway at all ability levels.

### 2. **Photography and Film:**

**Promotional Film piece** that captures the differentiating factor of the Connemara Greenway; as there are a number of ‘competitors’ in this market in Ireland. This promotional piece will be shared with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland who are supportive of sharing high quality content.

**Photography** will be shared with Galway social media platforms, Connemara.ie website; Ireland’s Content Pool and journalists and media outlets. It will also be utilised on the brochure design

### 3. **Brochure Printing and Distribution**

The tourism industry has been actively seeking printed material in relation to the greenway so the content is being developed for a visitor map and information brochure which will be distributed to all businesses on or adjacent to the route.

### **TV production:**

In September; Galway County Council supported delivery of a package for a November edition of Neven Maguire **Irish Food Trails** (Bord Bia/ InProduction).

As part of the programme; Neven Maguire will be captured cycling the 'currently open' section of the Greenway from the bridge at the back of Ballynahinch out into the countryside. Food businesses that will be highlighted along or near the route include; The Connemara Hamper; Connemara Smokehouse; Greenway Cafe, Oughterard; Highlighting local produce like Mc Geoghs dried lamb; Ultan Cooke from Glenlo Abbey will also appear in the programme.

### GREAT WESTERN/ CORRIB MASK BLUEWAY PROJECT

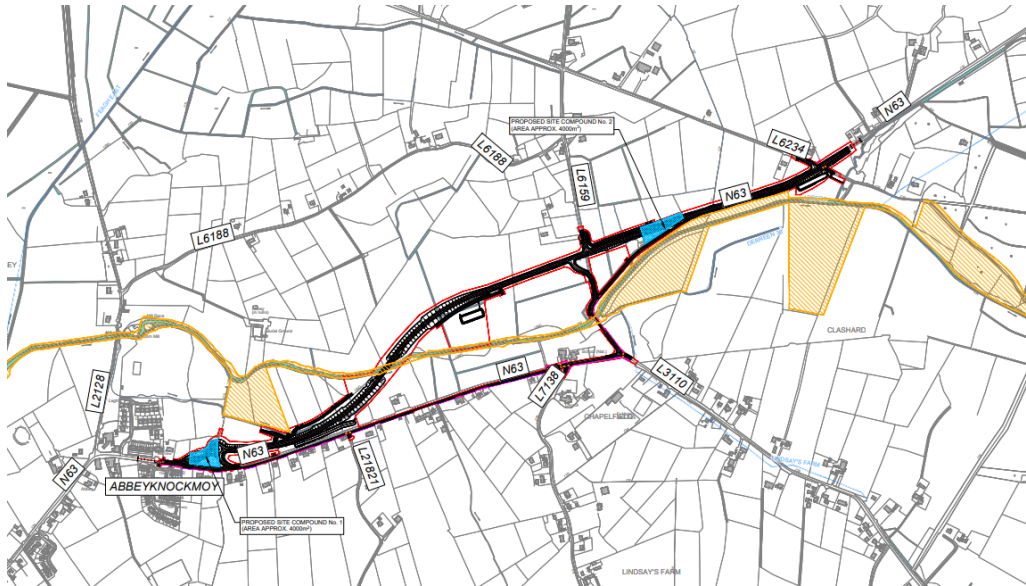
The collaborative project ongoing and funded by Galway County, Galway City and Mayo County Councils is progressing with consultation taking place throughout September; the project team *Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland* engaged with Officials from Galway County, Galway City and Mayo as well as the Corrib Navigation Trust and Fáilte Ireland. Discussions at these consultation sessions included issues pertaining to the regional biodiversity; including invasive species issues; environment and water quality; potential strategic projects and infrastructure projects that may link with the study area (such as those funded through ORIS and the Connemara Greenway) and the tourism potential of the study area.

Work will continue and engagement with communities of interest will form part of the research.

### EUROVELO 1 CYCLE ROUTE

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

This website is going live the end of September and will be available by link on Galway County Council's website.



In accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, An Bord Pleanála has decided to hold an oral hearing in relation to the proposed road development.

In this regard an Inspector has been instructed by the Board to hold an oral hearing into the application and the submissions (2Nr) which were received in relation to the likely effects on the environment of the proposed road development, and into the objections which have been received to the confirmation of the compulsory purchase order (2Nr).

The arrangements for the opening of the oral hearing are as follows:

**Date: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Time: 10am**

**Venue: Remotely via Microsoft Teams**

If you would like to register your intention to observe you can do so by emailing [oralhearing@pleanala.ie](mailto:oralhearing@pleanala.ie) before 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and you will receive an MS Teams invite.

#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS) ROUND 2 FUNDING FOR 2022

The scheme supports the improvement of rural roads and laneways that are not normally maintained by local authorities. The scheme makes an important contribution to connectivity in rural Ireland. On 9th September last the members were sent an email confirming that Notification was received from the Department of Rural & Community Development on 22nd

August 2022 outlining that the second round of LIS funding for Galway County Council for this year is € 724,040.

This second round of funding for 2022 of €724,040 will allow for the next 21 projects on the Supplementary list to proceed.

Road Name	Townland	Municipal District	Length of road
Knockshanbally, Moycullen	Knockshanbally, Moycullen	CONAMARA SOUTH	180m x 3.5m
Cregboy, Claregalway	Cregboy, Claregalway	ORANMORE	230.5m x 4.5m
Baranna, Corrandulla	Baranna, Corrandulla	ORANMORE	1190m x 3m
Alloon, Ballymacward	Alloon, Ballymacward	BALLINASLOE NORTH	725m x 3m
Doohulla	Doohulla	CONAMARA NORTH	1,180m
Kerraunbeg	Kerraunbeg	CONAMARA SOUTH	250m x 3.048m
Coole	Coole	GORT	665m x 3m
Corr	Corr	LOUGHREA/PORTUMN A	1500m x 5m
Ballycasey	Ballycasey	TUAM	620m x 3m
Rinnaknock	Rinnaknock	TUAM	700m x 3.5m
Feagh	Feagh	LOUGHREA/PORTUMN A	500m x 2.7m
Shigounagh	Shigounagh	GORT	400m x 2.8m
Pollagh, Attyshonock	Pollagh, Attyshonock	CONAMARA SOUTH	610m x 2.7m
Moneenally	Moneenally	BALLINASLOE NORTH	1000m x 3.5m
Moneymore East	Moneymore East	ORANMORE	398m x 3.5m
Kilmacrickard/ Tuir	Kilmacrickard/ Tuir	BALLINASLOE NORTH	400m x 3.8m
Curr	Curr	CONAMARA NORTH	400m x 3m
Gortnamona/ Moorfield	Gortnamona/ Moorfield	LOUGHREA/PORTUMN A	635m x 4m
Keernaun	Keernaun	TUAM	479 x 3.5m
Ballylogue	Ballylogue	LOUGHREA/PORTUMN A	750 x 3.5m
Kilcurriff Eighter	Kilcurriff Eighter	TUAM	200 x 3m

**BREXIT ADJUSTMENT LOCAL AUTHORITY MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE [BALAMI] – ROUND 2 FUNDING 2022**

The Scheme has been designed having regard to the recommendations of the Seafood Taskforce on immediate measures to mitigate the impacts of the fish quota share reductions

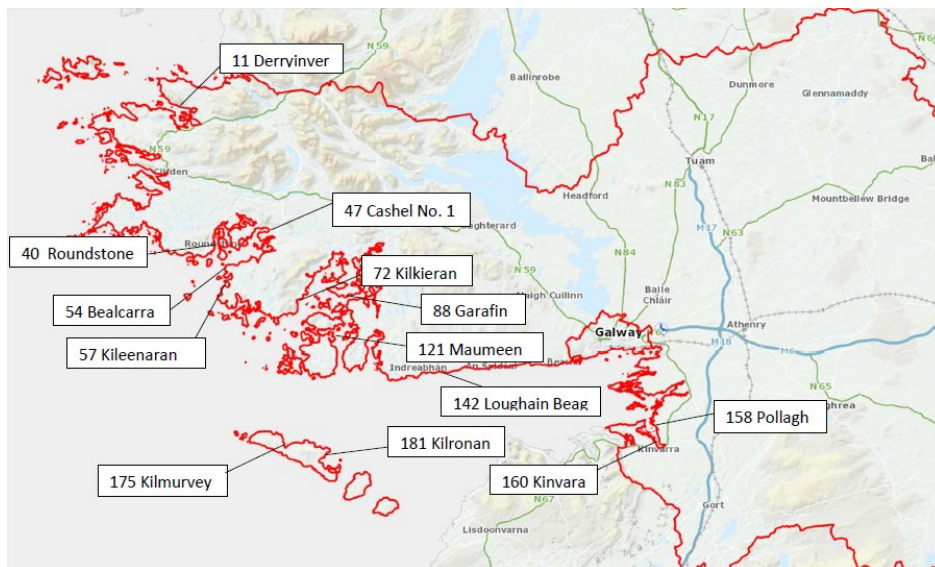


arising from the EU/UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on the Irish Fishing industry and on the coastal communities that depend on fisheries. Expenditure under this scheme will be proposed for funding under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve.



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

The Council will be applying for a second round of funding before COB on Friday next 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to carry out the following remedial works at the locations identified.



Pier Id	Pier Name	Proposed Works	Cost Estimate
54	Bealcarra	1.25m high pier wall	150,000
40	Roundstone	Access ladders, rebuild section of pier wall	40,000
175	Kilmurvey	Structural rehabilitation works	25,000

72	Kilkieran	Edge protection, repair slipway and barrier for turning area	40,000
121	Maumeen	Edge protection and turning area	10,000
157	Killeenaran	New concrete decking, repair breakwater, install handrails	22,500
160	Kinvara	Install edge protection, repair access steps	12,500
11	Derryinver	Repairs to pier wall, new handrails, access ladders	14,000
47	Cashel No. 1	Repair concrete decking and slipway. Install handrails, edge protection	15,000
88	Garafin	Repair concrete decking and slipway. Install handrails, edge protection	18,000
142	Loughain Beag	Install handrails and edge protection	8,000
158	Pollagh	New concrete decking	8,000
181	Kilronan	Pontoons	500,000
			<b>€863,000</b>

CONNEMARA GREENWAY – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE BETWEEN CLIFDEN AND RECESS.



13.7km to date has been completed and open to the public. 4.5km currently under construction. At different stages which are shown in the photos below. Funding has been received from the TII to construct the route between Clifden and Recess. This is 22kms in total. Approx. 4km to

complete. We are now purchasing lands by voluntary agreement as per the new Code of Best practice for National and Regional Greenways.







## Ballinahinch



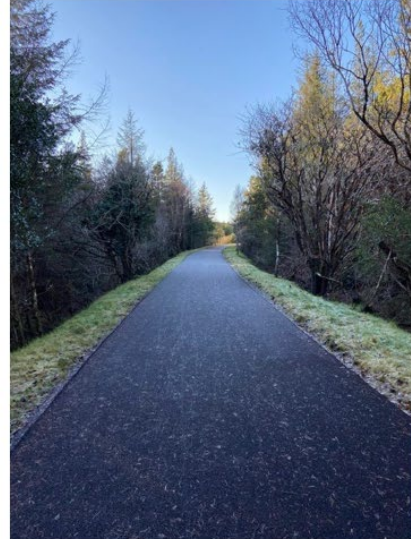


# New Section in Ballinahinch

Before



After



# Old Bridge Ballinahinch

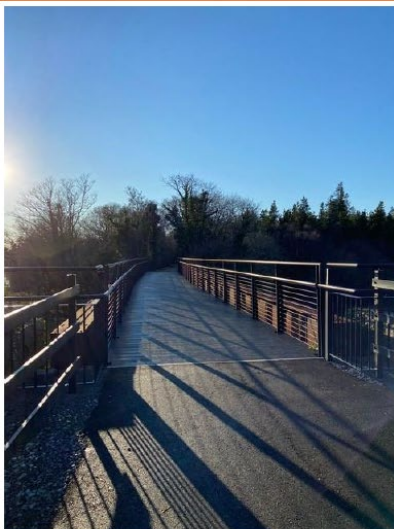


# New Bridge Ballinahinch

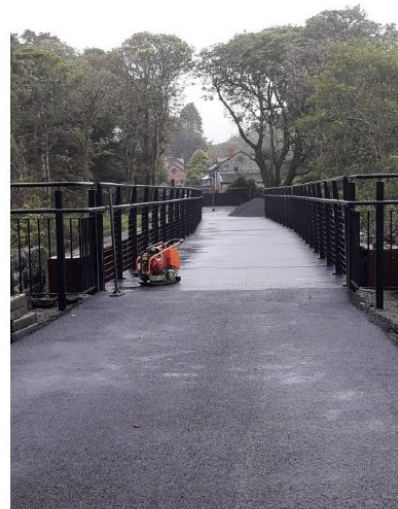


# New Bridge Ballinahinch

Completed



Completed





## KILRICKLE AND KILCOOLEY GROUP WATER SCHEMES

The contract was signed recently for the provision of the Kilrickle and Kilcooley Group Water Scheme. The successful Contractor is TK Earthworks, Skycur, Kiltormer, Co Galway.

### **Background:**

This project (Kilrickle Kilcooley) is an amalgamation of two projects under the Rural Water Programme with two distinct issues; for Kilrickle the issue is getting a sustainable water supply, whilst for Kilcooley it is achieving a drinkable water supply for their existing Group Scheme customers.

Since the early 2000s the local community in Kilrickle have been seeking a Group Water Scheme to supply water to houses in the local area. Local ground water has often contained Hydrogen Sulphide and the existing shallow borehole well was prone to seasonal drying out.

Kilcooley Group Water Scheme was founded in 1988 and supplies 17 houses and a school. The water source has proven to be problematic and has at times been deemed not been fit for consumption.

Achieving a sustainable clean and wholesome water supply was a challenge for this project, however Cappataggle & District Group Water Supply Scheme stepped forward to provide a supply to the scheme and this allowed the project to be developed and approved for funding by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

### **Project:**

The project involves the laying of 41.5 km of water mains along the roads in the Kilrickle and Kilcooley area to supply potable water to 264 houses, 2 National Schools whilst also providing a commercial water supply to businesses and farms in its catchment. This is the largest project being carried out in the State under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme.

The overall cost of the project is anticipated to be € 3.5M.

On completion of the project the members of Kilrickle & Kilcooley Group Water Schemes will amalgamate with and become equal members of the Cappataggle & District Group Water Scheme.

**PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- **Pre-planning Meetings**

Pre-planning meetings have recommenced in order to further assist in providing planning advice on making a planning application. The pre-planning meetings are being held on a fortnightly appointment only basis with the relevant Area Planner. The meetings are being facilitated based on the applicant’s preference for in-person, Teams, phone call or conference call.

The meetings are currently being scheduled as follows:

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Day (fortnightly)</b>
Athenry Municipal District	Tuesday
Loughrea Municipal District	Tuesday
Conamara Municipal District	Wednesday
Ballinasloe Municipal District	Thursday
Tuam Municipal District	Thursday.

Further details in relation to pre-planning including our free online pre-planning report service is available via the link hereunder:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/process/process/>

LIBRARY SERVICES

**My Open Library**

Following an application by Galway County Council, the Minister for Rural and Community Development has approved funding of €183,851.15 as follows:

<b>Library Branch</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>DRCDC</b>
Provision of <i>My Open Library</i> service in Clifden	€128,531.05	€115,677.95
Upgrade to existing <i>My Open Library</i> in Ballinasloe	€34,004.00	€30,603.60
Upgrade to existing <i>My Open Library</i> in Oranmore	€41,744.00	€37,569.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>€204,279.05</b>	<b>€183,851.15</b>

The grant is subject to Galway County Council meeting a minimum of 10% of total eligible costs.

The *My Open Library* service offers extended opening hours by providing library access to members from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days of the year. Regular staffed hours continue on the normal schedule to ensure optimum delivery of the service, support for customers, community engagement and the development of programming activities.

The staffed hours combined with the extended *My Open Library* service enable library members to access the library at times that suit them, outside normal working hours and facilitates people who cannot get to their library during the regular staffed times.

#### **Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities**

Following a successful application by Galway County Council a Dormant Accounts Fund contribution of up to **€53,205.18** has been approved for the provision of the following programmes:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>DRCDC Funding</b>
1000 Touch Type Read & Spell licenses (expiring November 2023)	€3,870.00	€3,483.00
LOTE subscription for one year	€2,750.00	€2,475.00
300 Nessy licences for one year	€1,621.17	€1,459.05
9 C-Pens	€2,745.00	€2,470.50
Dementia-friendly wayfinding signage	€3,500.00	€2,819.88
LEGO Play4all	€8,125.00	€7,312.50
Postcards from the Edge	€3,400.00	€3,060.00
Reading Journeys ASD Book Club	€10,300.00	€9,270.00
Code Camp	€7,237.50	€6,513.75
Welcome Notes	€9,375.00	€8,437.50
Fierce Close	€6,560.00	€5,904.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€59,483.67</b>	<b>€53,205.18</b>

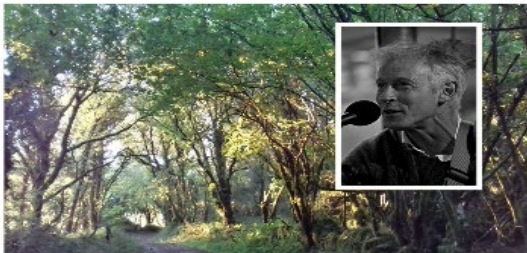
The grant is subject to Galway County Council meeting a minimum of 10% of total eligible costs and any additional funding required to ensure the completion of the programme as set out in the proposal.

### The Road of Life Travelling Roadshow

This was part of a partnership programme between Age Friendly and Creative Ireland to deliver creative initiatives to support health and wellbeing in older age. The *Road of Life Travelling Roadshow* offered older people taster music and songwriting sessions with musician Ger Wolfe. MusicAlive supported by Creative Ireland brought the Show to Libraries in Ballinasloe and Oughterard where wonderful sessions of dancing, singing and sharing stories that stirred people's memories and imagination were held. See pictures below.

**THE ROAD OF LIFE**  
*Ballads & Beyond*  
with  
**GER WOLFE**

Join Ger singing songs old and new  
Dip into the fascinating world of songwriting



Oughterard Library, Main Street, Oughterard, H91 CC96  
Thursday 25th August, 11am-1pm  
Booking is essential as numbers are limited. Please contact  
Karen Connolly, [kconnolly@galwaylibrary.ie](mailto:kconnolly@galwaylibrary.ie) or 091 557 002

FREE





## Summer Stars Awards Ceremony

Summer Stars Awards ceremonies are taking place at various branch libraries throughout September and early October.

Below are images from Eyrecourt Library with An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael 'Moegie' Maher. Children were delighted to receive their Reading Certificates and Medals.



## IFLA 87<sup>th</sup> World Library & Information Congress Dublin\*

Ballinasloe Library was extremely proud to be asked to host Librarians from around the world who were attending the IFLA World Library and Information Congress which was held in Dublin from 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> July. 50 delegates spent a lovely afternoon in Ballinasloe Library on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July where they were given a tour of the facility and met with staff and members of the public.



\* *The IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) is the leading international conference focused on delivering on our profession's commitment to high quality library and information services and access to information.*

### **Summer Events in Libraries throughout the County**

Below is a flavour of some of the events that took place in libraries over the Summer Months. Libraries are creative spaces where magic happens and where adults and children can learn, explore and be creative in a fun, free space.



Killimor: Identifying wildflowers and making flower fairies



Making Prehistoric Pottery at Moylough Library.





“Our Bees & Pollinators” workshop by Sheila Murphy in Oranmore Library.



Author Oisín McGann at Oranmore Library



“Build a Robot” upcycling workshop at Loughrea Library



“Butterfly Wall” at Loughrea Library.

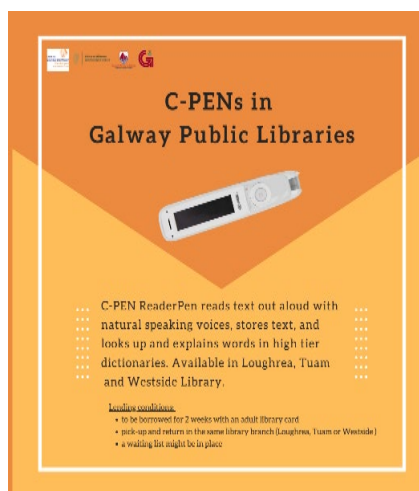


“Music of the Plants: Irish wildflowers & trees through the arts” workshop with Marina Levitina at Gort Library.

## New Library Initiatives recently introduced



**Nessy Learning** is an educational publisher that creates multi-media learning games, video content, and computer programs to assist children who learn differently. Not only does it support children with Dyslexia but also teaches phonics, maths and early reading instruction in a fun and interactive programme. This new online resource is available to all library users. Contact Liz Keane at Westside Library, 091-509091 or [ekeane@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ekeane@galwaycoco.ie) to access the service.



**C-Pens** are supports for children with Dyslexia and other reading difficulties but also support the learning of English. They are available in three locations – Tuam, Loughrea and Westside libraries. Contact the Libraries in question to access.

**Code Camp:** In collaboration with Corrib Coding, we delivered fun, interactive coding workshops to children in Loughrea and Letterfrack as well as three city locations. These camps were inclusive, and we were delighted to welcome children from the July Provision Programme\*, as well as members of the Ukrainian community.

*\*A programme that provides educational supports during the summer to children with special needs and those at most risk of educational disadvantage.*



**Welcome Notes:** music therapy @ your Library is an exciting programme that allows participants explore and enjoy the music world through guided sessions with Galway Music Therapy. The first phase of this programme focuses on supporting people living with Dementia and is open to all Galway City and County residents.

Contact Liz Keane in Westside Library for more details, [ekeane@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:ekeane@galwaycoco.ie) or 091-509091



The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was signed into law by the President on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The provisions of the Act are all subject to commencement. The Act provides the legislative underpinning for a range of electoral reforms and includes provision for:

- the establishment of an independent Electoral Commission
- the modernisation of our electoral registration process
- the regulation of online political advertising
- the protection of the integrity of the electoral processes
- the strengthening of our regulatory regime in respect of political donations and accounts
- amendments to electoral law to provide that voting on the islands will take place on the same day as for the rest of the country
- amendments to facilitate voting when Covid-19 type restrictions are in place.

#### **Modernisation of the Electoral Registration Process**

The Electoral Reform Act sets out a new way of managing the register and the registration process. Electors may apply to the registration authority to be included on or to update their details at any time, using a single online application. A paper form will remain available for those who wish to use it.



All new applications or updates will be subject to a simple identity check step to support ongoing improvements to the integrity of the register. Provision of a PPSN will be a requirement for an online application.

A national public communications campaign will support registration authorities in seeking engagement of electors, both new and existing to check and complete their information with PPSN, Eircodes and Date of Birth.

It is planned that the provisions relating to the modernisation of the electoral registration process will be commenced in October, once the relevant IT upgrades have been completed across local authorities and on the *Checktheregister.ie* website.

#### **Key changes**

- **A Rolling Register** - In terms of the register, the process of a draft, final and supplement is being replaced by a single live and continuously updated register. The transition will take place on commencement of the relevant provisions in the Electoral Reform Bill. There will be no draft register published in November. The register in force plus any supplement will become the rolling register.

- **Individual Registration and PPSNs** - Individual Registration will replace the practice of registering other people, even at their request. Forms may be provided, and assistance may be given but each person must be aware of and be responsible for their own registration. The use of PPSNs in the process will contribute to greater accuracy, enabling identity data to be cross-checked and will underpin the online process.
- **Availability of the register** - The *www.checktheregister.ie* website will still be available for people to check their own details and will have new functionality allowing for updates to be notified to the registration authority. Similar to the current process, the register will be made available to elected representatives, but it will be a 'point in time' extract of the register as it is at that time. Registration authorities will be required to publish the register in advance of an electoral event. Given the nature of the rolling register, it will no longer be a requirement for copies to be left in Garda Stations, post offices or libraries.
- **Removing names from the register** - A clear process has been put in place to remove people from the register where the local authority considers it necessary for a complete and accurate register. With the exception of deceased individuals, Local Authorities will be required to attempt contact a person at least three times to give them the opportunity to engage before they are removed from the register.
- **Further Registration options**  
The legislation provides new options for some specific cohorts of electors, including:
  - pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds
  - an anonymous registration process for people whose safety may be at risk
  - specific arrangements for people with no fixed abode
  - amendments to arrangements for special voters to cater for the provision of alternative voting arrangements, to ensure that residents in nursing homes and similar institutions can exercise their right to vote if those places are not accessible
  - current postal voting provisions relating to illness are amended to include those, who because of mental health difficulties, are not able to attend polling stations to vote.

## CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR PALACE GROUNDS IN TUAM IN GREEN FLAG AWARDS 2022

**Galway County Council has welcomed the announcement by An Taisce that the Palace Grounds in Tuam has again been awarded a Green Flag and has also successfully secured a Green Heritage Site Award.**

The 2022 Green Flag Awards were announced on Wednesday 14th September 2022, by An Taisce Environmental Education Unit, acknowledging Ireland's best public parks and gardens, which included two Awards for our very own Palace Grounds in Tuam, namely the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Site Award.

The Green Flag Awards are judged every year by a peer jury of green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement.

The Palace Grounds is the public park in Tuam and has been described in the past as Tuam's "Jewel in the Crown". The Palace Grounds is a vital part of the town's living history, a place where the people of Tuam connect with nature. The park is a safe home for nature, a climate-proofed place enabling healthy living, and the sharing of memories and stories. The management of the park focuses on knitting the access points and boundaries into the town's historic and emerging urban design. Each access point is welcoming, and visitors can explore the historic aspects of the grounds. Orientation and interpretation throughout the park are first and foremost concerned with ensuring that the natural and historic features of the park are healthy and biodiverse. The Palace Grounds is an oasis for well-being and is enjoyed by a very broad spectrum of visitors from a regional spread. It is often used as physical activity and recreational hub to encourage the participation of people in sport, physical activity, and active living.

The Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Councillor Michael Maher welcomed this award, stating: "Our public spaces are key to improving the quality of life for people living in Co. Galway. They also serve to make our communities more attractive to visitors, and in so doing help boost tourism. This is the second year the Green Flag has been achieved for the Palace Grounds and an enormous amount of work has gone into ensuring that excellent standards were maintained. This is the first time that Green Heritage Site Accreditation has been awarded to a Galway County Council Park and I want to congratulate everyone in Galway County Council and Tuam Tidy Towns on both of these prestigious awards for the Palace Grounds."

Ireland's success continued this year with four new Green Flag Award winners, three new Community Award winners and five new Green Heritage Site Accreditations - raising the total to a record-breaking number of 104 awards. This was the 2nd year of the roll-out of Green Heritage Site Accreditation across Ireland. With the support of the NPWS and the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, 12 Irish Green Flag sites have now been accredited to Green Heritage Accreditation standard. This is an addition of five sites this year, including the Palace Grounds, to last year's total of seven. The Green Heritage Site

Accreditation is awarded to public green spaces of historical importance, that actively understand, manage, and promote their heritage which makes them unique.

Only awarded for exceeding tough environmental standards in green space management, and excellence of visitor attractions – the Green Flag Award Scheme is the mark of a quality park or green space and is recognised throughout the world.





### Green Dog Walkers Campaign



Galway County Council launched the Green Dog Walkers scheme in Athenry, County Galway. Full details of the programme are at

<https://www.galway.ie/en/news/name,44120,en.html>. The launch was promoted by the Tuam Herald and Galway Advertiser. Radio advertisements have been organised to encourage participation in the scheme.

The scheme consists of dog owners and dog walkers committing to clean up after their dog, and to being a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dog, while at no time being aggressive or confrontational about the issue. An information leaflet about the scheme and a pledge form are available on request. To date there has been great interest by the public.

### GUM LITTER TASK FORCE



The Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow arrived in Oranmore, Co. Galway on August 10th, 2022, where elected representatives, staff of Galway County Council, and representatives of local Tidy Tow groups helped promote awareness of the responsible disposal of chewing gum.

Galway County Council advertised the BIG WEIGH IN! on social media in August. This was a national event with a clean-up in Indreabhán. Results nationally included 440 volunteers and 1033.2kgs collected in 26 counties in 2 hours.



### An Taisce Air Quality Campaign 2022



In September 2022 all schools in Co. Galway were invited to take part in the An Taisce Air Quality campaign 2022. GLOBE is an international science and education program, sponsored by NASA in the US and supported by the EPA in Ireland.

### UPCYCLE CHALLENGE 2022



#### The Upcycle Challenge 2022 is now open!

The Upcycle Challenge is an annual competition that encourages people to look at the objects around them and to give them a new lease of life. The challenge is simple, find something that is no longer in use and transform it into something new.

The Upcycle Challenge 2022 is NOW OPEN and will be receiving entries until Thursday 27th of October.

This year, a €750 cash prize will be shared across several categories.

These categories include:

Best individual in Connacht/Ulster Region,

Best individual in Southern Region,

Best individual in Eastern/Midlands Region,

Best Community Group,

Best School

Best Professional

Best Community

To find out more information, and to submit your completed application by the 27/10//22 check out the mywaste website <https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge22/>

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

### Energy

At the August meeting of the Energy Team a representative of the Energy Bureau presented details on the new Energy Bureau. Energy Bureau Officers have been interviewed and it is expected that they will start work shortly. The Energy Bureau will look to develop common asset working groups e.g., leisure centres, fleet. The two priorities will be the built environment and transport. Payback analysis will be estimated for proposed projects including - €/kWh saved, €/CO2 avoided and scale of impact.

Opportunities to improve current energy management in Galway County Council were identified and discussed. Resources will be required to target and resolve issues with both gas and electricity meter points (Finance and Environment Section), to carry out further work on the fleet review (Roads and Transportation) and to progress projects prioritised by the Energy Bureau (Corporate Services). Details in relation to the resources required will need to be determined and highlighted to the Climate Action Steering Group and Management Team.

Projects proposed include:

1. Lighting retrofit for Carraroe Library
2. Overhaul of PV panels at County Buildings
3. Improvement of Building Management Systems
4. EV chargers at County Buildings
5. Retrofit of windows at Áras an Chontae.
6. Upgrades at Oranmore Library

7. Tuam Leisure Centre – Has received EXCEED (Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design) Stage 1 Approval. Completed DRAFT reports, a. Energy Balance Study, b. Challenge and Analyse and c. Project Execution Plan. Once we agree on these reports, we can hopefully progress to Stage 2.
8. Ballinasloe Leisure Centre have submitted the Stage 1 EXCEED application

### **Climate Action**

The revised governance structures for Climate Action have been implemented. The structure includes a Climate Action Steering Group, Climate Action Team and an Energy Team. .

A ministerial direction regarding the development of Local Authority Climate Action Plans is expected in December 2022, however, background work has commenced on the development of the plan. We will prepare a Road Map with CARO which will set out the implementation pathway for the Climate Action Plan and associated actions and can be used by the Executive Team thereafter for tracking purposes and for reporting to the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC.

### **Climate Action Staff and Funding**

DECC has confirmed that a Community Climate Action Officer will be funded through the Climate Action Fund for a 3-year term.

DECC confirmed in early September that Minister Ryan has signed off the 6.5-year business case for LA Climate Action staff. CARO will be procuring consultants to carry out baseline work for the Climate Action Plan. We have also prepared a tender scoping proposal for the development of a Communications Strategy that CARO will progress to tender.

### **Just Transition**

In consultation with the Economic, Rural and Community Development Section we prepared a Just Transition Discussion Document which included a review of National Territorial Plan and made recommendations in relation to further actions to be taken in relation to Just Transition.

### **Electric Vehicles**

In consultation with the Roads and Transportation Section, we have put Galway County Council forward as the proposed lead authority for the development of a Regional EV Strategy, which will include the implementation of a tender process for procurement of services. This is subject to an undertaking by the Department of Transport to provide 90% funding and assistance from CARO in the procurement of agreement from the other local authorities, management of a working group, and development of scoping and tender documentation. Galway County Council has agreed to chair the working group.

We have formally engaged with EasyGo and EIR to explore opportunities for installation of EV chargers in several locations throughout the county.

We have prepared a draft funding request for the installation of EV chargers at County Hall. The installation of EV chargers will facilitate:

- Charging by staff of their own EV vehicles with the cost of charging borne by the car owner,
- The provision of an electric car for use by general staff,
- Charging for certain elements of the fleet

### **Climate Communications**

We supported education activities in the Tuam and Oranmore libraries in August.



### **Waste Management and Enforcement**

On the 9th of June Galway County Council in conjunction with Galway City Council and An Garda Síochána launched a new multi-agency operation to combat illegal dumping.

Following on from the June, 2022 launch of the multi-agency approach to dealing with illegal dumping, Galway County Council's waste enforcement team in conjunction with An Garda Síochána carried out waste enforcement checkpoints in the County on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Several waste carriers were detected with no waste disposal permits and these operators are being followed up with the service of enforcement notices by the environment team. Another vehicle was found carrying a catalytic converter, which appeared to have been stolen. The matter is under investigation and a prosecution is expected.

Further days of action will be rolled out across the county during September and checkpoints will be carried out during the daytime, the evening, late at night, and at weekends.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September the waste enforcement unit had a case in Kiltonan District Court for non-compliance with a Section 55 Notice to clear a site of End of Life Vehicles and scrap metal.



The Notice was not complied with within the given time frame, and we secured a successful prosecution against the offender, including a fine plus costs. The site has also been cleared.

### **Waste Presentation Bye Laws**

As part of the Waste Presentation Bye laws inspections were carried out in Crowe Street, Bolands Lane, Bolands Court, Bolands Close and Sycamore Grove in Gort. Inspections were also carried out in Fahy Gardens, St. Laurence's Fields, and Hillcrest in Loughrea. Follow up inspections will be carried out during the month of September.

### **Anti-dumping initiative (ADI) 2022**

We received funding and approval for 13 projects with a total funding amounting to €110,000.

The Projects under the ADI initiative ranged from clean-ups, awareness, bulky goods, mattress collection in Maam and paint collections in the Civic Amenity Sites. Most of the projects are near completion.

### **Catchment Management**

#### **LGMA Meeting**

A meeting was held with the LGMA, the Department, the EPA, IFA, Teagasc and other stakeholders to provide information and discussion around the available resources nationally to carry out catchment management and regulatory duties in the agriculture area.

Additional resources are required for the agricultural area as a National Inspection Plan for agricultural activities is currently being drafted by the EPA. This will be like the National Inspection Plan for septic tanks and Galway County Council will be required to roll out the inspection plan.

#### **DEMOLITION OF DANGEROUS STRUCTURE ON ABBEY ROW/BRIDGE STREET, ATHENRY CO.GALWAY.**

An order by Loughrea District Court authorising Galway County Council's application under Section 3(5)(a)(ii) of Local Government (Sanitary Service) Act 1964 (Act) to demolish the dangerous structure at Abbey Row / Bridge Street, Athenry was granted on the 11th May 2022.

Frank Higgins (Ardrahan ) Ltd. were procured to carry out the works and commenced demolition on the 14<sup>th</sup> September under Archaeological supervision. The project is being managed by the Environment section of Galway County Council who have engaged with the Office of Public Works, National Monument Service, Athenry Area Office, Elected

Representatives and members of the local community in the process. The works are expected to complete at end of September.

## BIODIVERSITY

### **Work with Nature Autumn Workshop Series September 2022**

FREE “Weed or Wildflower” workshop on Thursday 22nd September 2022 in Connemara National Park, Letterfrack, Co. Galway from 9:30am – 1:30pm. The workshop includes an illustrated talk on wildflowers, their benefits, identification, and planting followed by a demo on Natural weed, pest and disease control. This workshop is facilitated by Kay Synott from Living Gardens and is funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council. Supported by Green Sod Ireland and LAWPRO. Please email [janet.greensod@gmail.com](mailto:janet.greensod@gmail.com) for more info or to book a place. Booking is essential and places are limited.

FREE “Care for Blue Spaces” workshop on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Connemara National Park, Letterfrack, Co. Galway from 9:30am – 1:30pm. The workshop includes the importance of natural habitats in protecting water quality, things to consider when working near waterways, the impacts of herbicides and pesticides on water quality and potential projects to help your water body. A stream side demonstration is included to identify key habitat features, kick sampling and aquatic species identification. This workshop is facilitated by Conor Ruane from LAWPRO and is funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council. Supported by Green Sod Ireland. Please email [janet.greensod@gmail.com](mailto:janet.greensod@gmail.com) for more info or to book a place. Booking is essential and places are limited.

FREE “Impacts of rodenticides on biodiversity” ONLINE workshop on Tuesday 27th September 2022 from 9:30am – 11:30am. Aim is to increase awareness of the risks of using rodenticides and to promote best practice rodent control. This course is relevant to anyone (staff, contractors, farmers etc.) whether directly or indirectly, who are responsible for rodent control in public and private land. The course will include breakout sessions and opportunities for discussion and questions. This workshop is facilitated by John Lusby from Birdwatch Ireland and is funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council. Supported by LAWPRO and Green Sod Ireland. Please email [janet.greensod@gmail.com](mailto:janet.greensod@gmail.com) for more info or to book a place. Booking is essential and places are limited.

FREE “Create a pollinator plan for your open space” workshop on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Ballinasloe (and surrounding areas), Co. Galway from 10:00am – 12:00pm. The workshop includes an outdoor session on pollinators, creating pollinator friendly habitats and an assessment of an open space associated with the participants. The workshop is aimed at residents’ associations, environment groups, tidy towns groups or other groups who currently manage a piece of open space and who wish to create a pollinator plan for the area. The workshop is also opened to interested individuals, subject to available places. This workshop is facilitated by Janet Laffey from Green Sod Ireland and Kay Synott from Living Gardens and is funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Galway County Council. Supported by LAWPRO. Please email [janet.greensod@gmail.com](mailto:janet.greensod@gmail.com) for more info or to book a place. Booking is essential and places are limited.

#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The part 8 planning application for the construction of a new fire station for Loughrea has been lodged with the planning department.

The proposed site for the fire station is to the west of the town on the R446 Athenry Road at St. Laurencefields, and the site is currently owned by Galway County Council. The new three bay fire station will provide the necessary facilities for a modern fire brigade and will replace the existing sub-standard and inadequate facilities at Barrack Street. The new station will significantly improve crew safety and facilitate better access for the crew and mobilisation to the town and its hinterland.

The planning application is the culmination of a number of year’s hard work by Galway Fire and Rescue Service to try to identify a suitable fire station site in Loughrea and progress the project. The design and construction elements of the project is being funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the fire service capital programme. The design team lead are Vincent Hannon Architects.

Following the period of public consultation, the application will then be assessed by the planning department and it is hoped to have it before the members for decision at the November meeting of the Municipal District.



Mise, le meas,

**Mr. Jim Cullen**

***Chief Executive***

***Galway County Council***

***22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022***