



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Aibreán 2025

April 2025

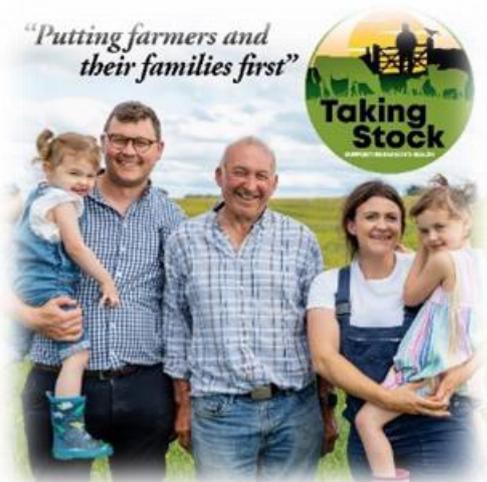
LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The LCDC committee met on the 8th April and received a presentation from James Applegate, Galway Rural Development on Empowering Communities. A presentation was also delivered from Donal Clancy, Healthy Age Friendly Homes Local Co-ordinator for Galway County.

The LCDC Funding Evaluation subcommittee met on 25th March to assess the Local Enhancement Programme applications that were received. A total number of 143 applications were received for current and 186 for capital. The list of recommended projects has been submitted to the Department. The Department expects to announce successful projects in May 2025. All applicants will then be notified of their applications.

HEALTHY IRELAND

The **'Taking Stock' Farmer's Health Campaign** continues to support farmers across Mayo,



Galway and Roscommon having focused on health, financial planning, farm succession and work-life balance in the month of March and early April. With expert advice and real farmer stories shared across social media, radio and newspapers it's drawing attention to a range of farmers health issues on the farm.

As part of the Taking Stock campaign, we have been running weekly slots on Tuesdays at 7 PM on Galway Bay FM Radio's Country Life program with Keith Fahy, as well as on Shannon Side and Mid-West Radio in Roscommon and Mayo. Guest speakers have included health professionals, agricultural





advisors, and farmers, providing insightful discussions on topics such as Work-Life Balance, Cardiovascular Health, Stress Management, Financial Planning, and more. You can listen back to all five broadcasts on the Galway Bay FM website.

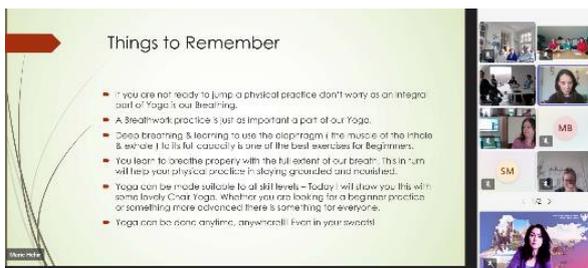
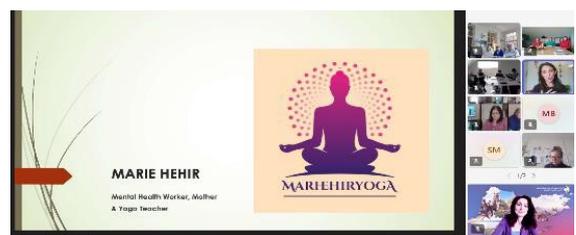
Additionally, the campaign has also been featured in local newspapers, including the Connaught Tribune in Galway County, and local newspapers for Mayo and Roscommon. The aim is to

inform, educate, and raise awareness of the importance of farmers' health for both farmers and their families on the farm.



The talk series as part of the **Women's Health Programme** has been a great success. Initiated on March 6th, the programme has received very positive feedback and had a strong turnout at each session, held in venues across Inis Oírr, Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Ros Muc, Casla, and Leitir Mealláin.

A range of speakers covered topics such as nutritional health, gynaecological health, bone and cardiovascular health, physical activity, pelvic health, and complementary approaches to health.



The information delivered by each speaker during the talks has been highly requested by attendees due to the invaluable content and insights provided. Following these talks, Healthy County Galway, in partnership with Comhar na nOileán and Forum Connemara,

intends to establish Women's Connect Cafés for women's health in various locations in

Connemara and the offshore islands. Planned activities and resources will subsequently be provided to support each of these groups based on the feedback provided by attendees.

The Mending heARTS project is an arts and health initiative funded by Creative Ireland's Creative Health

'Mending heARTS' - Arts and Health Project Launched in Galway on World Heart Day

and Wellbeing Fund, in partnership with Healthy Galway and Saolta Arts. It aims to support patients and people living with heart conditions through arts activities.

Launched in Galway, the project involves a series of art workshops across various locations, including hospitals and rural areas. These workshops help participants in their journey through cardiac care by engaging them in creative activities, which can alleviate psychological stress following cardiac events.

The project also focuses on training and upskilling artists to work in healthcare settings, aiming to build a sustainable model of arts in healthcare.



The planning and initiation of this project are still underway to establish firm foundations for its delivery. Training and onboarding sessions for artists commenced in March, and scheduled workshops are expected to be delivered in April and May at Merlin Park Hospital, Croí House, and community settings in Ballinasloe and Loughrea. Each venue will host a two-hour session for four weeks. Further updates to follow.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The AGM of the Older People's Council Executive Committee will take place on Thursday 17th April at 2pm. An Expression of Interest Form seeking nominations to a refreshed Executive Committee has been sent to all individuals and groups registered with the Older People's Council and to the Public Participation Network. The Executive Committee, comprising between 12-20 members, will act as a consultative group for the local authority and any other agencies, and will also bring key issues for older people to the Age Friendly Alliance for discussion and identification of solutions.

As part of the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the City and County, action planning workshops were arranged across the 8 WHO (World Health Organisation) Age Friendly Themes. Key agencies under each Theme were invited to discuss and identify potential objectives and actions to respond to the key issues identified by older people during the public consultation phase, which received over 400 responses.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The local authority Coordinator for Comhairle na nÓg, and the Youth Work Ireland Coordinator, both attended a national focus group meeting to review the current NOAC KPI (Key Performance Indicator) and how it reflects the work of Comhairlí. The feedback from the group was that the current KPI measures the no. of schools engaging with Comhairle na nÓg which does not capture the scope and impact of work being done in targeting seldom-heard youth through other Community & Voluntary Organisations. It is hoped that the feedback will result in amended KPI's more in line with the aim of ensuring participation of a diverse range of young people in Comhairle na nÓg.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 have been launched by Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach. The annual Awards, which have been running for over a decade, recognize the tireless work of individuals and groups and the significant impact they have on quality of life across a range of areas such as arts, heritage, environmental protection, social inclusion, sports, and promoting the Irish Language. Nominations will be accepted until the closing date of 18th April 2025 and 3 shortlisted individuals or groups in each category will be invited to an awards ceremony to be held in the Raheen Woods Hotel on Friday 16th May.

Nominations have also opened for local authorities to enter groups or communities to represent the local authority area in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition. The Council will identify these entrants as part of the Cathaoirleach Awards process, and a Cathaoirleach Award will be awarded to these groups to recognize the honour of representing the County at national level.



LIAM CONNEALLY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLLR
MARTINA KINANE CATHAOIRLEACH LAUNCHING
THE CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS 2025

TIDY TOWNS

The National Tidy Towns Competition for 2025 has been launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and the main sponsor of the competition SuperValu. The closing date for entries to the main competition is 12th May 2025. There are also a number of Special Award Categories, and we strongly encourage Tidy Towns Groups across the County to consider entry to these Awards which have an extended closing date of 9th June 2025: Greenway Projects, Active Travel Projects, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Action, Tree Projects, Gum Litter Projects, Young

Persons in Tidy Towns, Town Centre First Projects, Inclusive Communities, Leave No Trace, Waters and Communities Projects, All Ireland Pollinator Plan, Circular Economy, Schools Award, Bat Conservation Projects or Promotional Artwork.

Work is also progressing with Irish Public Bodies Insurance on transferring our Tidy Towns Groups to Galway County Council's insurance Cover. This initiative is part of the national insurance reform agenda, in recognition of the vital work that Tidy Towns Groups do in keeping our town and villages attractive for residents and visitors alike.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The April PPN newsletter will be sent to all member organisations, council staff, and Elected Members. The newsletter is available on the PPN website - <https://www.galwaycountypn.ie> - and PPN social media - <https://www.facebook.com/GalwayCountyPPN/> . The PPN's weekly news bulletin, the 'PPN Weekly Digest' is sent each Friday to all PPN members. Updates are shared frequently on PPN social media.

The PPN Funding Training Series with Carmichael Centre will take place online on 10th April covering 'Grant Applications' and on 17th April covering 'Understanding and Preparing Budgets'. These trainings will be attended by over 60 PPN member groups. We strongly encourage PPN members to avail of this free training to strengthen their knowledge of all things funding related. The final session in the series, 'Sources of Funding' will be delivered on 20th May.

The PPN has extended the deadline for nominations for four vacancies on the Secretariat. The elected nominees will represent the Athenry/ Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam Municipal Districts. One nomination was received for the Social Inclusion Pillar vacancy. This nomination will be reviewed at the next Secretariat Meeting which is scheduled to take place on 15th April.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will run specialized induction training for all members of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) online on **Thursday 17th April 2025**. This training is being delivered in conjunction with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA).

ARTS OFFICE

SAMHLAÍOCHT AGUS AN NÁISIÚN

Galway County Council Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady was invited to a Reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, 2025, Celebrating the Contribution of Community Arts to Inclusion and Creativity and 40 years of Local Authority Arts Officers.

Arts Officers from all the Local Authorities were present to celebrate 'Samhlaíocht agus an Náisiún' ['Imagination and the Nation'] as part an initiative undertaken by the President of Ireland during his second term. The aim was to highlight the powerful and

transformative role of the arts and creativity in the making of Ireland as a republic and as an idea.

“The creative arts have often played an important role in bringing together the many strands of Ireland’s past, present and future, teasing through the tangles of history, taking up hidden threads in our social fabric and weaving new possibilities for the future” said President Michael D. Higgins.



SHARON O'GRADY AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ARTS OFFICERS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY AT ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN. PHOTO: TONY MAXWELL



SHARON O'GRADY AND CREATIVE PLACES TUAM ARTISTS AT ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN. PHOTO: TONY MAXWELL

INTERFACE RESIDENCIES

Congratulations to the Galway County artists selected for our Interface residencies this year, Alison Connolly and Noelle Lynskey.

Alison is an artist, curator, and educator. With over two decades of experience in curation, design, and education, her work is driven by a commitment to design thinking that emphasizes community engagement, advocacy, and activism. This approach has facilitated collaborations with prominent contemporary artists and esteemed international institutions, including the United Nations.

Noelle is a poet and pharmacist who completed her MA (Creative Writing) in University of Limerick, graduating in January 2022. Selected as Strokestown’s Poet Laureate in 2021 as part of Poetry Ireland’s Poetry Towns Project, Noelle is working towards her first poetry collection.



LEFT: ALISON
CONNOLLY

RIGHT: NOELLE
LYNSKEY

FIRST MUSIC CONTACT WORKSHOPS

This year Galway County Arts Office is participating in First Music Contact’s Regional Development project in partnership with Kildare Arts Office, Louth Arts Office, Galway City Arts Office and Roscommon Arts Office. First Music Contact is the leading national music organisation for resourcing popular musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland.



Following feedback from musicians through a survey, there will be a series of workshops and sessions, delivered online, on April 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th, with the second half of the series scheduled for later in May.

These workshops will provide practical advice and music industry panels on many of the issues raised in the survey. Galway County musicians can attend these workshops for free and have an input into the process.

FIRST MUSIC CONTACT SURVEY CALL OUT

ÁRAS ÉANNA ARTIST RESIDENCY

Galway County Arts Office and Áras Éanna are delighted to announce an open call for Galway County artists to apply for an artist residency on Inis Oírr in August.

Who can apply? The residency is open to professional artists living in County Galway at all stages of their career, working in any artform and context. What's included in the residency? Accommodation, return ferry, studio space, access to theatre facilities and galleries and a €2,000 artist fee.

When is the residency? Sunday 03 – Saturday 30 August 2025.

Deadline: 5pm Thursday 08 May 2025.

Click here for more information:

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/arts/funding/araseannaresidency/>



ÁRAS ÉANNA AUGUST ARTIST RESIDENCY OPEN CALL

CREATIVE IRELAND

CRUINIÚ NA NÓG 2025

The primary focus for Creative Ireland during the month of April is Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of Creativity for Children.



In 2024 Cruinniú na nÓg gained global attention with the release of the viral music video, 'The Spark'. Building on this success, the programme this year has been expanded even further with an unprecedented response to the Open Call for funding. Applications this year have come from schools, youth clubs,

sports clubs, arts organisations, and professional artists. We are looking at an incredibly widespread and varied programme for this year. The date for Cruinniú na nÓg this year is Saturday the 7th of June 2025.

CRUINNIÚ AR NA HOILEÁIN

Additional funding of €10,000 was secured to programme events for the Aran Islands. In 2024 we piloted a large-scale programme of events on the islands. This was a huge success with great attendance across all three islands. There was a total of 12 events throughout the day. Following on from feedback, we have decided to take a longer run-in to the day with workshops and project development leading to a family fun day on the 7th. This will help all the children and young people to take part in Cruinniú na nÓg and avoid overloading a single day.

CRUINNIÚ LATE

We have also secured additional funding of €3,000 to run a Cruinniú Late event. This is funded by the Nighttime Economy Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The purpose of Cruinniú Late is to empower young people, aged 14 to 18 to develop their creative expression by providing opportunities for them to participate in creative activities running until 8pm in their local area. This year we are working with Sing Along Social to programme workshops in DJ skills and event planning for teenagers in Clifden. The evening itself will consist of a DJ showcase/dance event in the Clifden Town Hall.

YOUTH VOICE DAY AT ÁRAS ÉANNA

On Saturday the 29th of March, Galway County Council provided funding for Sparkcatchers! Creative Youth Council to attend a Youth Voice Day at Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr. The day consisted of creative workshops where the young people shared their ideas about what creativity means to them, and what we, as programmers can do in order to help them achieve their creative potential. This project was run in collaboration with the Local Creative Youth Partnership Officer of GRETB, as well as Creative Communities Engagement Officers in Galway City and Roscommon County Councils. Also in attendance were young people from Creative Youth Advisory Groups in Roscommon and Galway City, along with their Youth Workers. We also had young people from Inis Oírr's new Youth Club taking part. The day was a great success with the young people reporting that they felt heard and enjoyed getting to mix with young people from different areas and speak to professional artists about their work and lives.



GAMES FOR ALL

Games for all concluded on the first week of April after a fantastic 8 weeks of delivery from the Atlantic Technological University second year students who supported two groups throughout the 8 weeks with the support of Galway Sports Partnership. The students took a disability group and an older adult group for one hour a week and provided them with a

variety of physical activities to try over the 8 weeks.



GAMES FOR ALL INCLUSIVE GROUP & ATU STUDENTS

BIKE WEEK 2025



Galway Sports Partnership on behalf of Galway County Council successfully secured €34,000 to support Bike Week 2025 which runs from 10th May 2025 to 18th May 2025. This funding will support, schools, clubs and communities to provide activities to promote cycling. A full schedule of events is available at www.transportforireland.ie

HER MOVES

The HER Moves – “Teen Empower Mix” Multi-Sport/Multi-Physical Activity Programme kicked off in Ballinasloe on 3rd March in collaboration with Involve Youth Service with 8 girls, and in Tuam on 13th March in collaboration with Archbishop McHale College and Bru Bhríde Primary HealthCare Tuam with 10 girls participating. This 10-week programme targets 10-12 teenage girls between 12-15 years old, aiming to create a non-judgmental environment for minority group girls. It provides a girl group with specific gym/pool time with designated tutors, offering them a choice of opportunities to partake in gym-based and water (indoor & outdoor) activities.

The programme aims to redefine what “sporty” looks like by engaging with current teen and women champions who are relatable and relevant. It seeks to provide a clear emotional

reward by increasing water confidence and physical activity competence, awarding achievement certificates at the programme finale, and signposting the girls to club memberships, physical activity groups, leadership, and coaching qualifications in their preferred activities. The programme is run in collaboration with Involve Youth Services Ballinasloe, Western Traveller & Intercultural Development Centre Bru Bhríde, Galway Rural Development, Coral Leisure, Swim Ireland, and ONAKI National Amateur Karate Association of Ireland.

The programme is structured into blocks of focus group sessions and physical activity tasters chosen by the girls. Gym-based choices include Strength & Conditioning, Relaxation & Mobility, Pilates, Circuits, Guardian Girls Self Defence, and Galway Community Circus



Activities. Pool-based choices, which do not require swimwear, include pool games such as water polo, aqua aerobics, and aqua bikes. Additionally, the programme incorporates creativity choices like nails/beauty/art/crafts/gear design and education choices such as leadership, nutrition, body appreciation, and mental health workshops.

GUARDIAN GIRLS

Galway Sports Partnership and Official National Amateur Karate Association of Ireland ONAKAI Ireland have collaborated for a HER Moves initiative for teenage girls, aged 13+ at 3 locations in Galway; Westside Community Centre, Tuam and Ballinasloe.

Guardian Girls is a gender-based violence prevention and response programme that empowers teenage girls to defend themselves from all forms of violence through sports and



martial arts training. The 4-week programme was funded by Women in Sport funding streams through Sport Ireland.

Feedback from the programmes were very positive, with some of the girls enquiring about joining Karate Clubs in the City and County or using the activity as part of their Gaisce awards programmes.

BALLINASLOE MARATHON KIDS

Irish Olympian David Gillick marked the finale of the Ballinasloe Marathon Kids by joining 250 primary school children from the East Galway town in the final leg of their journey.

David Gillick, who competed in the 400 metres and 4x400 metres relay at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, led the Marathon Kids participants through a series of exercises and stretches before they embarked on the final run of the series at the Dunlo Running Track today.

Funded through the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub under the Sport Ireland Dormant Account Fund, the Marathon Kids programme targets 5th and 6th class students who learn the health benefits of physical activity and perform four running sessions per week.

The children ran 26.2 miles over the course of the eight-week programme to complete their first marathon.

Speaking following the event, David Gillick said, “It is fantastic to see so many young people on the track, having fun, and being active. I hope this event has inspired them to keep



running and to stay active in the years to come.”

MR. DAVID GILLICK, IRISH OLYMPIAN, Q&A WITH MARATHON KIDS

MR. MICHAEL OWENS,
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,
SONNY LUCAS, PARTICIPANT,
MR. DAVID GILLICK, IRISH OLYMPIAN



BALLINASLOE SCHOOLS BASKETBALL



Through the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub 500 students from 3rd-6th classes in primary schools in Ballinasloe took part in an 8 Week Basketball Programme in

partnership with Basketball Ireland. This culminated in a tournament on Thursday 20th March where the students joined their peers from other schools for a tournament in Ard Scoil Mhuire. There were lots of fun and laughter throughout the tournament along with some friendly competition amongst the different teams.

BALLINASLOE COACH DEVELOPMENT

As part of the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub, it is important for Galway Sports Partnership to build club capacity through upskilling of volunteers, coaches, parents, teachers etc in the area.

We do this through providing a number of training opportunities and recently ran three courses through the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub – First Aid, Safeguarding and Sport Irelands Understanding Physical Literacy Course. These courses were well attended, and it is hoped to roll out further courses in the coming months.



SUMMIT STEPS

Summit Steps Hillwalking Programme aims to introduce new walkers into hillwalking clubs in a structured way that allows for upskilling, confidence-building and forging connections with fellow walkers. The 8-week programme with Beanna Beola hillwalking club runs from 23rd March for 8 weekend guided hikes at various locations in Connemara and includes 2 skills days with Mountaineering Ireland instructors.



This programme is subsidised by Galway Sports Partnership and Mountaineering Ireland.

LITTLE WANDERERS HIKE

Little Wanderers Hike & Craft returns in 2025 with a series of four guided hikes designed for mums and their little ones to connect with nature in a social and supportive group. These hikes improve physical fitness, reduce stress, enhance bonding, and stimulate babies' sensory and cognitive development.

The hikes will take place in four different locations around Galway County—Cong, Knockma, Coole Park, and Portumna—coinciding with each season: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and



Winter. The hikes are facilitated by Forest School and Walking Leader, Cécile Robin, who leads the hikes with her baby Samuel. Cécile also provides tips on safely carrying and managing gear when hiking with a baby or toddler.

INTEGRATION

The Integration Team ran several Integration events across the County:

We collaborated on art workshops in partnership with Galway County Arts Office and FORUM Connemara for Ukrainians living in An Spidéal and for IPA's and Ukrainians in Clifden.





We worked with residents of Óstán na Ceathrún Rua to join the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We are working with community groups and stakeholders on a County Event for Africa Day in May 2025 to be held in Tuam.



TOURISM

MEITHEAL 2025

Meitheal 2025 was held at the Gleneagle INEC in Killarney. Meitheal is the largest trade event for the Irish tourism industry, providing tourism businesses with the opportunity to sell directly to top international buyers and tour operators.

The best of what is on offer across Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Ireland's Ancient East, the Wild Atlantic Way was showcased over two days with the aim of being scheduled on the itineraries of the global tour operators. Key themes and trends interesting international buyers this year include multi-generational trips, small private tours, outdoor activities and immersive experiences that incorporate food and traditional craft making.



This event was well represented with contingents from Connemara and East Galway who gained insights, connections, and shared ambition for a more sustainable future in tourism



DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EAST GALWAY)

The upcoming East Galway Tourism Networking event will take place on Tuesday 29th April at The Clan Colla, Main Street, Ahascragh.



Organised with the support of Fáilte Ireland and Galway County Council, this event aims to bring together hospitality providers, tourism groups and community volunteers to foster stronger collaboration and enhance East Galway's tourism offering. Running from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm, the event will provide a platform for businesses and organisations to connect and share insights.

A key focus of this networking event will be the Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for East Galway, which is currently in progress as part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy. This five-year plan, supported by Fáilte Ireland and Galway County Council, aims to unlock the commercial potential of the area in a sustainable and strategic manner.



'TOGETHER WE THRIVE' REGIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

'Together We Thrive' conference and networking event was held in Tullamore on 26th March. It brought together leaders in tourism, enterprise, skills and community



development. A shared commitment reflected in the room to building a thriving, sustainable tourism sector within the Just Transition region.

A dynamic speed networking session, where tourism stakeholders connected and sparked partnerships to support tourism growth. This event showcased the power of collective action in shaping a regenerative future for the region.

FÁILTER IRELANDS LEARNIFI LIVE

Learnifi Live offers short, expert-led, interactive workshops for your tourism business.

April workshops include: -

- Marketing on a shoestring
- Increasing Visibility with SEO
- Running Tourism Reports with Google Analytics

Browse full workshop schedule www.failteireland.ie

SLOWDOWN INTERREG EUROPE PROJECT

BIA Innovator Campus was represented at the flagship Interreg Europe event. Lets



Cooperate! 2025, where more than 1,400 participants joined both in-person and online from 36 countries to explore the future of interregional collaboration.

BIA representatives showcased the Interreg Europe Project SLOWDOWN during the project exhibition.

Slowdown promotes slow tourism, a sustainable, immersive and community-centered travel model that supports local economies and preserves cultural and environmental assets.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GREEN SCHOOLS



Visits and Assessments continue with school visits to Gort Community School, Baile Chláir Secondary school, Coláiste an Eachreidh, Kilcolgan Educate Together and Kilglass NS.



Registration for National Spring Clean 2025 has now opened. For full details go to An Taisce NSC at <https://nationalspringclean.org/>

Council urges public to be part of County Galway's annual Spring Clean

Galway County Council and An Taisce are bidding to make this

April's National Spring Clean campaign the most successful to date by getting every parish in County Galway involved in the annual initiative.

More than 200 local groups joined volunteers from across Ireland last year to remove 2,500 tons of litter from roadsides, parks and coastlines.

Householders, schools, businesses and communities across County Galway are once again being encouraged to register and take part in the 26th annual National Spring Clean campaign.

Cllr Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "I very much appreciate the year-round efforts of local volunteers and groups to enhance the appearance of their local communities and for making a huge effort during National Spring Clean. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful county, so it is important that we respect it by ensuring it is litter-free for residents and visitors alike."

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council commented, "We are urging people who have never been involved in Spring Clean before to register their interest in taking part this year. Participation can range from one or two neighbours getting together to pick up litter in their local area to a larger team of community volunteers playing their part in keeping County Galway litter-free. Clean up kits are available to support registered groups in Co. Galway."

Kieran Coyne, Acting Director of Services Rural & Community Development, Integration and Environment said, "National Spring Clean plays a key role in the county's ongoing Anti-Litter Programme and Litter Management Plan, encouraging everyone to take part in the effort to keep Galway litter-free".

"Last year, 30% of all waste collected during the National Spring Clean was recycled, as the campaign continues to highlight the importance of a circular economy and waste reduction.

While the campaign supports local clean-up initiatives, it also raises awareness about the impact of litter and the benefits of maintaining cleaner, healthier communities,” he added.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy and Mars Wrigley.

Registrations are being accepted on www.nationalspringclean.org and further information is available from the Environment Section of Galway County Council on 091-509510 / environment@galwaycoco.ie.

LOCAL WEEE (WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT) COLLECTIONS 2025

MOBILE WEEE (WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT) COLLECTIONS 2025

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, will hold a series of WEEE collections throughout County Galway starting **April 26th 2025**. These collections will allow people from towns and villages across the county to dispose of any household electrical equipment and batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collections are scheduled for the following locations in Galway:

TIMETABLE

Saturday 26 th April 2025	Oughterard – Oughterard GAA Car Park, Pier Road, Oughterard, Co. Galway H91EY2W	10am - 4pm
Saturday 3 rd May 2025	Loughrea – Loughrea Mart, Station Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway H62 AV97	10am - 4pm
Saturday 10 th May 2025	Mountbellew – Mountbellew- Moylough GAA Club, Mountbellew, Co. Galway H53 X251	10am - 4pm
Saturday 17 th May 2025	Portumna – Co-Operative Mart, Dominic Street, Portumna, Co. Galway H53X867	10am-4pm
Saturday 24 th May 2025	Gort – Gort Co - Operative Mart, Ballybawn, Gort, Co. Galway H91 V256	10am - 4pm

Further information from WEEE Ireland <https://www.weeeireland.ie/contact/> or 012999320

BURIAL GROUNDS

Two Part 8 planning submissions lodged this month for a new burial ground development in Eanach Dhúin and an extension to the burial grounds in Rinville, Oranmore.

DOG CONTROL

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

688 dog licences purchased during the month of March, 468 of which were purchased at the local post office with the remainder online.

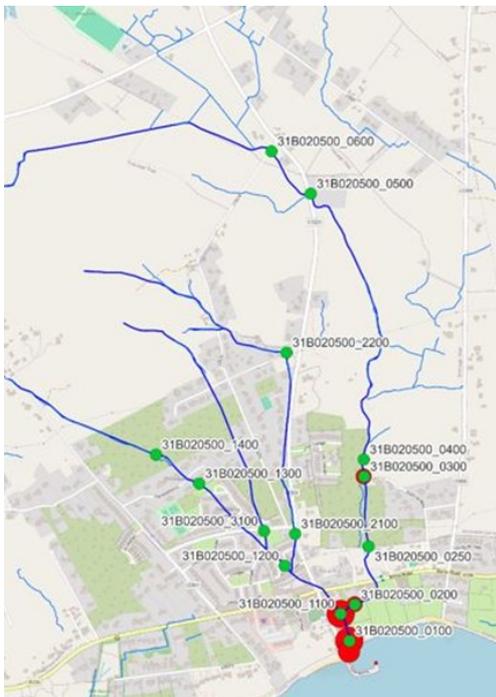
2,338 licences have been purchased for the first quarter of 2025, a 2.1% increase on the first quarter from 2024.

3 fixed penalty notices issued to dog owners for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended. 25 fixed penalty notices have been issued to dog owners for the first quarter of the year.

Dog licencing campaigns were carried out by the dog warden and community warden service during the month of March. Checks were carried out in estates in Gort, Maigh Cuilinn, Oughterard, Baile Chláir and Clifden.

WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT



Meetings were held between environment and LAWPRO staff on work to commence in April 2025 on sampling of 14 different sites in the Truskey Stream waterbody in Bearna and in-stream & riverbank investigations of potential pollution sources. This is to continue work on addressing pollution issues effecting the water quality at Bearna Pier.

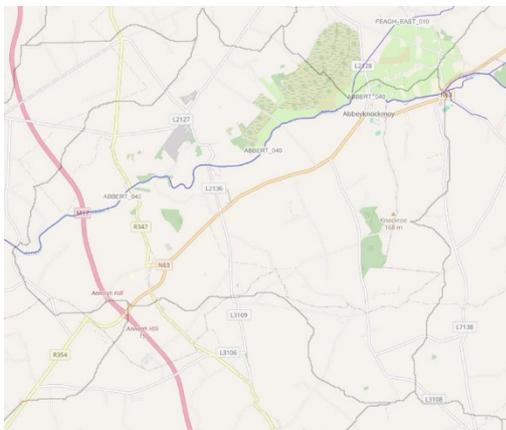
POTENTIAL SAMPLING LOCATIONS IN TRUSKEY STREAM WATERBODY

NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN FOR DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

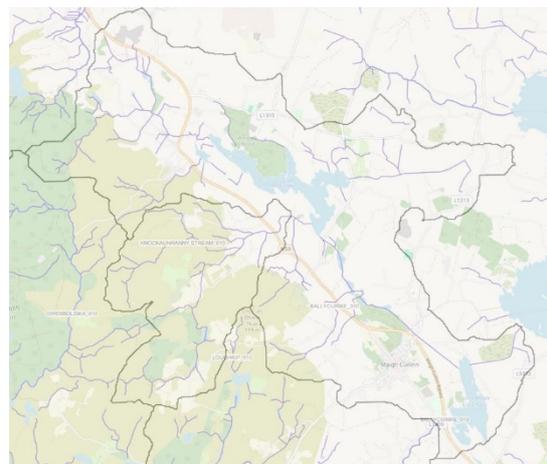
A letter and information leaflet drop was carried out in a number of different waterbodies to prepare households for inspections of their wastewater treatment systems to be carried out at the end of March / beginning of April. The waterbodies to be inspected are:

- Abbert_040
- Ballinure_020
- Shiven (south)_010
- Kilcolgan_040
- Ballycurke_010

Before the end of March, inspections commenced in the Ballycurke_010 and Abbert_040 waterbodies.



ABBERT_040 WATERBODY



BALLYCURKE_010 WATERBODY

BATHING WATERS

The bathing waters annual identification returns, bathing water monitoring calendars and bathing water profile reviews had to be submitted to the EPA by 24th March.

SECTION 4 LICENCING

Inspections and water quality monitoring of Section 4 licenced sites for 2025 commenced. In total 149 sites will need to be inspected during the year.

Enforcement of these licences also continued with proposals submitted from one licensee for a replacement wastewater treatment system. This was on foot of the council issuing a legal notice for non-compliance with licence conditions.

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

After a number of complaints were received in relation to the spreading of sewage sludge, Galway County Council attended a number of meetings with a contractor and Uisce Eireann. Follow-up inspections of the problem sites were also carried out. Enforcement here is continuing.

Six cross reports were submitted in December 2024 for serious breaches of the GAP regulations, identified during farm inspections. DAFM processed the reports during March and farmers were sanctioned between 5 to 15%.

A court case took place in relation to the pollution of a watercourse from a farm in county Galway. The farmer was given a six-week court order to complete works as per notices issued by the council.



ARTICLE IN TUAM HEARLD,
19TH MARCH 2025



SERIOUSLY POLLUTED WATERCOURSE

Technical staff from the environment section are taking part in a number of working groups at present:

- NAIP (National Agricultural Inspection Programme) working group
- Working group to examine and update the Code of Good Practice for the Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture
- Working group for Organic Manure Movement Data Sharing

WASTE/ AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Two litter fines were issued by the Community Warden service for offences under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 As Amended. One has been paid to date with the other fine going through due process.

19 fines have been issued since the beginning of the year with 8 paid in full, 3 referred to the Law Agent to initiate court proceedings for non-payment and the remaining fines going through due process.

Annual audits / inspections of Waste Facility Permitted sites began in March. These inspections will continue throughout the year.

3 Notices / Directions were issued under the Waste Management Act.

2 files were referred to the Law Agents for prosecution.

Waste Presentation Bye law inspections began for the year in Ballinasloe with 2 estates being inspected.

The final number of solid fuel retailers and transporters were inspected for the Q4 2024/Q1 2025 heating season.

Technical staff attended the annual Health & Safety Seminar where speakers from GCC, IPA and Bord Gáis gave presentations on traffic management, personal safety in the workplace and safety around gas pipelines.

Staff attended EPA training on Ambient Air Quality Data. Highlighted at the training was the need for continuous improvements in air quality in order to meet the New Directive standards in 2030.

Staff finalised and submitted a report to DECC providing updates on the work carried out on Solid Fuel retailers and transporters and non-compliant fuel found being sold in the county during the past heating season.

PROSECUTIONS / COURT CASES

Enforcement staff attended Cill Rónáin District Court where 2 cases were heard before Judge Brendan O Reilly in relation to non-compliance with Section 55 Notices. 2 Section 58 Orders were secured with the Judge directing the offenders to clear both sites before the June Bank Holiday weekend.



ARTICLE IN CONNACHT TRIBUNE

TUAM DISTRICT COURT 25TH MARCH.

In late 2024 an individual was prosecuted under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act for illegal dumping of household waste. 2 tonnes of waste was removed from the site in



question and the offender was fined and directed to pay 900 euro towards the cost of the Council clean-up. On 25th March the matter was before Tuam District Court for finalisation – the offender was in court but did not have the money, as a result he was jailed for 3 months.



PHOTOS OF WASTE DUMPED IN TUAM - RELATING TO THE ABOVE COURT CASE AND PRISON SENTENCE

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

One new application for Waste Facility Permit was received in March. The applicant intends to set up a facility for recycling construction and demolition waste including concrete and soil and stone, this will be done via an EPA Art 28 End of Waste Registration. This will be the first site of its kind in Galway and a welcome addition to the construction industry in the region as there are a limited number of facilities available at present for the disposal of C&D waste.

2 sites were inspected in relation to the unauthorised importation and storage of C&D waste. Enforcement action will be taken in relation to both sites.

VISIT TO GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL BY JOHN CUMMINS, T.D, MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE

John Cummins, T.D., Minister of State of Housing, Local Government & Heritage met with Galway County Council Chief Executive, Mr. Liam Conneally, and Management Team on 17th April 2025 in Áras an Chontae.



NWRA
ASSEMBLY
MEETING IN
SLIGO, 21ST
MARCH
2025

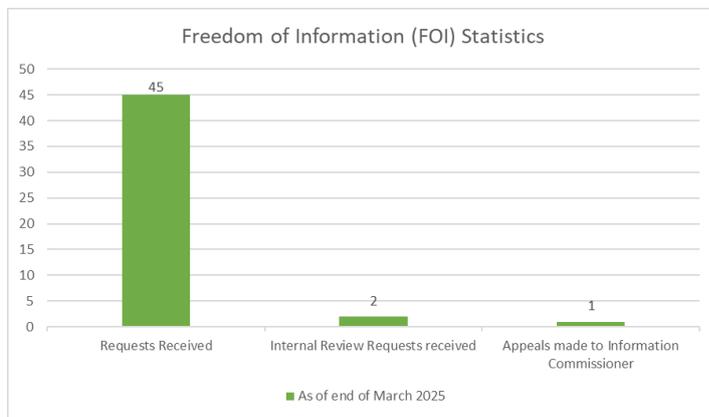
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR DUTY 2025

The organisation has prepared an Annual Action Plan for Duty 2025, which was approved by the Management Team on 25th March 2025. This plan will serve as a strategic guide for our ongoing efforts in this critical area, demonstrating our commitment to the public sector duty. The Plan will be available for viewing on our website in April 2025.

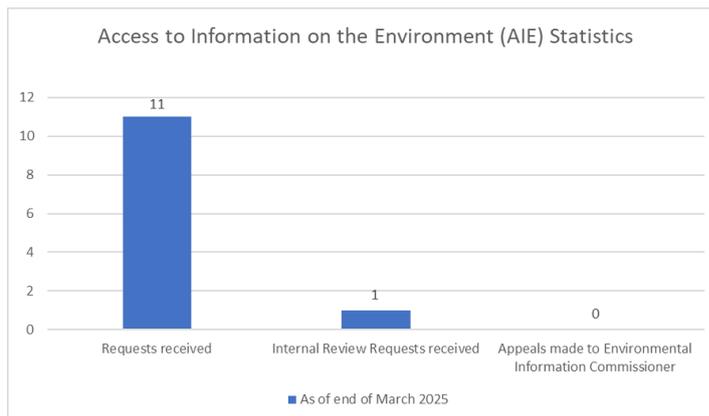
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.03.2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

To ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Irish data protection laws, Galway County Council has implemented a comprehensive ongoing training programme for all staff members. This programme includes several key components

designed to enhance awareness and understanding of data protection principles and practices.

All new staff members must undergo an online induction and Data Protection awareness training. These sessions provide an overview of the GDPR, emphasising the importance of data protection and the legal obligations under the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018. The training covers key concepts such as lawful processing, data subject rights, and the responsibilities of data controllers and processors.

To further bolster our data protection efforts, online training on cyber security and data breaches is issued to all new staff. This training addresses the risks associated with cyber threats and the measures that must be taken to prevent data breaches. It is crucial for maintaining the integrity and security of personal data, as mandated by the GDPR.

A quarterly data protection awareness newsletter was circulated to all staff members. These newsletters serve as a continuous reminder of the importance of data protection and provide updates on relevant legal developments and best practices.

Finally, meeting notes from the Data Protection Officer Network are circulated to all Data Champions within the organisation. This ensures that those responsible for data protection are kept informed of the latest discussions and strategies for maintaining compliance with GDPR and Irish data protection laws.

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured CLG An Cheathrú Rua on becoming All-Ireland Club JFC Champions.



MEMBERS OF CLG AN CHEATHRÚ RUA AND MANAGEMENT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the Kilkerrin-Clonberne Ladies Football team on winning their fourth successive All-Ireland Ladies Senior club title.



MEMBERS OF THE KILKERRIN CLONBERNE SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM AND MANAGEMENT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured Sarsfields Camogie Team on winning the Senior Club Camogie Championship.



MEMBERS OF SARSFIELDS CAMOGIE TEAM AND MANAGEMENT WITH THE CATHAOIRLEACH CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

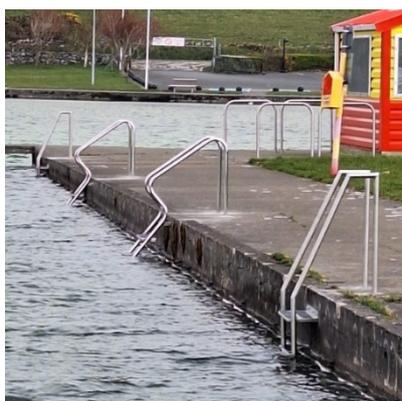
RECREATION AND AMENITIES

The recruitment of lifeguards is ongoing for Bathing Season 2025. Applicants have applied for the position of beach lifeguard for the joint County & City service which will operate in 16 designated bathing areas, 10 in the County, 6 in the City.

Successful applicants will attend an induction day for training in May post which contracts will be issued. Our Lifeguards will start work during the bathing season commencing weekends in June and moving to full time for July and August (11h00 - 19h00, 7 days per week) and the first two weekends in September.



Signage is currently being updated in the designated bathing areas in the County, with improvement works and maintenance taking place on the lifeguard facilities.



The designated bathing areas in Loughrea and Portumna have also had new ladders installed over the past few weeks, to enable safe egress and ingress in and out of the water.



SOCIAL MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

On a daily basis the Customer Services team, located within Corporate Services, monitor and update the Council's social media content with creative output to enhance engagement with the public towards maintaining awareness of the great work of the Council.

On March 7, 2025, the County Buildings buzzed with excitement during the Seachtain Gaeilge celebrations. The event featured traditional Irish music, drama, and entertainment, culminating in the awarding of Gaeltacht Scholarships. The Galway County Council chamber was filled to capacity, with attendees thoroughly captivated by the festivities.



na
16

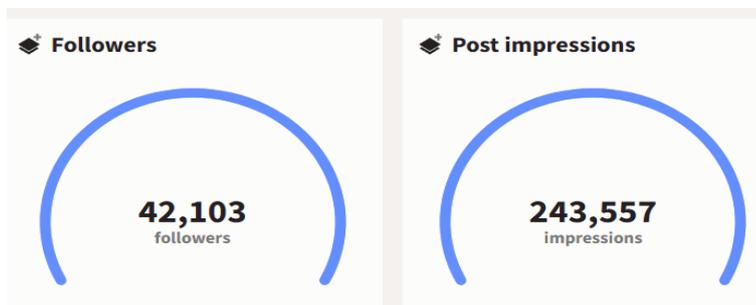


Our Customer Services Team live-streamed the music performed by Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal, which has been viewed an impressive 3,904 times to date.

A very enjoyable event for everyone.



MARCH 2025 FULL MONTH STATS



***Posts Impressions** - The number of times that posts on our Galway County Council Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts appeared on someone's screen. Content viewed includes posts, videos, and reels.

Social Media Audience Metrics	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
 www.facebook.com/galwaycounty	164	191,428
 www.x.com/galwaycoco	96	21,082
 www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil	165	30,038

 www.linkedin.com/company/galwaycoco	11	1,009
Total Number of Posts	436 (151 posts in Irish – 35%)	
Fans & Followers across Social Media Platforms	<p style="text-align: center;">42,103  0.4% from 41,931 Fans & Followers</p>	

FACEBOOK

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



Galway County Council Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady was invited to a Reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on Monday, 17th March, 2025; Celebrating the Contribution of Community Arts to Inclusion and Creativity and 40 years of Local Authority Arts Officers. Arts Officers from all the Local Authorities were present to celebrate



Applications are now open for the All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme! Are you a traditional craftsperson based in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland (or do you know someone who is, who might be interested)? If you are a stonemason, carpenter, joiner, bricklayer, blacksmith, plasterer, thatcher, roofer,



X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top tweets



Road Closed: R348 at Cappagh, from Kilconnell Village to Nutfield Cross. (Temporary Closing of Roads pursuant to Section 75 of Road Act 1993 and Article 12 of Road Regulations 1994) Full info



Vacancy / Folúntas Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is today at 4.00p.m. <https://ow.ly/Gze850V1qwQ> #inhfair



@GalwayCoCo #Archives is grateful to Paul & Sharon at #MuckrossBindery for the excellent conservation work on several volumes of #Galway workhouse minutes. The complete collection

INSTAGRAM

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



galwaycountycouncil
Mar 19, 11:01

Galway County Council Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady was invited to a Reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on Monday, 17th March, 2025; Celebrating the Contribution of Community Arts to Inclusion and Creativity and 40 years of Local Authority Arts Officers. Arts Officers from all the Local Authorities were present to celebrate 'Samhlaíocht agus an



galwaycountycouncil
Mar 19, 11:57

Galway County Council Arts Officer Sharon O'Grady was invited to a Reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on Monday, 17th March, 2025; Celebrating the Contribution of Community Arts to Inclusion and Creativity and 40 years of Local Authority Arts Officers. Arts Officers from all the Local Authorities were present to celebrate 'Samhlaíocht agus an



galwaycountycouncil
Mar 27, 14:30

Ceiliúradh ar ghliomhalachtaí dheonach i bpobail ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe
Celebrating voluntary activity in communities across County Galway

Gradaim an Chathaoirigh
The Cathaoirleach's Awards
2025

Nominations open for the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025
Applications are now open for the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025 which are an annual initiative to acknowledge the commitment of individuals and groups who participate in community and voluntary activities in County Galway and to recognise the significant impact their actions have on

LINKEDIN

MARCH'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



FOLÚNTAIS
AG
Galway County Council
Mar 19, 14:15

Vacancy / Fólúntas <https://ow.ly/Gze850V1qwQ> #jobfairy



VACANCIES
NOW
Galway County Council
Mar 27, 14:44

Closing Date today at 4.00p.m. Vacancy / Fólúntas <https://ow.ly/Gze850V1qwQ> #jobfairy



FOLÚNTAIS
AG
Galway County Council
Mar 27, 12:36

Vacancy / Fólúntas Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is today at 4.00p.m. <https://ow.ly/Gze850V1qwQ> #jobfairy

GAEILGE

FÉILE NA BHFÉIDEAREACHTAÍ

On March 4th, our Galway County Council Irish Officer attended Féile na bhFéidearachtaí at Dublin City Hall, where details about the 'Gaeilge 365' initiative were shared. This project involves collaboration between Dublin's four local authorities to promote the visibility and use of the Irish language through various initiatives, is a strategy, we in Galway County Council, will be reviewing towards establishing whether there are any aspects of same, that can be considered for Galway and west of Ireland Local Authorities.

Gaeilge365, the first innovation unit in the public service to operate entirely through Irish, originates from Dublin City Council's Creative Community Strategy, which fosters creative collaborations across different Council departments. Initial support for the project was provided by the Éire Ildánach / Creative Ireland Programme, enabling Gaeilge365 to establish an innovative approach to showcasing Irish language creativity with staff from



GRADUATE PLACEMENT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Eoin Keane, who has been with the Irish Office and Customer Services over the past three months as part of his work placement through the University of Galway.

Eoin's dedication and hard work during his time with us have been greatly appreciated, and he has proven to be an invaluable asset to our team.

We wish him every success in his studies and in all his future endeavours.



LIBRARY SERVICES

ARCHIVES

Galway County Council Archives received notification from the Heritage Council of the success of its Heritage Stewardship Fund grant application, submitted in January. The Archives has thus been busy preparing volumes from the Loughrea Board of Guardians (workhouse) collection (GPL2/) for digitisation. The material must be cleaned, listed and boxed in preparation for transit to our third-party provider.



Minutes for the collection between 1839 and 1868 are already accessible free on the [Digital Archive](https://www.galway.ie/digitalarchives) @ www.galway.ie/digitalarchives

LOCAL STUDIES

The Local Studies Section, Ballinasloe, Clifden, and Tuam Libraries have acquired a subscription to the British News Archive, which is already proving in demand with researchers. The News Archive, which is available to members of the public to access on-site at each of these libraries, is an incredible resource that offers access to historic Irish newspapers, beginning in the early 1700s. Irish news stories of the past were frequently reported on in various British newspapers, and several old Galway newspapers are included in the collections, including all editions of the “Galway Express” from 1853-1920, which are now fully searchable. Previously, the only access to this paper had been microfilm, which was very time-consuming, with patrons having to trawl through many reels of microfilm. There are several other rare old local and national papers, which are now fully searchable, and the archive has proved invaluable for staff in researching queries sent in by members of the public, including one on a British Army captain who was stationed in Galway in 1791. The library had no documents or any information on this man or his regiment, but there was a lot of information contained in the British News Archive.

[BNA-poster-1 \(1\) \(3\) page-0001](#)

PHONE QUERIES

1. 3 phone queries about graveyards, including 2 queries about headstone memorial books available for County Galway. 1 query about burial records for Tuam Cemetery, including the County Council burial records index records online, and access to any plot books.
2. Phone call requesting information on an East Galway history website.
3. Phone call from a photo restorer requesting copies of a photo of a nurse graduation class from 1970, for an elderly gentleman who was in the photo. The requested photo was available on the Irish News Archive and was emailed to the enquirer.
4. Phone call enquiry about possible donation of material to the local studies section from a local collector.
5. Phone call requesting information on Galway Public Libraries' photographic collection.

DROP-IN VISITORS

1. Patron sent from the city library to look at some materials in the local history collections.
2. An Australian inquiring about research into the Halvey family. Gave them our leaflet on resources available for family research, and also informed them of the information available on irishgenealogy.ie.
3. Patron dropped in to look at a rare and out-of-print Irish grammar book, “Graiméar Iarbhunscoile”.
4. Patron dropped in to research a drowning that occurred in Fanore in 1982, for an elderly relative of the deceased, and printouts of the news story from 1982 were obtained for her.

5. Patron dropped in to study and photograph parts of O'Donovan's ordnance maps for Galway.

APPOINTMENTS

1. 3 microfilm appointments for research into East Galway newspapers, including the "Western Star", which the patron was delighted to discover is now available in a fully searchable format on the British News Archive.
2. Appointment to view issues of the Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, 1900-2023.
3. Appointment to view "The Letter Book of the Earl of Clanricarde", the rare 1720's copy of this book, as well as a modern 1980 version. The patron also viewed other books concerning the Land War and enquired about access to the British News Archive.
4. Patron visited every week to view the "Tuam Herald" on the Irish News Archive.

EMAILS

Approximately 30 emails were answered. These included queries on several different topics, including genealogy queries, a query on the history of Ballinakill Church, Woodford Court House, where to obtain coroners' reports, news archive queries, query on the War of Independence, and trials during same, requests for access to various books in the collections, and a recent query on the sinking of the Athenia, which was the first passenger ship to be torpedoed after the declaration of war in 1939. The ship was en route to Canada, with over 1000 passengers and crew. 117 people perished, and over 400 hundred passengers were brought ashore to Galway on the rescue ship the Knute Nelson, where Galwegians showed them great kindness. This query came from a man whose grandmother had been a stewardess on the Athenia, and who had told him many stories, such as the passengers at first thinking the torpedo was a whale, and she had spoken very highly of the care she had received while recovering in Galway. We were able to find a lot of information on this event in the news archive. This man is due to visit the city shortly to retrace his grandmother's footsteps in 1939.

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN LOUGHREA LIBRARY 2025 MARCH 7TH – APRIL 7TH INCLUSIVE

RIGHT TO READ

Friday March 7th – Leitrim National School 1st & 2nd class visit – 22 children

Thursday March 13th March – visit to Carrabane NS by Library staff member to talk about library services to all classrooms. (9.00-12.00) [school approximately 200 children].

Thursday March 13th – St. Ita's NS 3rd class library visit – 30 children.

Wednesday 19th March - St Brendan's Boys NS 6th class library visit – 20 children.

Wednesday 26th March – St. Ita's NS 4th class library visit – 32 children

Thursday 27th March – St. Ita's NS 5th class library visit – 20 children

Thursday 3rd April – St Ita's NS 3rd class library visit – 30 children



SPRING INTO STORYTIME



Friday 4th April @10.00am Scéalaíocht le Julie Anne De Brún – Gaelscoil Riabhach 1st class – 16 children.

Library Book Club on Wednesday 26th March @1-2pm – 7 attended.

Friday 14th March – Craft Station for St. Patrick's Day cards and decorations – 15 children

Saturday 29th March – LEGO free play day

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY



Thursday 20th March @11am. "Supporting Children & Teenagers with Neurodiversity" with Dr. Malie Coyne. This event was well attended, and the audience had lots of questions for Dr. Malie.

Saturday 22nd March @11am. “Taking Care of Your Feet” with podiatrist Marie Hegarty – 21 people attended.



CREATIVE IRELAND

Saturday 29th March, 12.00-2.00pm. Hosted space for Creative Ireland Community Integration Project – Drawing workshop. 15 people attended.



a

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB ON WEDNESDAY

26th March @1-2pm – 7 attended.

Thursday March 13th 11am -1pm – Loughrea Creative Craft Group – 10 people attended

Thursday March 20th 11am -1pm – Loughrea Creative Craft Group – 6 people attended

Thursday March 27th 11am -1pm – Loughrea Creative Craft Group – 6 people attended

Thursday April 3rd 11am -1pm – Loughrea Creative Craft Group

TUAM LIBRARY

Weekly events included Tuesday Craft Group, which continues every Tuesday at 11am, and Rhyme Time on Wednesday at 11am, facilitated by the Tuam Library staff. This has evolved organically to incorporate sign language for children with hearing impairments. LEGO Free Play is available every Saturday in the children's area, promoting motor skills, creativity, and imagination. Community Connects is an open session every Friday from 11am-12pm for socializing.

Trinity Primary School weekly class visits continued every Wednesday from 9:30-10:30am, averaging 20 students plus teachers/SNA's each week.

We have four book clubs that meet monthly: two for adults, a Young Adult book club, and an Audio Book Club. *Soundbites* continues to be very popular, with local musicians, storytellers, singers, and poets gathering, averaging 30 attendees at their monthly meetup. New members are always welcome to join the Breastfeeding Support Group, facilitated by the HSE. No need to book, just drop in on the second Thursday of the month from 10:30-

11:30am.



Special features of **the month included** the Margie Ryan Art Exhibition, *Cuddle & Read* sessions attended by the Trinity Primary School on March 11th & 12th to encourage reading with children, a St. Patrick's Day craft event, and a sign language Storytime for Irish Sign Language Awareness week. This proved very popular with the 1st class students from Tuam Educate Together Primary School, photo below.

Fourteen children also attended a special Mother's Day Crafting workshop where they made birdfeeders as gifts for the maternal influences in their lives. This was inspired by Dara McNulty's "Wild Child."

PORTUMNA LIBRARY

To celebrate World Book Day, Portumna Library hosted lots of class visits from St Brendan's N.S.

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge the weekly Irish language group had an extra special gathering with Irish music, song & dance agus cupán tae.

To mark St Patrick's Day there were colouring sheets to decorate the library notice board.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| March 7 th | 1 st Class (27 children + teachers & assistants) Activities included Storytime, Colouring, Lego
2 nd Class (28 children + teachers & assistants) Activities included Storytime, colouring, Lego
After school activities for children included Storytime, Duplu lego for under 5's. Freeplay LEGO, Selection of Puzzles & Games, colouring (14 children attended these activities) |
| March 11 th | To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge the Irish class had caint, comhrá, ceol agus rince (11 Adults attended) |
| March 21 st | Storytime, Freeplay LEGO, Duplo Lego, Colouring, Games & Puzzletime (10 children attended) |

March 25th The Irish Language Group met up for Caint, Craic agus cupán tae (11 Adults attended)

March 28th Storytime & colouring, Games & Puzzles (9 children attend)

MOBILE LIBRARY

With Spring in the air, the Mobile Library brought with it a lovely selection of new books to our customers in County Galway. We visited Nursing Homes, Childcare facilities and over 100 route stops during the month of March.

OUTREACH EVENTS

As part of our outreach to our communities, we gave information talks and hosted some special story times.

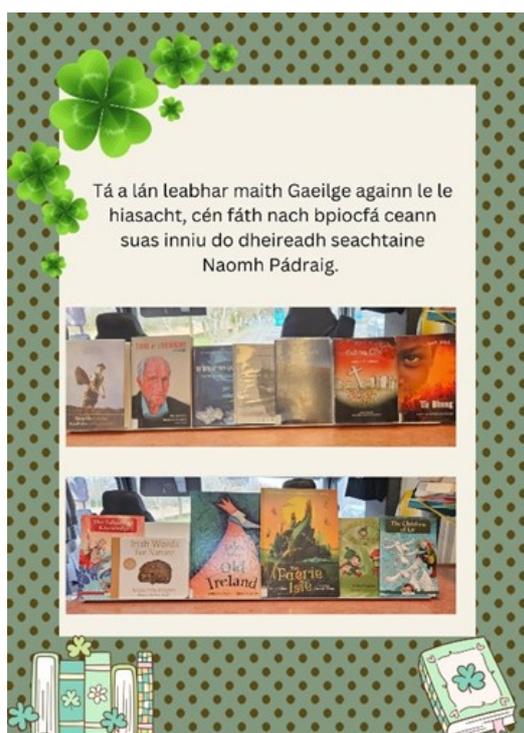
COROFIN ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Colette was busy promoting the Galway Library services with an outreach talk to the Corofin Active Retirement group on 21st March, this included a presentation on the mobile library services available and our digital resources.

It was enjoyed by all with an audience of 16 in attendance, all members signed up to the library on the day.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

We treated our borrowers to a lovely display of Irish books to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Some of the children from the Aughrim Afterschool Childcare service were happy to practice their cúpla focal.



SUSTAINABLE FASHION TALK

On March 11th, we had Sheila Clancy O'Donnell from Circular Dress Collaborative in the Gallery at our library to give two special talks on Sustainable Fashion. We had the first talk with Transition Year students from Ard Scoil Mhuire and the second talk with the public.

Attendees: 57



SHEILA BROUGHT EXAMPLES OF THE CLOTHES SHE RESELLS AT HER STORE IN LETTERKENNY

THE STORIES BEHIND SOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS FROM BALLINASLOE AND DISTRICT BY FIONA MAGUIRE

On Saturday March 22nd, we had a wonderful talk by Fiona Maguire, a consultant archaeologist, who spoke about some archaeological objects excavated in the Ballinasloe area.

Attendees: 51



SPEAKER FIONA MAGUIRE

TEEN HEALTH & WELLNESS TALK



On March 28th, we had Colette O’Flynn, founder of PhysioNow speak to Transition Year students from Ard Scoil Mhuire about teen health and wellness.

Attendees: 55

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ENJOYING COLETTE'S INFORMATIVE TALK

COLETTE WITH MANAGER JOE



HOUSING FOR EVERYONE EXHIBITION

On April 3rd, we had a housing exhibition at the library with information stands from Galway County Council’s Housing department, The Housing Agency, European Movement Ireland, Unitherm, and SnugHome.ie.

Attendees: 35

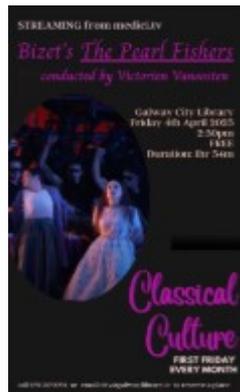
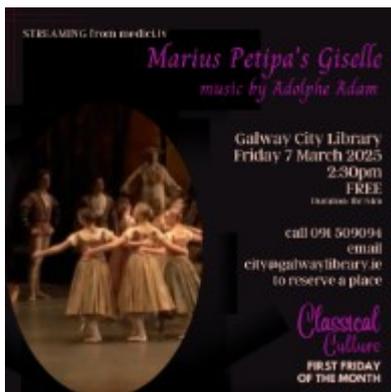


EUROPE DIRECT @ BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

The Friday Classical Culture streaming performances took place on Friday 7th March and on Friday 7 April.

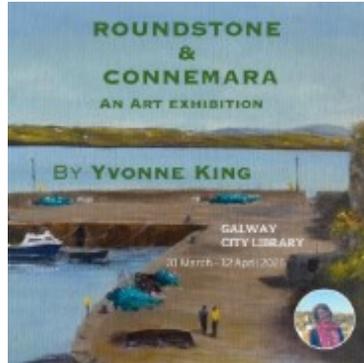
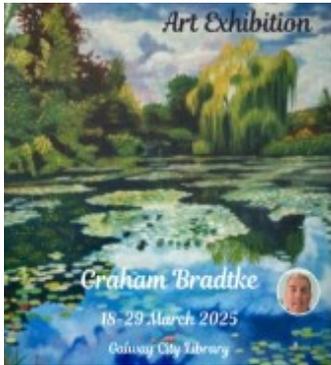


We had 3 events for Seachtain na Gaeilge run in conjunction with Gaillimh na Gaeilge, the first of which was an Irish language singing session Amhráníocht Ghaeilge. An evening of sean-nós was hosted by Dr. Lillis Ó'Laoire, and the monthly Maidin Caifé rounded off the month-long festivities.





Caroline, Manager of the City Library, delivered a Borrow Box training and installation session for the Creative Crafters group and showed them how to use BorrowBox to access knitting, crochet and other crafting magazines.



Galway City Library hosted two art exhibitions this month, the first of which was by Galway based Australian artist Graham Bradtke and the second was by Yvonne King

There were two Foróige events, one was with electronic circuits and attendees developed small robots. The other was a tabletop- gaming session.



A Street Feast roadshow took place in the city library to raise awareness of the national al-fresco community lunch event that celebrates neighbourliness and the unique character of each neighbourhood/community group. The event partners were Galway City Council, and Neighbourhood Network, fifteen people attended.

During this reporting time frame, there were 102 people attending weekly Rhyme Time sessions, 45 people attended the six staff-led book clubs, 46 people attended the Creative Crafters weekly meetups, and 40 people attended Scrabble for Seniors. Spring into Storytime began also with a staff –led Storytime as Gaeilge.



SPREAG ISTEACH SA SCÉAL

Bhí ár am scéalaíochta agus ealaíne míosúil againn ar an 22ú Márta. Léigh Tara dhá scéal faoi luch, agus ansin dhear na gasúir a gcuid luch a féin as Styrofoam in éineacht le Nuala.

Tháinig 13 (8 bpáiste) ag an ócáid.



AG DÉANAMH LUCH AS STYROFOAM AG ÁR SEISIÚN SCÉALAÍOCHTA AGUS EALAÍNE I MÍ MÁRTA.

CATH NA CEATHRÚN RUA

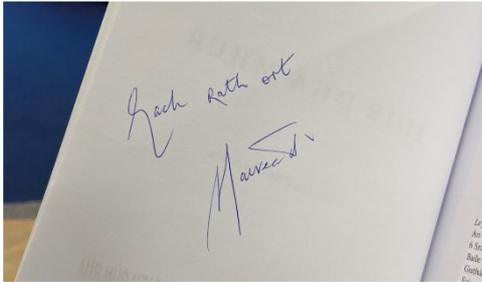
Tháinig deireadh le taispeántas Danny Wallace, "Cath na Ceathrún Rua", an mhí seo. Rinne scoláirí Rang a 2 as Scoil Mhic Dara pictiúir bunaithe ar an taispeántas agus bhí taispeántas beag againn do na pictiúir sin chomh maith. Rinne muid seoladh beag do na scoláirí agus do na múinteoirí - bhí 25 i láthair.



EALAÍN Ó RANG A DÓ I SCOIL MHC DARA, BUNAITHE AR TAISPEÁNTAS LE DANNY WALLACE.

NUAHT EILE

Bhí áthas orainn dhá chóip sínithe den bailiúcháin dánta "Idir Dhá Mhúr" a fháil sa bpost ón údar, Mairéad Ní Chonaola! Ghlac Mairéad cuairt ar an leabharlann chun an taispeántas "Turas Lúibe" a fheiceáil i mí Feabhra, agus dúirt sí ansin go gcuirfeadh sí cóipeanna againn chun iad a chur lenár rannóg Ghaeilge. Míle buíochas léi! Tá siad ar fáil anois.



PICTIÚR DE CÓIPEANNA "IDIR DHÁ MHÚR".

Tháinig an Club Leabhar le chéile ar an 3ú Aibreáin. Bhí naonúr i láthair don ócáid, agus phlé siad an úrscéal Tír Bheag le Gael Faye. Beidh an cruinniú deireadh acu ar an 1ú Bealtaine, agus ansin beidh briseadh beag acu go dtí mí Meán Fómhair.

Bhí cuairteanna seachtainiúil againn ó Scoil Mhic Dara, Suaimhneas (ó Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin), Tigh Nan Dooley agus grúpa ó Bráithre na Carthanachta. Uimhreacha iomlán a leanas:

Scoil Mhic Dara: 364

Suaimhneas: 15

Tigh Nan Dooley: 53

Bráithre na Carthanachta: 20



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Westside Library continues to be a lively center for community involvement, hosting a wide variety of activities. Our auditorium space is regularly utilized by groups such as the



Ukrainian After-School Family Craft Sessions (Galway City Partnership), Parents' Health & Wellness Classes (organized by DEIS home school liaison officers from five primary and secondary schools), the Speckled Eggs Dance Group, the Alzheimer's Support Group, Cuidiú Breastfeeding Support Group, HSE Weaning Workshops, Helium Arts, the Community Choir, and the newly launched English Conversation Class for speakers of languages other than English (LOTE), also run by Galway City Partnership.

We have also welcomed the newly established Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí/Irish Language Parents and Toddler Group into the library that will meet monthly on a Saturday morning. This initiative is organised by Gaillimh le Gaeilge.



LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Our regular library activities, such as the monthly book club, Lego Free Play Session, Baby Rhyme Time, and Storytime, remain highly popular.

The Sensory Room remains a valuable and frequently used resource, with numerous bookings recorded during this reporting period.

LAUNCH E-MOBILITY HUB

Galway City Council launched the first mobility Hub in the city in Westside. The project consists of electric car and bike charging facilities, as well as a car sharing spot and Solar PV Panels on the roof of the Westside Community Centre and Boxing Club. The solar power generated will be stored in a new on-site battery which will then power the charging infrastructure. This is a first of its kind in Ireland.

Minister of State Sean Canney and other senior officials from ATU Galway and ZEVl were in attendance.



RTÉ NATIONWIDE

We welcomed RTÉ Nationwide for a shoot in Westside Library. They interviewed author Mike McCormack, and we are looking forward to seeing the result on screen later in the year.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CRAFT ACTIVITY



A staff led craft activity to celebrate St Patrick's Day was a great success. The children got super creative in designing their leprechauns and St Patrick's Day themed bunting.

CLASS VISITS



5th class from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla visited us and discovered lots of amazing books to take home.



2nd class from St. Annin's National School in Rosscahill joined us for a library introduction and storytime.

Attendance Numbers:

For the reporting time frame, we had the following attendance numbers:

Events:738

Class visits: 66

HOUSING

VACANT HOMES

The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO), Staff Officer for Affordable Housing and the Housing Liaison Officer for Ballinasloe attended the 'Housing for Everyone' Exhibition in the Ballinasloe Library on Thursday 03rd of April. The VHO provided information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local Authority Home Loan, the Local Authority Renovation Loan, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aid Grants. The Exhibition was also attended by the Housing Agency, European Movement Ireland, Snug Home and Unitherm.



There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croi Conaithe scheme). The number of applications submitted to date is 550. 356 applications are finalised, 107 applications have been withdrawn, and 28 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants have been paid to applicants to date.

CPO ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

1,708 properties were surveyed as part of the Geo-Directory Vacancy Data Survey in late 2023 and early 2024. 817 were found to be vacant/derelict. 523 of the 817 properties have been revisited to date. Of the 523 properties revisited, 98 properties are in the process of being activated. The properties are being activated through sale on the open market and through refurbishment with some owners availing of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

Galway County Council identified 40 properties for inclusion in the first tranche of the CPO Activation Programme in November 2024. Initial letters of Activation issued to property owners at the end of November 2024 with a further reminder letter issued to owners at the start of December 2024.

While initial engagement from property owners was slow, participation has since increased with many owners actively working with Galway County Council's Vacant Homes Team to bring their properties back into use. Some owners are privately activating their properties, others are opting to sell their properties on the open market and other owners are availing of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, while some property owners are working through legal barriers to allow the properties to be returned to use. Failure to engage or to collaborate with the Council will mean Galway County Council will consider entering the legislative CPO / CA process in respect of these properties.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

RAHEEN & PÁIRC NA HABHAINN, ATHENRY

A mini competition was advertised on the 'Multi-Operator Framework Agreement for Architect-Led Fully Integrated Design Team Services For the Provision of Social and

Affordable Residential Developments and Public Realm Schemes for Galway County and City Council 2024 – 2028 for Projects Greater Than €3 Million’ on the eTenders portal on the 15th of January 2025. The six architectural companies on the panel were invited to tender was for the ‘Provision of Affordable Housing Developments at Raheen & Páirc na hAbhainn, Athenry, Co. Galway through the Accelerated Delivery Programme Stages (i) to (v), Delivery by Design and Build.’

Tender and briefing documents were prepared for the project with a view to identifying the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer (MEAT). To achieve this outcome, tenderers were instructed to submit both a quality submission and a price submission and advised they would be assessed based on a ratio of 70% Quality and 30% Price.

A total of 5 tenders were received prior to the closing date on the 28th of February 2024. The evaluation board concluded that Studio PKA (T/A Paul Keogh Architects) submitted the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer (MEAT) based on the criterion selected in the instruction to tenders. Successful and Unsuccessful tenders have been notified and arrangements for contract signing advanced.

GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE, BAILE AN CHLÁIR (CLAREGALWAY)

174 applications were received for the 44 homes being made available for sale by Galway County Council at Garraí na Gaoithe, Baile Chláir under the affordable purchase arrangements under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Associated Affordable Housing Regulations. The application date closed on March 17th. Applications are currently being evaluated and nominees will be informed of the outcome in due course.

COST RENTAL HOMES, BEARNA

Tuath Housing with the support of Galway County Council, has announced 14 new Cost Rental duplexes and apartments at Ard Raithní in Bearna, Co. Galway.

These Cost Rental homes offer high quality living at exceptional value. The homes, to be delivered in two phases, are designed to a high specification, achieving a BER ‘A’ rating and ensuring comfort and sustainability. They comprise an entrance hall, open plan living/ kitchen/ dining area, bedrooms, and main bathroom. Heating is via a heat pump, and the homes will be partly furnished to include: fitted flooring, wardrobes, white goods supplied (including washing machine, refrigerator/freezer, cooker) and window blinds.

Ard Raithní is in the village of Bearna, a vibrant Gaeltacht village and a gateway to Connemara and the sea. Ideally situated 7.5km from Galway City and accessible via the 414 and 424 buses, Ard Raithní’s location offers access to schools and third level institutes (Buaille Beag National School, Coláiste na Coiribe, the University of Galway), essential services (University Hospital Galway), and recreational facilities (Bearna Golf Club, Bearna Sports Park, Lios na nÓg playground); as well as Bearna Woods and Silverstrand Beach.

COST RENTAL

Cost Rental is a not for profit form of housing where the rent you pay covers the cost of the construction, management and maintenance of your new home.

With rents for Ard Raithní set at least 25% below average local market rates, Cost Rental offers a long-term, secure tenancy that is more affordable.

- 7 x two-bedroom apartments - €1,380 per month
- 7 x three bedroom duplexes - €1,590 per month

A deposit is required up front to secure tenancy.

- Two-bedroom apartment - €1,330
- Three-bedroom duplex - €1,540

How to apply



To see the full eligibility criteria and to register your interest, visit [Tuathousing.ie/costrental/](https://www.tuathousing.ie/costrental/)

Applications are expected to open Friday 11 April 2025 at 12 noon.

14 NEW COST RENTAL
DUPLEXES AND APARTMENTS AT
ARD RAITHNÍ IN BEARNA, CO.
GALWAY.

VISUALS USED ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE
PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE
REPRESENTATIVE OF FINISHED HOMES.



SOCIAL HOUSING

PART 8 PROPOSAL AT VICAR ST., TUAM

Stage 1 approval was received from the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government in February 2025 for a proposed development at Vicar St., Tuam which includes both a stand-alone Cold Weather Response Unit providing accommodation and self-contained Medium Term Accommodation Units. By co-locating these units, it allows for a cost saving in staffing and management requirements.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), a Part 8 planning consent application was lodged by housing capital on Friday 28th March 2025.

The proposed development consists of (1) Demolition of an existing single storey extension (2) Construction of a 2 storey extension to the rear of an existing 3 storey mid terrace unit and (3) Construction of a 2 storey mid-terrace infill unit together with all ancillary siteworks and services to provide a cold weather response unit consisting of 10 no. beds together with associated facilities and a medium term response unit consisting of 2 no. 3-bed apartments, 1 no. 2-bed apartment and 1 no. 1-bed apartment, reception/office, staff accommodation and storage within the Tuam Architectural Conservation Area at Vicar Street Tuam.

Galway County Council, as the competent authority, carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and has determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of this proposed development.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection or purchase until Monday the 28th of April 2025. Submissions or observations with respect to the



proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made on or before 13th May 2025.

PART 8 SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT FARRANAMARTIN, GALWAY RD., TUAM

On Friday 11th April, housing capital lodged a Part 8 application under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), for a social housing development at Farranamartin on the Galway Rd., Tuam.

The development consists of the construction of 66 no. residential units comprising:

- 33 no. two-storey dwellings,
- 5 no. single-storey units,
- 11 no. duplexes, and
- 17 no. apartments

Overall, the development will provide 11 no. 1-bed units, 10 no. 2-bed units, 43 no. 3-bed units and 2 no. 4-bed units. Proposed site works include provision of an electric substation, 2 no. bicycle shelters and ancillary parking, a playground, landscaping and boundary wall construction. It is proposed to provide an access connection to the site via the adjacent Galway Road, Tuam (R939) together with all service connections, ancillary siteworks and services.

TENANCY AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Planned estate management visits carried out in Q1 2025 proved to be very effective in terms of identifying the following

- Non-compliance with household waste management.
- No. of domestic pets and non-dog licence holders
- Restricted breeds
- Unlawful occupants
- Addition to Tenancies

Following the above Estate management visits in Quarter 1 2025, referrals have been forwarded to our social work department and Tenancy sustainment officer on foot of observations and concerns over ability to sustain Tenancies. These referrals will open further exploration into these cases and will provide interventions where required around ensuring Tenancy support.

The Tenancy Enforcement Officer and Housing Liaison Officers continued to work intensively in a number of areas across the County, this is done in conjunction with the Gardai, other Departments of the Council and other relevant stakeholders from outside agencies.

Continuation of successful visits undertaken in 2024 and Q 1 2025 – Estate/Tenancy management visits in each of the Municipal districts as part of our interdepartmental and inter agency approach.

For 2025 The Tenancy and Estate management staff will visits estates accompanied by:

- Dog warden service
- Waste Enforcement Officer
- Maintenance staff
- Traveller Liaison Officer
- Housing liaison Officers
- Community Wardens
- Tenancy Enforcement Officer

The Council's Tenancy and Estate Management Strategy involves active community engagement and participation at local level.

Presently The Tenancy and Estate management section are exploring with 1 separate tenant group interested in establishing residents' associations in the following area.

AN TOBAR MHUIRE AHASCRAUGH

On an ongoing basis with an emphasis on the early identification of Anti-Social Behaviour and breaches of Tenancy Agreements. The Council's Senior Executive Officer and Housing Liaison Officers and Tenancy Enforcement Officer continues to engage with AGS and regularly discusses problem areas, on how both organisations can work together to address anti-social behaviour.

CCTV

Present CCTV schemes – Sites include Tirboy, Gilmartin Rd and Parkmore, Tuam and Crowe Street Gort.

Colemans have installed new servers in Tuam & Gort



As a result of continued anti-social behaviour in the St. Grellan's estate a Mobile CCTV POD has been temporarily placed in the Green area of St Grellan's. This has been welcomed by the residents of St. Grellan's and we have experienced relative calm in the area since the introduction of the mobile CCTV unit.

Site surveys have been completed on the following: Fana Bhui, Tuam, Eisker Riada and St. Grellan's Ballinasloe, our intention is to submit applications for permanent CCTV at these locations.

TEM TRACKER COMPLAINTS

Total number of complaints January 2025 to March 2025 - Total 30 Cases

- 13 closed
- 17 cases open and currently under investigation.

POSSESSIONS ORDERS Q1

S. 12 Possession Orders - GCC successful is getting a possession order on a dwelling in Tirboy Tuam county Galway under section 17 of the Housing Miss. Provisions Act 2014

ABANDONED DWELLINGS

GCC brought back into stock 1 dwelling located at Pairc An Traintain, Loughrea under section 15 of the Housing Miss Provisions Act 2014

CONTROL OF HORSES

ACTIVITIES IN Q 1:

The Council continued to implement its protocol in conjunction with the Gardaí on the Control of Horses.

The Control of Horses Act is currently under review nationally with a view to simplifying and further improving the legislation.

Horses seized in Q1 – 0

PROPOSALS FOR 2025

Galway County Council will continue to work with the Gardaí in tackling the issue of stray and abandoned horses on public roads and Council owned land.

Once the new legislation has been enacted, a redraft of the Bye laws will be undertaken to reflect the changes in the legislation.

SOCIAL WORK

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES

The current Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures were adopted in January 2023. The Senior Social Worker Kieran Keon is the Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer for Galway County Council. He has reviewed the policy and procedures in January 2025 and confirmed that there are no legislative updates since that are required to be reflected in the policy at this time and therefore the policy continues to be fit for purpose. However, a review and updating under the Public Sector Duty is underway. Corporate services are leading out on this. All Housing staff must complete the online Children's First Training.

Additional co-working and collaboration is required between the Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer (SSW) and other directorates regarding Child Protection under Corporate for directorates such as for e.g. Library, Lifeguards, Integration Team, Housing – possibly an organisational 'Child Protection' Oversight Group to meet twice per annum. This would offer further governance and will be look at during 2025.

SOCIAL WORK TEAM (HOUSING)

- New online Referral process for internal referrals, this is working well, link available on the Intranet.
- Geographical areas of cover very busy with open cases and regular referrals.
- Currently, staff team of 3 with 315 open cases.

SEXUAL OFFENCES LIAISON OFFICER (SOLO)

- The SOLO role is attached to Senior Social Worker and Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer role.
- Changes to the Act in 2023, meaning additional responsibility for local authorities in this regard in terms of a 'single agency' response on some cases.
- We have set up an Internal automated referral to be sent to the SOLO. This referral is sent directly to the Senior Social Worker. An assessment (meeting/home visit) is required to review and assess the client in terms of risk. Recommendations are required to support the next steps i.e. placement / allocation etc.

DISABILITY / SOCIAL INCLUSION / HOUSING AGENCY

- There have been many positive examples of delivery for clients under Dis MH, Dis Int and Dis Phy. The establishment of the Housing Disability Steering group and related Actions Teams has been positive. These stakeholder/interagency Action Teams are chaired by the Senior Social Worker (SSW) & Senior Executive Officer (SEO).
- Considerable level of stakeholder engagement with the HSE and all of the main Disability services providers in the region.
- Housing Agency recognise Galway County Council role nationally in terms of our 'on the ground structures' with stakeholders and positive interagency working. Our HDSG MH subgroup has previously been shortlisted at the LAMA awards.
- The Housing agency are setting up a Social Inclusion Advisory Group to incorporate Disability and have invited the Senior Social Worker to be part of the group to advise the Housing Agency on Social Inclusion issues such as Disability, At risk Youth, Aftercare, Child Protection etc.

WELFARE OF CLIENTS LIVING IN DEMOUNTABLE UNITS

Tenancy and Estate Management and Social Work are working on a joint review and assessment of tenants living in Demountable units. The idea is to identify risks/vulnerabilities prior to a crisis occurring. This work is progressing well and ongoing.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

Galway County Council has a Traveller population of 2,509 persons. Housing for All – a new Housing Plan for Ireland states that addressing Traveller accommodation needs is a priority for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Traveller Accommodation Unit in Galway County Council ensures that all housing options are explored and progressed to meet the current and future needs of Travellers in the County.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 which was adopted in November 2024 sets out an ambitious programme of works to include major refurbishments and extensions to Traveller specific accommodation to meet the needs of residents and to

facilitate multi-generational living. A number of current projects are being progressed with funding provided by the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department of Housing:

- Clontuskert – refurbishment of 3 houses completed, including extension to one house to allow for multi-generational living
- Ballygurrane – refurbishment of 2 houses recently completed, including extension to one house to accommodate the needs of a resident and to allow for multi-generational living
- Ballygar – Extensive refurbishment of 12 properties ongoing, including the removal of a demountable unit which was beyond economical repair and the re-opening of a property which had been vacant for some time to allow for a new generation of a family resident in the estate to set up home. This also allowed for families to relocate temporarily whilst refurbishment of each home was ongoing.
- Ballygar – Major refurbishment of 1 property underway
- Ballygar – Reconstruction of 1 property destroyed by fire – tenders undergoing assessment, with construction expected to commence in Q3 2025.
- Castleblakeney – 2 houses undergoing major refurbishment to improve living conditions for residents
- Athenry – 1 house being extended and refurbished to meet the needs of all household members
- Ballydavid, Athenry – Submission made to Department for funding to refurbish 6 properties, including energy retrofit proposals.
- Gortbride, Loughrea – Tender documentation being prepared to refurbish 4 houses following successful funding application to the TAU.

It is expected that all current Traveller specific accommodation will have been refurbished and upgraded during the lifetime of the 2 Traveller Accommodation Programmes from 2019 –2029, in addition to adding to the stock of Traveller Specific accommodation.

KINGSLAND, ATHENRY





CASTLEBLAKENEY, BALLINASLOE



CLOONLYON, BALLYGAR



DUNLO HILL, BALLINASLOE

Custy Construction have been appointed as main contractors for the Regeneration scheme at Dunlo Hill in Ballinasloe, on Tuesday the 25th of March.

The scheme when completed will consists of; 10no. two storey-one bed dwelling units, 2no. two storey-two bed dwelling unit, 1no. single storey – one bed maisonette, 1no. duplex - one bed apartments, 2no. duplex – two bed apartments (**16no. units in total**), as well as the conversion of “Dooley’s Pub” from a public house to a community use.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM CUSTY CONSTRUCTION, OBFA ARCHITECTS, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING SECTION WITH CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY AND CATHAOIRLEACH MARTINA KINANE AT DOOLEYS CORNER

Section 179a permission was enacted on the 22nd of July 2024 with substantial completion scheduled for Q4 2026.

ARTISTS IMPRESSION OF COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT

This scheme, due to its prominent location, will play an important part in the rejuvenation of Ballinasloe Town Centre.





REPRESENTATIVES FROM CUSTY CONSTRUCTION, OBFA ARCHITECTS, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING SECTION WITH CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR. MARTINA KINANE AND CLLRS. CONNOLLY, HARNEY AND PARSONS.

Councillor Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, said “This is a milestone scheme for Galway County Council and the town of Ballinasloe that will bring about the transformation of a derelict site into a vibrant new community hub and residential development. With 16 modern residential units and a restored community facility, this initiative marks a significant step forward in revitalising the town centre while meeting the housing needs of our community.”

Councillor Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District, commented, “The Elected Members are fully supportive of this development as it will inject new life into the Dunlo Hill area of the town by bringing back into use the terraced homes and public house that have been lying vacant for several years. I want to commend the staff of the Galway County Council’s Housing Department for their vision in delivering this badly needed scheme, which will deliver modern housing and revitalise the heart of the town for generations to come.”

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council, explained that the Dunlo Hill development will have a lasting positive impact on Ballinasloe.

“The existing buildings at Dunlo Hill have not been in use for some time and have fallen into a state of disrepair,” he explained. “Their renovation, along with the ongoing maintenance of their historic features, ensures their survival into the future and marks a significant local authority-delivered regeneration project for the town.”

Michael Owens, Director of Services for Housing with Galway County Council, explained that the initial construction phase of the development includes the partial demolition of outbuildings and sheds to the rear courtyard areas, and the construction of a new single storey extension to the rear of Dooley’s Pub.

He noted that the existing rear courtyard area would be adapted to create a new pedestrian route through the development that will open the project towards the community, while renewable energy design measures will be implemented in the new community centre and housing units.

“The project seeks to bring back to life existing houses which have been unoccupied for a considerable length of time and have fallen into a derelict state,” he added. “The retention of Dooley’s Pub as a community space will help strengthen the place of this project within the Ballinasloe community,” concluded Mr. Owens.

Ciaran O'Brien, Practice Director of OBFA Architects, commented, “OBFA has been designing new homes throughout Ireland for local authorities and housing bodies for 12 years. The design team particularly enjoy a project like Dunlo Hill, which combines adaptive re-use, town centre living, and a mixed-use occupancy. Dooley’s Pub is a beloved Ballinasloe landmark, and the design team was delighted to incorporate part of it for future community and cultural use.”

PART 8 FOR HOUSING IN CULLAIRBAUN ATHENRY

Part 8 Planning was submitted on the 11th of April for a housing development in Athenry. The development comprises of 12 housing units, 8 two bed units and 4 one bed units, along with a community care facility with four occupant bedrooms and one carer bedroom. The Brothers of Charity have been identified through an EOI process as the preferred operator of this facility.

This development has been designed to have a strong emphasis on older age and disability friendly accommodation with secure internal shared courtyard and incorporating universal design.



The scheme has been designed by PKA (Paul Keogh Architects) who were appointed in July of Last year and will be one of the first schemes in County Galway to be delivered through the Design & Build process, which allows for the accelerated delivery of housing through the use of modern methods of construction.

SOCIAL HOUSING SECOND HAND ACQUISITIONS PROGRAMME 2025

BACKGROUND

The clear focus of Government in Housing for All is to increase the supply of new build social and affordable homes. Increasing the overall housing supply is key to addressing the housing challenge and in particular preventing and ultimately eliminating long term homelessness. In respect of acquisitions, it is necessary to avoid undue impact on the private housing market, including avoiding competition in second hand acquisitions with first time buyers or with other private individuals/families. In that context, Housing for All set initial targets to acquire a maximum of 200 second hand homes, for use as social housing, each year from 2022 to 2026.

With the lifting of the Eviction Moratorium in 2023, and the reported uplift in the number of landlords within the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) exiting from the market, Government agreed to temporarily increase the upper limits for acquisitions. This increased from 200 to 1,500 for both 2023 and 2024, with the primary focus being on acquiring properties where a tenant in receipt of social housing support i.e. HAP/RAS, had received a Notice of Termination (NoT) due to the landlord's intention to sell the property.

GOVERNMENT DECISION ON 2025 SOCIAL HOUSING ACQUISITIONS

To continue to support local authorities in responding to acute local situations where households in receipt of social housing support are at risk of becoming homeless or where there is an urgent need to acquire a property to respond to a particular need, Government has approved an increase in the funding available for second-hand social housing acquisitions for 2025 from the €60m initially available under Housing for All to €325m through the allocation of an additional €265m.

This increased funding will allow for a significant programme of acquisitions in 2025 for the following priority

categories of need only:

1. Tenancy Sustainment - Tenant in Situ (TiS);
2. Exits from homeless services;
3. People with a disability and older persons requiring urgent housing responses; and
4. Buy and Renew (B&R) acquisitions which tackle vacancy.

Further information on these priority categories and the arrangements and criteria that will apply to them, are set out below.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EACH PRIORITY CATEGORY OF ACQUISITION IN 2025

TENANCY SUSTAINMENT - TiS

The following criteria will apply for all TiS acquisitions being undertaken in 2025:

- The tenancy is registered with the Residential Tenancy Board (RTB) and the validity of the NoT issued to the HAP/RAS tenant is confirmed by the local authority/approved housing body.
- The property being acquired has been the subject of social housing support payments for a continuous period of at least two years.
- The local authority Tenancy Sustainment Officer must engage with the landlord to see if the tenancy can be maintained within the current or an alternative social housing scheme and if not, the tenant must be assisted in looking to secure alternative private rented accommodation.

- Where the existing or an alternative tenancy cannot be secured, the local authority must examine if a tenancy in a local authority or approved housing body property is an option.
- The local authority must certify that the acquisition is only undertaken as a last resort in order to prevent homelessness.
- Ensure that the acquisition has been recorded as homeless prevention on the PAS System.
- In undertaking the acquisition, priority should be given to families with children, older persons or people with a disability who are at serious risk of homelessness.
- The purchase price and associated fees (e.g. valuation, legal, etc.) only will be recouped and must be within the Department's latest Acquisition Cost Guidelines (ACGs).
- Where improvement works are required in the short to medium term to future proof the property, these can be undertaken as part of local authority maintenance/upgrade work, while use can also be made as appropriate, of funding programmes such as the Planned Maintenance programme and Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.
- The local authority is responding only to valid 'no fault' NoTs and not landlord overtures.
- In making a submission claim to the Department, the local authority Chief Executive must certify on each HCA3 Form that all mandatory eligibility criteria for acquisitions have been complied with for each acquisition undertaken.

The delegated sanction available to local authorities to pursue acquisitions will remain in place where the conditions set out above have been met and where the all-in cost [purchase price, associated fees (e.g. valuation, legal etc.) are within the Acquisition Cost Guidelines (ACGs).

As part of your decision-making process, priority should be given to families with dependent children/elderly/disabled persons. Prioritising households should not however be interpreted as excluding any household. The final decisions in relation to each individual purchase rests with the local authority having considered the individual circumstances of each case.

PROPERTIES THAT ALLOW PERSONS/FAMILIES TO EXIT HOMELESS SERVICES

The Build programmes remain the primary approach to the delivery of new social homes, including those that will support persons/families to exit homeless services. However, acquisitions that support particular persons/families to exit homeless services can be supported where new build supply is not in a position to meet such housing needs and, in particular, where this involves exiting people/families from emergency accommodation. Where you are identifying an acquisition as being for the exiting of people/families from

emergency accommodation, you must provide the Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) identification number for the exits on the HCA3 Form.

As part of your decision-making process, it is essential that priority is given to:

- Families in Emergency Accommodation for more than 24 months
- Single people especially those identified for Housing First
- Large families
- Care leavers

The acquisition of one-bedroom properties to deliver on the Housing First Programme targets will also be supported in 2025. Local authorities proposing such acquisitions should briefly confirm the housing need being met, progress being made against Housing First targets and efforts being made to deliver additional 1-bed units through the Build programmes including those of AHBs.

The delegated sanction available to local authorities to pursue acquisitions will apply for an acquisition to accommodate an Exit from Homeless Services, where the all-in cost [purchase price, associated fees (e.g. valuation, legal etc.) and minimal essential refurbishment works combined] are within the ACGs.

In making a submission claim to the Department, the local authority Chief Executive must certify on each HCA3 Form that all mandatory eligibility criteria for the acquisition have been complied with for each acquisition undertaken.

HOUSING SUITABLE FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR THE ELDERLY

While the primary response to delivery of new build social homes, including for people with a disability or age friendly housing, should be via Build programmes, it's recognised that in certain urgent /emergency situations, acquisitions may be required for particular situations of disability/elderly need. In such cases, the local authority should provide basic information on the particular client disability (or related) needs and the reasons this need is being met via a targeted acquisition. AHBs can undertake CAS-funded acquisitions for disability-related situations.

As part of the recoument process, please be clear within the HCA3 Form about the emergency nature of the situation, and about the suitability of the property including adaptations needed to cater for the needs of the intended tenant(s). It is also expected that where a tenant's situation is of an urgent/emergency nature, that there would be a quick turnaround envisaged for any works required to the property and that where required, any necessary care supports e.g. HSE, are confirmed before completing the acquisition. Page 4 of 10 The delegated sanction available to local authorities to pursue acquisitions will apply for an acquisition to accommodate disabled/elderly persons, where the all-in cost [purchase price, associated fees (e.g. valuation, legal etc.) and minimal essential refurbishment/adaptation works combined] are within the ACGs.

In making a submission claim to the Department, the local authority Chief Executive must certify on each HCA3 Form that all mandatory eligibility criteria for the acquisition have been complied with for each acquisition undertaken.

BUY & RENEW ACQUISITIONS WHICH TACKLE VACANCY

The B&R acquisitions programme was identified under Housing for All, as a valuable opportunity for tackling vacancy and dereliction. However, since the commencement of the B&R programme, a number of other options have emerged to support the tackling of vacancy/dereliction. In tackling vacancy to deliver new social homes, most local authorities now focus on longer-term and harder to tackle vacant/derelict, effectively obsolete, properties which the market will not address, rather than acquiring quicker turnaround, vacant modern suburban houses.

From a high of 270 units of B&R acquisitions being acquired in 2018 involving 22 local authorities, the number of units acquired in 2024 dropped to an estimated 33 units involving 13 local authorities. As regards social homes delivered via construction-led Renewal projects as part of the local authorities build programme, this amounted to only 40 units in 2021 but continues to grow and is encouraged where the harder to address vacant/derelict and effectively obsolete properties are being tackled.

If there are situations where proceeding with a B&R acquisition for social housing purposes does not compete with private purchasers, and where it represents the best and most timely option for tackling a vacant/derelict property, and where other options are not proving viable, then local authorities can proceed with such acquisitions in 2025. When drawing down funding, please be clear about the reasons for the use of a social housing-led acquisition approach, in lieu of other options.

The delegated sanction available to local authorities to pursue acquisitions will apply for B&R situations where the all-in costs [purchase price, associated fees (e.g. valuation, legal etc.) and refurbishment works combined] are within the ACGs.

In making a submission claim to the Department, the local authority Chief Executive must certify on each HCA3 Form that all mandatory eligibility criteria for the acquisition have been complied with for each acquisition undertaken

CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2025

For 2025, there is a capital funding allocation for each local authority to undertake acquisitions under the priority categories, rather than a specific unit allocation as was the case in 2024. Within your capital funding allocation, the level of acquisitions across each of the priority categories will be a matter for your local authority to decide.

Of the €325m available for SH Acquisitions in 2025, €8m is being set aside as a contingency that will be used as necessary to round off a local authority's allocation later in the year if

the amount remaining to them is insufficient to meet the full costs of an additional acquisition or approved refurbishment costs.

The capital funding allocation for your local authority for 2025 is outlined in Appendix 1.

Properties acquired (sale closed) in calendar year 2024 which were not recouped in 2024 can be recouped in 2025 under the eligibility criteria applicable to 2024 acquisitions. Please note however that such recoupments will be funded from the capital funding allocation notified to you for 2025.

All properties acquired in calendar year 2025 will be required to fully comply with the eligibility criteria under the 2025 second hand acquisitions programme.

All local authorities are required to keep TRABIS trackers up to date to ensure that data on acquisitions is available in real time.

APPROVED HOUSING BODY LED ACQUISITIONS

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are included in the acquisitions programme and will be funded using the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) on the same 100% grant funded basis as local authorities. Funding under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) is not available to support acquisitions under the 2025 Programme.

The capital funding allocation available to each local authority for 2025 includes for acquisitions completed by AHBs within the LAs functional area. The level of AHB acquisitions activity varies widely across local authorities, from as low as nil in one local authority to 51 in another. Local authorities are asked therefore to work strategically with AHBs over the year to ensure that acquisitions completed by them are on those activities where AHBs may have a lead role, e.g. Housing First programme, accommodation for Care leavers and Disabled Persons and to ensure that they can be managed within the local authorities' capital funding allocation.

REFURBISHMENT WORKS

In respect of refurbishment works to acquired dwellings the following is the position in respect of each category of acquisition:

1. Tenant in Situ Acquisitions – No Refurbishment Budget Allowed
2. Older/Disabled Person Housing – Refurbishment Budget can be considered
3. Exits from homeless services - Refurbishment Budget can be considered
4. Buy & Renew (tackle vacancy) - Refurbishment Budget can be considered

The following is the detailed position:

Immediate essential repairs for Tenant in Situ properties should not be required. Such properties are in receipt of HAP/RAS and are therefore the beneficiaries of significant Exchequer funded rent supports every week. The properties are legally required to meet the provisions of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 and are subject to inspection by local authorities to ensure they meet the said standards.

It is acknowledged that some refurbishment works may be required in the short to medium term, but these should be noted as part of the condition survey of the property using the agreed national stock condition survey template and programmed for future planned maintenance works.

The capital funding available for Tenant in Situ acquisitions must be dedicated to maximising the number of acquisitions and not funding works which are not immediately required but are rather future proofing works.

There are a number of funding programmes available for local authorities to improve their social housing stock including the Planned Maintenance programme, the Disabled Persons Grant, the Regeneration Programme and Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme.

In respect of acquisitions under Exits from Homelessness, Older/Disabled Persons and Buy & Renew these properties are unlikely to be in the private rented sector currently and may not therefore be in compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. If that is the case, they can be considered for a refurbishment budget for works required to bring them up to the 2019 rental standards or for adaptation works necessary to accommodate the needs of the household being accommodated.

For those acquisitions where refurbishment works are recoupable local authorities will have delegated sanction to proceed with the acquisition without prior notification to the Department where the 'All-in-Cost' (acquisition cost + fees + adaptations/refurbishment work) is within the Acquisition Cost Guidelines (ACGs).

Where refurbishment/upgrade costs are applicable, it is essential that the all-in costs represent value for money as measured against the Acquisition Cost Guidelines (ACGs). These guidelines contain a lower, upper and average/benchmark figure and a well-judged estimation, informed by a costed property inspection survey of refurbishment works is required when completing an acquisition.

The completion of refurbishments, followed by tenanting, should happen on a timely basis and a 6-month sunset clause (from the 'closing date' on the contract for the acquisition) will apply for the payment of refurbishment works. An exception to this 6-month sunset clause

can only be considered where challenging adaptations are required to a property or for other exceptional situations.

All claims for refurbishment works on properties acquired in previous years must be submitted to the Department by 30 June 2025. Thereafter such claims will not be processed. In respect of properties purchased in 2024 and budgets for refurbishment works have been already approved by the Department, these works should be carried out without delay and efficiencies gained where possible, as there will be no scope to increase budgets if cost overruns occur.

Where budgets for refurbishment works on properties acquired in 2024 have not been agreed with the Department, please note that a maximum refurbishment budget of €10,000 will be available.

Any recoupments to your local authority under the above arrangements will come from the 2025 capital funding allocation.

The capital funding allocation for Galway County Council is €6,000,000.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

NRPO UPDATE

N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

In response to the request for further information from An Bord Pleanála an update to the development consent application for the N6 Galway City Ring Road was submitted by Galway County Council on 14 April 2025. The further information included:

- An overview of the project updates
- Updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Updated Natura Impact Statement
- Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schemes
- Submissions in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2024
- Update Report on latest Galway City Development Plan

NATIONAL ROAD GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2025

Transport Infrastructure Ireland published the “2025 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads” on 28th March 2025 with Galway County Council receiving a total allocation of €9.97m for National Roads. This is a reduced allocation in comparison to the 2024 National Roads allocation of €14.7m.

ROADS PROGRAMME 2025

The Department of Transport notified local authorities of their annual roads programme allocations on Friday 14th February. Galway County Council received an allocation of €43,650,160. The Roads Programme for 2025 was adopted by the Councillors at the Municipal District Meetings in March, as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target - 12 estates Taken in Charge and/or for Bond Release. The table hereunder outlines output for 2025.

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>		
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>		
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>		2
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		
Total		2

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 06/02/2025

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	2
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	6
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	18
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	36
Bond Claims -	1

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted. I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2025



Galway County Council received an allocation of €1,023,479 for 2025 and it is envisaged that 21 LIS projects will be completed this year. A further €250,000 was ringfenced for 4 projects on the islands. 260 applications were received during the summer of 2024

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

GCO/24/0001 BUS STOP & SHELTER UPGRADE PROGRAMME

The first tranche of installing nine bus shelters has been largely completed. The shelters are located in Maigh Cuilinn (2), Headford (1), Mountbellew (1), Moylough (1), Craughwell (1), Labane(1), and Ballymoe (2). Final project close-out works including line marking and snagging works are currently in progress to bring this project to completion. A Case Study is being prepared for review by the National Transport Authority.



GCO/23/0012 BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Works progressing as programmed on Beechlawn, Ballinasloe Phase 3. Works are envisaged to be completed by end April 2025.



Before



Work in progress 31.03.2025

ROUND 1: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (ORANMORE AND ATHENRY SCHOOLS)

The schools included are Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oranmore, Scoil Íosaif Naofa, Oranmore, Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry & Athenry Boys National School.

Preliminary drawings are currently being workshopped between the Consultants, Galway County Council Active Travel and Athenry & Oranmore MD. A survey company has been appointed to carry out TOPO surveys and are due to commence 7th April.

GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

NTA Approval to move to Phase 6 construction has been received. Harrington Concrete & Quarries Ltd have been appointed as PSCS for the works and expect to commence works mid-April 2025.

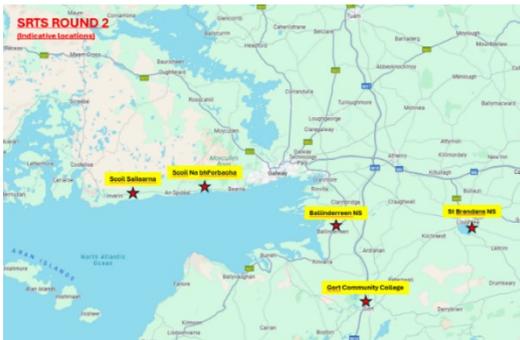


Measures include a pedestrian crossing, SRTS signage, bespoke road markings & pencil bollards all dedicated to improving safety within the vicinity of St Pauls Secondary school.

ROUND 2: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

There are 5 schools included in Round 2 SRTS for County Galway:

- Scoil Sailearna (Indreabhán)
- Scoil Na bhForbacha (Furbogh)
- Ballinderreen NS (Ballinderreen)
- Gort Community College (Gort)
- St Brendan's NS (Loughrea)



A tender for Phases 3-7 for consultancy services closed and following a tender assessment Clandillon Civil Consulting are due to be appointed on 11th April 2025.

ROUND 3: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

There are 11 schools included in SRTS Round 3. An Taisce have visited all 11 schools to identify the issues pertaining to each location. Three Draft Delivery Plans have been received for information purposes (Coldwood NS, St Thomas's (Peterswell), Corrandrum NS). The NTA have directly engaged with Active Travel Services Office (ATSO) to complete a design for all Round 3 schools. TOPO surveys are currently underway.

GCO/23/0015 ORANMORE ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, L4103, OLD LIMERICK ROAD (NEAR LIDL)



Construction works are being carried out by John Madden & Sons Limited for the pedestrian crossing near LIDL, Oranmore. Works commenced on 01/04/2025. Anticipated duration of works is 3-4 weeks.

GCO/24/0002 ATHENRY CHURCH ST TO TUAM RD (VIA STATION RD) ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME AND GCO/23/0021 TUAM ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Systra is reviewing the traffic and parking survey data. Design Options are in progress, and Galway County Council is reviewing potential cross sections at pinch points.

CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

Communities are currently implementing the projects awarded funding in 2024. Six of the thirty-two projects have been completed. Galway County Council is supporting the 2nd highest number of projects in the Country.



RAINWATER HARVESTING AND ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR, BRIGID'S GARDEN



SOLAR PANELS AND LED LIGHTING, ROUNDSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



The next round of funding for the Community Climate Action Fund is expected to open for applications in May / June.

The Climate Unit travelled to Wexford in early April to visit exemplary projects in the areas of Climate Adaptation and Mitigation.



MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE UNIT WITH MARIE DONNELLY, CHAIR, CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE

The three islands of Oileáin Árann were designated as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Galway County under the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The DZ is an area where local authorities and communities work together to find innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support a just transition to a sustainable economy and community. To support Climate Action in the DZ, Galway County Council will be opening the Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund on 28th of April.

CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING

The six-week free online Local Climate Action Course for community and voluntary groups ran until mid-March. Our Climate Action Unit in partnership with Roscommon County Council and GRETB organised the course which covers the topics of Biodiversity, Energy, Food & Waste, Recycling and Transport. Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action Officer, also provided guidance to community groups on the Community Climate Action Fund.



SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY MASTERPLANS

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) programme supports communities in the transition to a low carbon society. The Climate Action Unit works with SEAI mentors to support the completion of community level Energy Masterplans (EMP) through the provision of Bridging Finance and procurement support and then recoups the funding from SEAI. Clifden Glen SEC launched their EMP on the 29th of March and Kilcolgan / Clarinbridge will launch their EMP on the 4th of June.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS CONFERENCE 7th – 8th May

Each year the CFOA hosts a conference and trade exhibition as a means to connect and educate on all matters relating to fire services and fire safety. This is the only such national fire service event in Ireland and it is hosted by a different Chief Fire Officer each year with delegates travelling from all over Ireland (and internationally as speakers) to the host County.

This year's event is being hosted by the Chief Fire Officer of Galway Fire and Rescue Service. The audience is mainly fire service officers who deal both with operational incidents and building fire safety compliance, but also comprises of private industry and policy makers on fire safety in Ireland. Minister Browne, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (who has responsibility for Fire Services) will be opening the conference and other government policy makers will be in attendance so it's an interesting mix of fire service operational staff, fire service leadership and national governance.

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) expresses the professional opinion of Chief Fire Officers in Ireland on matters related to fire service operations, fire safety and major emergency management. It is the leadership and senior management for all Irish fire services and its objective is to improve the safety of all people and places – thereby protecting life and property throughout the country. The Association is also a member of the Federation of European Union Fire Officer Associations (FEU) and the CTIF International Association of Fire and Rescue Services.

The theme of the conference is '**Delivering a Modern Fire Service – the Future is Here and Now**', looking at preparing for the known and the unknown.

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on March data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 194 turnouts to 168 Incidents. This is an increase of 55 incidents on 113 the previous month. 91 were fire incidents, 76 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 1 was standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 35.58% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 39.88% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 24.54% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2 minutes and for county retained stations was 6.05 minutes.

An analysis of the statistics for March by comparison to previous months shows that normally the ratio of fire incidents to Special Service incidents is normally approximately 1 to 1.5. In March the ratio was reversed with the higher number of incidents being

fires. This is accounted for by the time of year (gorse/bog fire season) and the considerably dry weather in the latter half of March. As many of the fires were gorse/bog fires they were in remote locations, hence the increase in the percentage of incidents attended in over 20 minutes by comparison to previous months.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The final design is complete for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station and the fire safety certificate and disability access certificates have been granted. It is hoped to tender for the main contractor in early May 2025.

In regard to the Brigade Mechanics Workshop in Athenry, the Design Team Contract has been signed and the preliminary design is now complete. The Part 8 planning process has commenced, and it is hoped that it will be submitted mid Quarter 2 2025.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

REGIONAL MEM

Regional interagency Information Manager training was conducted 28th March 2025. Galway Fire and Rescue Service facilitated and delivered the training in conjunction with MEM colleagues in An Garda Síochána and the HSE. Trainees were from all Principal Response Agencies, including Galway County Council. A further Information Manager Training day is scheduled for May 2025.

A Walk through/talk through exercise of the airport response plan was conducted at Knock Airport on 12th March 2025, with attendees from the Western MEM Region Principal Response Agencies.

A practical exercise was conducted at Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal on 21st March 2025, with attendees from the Western MEM Region Principal Response Agencies.

Emergency Media Skills Training was conducted on 24th March 2025 at Galway Harbour Offices, with attendees from all Galway City and County Principal Response Agencies. This course was oversubscribed, it is hoped that more training sessions may be organised to include all senior officials involved in Galway County Council's Major Emergency plan.

LARGE EVENTS

An interagency Event Planning Meeting was held on 10th March 2025 in advance of the Galway City St Patricks Day Parade, and representations were made by all Principal Response Agencies. Further meetings were conducted on the morning of the parade. A post event debrief was held at City Hall on 26th March 2025. Newly acquired crowd and traffic control barriers were employed by event management for the 2025 parade, and post event feedback on same was generally positive.

MEDC (MAJOR EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

The most recent Galway County Council MEDC was conducted 27th February 2025. The Galway City Council MEDC was held on the same date. There were no MEDC meetings in March 2025, the next MEDC in both County and City is scheduled for 24th April 2025.

A Storm Éowyn Debrief was conducted 25th March 2025, facilitated by the Housing Directorate. At same, GFRS stressed the need for every directorate of Galway County Council to actively engage with the Galway County Council MEDC to foster future collaboration between sections and departments in response to large scale crisis events.

NUROP AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM(SWEMS)

GFRS will lead an inter-county SWEMS exercise involving 7 local authorities on the 14 May 2025 in conjunction with the NDFEM and the Office of Emergency Planning. The exercise will be conducted from the NECC Kildare Street and simultaneously in the 7 local authorities.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the March 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 13 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 41 applications. 6 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 6 applications. 4 new licences were issued in February and 48 inspections were conducted.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1 st JANUARY – 31st March 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	408/350
Granted	378
Grant Rate	90%
Refused	44
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (2)	
Permission (303)	
Retention (64)	
Permission Consequent (2)	
Extension of Duration (7)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	86%
Stage 1LRD	0
Stage 2 LRD	0
Major Meetings	6
SID Meetings	1

- Live LRD Application (Pl. Ref. No. 25-60251), Athenry Ventures Ltd.

CULLAIRBAUN ATHENRY, L3105 ROAD COUNTY GALWAY H65 AN27

Large-Scale Residential Development of 133 no. residential units located off the L3105 Road, in the townland of Cullairbaun, Athenry, County Galway. The proposed development will consist of the: i. Development of 133 no. residential units comprising: a. 12 no. 1 bed units b. 10 no. 2 bed units c. 109 no. 3 bed units d. 2 no. 4 bed units ii. Renovation of the existing building on site, Cullairbaun House (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage registration no. 30332001), for use as a pre-school crèche (254m²) with ancillary open space, refuse storage area and bike storage area. iii. Demolition of existing sheds and the development of a new building (308m²), comprising brick and painted render finish to the building and a standing seam metal roof, to be used as an after-school crèche, with ancillary open space. iv. 1 no. vehicular access point from the L3105 Road. v. 1 no. designated pedestrian and cyclist access point from the L3105 Road. vi. Provision of 185 no. total car parking spaces and 2 no. motorcycle parking spaces on site. vii. Provision of 374 no. total secure bicycle parking spaces on site, including 274 long term and 100 short term spaces. viii. Provision of communal open space including hard and soft landscaping such as planting and paving, and public lighting. ix. Central play areas with a mix of natural play features and climbing / agility equipment. x. Provision of drainage systems including SUDS rain garden areas. xi. 2 no. ESB substation kiosks located to the north and south of the site. xii. Potential for future connections to adjoining sites including An Cheathrú Bhán to the north-east of the site, and Raheen pitches / Gaelscoil Riada to the west of the site. xiii. All other associated and ancillary development and site works. The application contains a statement setting out how the proposal will be consistent with the objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1st JANUARY – 31st March 2025 NOVEMBER 2024

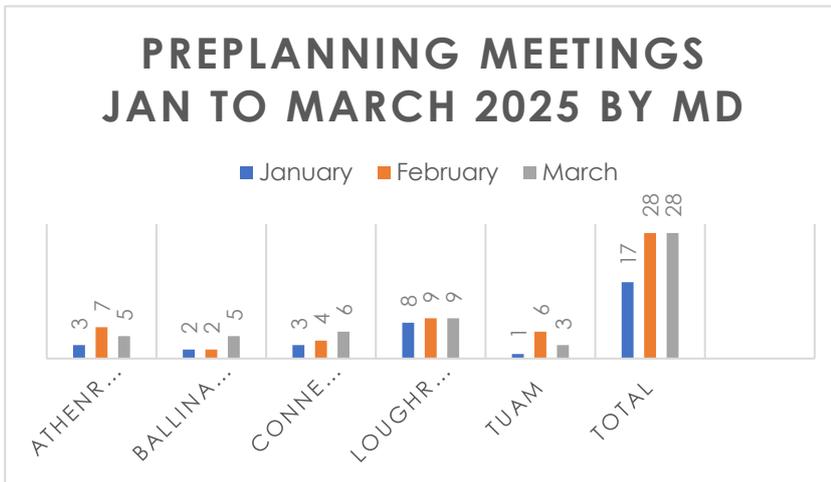
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	169
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	19

KEY STATISTICS 1st JANUARY 2025 – 31st MARCH 2025.

Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	45
Exempted	17
Not Exempted	14
FI	2
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	12
Appealed	

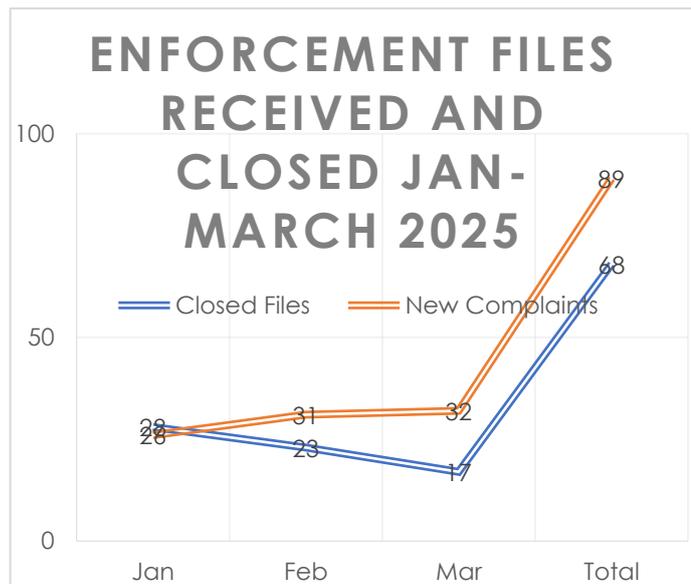
- According to the information from the International Protection Procurement Service (IPPS), any proposal under Class 20F (temporary use under S.I. No. 376 of 2023) must also undergo the Declaration of Exempted Development under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 Process.

PREPLANNING MEETINGS JAN TO MARCH 2025 BY MD



32 Warning Letters and 17 Enforcement Notices have been served to the end of February 2025 and 50 files have been closed.

ENFORCEMENT FILES RECEIVED AND CLOSED JAN- MARCH 2025



KEY PLANNING UPDATES

FORWARD PLANNING

GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

121 submissions were received on the Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (one of which was withdrawn)

CE Report on submissions received on Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was circulated to Members on 03/04/2025.

Workshop for Members was held at MD Meeting on 14/04/2025

CE Report will be discussed at the Loughrea MD Meeting on 06/05/2025.

At this stage, it is anticipated that the Material Alterations would be published by the end of May with the plan being adopted in July/August.

MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Works are underway to undertake a Vacancy Survey of Town Centre and Mixed-Use Zoned Lands, initially in the metropolitan settlements of Baile Chláir, Bearna and Oranmore.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF GALWAY COUNTY

A Socio-Economic informative profile of the county was prepared by the Forward Planning Team which will help inform policy decision makers both at home and abroad on future employment and enterprise opportunities. This was launched in partnership with Galway City Council at the IPI Conference in Salthill last week. Joint press release to issue.

IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE GALWAY

The Forward Planning Section provided the County Galway field trip element of the IPI Conference. This took place on Friday afternoon 11th April. The sites visited included Oranmore Train Station with representative from Irish rail providing an overview of the rail element of the project. This was followed by a trip to the Bia Innovator Campus and Athenry Town Walls.

URDF

Contract for design of local centre, eco park and density typology study was signed on 17 Feb last with inception meeting with consultants Brady Shipman Martin also held on that date. Meeting with consultants on a bi-weekly basis. First draft of options to be presented to Forward Planning Team on Monday 28 April 2025.

Final grant of planning for the rail infrastructure improvement works issued in March. Enabling works are progressing at Oranmore Train Station. Underpass to be constructed over two weekends in October.

MASTERPLAN OF THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT LANDS

Work is underway with a Consultant appointed in the preparation of Tender Documents in relation to the Master Plan of the Former Galway Airport lands.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Second draft JRS submitted on Friday 28 Feb for review. Bi-weekly meetings are ongoing.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of Development Contributions currently underway by the forward planning team. Report/Working Draft expected to issue to Executive Team in May.

RZLT (RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX)

Galway County Council published two **separate** maps regarding RZLT in 2025: the annual final map and the draft annual map.

1. The Annual Final Map -Published on the 31/01/2025

Scoped-in sites mapped in the annual final map will be liable for RZLT from the 1st of February 2025.

Landowners liable for RZLT, will be able to register with Revenue from January 2025. Landowners will be required to make an annual return to Revenue and pay any RZLT liable by the 23rd of May of each year, beginning 2025.

Closing date for Rezoning requests was 1st April 2025. A total of 38 no. submissions was made on Final Map, of which 2 were subsequently withdrawn. 12 of these submissions were Rezoning requests.

2. The Annual Draft Map - published on 1st February 2025

Scoped-in sites mapped on the annual draft map will not be liable for RZLT until 2026.

Closing Date for submissions was 1st April 2025. A total of 5 no. submissions was received, of which 2 were subsequently withdrawn.

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY/PRES ATHENRY AND GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual project with University of Galway and the Pres Athenry. Retail survey work was undertaken in Athenry on Day 1 with MA in Planning and Development students in UG and 5th year Pres students. The purpose of the project is to stimulate interest and engagement in Geography and Planning among the 5th year students in particular. Day 2 included students presenting their findings. UG students were tasked with formulating a policy objective related to the findings.

CONSERVATION

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2025

Christopher O’Sullivan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, has announced that 28 built heritage projects are to benefit from €3.5m in funding for conservation-led repairs under the Historic Structures Fund 2025.

Galway County Council was awarded 130,000 euros for 2025-2026

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2025

Galway County Council were allocated 204,469 euros which will support 21 different conservation projects.

HISTORIC THATCHED BUILDINGS STREAM 2025:

Galway County Council were allocated 115,984.47 euros which will support 9 different thatch projects.

NBHS TRADITIONAL SKILLS TRAINING 2025:

THE MASONRY AND LIME WORKSHOP

Traditional Skills Event for Interdepartmental training will take place on Friday 23rd May at Renville castle and park, Oranmore. The Masonry and Lime workshop will be led by Éoin Modigan SPAB and Hugh Dorrian

Éoin Madigan is a 6th Gen stone mason and lime practitioner from the Burren region of Ireland. Éoin is a SPAB Fellow, BLF Ireland member, former board member and co-founder of SPAB Ireland and former member of the technical panel for both SPAB and BLF.

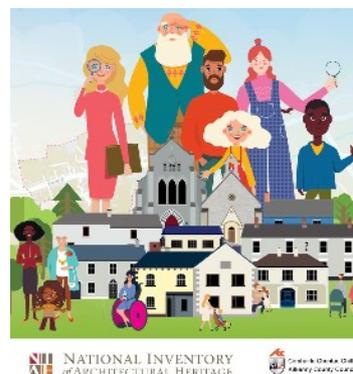
Hugh Dorrian is the managing director at Stoneware Studios, Youghal, Co. Cork. He conducts training courses and mortar analysis services. Stoneware Studios make and supply a range of building conservation materials; full range of natural hydraulic limes, lime mortars, lime putties, lime washes, natural cements, pozzolana, cork, lime and leca lime insulating plasters, pigments, additives.

THATCH APPRENTICESHIP

Traditional Skills training will take place at Seanteach Phetie, Inis Oírr the last remaining thatched cottage on the island and the training will be led by Marika Leen, Professional roof thatcher.

WONDER WANDER WALKING TRAILS 2026:

The NIAH will partner with Galway County Council Conservation and Forward Planning on this project. An Spidéal ACA and Ballinasloe ACA will make two great additions to the NIAH Wonder Wander Trail network



CONSERVATION ADVICE GRANT SCHEME 2025

The National Built Heritage Service is inviting applications for its Conservation Advice Grant Scheme from owners of vacant traditional houses who are considering bringing those houses back into use as new homes. The Conservation Advice Grant Scheme, now in its second year, is designed to support owners availing of or considering availing of the Vacant Properties grant

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/conservation-advice-grant-scheme-2025/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING SPC

The Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC was held on 5th March 2025. The following topics were discussed

- Local Enterprise Office update
- Gort Local Area Plan
- Residential Zoned Land Tax update
- Urban Regeneration Development Fund projects
- Town Centre First Plans and progress to date
- Draft joint retail strategy
- Government Circulars etc – 1. Outdoor events licence amendment

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

24/60882 – grant of permission for apartment block in Oranmore granted (10 no. units)

25/60052 – Eirgrid grant of permission for

- the replacement (“restringing”) of the existing OHL circuit conductor wires with a new higher capacity conductor
- Replace tower in situ at 1no. location
- Retain towers at 3no. locations including foundation strengthening with bar member replacement at 2 locations
- Replace polesets at 15no. locations
- the replacement of insulating and ancillary hardware at structures
- all associated temporary site development works to gain access to the existing structures including vegetation clearance and management, disassembly and reassembly of gate posts/piers and removal and reinstatement of existing fencing; and
- other temporary associated and ancillary site development works required for the purpose of the uprate of the existing circuit, including construction compounds, silt traps, silt fences, vegetation clearance and management, stone tracks, ground protection mats, infrastructure crossing support systems (i.e. guard poles) and temporary watercourse crossings

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

LEO Galway is the first stop shop for anyone seeking information or advice on starting, growing, or expanding a business in both Galway City and County.

This month LEO Galway continued to support small and micro businesses through their range of financial/soft supports and advisory services outlined below:

MENTORING



Our mentoring programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights, and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with clients who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance. The mentor contributes independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making.

The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the Galway region.

Areas of mentoring include business strategy, financial planning, market research, marketing & promotion, distribution, exporting, production planning, social media. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours support from the mentor.

DIGITAL FOR BUSINESS

For the Digital for Business, our expert digital consultants assist through the analysis of existing digital systems in the business and to identify potential gaps in meeting business needs. They also explore opportunities to optimise existing systems and to integrate with new solutions to enhance business operations and provide guidance on the implementation of new or enhanced digital solutions.

It has helped businesses in many ways such as reducing stress in running their business, improve business results, eliminate paperwork, and reduce time spent on administrative tasks.

Our Grow Digital Voucher offers small and medium businesses with up to 50 employees financial support to embrace their digital technology. Funding up to €5,000 is available to invest in software and training/IT configuration.

**FUND YOUR
DIGITAL FUTURE**
€5,000 Grow Digital Voucher

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The March SYOB evening programme finished on 27th of March 2025. Our next SYOB programme will commence on the 23rd of April and will run until the 15th of May. We also held a Business Start Up Basics webinar on Wednesday 9th April 2025 from 10am to 12pm. This webinar was aimed at individuals who are interested in understanding what is involved in starting a business.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEAN LAUNCH

The Spring Lean Launch programme commenced on 27th February 2025. This programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable.



The programme will run as follows:

Module 1	Thursday 27 th February 2025	9.30am – 4.30pm
Module 2	Thursday 13 th March 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 3	Thursday 27 th March 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 4	Monday 28 th April 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 5	Friday 23 rd May 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 6	Wednesday 18 th June 2025	9.30am – 4pm
Module 7	Wednesday 16 th July 2025	9.30am – 4pm

PAST EVENTS

DESIGN MINGLE WITH JACQUELINE FFRENCH

Jacqueline French will join us in Crew on April 11th at 10.30am for her inspiring talk on ‘The Creative World of Dental Technicians’.

PD Ceramics Ltd is a trusted Galway based, Guaranteed Irish dental laboratory partner for dentists established in 1986. With 38 years of experience and a commitment to excellence, we provide cutting-edge dental restorative expertise in the manufacture of our exceptional dental products. These transform dental patients’ lives via our strong relationships and collaborations with dental practices across Southern and Northern Ireland, and the UK. We deliver precision-driven, personalized, custom-made dental restorations that enhance confidence, comfort, and quality of life for dental patients.

Pioneering dental innovations to ensure heightened precision and efficiency through collaboration with general and specialist dentists is the cornerstone of PD Ceramics Ltd. This has led us to be leaders for innovative restorative dental restorations, specifically in the implantology space. By empowering our highly trained dental technicians and operations team through continuous education, training and a strong focus on self-leadership and wellbeing, we have built stability, credibility, and sustainability in the business to continue to scale and grow as an SME in Ireland today.



MS. JACQUELINE FFRENCH (PD CERAMICS LTD)
PRESENTING AT THE RECENT DESIGN MINGLE

L-R: MS. NOREEN DONOHUE, LEO
GALWAY, MS. JACQUELINE FFRENCH, PD
CERAMICS LTD., MR. & MS. AMBROSE &
BRID O'HALLORAN, AMBROSE & BRID
WOODTURNING



EMPLOYER INFORMATION EVENT – WORK AND SKILLS EVENT

Noreen Donohue and Arianna McDonagh recently attended the Work and Skill event on behalf of LEO Galway which was held in the Connemara Coast Hotel on the 8th April 2025.

The Department of Social Protection run this campaign in both April and October focusing on Work and Skill. This event organised by Intreo, Galway, focused solely on employers and the support and services available to them.



The event focused on informing employers on the supports and services available to them from government agencies, stakeholders, NGO's and voluntary group. Each stakeholder and agency hosted a stand, providing information on their services and supports to attending employers.

There were employers from both the Galway city and Connemara region.

IRISH TAX INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sandra Regan recently attended the Irish Tax Institute's Annual Conference, on behalf of LEO Galway, which was held in the Galmont Hotel on the 4th of April 2025.

This information event included many groups hosting stands across both the Friday and Saturday (April 4th & 5th).

There were many key speakers on the day from a range of businesses including: Keogan, Irish Tax Institute, KPMG, Coughlan Accounting & Taxation Services Ltd, Rose Private, Highfield Private Clients, Yoga Mara, EY, Deloitte, Grant Thornton, Circulo, PwC, Baker Tilly, RDJ & SC.



MS. SANDRA REGAN, LEO GALWAY, AT THE IRISH TAX INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CITY OF MENTOR OHIO TRADE DELEGATION VISIT

The City of Mentor, a regional economic hub just 20 minutes east of Cleveland, Ohio, is home to two hundred plus manufacturing firms, specialising in biotech/medtech, aerospace, advanced and precision manufacturing, and automotive supply chain, among other industry clusters. Mentor is Ohio's 5th largest manufacturing center and 6th largest retail center, encompassing a population approaching 50,000 with a daytime population two times that number.

For the last five years, the City of Mentor has made annual visits to Ireland to foster relationships with business incubators (e.g. Platform 94 and the Guinness Enterprise Centre), trade associations (Galway and Dublin Chambers of Commerce), and academic institutions (Atlantic Technical University) among others to help companies that may be associated with these entities further explore in the US market. They specialise in a concierge-based approach to business relationship building and investment attraction, partnering with internationally known entities like the Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, and companies across the region to find appropriate matchmaking opportunities for international companies and providing soft-landing experience and various incentives to companies looking to establish an American presence.

They were also keen to develop dialogue with local economic development organisations (particularly like-minded cities like Galway), to see how we could collaborate further. Their delegation consisted of:

Kevin Malecek, Director of Economic Development and International Trade, City of Mentor

Ken Filipiak, City Manager/CEO, City of Mentor

Ray Kirchner, City Councilman, City of Mentor

Richard Regovich, County Commissioner, County of Lake, State of Ohio

Mark Owens, Honorary Irish Consul for the State of Ohio and Vice President, Team NEO

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise) attended this visit which took place in Platform94 on Thursday April 3rd.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME FINAL

The Student Enterprise Programme is an Enterprise Education programme for second level students and is organized by each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices for the past 23 years. The programme runs from September to May. The students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan. The winning team from each 31 Local Enterprise Office goes forward to take part in the National Final which will take place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 8th May 2025. The Galway Student Enterprise Awards final was held in the Clayton Hotel on 20th March.



L-R: MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, LEO GALWAY, AND MS. NIAMH RYAN & MS. AOIFE CLEARY, SCENTS CRAFTS & CO., HIGH CROSS COLLEGE, TUAM

SENIOR WINNER – KATELYN HYLAND, CÚL CARDS, HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE MOUNTBELLEW.



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

Facebook:

7.4k likes

Reach year-to-date: 33.2k

LinkedIn:

1.2k followers

Reach year-to-date: 1.8k

Instagram:

3.3k followers

Reach year-to-date: 6.9k

X (Twitter):

5931 followers

IPO OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRISH SCALE-UPS & SME'S

There was an event on 'IPO Opportunities for Irish Scale-Ups & SME's' in Platform94, Mervue Business Park on April 2nd from 8.30am to 10.30am. Insights on the day included:

- Navigating the Euronext Access process for sub-10M investment.
- Adopting an alternative approach to listing.
- From Seed to Scale – your funding journey explained.



westbic **EURONEXT** **Data2Sustain** **platform 94**

IPO OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRISH SCALE-UPS & SMES

INSIGHTS ON

- Navigating the Euronext Access process for sub-€10M investment
- Adopting an alternative approach to listing
- From Seed to Scale – your funding journey explained

WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL
8:30 - 10:30
PLATFORM94, MERVUE BUSINESS PARK

NIALL JONES EURONEXT
BARRY MURPHY ASSOCIATES
MARIE DONNELLAN PLATFORM94
JOHN BRENNAN WESTBIC
MARY RODGERS PORTUMNA

REGENERATION SCHEMES

PORTUMNA

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Works are currently progressing ahead of programme at Portumna Courthouse. The building is currently being snagged, and final commission will take place in 3 weeks. Final furnishings are also being considered. A site open day was held for potential operators of the café space; tenders are expected to be returned by May 6th.

Funding is in place through the DRCD for the appointment of a 3-year temporary post of



Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility. The successful candidate is currently going through the vetting process in advance of her appointment. This post will also manage the Loughrea Town Hall once completed.

FRONT ELEVATION, PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE



FRONT / REAR ELEVATION, CAFÉ



REAR ELEVATION CAFÉ, INTERNAL SEATING



CAFÉ, INTERNAL VIEW / KITCHEN AREA

REAR COURTYARD, EXTERNAL RE-POINTING



REAR COURTYARD SEATING

INTERNAL EVENT SPACE





INTERNAL CONNECTING WALKWAY,
DISABLED TOILET



MEETING ROOM



OFFICE SPACE

PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

The Portumna Public realm enhancement scheme part 8 planning application is approaching submission readiness.

Engagement is continuing with a view to purchasing town centre lands to increase the provision of off-street parking to support town centre businesses.

PORTUMNA TOWN TRAIL

OBFA Architects have produced a draft Town Trail strategy document following the successful public consultation event. The document is currently being reviewed and will be discussed with our partners in Portumna, Coillte, Waterways Ireland, and the Office of Public Works to determine appropriate funding streams.

LOUGHREA

RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with demolition works ongoing.

Agreement has been reached with the landowner to purchase the adjacent derelict property on Church Street. The conveyancing process will commence over the coming weeks now that terms have been agreed. Future development plans for the property are currently being considered.



AERIAL VIEW; LOUGHREA TOWN HALL AND ADJACENT PROPERTY



INTERNAL WORKS, GROUND FLOOR



INTERNAL WORKS, FIRST FLOOR



EXTERNAL WORKS, NEW THREE STOREY
EXTENSION



EXTERNAL WORKS, NEW THREE STOREY
EXTENSION REVERSE VIEW

ORIS PROJECT – LONG POINT

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. An Bord Pleanála have issued a request for further information. The consultants have issued the Regeneration



Team a revised fee proposal to undertake this work. It is estimated to be in the region of €30 -€40,000. An Board Pleanala have granted an extension until May 2025 to respond to further information request.

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE LONG POINT

RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Following a detailed application by the Regeneration Team, Athenry was granted €6,075,518.40 Rural Regeneration Development Funding for the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme Phase1 and the redevelopment of Somers House Burke’s Lane to provide a Community and Enterprise Hub.

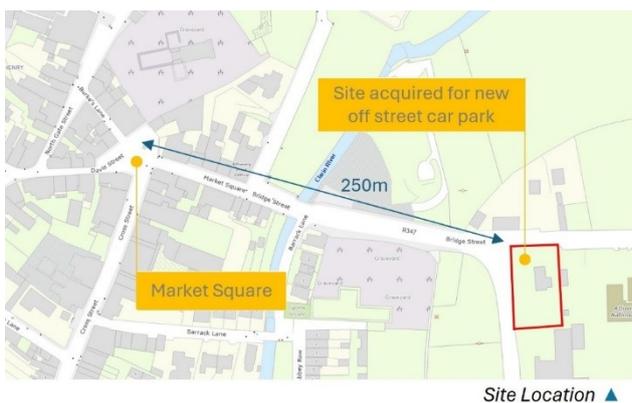
The detailed design of the scheme (drainage, m&e, alignment, pavement) continues, led by Tobin Engineers. A pre-qualification tender will issue in the coming weeks in order to shortlist suitable contractors to tender to deliver the scheme.



Current programming forecasts construction to commence late-2025. As part of the contract a community liaison officer will be appointed to manage engagement with local stakeholders both prior to and during works.

3D RENDER PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM

The contracts have been signed, and a booking deposit has been paid to purchase a site at the bottom of Bridge Street from the OPW to provide off street parking. Initial estimates are that approximately 30no. off street spaces could be provided at the location.



LOCATION OF PROPOSED CARPARK, CARPARK SKETCH DESIGN



RRDF PROJECT – SOMERS HOUSE

O’C & C Architects have been appointed to deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases. It is the intention to investigate the provision of a meeting room facility to cater for meeting of the Municipal District as part of the project.

OPW WORKS – ATHENRY CASTLE

Galway County Council have been informed that the Office of Public Works have appointed a contractor to carry out improvement works to the entrance threshold to Athenry Castle. It is expected that this work will commence over the coming weeks.

TUAM

TUAM TOWN HALL

OC&C architects have been appointed as the design team that will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases.

TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

The renovation and extension of the Tuam Station Building has been designed inhouse by the Regeneration Team.

The Part 8 planning application was submitted on the 28th of March and is available to view on Galway County Councils consultation portal.

A Special Meeting of Tuam Municipal District will be convened before the end of May to consider the Chief Executives Report on the planning file. The deadline for submitting a funding application to deliver the capital project is May 30th. This application will be made to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.



3D RENDER PROPOSED
FRONT ELEVATION

3D RENDER PROPOSED REAR
ELEVATION



3D RENDER PROPOSED FRONT
ELEVATION

3D RENDER PROPOSED FRONT
ELEVATION



3D RENDER PROPOSED REAR
ELEVATION

3D RENDER PROPOSED
REAR ELEVATION



TUAM STATION QUARTER MASTERPLAN (THRIVE FUNDING)

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann and to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been formally appointed to develop the masterplan. The first public consultation has taken place. The findings are being collated by the consultants to inform the draft masterplan. Further engagement with the NTA and Irish Rail are planned.

CLIFDEN

A Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Plans and particulars can be viewed online at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme> . To date there has been no request for further information. The case is due to be decided by 01/05/2025.



BEACH ROAD QUAY

MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET STREET





HARBOUR PARK

GORT

GORT PUBLIC REALM

The Gort Public Realm scheme is ready to be submitted as a part ten planning application to An Bord Pleanála. We are engaging with our Law Agents to purchase lands in the town centre for additional car parking space.

SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

An application for funding under Category 2 of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to purchase the former Convent property has been submitted. It is anticipated that a decision will issue within three months.

ORANMORE

RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have been appointed to develop a sustainable development plan for Rinville Park. An initial inception meeting will take place over the coming weeks. A programme of public engagement will follow which will include engagement with the local elected members. The newly formed Oranmore Town Team will be an important stakeholder in the process.

ATHENRY

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the initial stages of evidence gathering for the TCF plan. An online survey has been published and can be accessed on <https://athenry-town-centre-first-plan.com/>. A very well attended public consultation evening was held on Thursday the 20th of March at the New Park hotel. The process of distilling the public feedback from the event will now take place which will in turn inform the draft plan. A further engagement evening will take place to introduce the draft plan once developed.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENING, NEWPARK HOTEL

BALLINASLOE

The Ballinasloe Town Team continue to work with the Paul Hogarth Company in development the draft Town Centre First Plan. Further engagement took place between the Town Team and representatives of Galway County Council to showcase the projects that are in development within the town. A further in person public engagement event is planned to take place to coincide with the publication of the draft plan.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

The Town Centre First Plan for an Cheathrú Rua is being led by Údáras and supported by Galway County Council. Allies and Morrison have been appointed to develop the plan. A public engagement evening will take place on April 28th from 6pm at An Crompán. The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert will be in attendance on behalf of Galway County Council.

HERITAGE OFFICE

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING & VIDEO EDITING COURSE

Galway County Council Heritage Office working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) has developed a 4-week Smartphone Filmmaking & Video Editing Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway (Galway County Council's

administrative area only). The course will be delivered online and is free of charge. There are limited places available on the course and booking is essential. We would ask that you



would only register for the course if you are involved in Galway County Heritage and can commit to attending all of the sessions.

To book your place on this online course please log on to the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/smartphone-filmmaking-video-editing-may-2025-tickets-1311565510749>

GRANT FOR COMMEMORATIONS RESEARCH OPENING TO HISTORIANS

The Minister for Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan T.D., has announced the opening of this year's Commemorations grant, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy. The Commemorations Bursary Scheme was established to encourage and support new local research and local history studies relating to the commemoration of events associated with the early years of the State as well as other significant historical anniversaries, events and themes. The closing date for applications is 15th May 2025. For more information see: <https://www.ria.ie/grants/commemorations-bursary/>

KILBOGHT CHURCH & GRAVEYARD: HERITAGE & CONSERVATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR, FINALIST 2025 IRISH BUILDING & DESIGN AWARDS



ATTENDING THE IRISH BUILDING & DESIGN AWARDS WERE MONA MONAGHAN, KILBOGHT GRAVEYARD COMMITTEE, MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, PEGGY MONAGHAN, KILBOGHT GRAVEYARD COMMITTEE, RICHARD FITZPATRICK, LEAN CONSTRUCTION IRELAND, BERNIE DOHERTY, GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST.

The Irish Building Design Awards have become one of the most prestigious events in the Irish construction industry. They celebrate and honour the exceptional skills and expertise within Ireland's building and design sectors.

This year saw a record number of applications, making it a significant achievement to be shortlisted for the 2025 awards. Kilboght Church and Mausoleum was nominated in the Heritage and Conservation Project of the Year category.

WORK AT KILBOGHT

Conservation efforts at Kilboght were guided by a Conservation and Management Plan, funded by The Community Monuments Fund. This fund was awarded by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and administered through Galway County Council. A story map of Kilboght, featuring a podcast and video with local resident Katie Duane, highlights the site's significance to the local community. The Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway Community

Archaeology Project collaborated with the community over several years, providing advice and support throughout the project's various phases.

EXPERT TEAM OF HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

The project was executed to the highest standards by a team of dedicated professionals. Heritage contractors Galway Stone Design, Consultant Archaeologist Dominic Delany, Conservation Architects 7L Architects, and ecological experts MKO LTD all contributed their expertise. Despite challenging conditions and a tight timeframe, the quality of work at Kilboght remained exceptional. For more information please see:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8ef529b34852438b9dbd4e20cf74dc81#ref-n-rQrWSq>

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/community-archaeology/cmf21-galway-county/kilboght-church-and-graveyard>

HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDING FOR HERITAGE PROJECTS

Galway County Council Heritage Office applied to The Heritage Council for funding for several heritage projects and has been granted a total of €127,000 for the following projects:

ATHENRY TOWN WALLS CAPITAL FUNDING.

(This is specific funding for member towns of the Irish Walled Towns Network). This year's work relates to a section of the south wall behind Kenny Park (GAA pitch). Amount of funding granted: €70,000.

COUNTY GALWAY AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE RECORDINGS (PHASE III) – AUDIT CONSOLIDATION AND MASTER PLAN.

The Audit Consolidation element of the project will consolidate the achievements of the Phase I (2023) and Phase II (2024) audits (East Galway and Connemara) where a combined 4,288 recording items were identified within 58 collections and fifty-two collection holders. It will generate a comprehensive representation of oral heritage collections and their status/condition across all of county Galway. The development of a Master Plan for County Galway Oral Heritage Collections and ongoing documentation will build the next actional steps which will enable a transition from the documentation of County Galway's oral heritage collections to their conservation, processing and ultimately engagement and deeper appreciation. Amount of funding granted: €12,500.

DIGITAL MAPPING OF GRAVEYARDS 2025

The project deliverables use the new survey processes using leading edge technologies and agreed standards. These will ensure the expandability of the project to cater for survey updates as required into the future. Having in-house resources and know-how in GCC and working with community groups will assist them in digitising their graveyard materials. Data capture will be of a consistent high standard. It will facilitate the publication and provision

This initiative is supported by The Heritage Council and delivered through the Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Programme and Galway Public Libraries.

PUBLIC TALK: EVERY GARDEN COUNTS – SIMPLE ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND A HEALTHIER PLANET



Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce delivered a talk to members of Oughterard Heritage Group, Oughterard Tidy Towns and interested members of the public highlighting the issues facing biodiversity in County Galway and positive actions everyone can take to make a difference and create and restore natural habitats in their land.

LOCAL AUTHORITY KNOWLEDGE SHARING DAY

Municipal District staff from Galway County Council joined members of Galway City Council's Recreational and Amenity Section, along with staff from Mayo County Council and Westmeath County Council, to share and learn from each other on topics related to grassland, woodland, and park management. These discussions focused on ways to benefit biodiversity while meeting the needs of the public. The event was organised and facilitated by Paula Kearney, Biodiversity Officer at Galway City Council. It is hoped that similar workshops will be held again, coordinated through the Biodiversity Officers in the Local Authorities.



ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Artificial lighting is invaluable to businesses, homes, roads and recreation, however inappropriate and excessive use leads to light pollution which alters the natural night light levels for humans, animals and plants. This has adverse effects on the environment, health, biodiversity and climate both through individual development and cumulative impact.

Residential, commercial and public lighting outputs have increased by 70% across Ireland since 1995. 45% of the population lives under skies five times brighter than normal. Over 50% of the Irish population can no longer see the Milky Way and light pollution levels are often so high that 20% of the Irish population are using daytime vision at night. Nearly all public lighting is on from dusk till dawn and consumes up to 35% of a Local Authority's total energy use. The annual national cost of public lighting is more than €56 million and accounts for 110k tonnes of CO₂.

Light pollution can unbalance the migratory, nocturnal and reproductive activity of animals, negatively impact insects and pollinators, bats, birds and fish, and disrupts natural plants growth. Over 50% of Ireland’s invertebrates and 30% of vertebrates are nocturnal and need natural darkness. Lighting on hedgerows, road verges tree lines and riverbanks and waterways represents a barrier to wildlife and can restrict the passage of bats and fish.

A need for training on responsible artificial light for Local Authority staff was identified and two workshops were delivered for local authority staff across the province and was organised by the Connacht Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Network. 170 staff attended across all sections of the region’s local authorities, representing a cross section of the various organisations. The speakers that delivered to the presentations included:

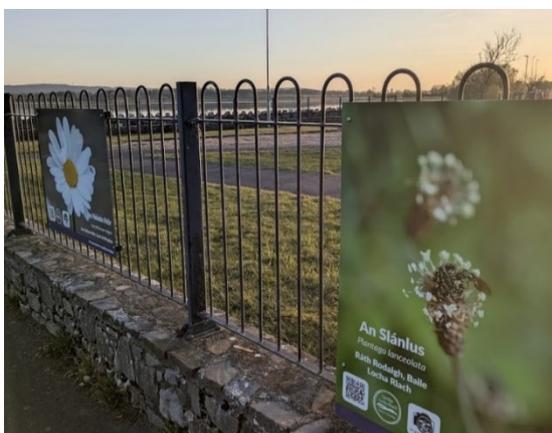
- Kerem Asfuroglu, Dark Source - Lighting Engineer and author of Dark Sky Guidelines
- Miriam Crowley - NPWS Divisional Ecologist experienced in artificial lighting requirements within County Development Plans and Appropriate Assessments
- Georgia McMillan – Mayo Dark Park; Dark Sky Ireland
- Peter McLoughlin – Mayo County Council Lighting Engineer
- Tina Aughney – Bat Ecoservices



Galway County Council Cathaoirleach Martina Kinane gave the closing address to the Galway conference.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF LOUGHREA CAMERA CLUB WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

With the support of Galway County Council Loughrea Area Office and Gaeilge Locha Riach, Loughrea Camera Club have installed their beautiful exhibition around the railings of the Loughrea Town Playground. This exhibition celebrates the wildflowers found in the local



area and their Irish names. The exhibition was officially opened by the Biodiversity Officer on Thursday 10th April and the public are encouraged to visit this installation.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

1. Restoration Improvement –2025 RI Negotiations with preferred RI contractor ongoing

- a. Old Church St, Athenry (**2024**) – Surfacing Works complete, covers and line marking to be completed
- b. RI R347 Laraghmore 2025 – RI Contractor
- c. RI R348 Derrydonnell 2025 – RI Contractor
- d. RI L4105 Millplot (Station Road) 2025 – RI Contractor
- e. RI L3106 Ballinvoher 2025 – RI Contractor
- f. RI L2129 Drumgriffin 2025 – RI Contractor
- g. RI L3107 Tysaxon (Monivea Rd) 2025 – RI Contractor
- h. RI L2119 Baunmore 2025 – RI Contractor
- i. RI L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan 2025 – RI Contractor
- j. RI L2134 Castlegar 2025 – City Contractor
- k. RI L3117 Cormacuagh 2025
- l. RI L6195 Liscananaun 2025
- m. RI L6117 Mullaghtruttery 2025
- n. RI L7115 Carheenlea 2025
- o. RI L31026 Moor 2025
- p. RI L71102 Carnmore East 2025
- q. RI L81031 Rinn 2025
- r. RI L71523 Toorkeel 2025
- s. RI L31078 Carrantarramud 2025
- t. RI L7168 Knockroe/Rafort 2025
- u. RI L7130 Farravaun 2025
- v. RI L7114 Kiltroque 2025

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

Surface dressing – preferred contractor being appointed

- a. RM R354 Lackaghbeg 2025
- b. RM L7139 Corrafaireen 2025
- c. RM L3110 Farmhill 2025
- d. RM L31104 Stonepark 2025
- e. RM L71761 Gortnahultra 2025
- f. RM L31118 Cappanasruhaun 2025
- g. RM L31043 Rathmorrissey 2025
- h. RM L7108 Castlelambert 2025
- i. RM L2124 Ballybrone 2025
- j. RM L7104 Cregboy 2025
- k. RM L2117 Annagh West 2025
- l. RM L6194 Cregduff 2025
- m. RM L6202 Roanmore 2025
- n. RM L6197 Waterdale 2025
- o. RM L31021 Cahernashilleeney 2025

Recycling Contract – Planning works for September

2025 Roads Programme under review

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Contractor completed Tarmac works removing Slip-Lane is complete, Line marking, and other works are completed.
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Tarmac completed – Line marking completed

4. Climate Change

- a. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – works to connect storm water completed, reinstatement works complete

5. Community Involvement Scheme

Maree Road @ Church – - Complete

New Line Junction Pedestrian Crossing – Contractor on site

Ryehill Church – Road widening – Complete

Coolarne – Road setback ongoing

Caraun – Road bend - Complete

Ballyboggin – Edge drainage – Works ongoing

6. Other Items

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Request from Landowner discussed with Designer to look at speed issues that may arise with new layout
--	---

Hydrological study Clarin River	Application to be updated again to latest OPW information.
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Construction Works ongoing



COOLARNE CIS



OLD CHURCH STREET ATHENRY –
SURFACING WORKS COMPLETE

OLD LIMERICK ROAD, ORANMORE
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING





NEW LINE JUNCTION CROSSING ATHENRY

BALLYBOGGIN CIS WORKS



OLD LIMERICK ROAD, ORANMORE
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During March 2025 Ballinasloe technical and administrative teams have been working tenders for Restoration Improvement (RI) and Restoration Maintenance (RM) contracts. The RI tender has been returned and is currently being assessed. It is expected that contracts will be signed mid-April, with works beginning mid-May. The RM tender is due to be returned mid-May. Ballinasloe MD crews are currently preparing the sections of road throughout the MD, in advance of contractor overlaying or surface dressing. A number of road works sections will also be undertaken fully by direct labour crews.

The annual grass cutting, and open space maintenance programme has begun within Ballinasloe Town, which several improvements made to areas for biodiversity. This work is undertaken by both Ballinasloe MD staff and contractors. Engagement has taken place with Ballinasloe Tidy Towns and Community Employment Schemes, in order to focus efforts in terms of presentation of town to the public.

The following images are examples of events and works undertaken throughout the MD during March 2025.



DRAINAGE WORKS IN KILKERRIN - PIPELINE AND GULLIES INSTALLED WITH PARKING AREA RE-GRADED TO ELIMINATE FLOODING.



CIS PROJECT COMPLETED AT KILMALAW INCLUDING BEND REMOVAL AND JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT



NEW BUS STOP FACILITIES COMPLETED AT MOYLOUGH AND MOUNTBELLEW



NTA FUNDED ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BEECHLAWN, BALLINASLOE



PRESENTATION BY BALLINASLOE MD COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE TO DIRECTOR OF SERVICE JACKIE CARROLL ON HER DEPARTURE FROM GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – APRIL 2025

- The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works have been tendered and a Most Economically Advantageous Tender Identified. Work due to commence in May.

- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr has been submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Substantial funding was granted in 2024 and a decision on 2025 funding is expected shortly.
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme & drainage works.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- preparing for summer 2025.
- Funding has been received for the following areas:

CONAMARA MD		
	Route No.	Details of Work
SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS	R345	An Máimín
	R336	Na Forbacha
	R336	An Tulach
CLIMATE CHANGE	L1320	Maigh Cuilinn SW Network Upgrade
	L53221	Crumlin, Cornamona
	L51061	Ardnagreevagh Renvyle
	R336-665	Clancy's Wall, Cnoc na Gréine
CONAMARA MD – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI)		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone
R	344	Inagh
R	336	Leenane
R	341	Bridge Street
R	340	Gleann Chatha
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais
R	336	Foraí Maola
L	11063	Mannin Low Road
L	5132	Errislannin High Road
L	51253	Faul
L	5116	Claddaghduff
L	5113	Cloone
L	51033	Rosroe
L	51374	Glencoaghan
L	11072	Ballyconneely Old Graveyard

L	5300	Gleantreague
L	53262	Drumsnauv
L	1301	Finny
L	5327	Glann
L	1310	New Village
L	53283	Leam
L	1202	Doire Fhearta
L	52291	Leitir Caladh
L	52334	Trá Bháin
L	52346-2	Truscain
L	52332	Tobar Naomh Anna
L	5238	Camus Íochtar
L	5242-16	Garafin
L	52441	Ard Mhór O Thuaidh
L	12075	Domhras
L	1320-22	An Spidéal Maigh Cuilinn
L	5395	Baile an tSagairt
L	53951	Baile an tSléibhe
L	1200-24	Ros an Mhíl
L	5366-19	Rocks Road
L	5362	Gortmore
L	5345-17	Doon High Road
L	5361-8	Park, Roscahill
L	5376	Claideach
L	5347-10	Knockaunranny
L	53946	Pairc Thoir
CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name
R	341	Ballinahinch
R	379	Cleggan
R	336	Bothuna
R	336	Minna
R	336	Na Doiriú
R	336	Leitir Mucú
R	374	Tuairín
R	374	Leic
L	1105	Bog Road
L	5132	Low Road Errislannin
L	5117	Aughrus Beg
L	51372	Imleach Mór

L	51372	Imleach Mór
CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)		
L	1104	Sky Rd Letterdean
L	1310	Gortdrishagh-Glann Rd
L	1103	Ballynew
L	5300	Bothán - Gleantreague
L	1304	Ardan Cong
L	5341	Maghera More
L	5101	Glennagevlagh
L	11031	Bannouges
L	11034	Ross Moyard
L	51101	Rossadillisk Salerno
L	11023	Rossadillisk
L	51311	Munga
L	11056	Inis Ni
L	5219	Trá an Doilín
L	1206-51	Maíros
CONAMARA MD –DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)		
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name
L	51255	Riverside Clifden
L	51372	Imleach Mór
L	11059	Inis Ní
L	52285	Leitir Caladh
L	1205-14	Doire Iorrais
L	5396-13	Baile Liam
L	5354	Garrynagry



BLUE FLAG BEACH
STATUS ENABLING
WORKS AT CÉIBH NUA
AN SPIDÉIL



STORM ÉOWYN REPAIR WORKS CONTINUING – FOOTPATH REPAIR WORKS IN CASLA (LEFT) & PERIODIC SIGNAGE REPAIR WORKS, NA HAILLE INDREABHÁN BEFORE AND AFTER



FOOTPATH REPAIR WORKS AT RADHARC NA RÚN ESTATE, AN SPIDÉAL



REPAIRS WORKS AT THE SPIRES, CLIFDEN BEFORE AND AFTER



REPAIRS WORKS AT
THE CLEGGAN
CARK PARK
BEFORE AND AFTER

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

As previously noted, the 2025 Roads Programme and Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) Programme (2025-2027) was presented to the elected members in January and agreed in principle at that time. At this month's Municipal District Meeting the 2025 Roads Programme was formally adopted.

Tender returns have been received and are generally positive which will mean that we can potentially update the 2025 RIG programme. Consideration will primarily be given to extending currently approved options and any changes will be communicated to the elected members in due course.

A high-level overview is as follows:

- 47 RIG projects
- 22 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads
- 5 No Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes
- 4 No. Bridge Rehabilitation
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works
- 2 No. Former National Schemes
- LIS and CIS Schemes

An overview of other works on-going is as follows:

PLANTING, CLEANING AND EDGING OF FOOTPATH AT THE LONG POINT, LOUGHREA



REMOVAL OF TREES FROM BEECHWOOD CLOSE HOUSING ESTATE FOLLOWING STORM ÉOWYN

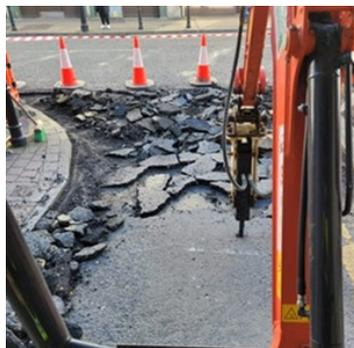


CLEAN UP FOLLOWING STORM ÉOWYN AT THE GROVE, LOUGHREA

RECONSTRUCTION OF STONE WALL AND DRAINAGE WORKS AT CAHERLAVINE
ROUNDBABOUT, LOUGHREA



REPAIR TO ROAD SURFACE AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN LOUGHREA TOWN

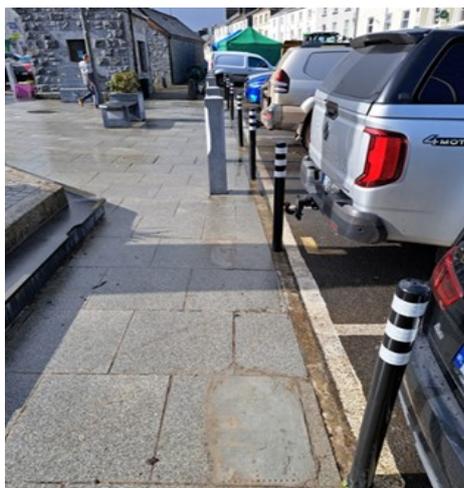




PERMANENT ROAD
REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING
PIPING WORKS AT
KILCONEIRON CHURCH,
LOUGHREA, OPW MINOR
WORKS PROJECT



REPLACED OUTDOOR SEATS
AT THE LONG POING,
LOUGHREA



PLACEMENT OF FLEXIBLE BOLLARDS AT MAIN STREET,
GORT TO PROTECT EXISTING STONE BOLLARDS



RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN
KNOCKLAWRENCE, GORT – ROADS PROGRAM
2025



SURFACE WATER
PIPING AT
LIMEHILL,
LOUGHREA IN
PREPARATION FOR
ROAD
RESURFACING



EMERGENCY RESPONSES TO HYDRAULIC OIL SPILL AND VEHICLE COLLISIONS



REMOVAL OF OVERHANGING TREES ON N67 AT CLARINBRIDGE



NEW STREET SIGNAGE HEADFORD



NEW STREET NAME SIGNAGE WAS RECENTLY INSTALLED ON EACH STREET IN HEADFORD TOWN.



NEW SOLAR POWERED PUBLIC LIGHTING DUNMORE



CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FOOTPATHS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING HEADFORD

The installation of a new footpath and pedestrian crossing commenced by the Headford roads crew to link Caisleán Laighean Estate to Headford Town Centre. This allows safe access to the town on a busy residential route. It also forms part to a 4km walking loop around the outskirts of Headford.



DRAINAGE WORKS AND BIODIVERSITY
HEDGING PALACE GROUNDS TUAM



DUNMORE RIVER WALK - CLAR 2025

Funding has been allocated under the 2025 Clar scheme for the enhancement of the River Walk in Dunmore. The public were invited to make submissions through the Public Consultation Process up to the 2nd April. A public space already exists on the Dunmore River

Walk in Dunmore; however, it is currently predominantly a grassed area. It is located within Dunmore town centre adjacent to the sinking river, local supermarket and the community rugby/ soccer pitches. It is used frequently by a broad demographic within Dunmore for recreation and commuting.



A design for the enhancement of the park has been completed by a landscape architect. The proposed park enhancement will involve:

- Upgraded Seating areas for community engagement.
- Dynamic play areas.
- Biodiversity planting with native species and wildflower spaces.
- Two Feature Flower beds with shrubs and ornamental trees.
- Improved pathways/hardstanding areas constructed.
- Improved Fencing to the River
- Terraced seating with integrated planting.
- Improved cycle facilities.

EXTENT OF BENEFITS OF PARK ENHANCEMENT

- It aims to achieve a greener, healthier, safer, beautiful, sustainable, equitable, harmonious, and wilder environment where people value, benefit from, and are strongly connected to the rest of nature.
- A place where people can walk in a safe, clean and green landscape, to have free and easy access to high quality green space.
- To improve the richness, connectivity and biodiversity of Dunmore habitats.
- The walk will offer a fantastic mix of biodiversity measures, outdoor seating areas & disabled accessibility.

UPGRADE ON PARKVIEW DRIVE FOOTPATHS



Mise, le meas,

Chief Executive
Galway County Council

23rd April 2025