



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

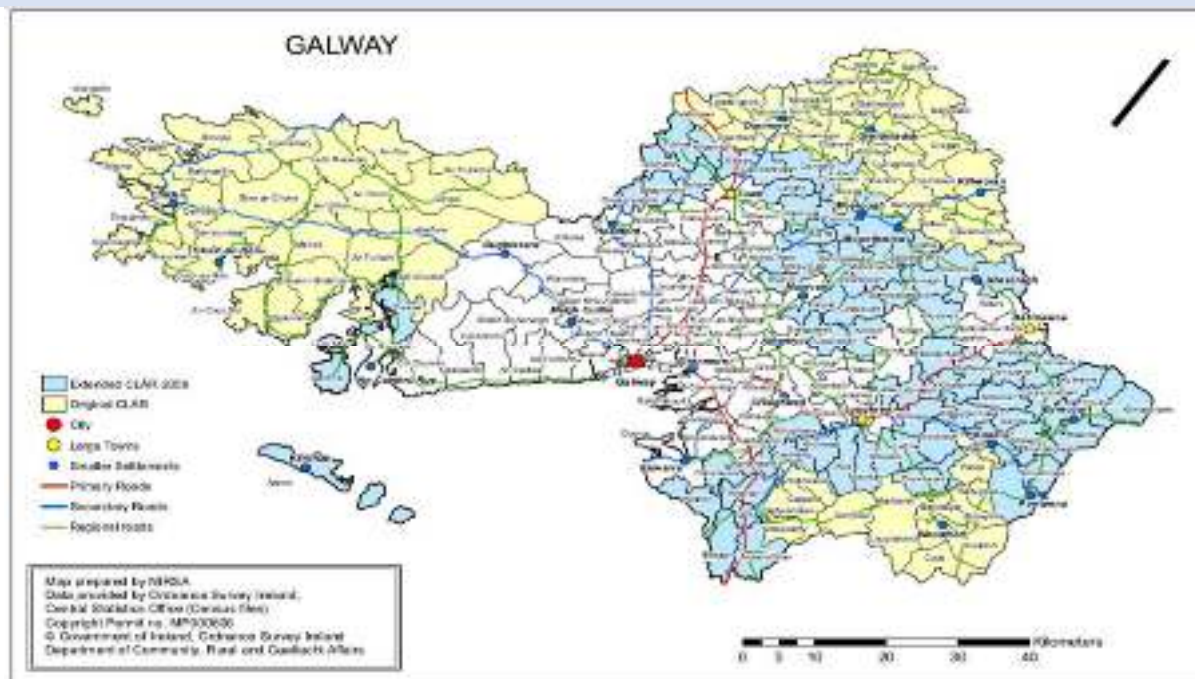


Meitheamh 2025

June 2025

COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION

CLÁR PROGRAMME – CLÁR MAP



CLÁR PROGRAMME

The CLÁR 2025 Programme closed for applications for Measure 1 to Galway County Council on May 15th 2025. Measure 2 and 3 are made direct to the Department of Community and Rural Development.

CLÁR is funding programme for small scale capital investments in community amenities in designated CLÁR area in the County. CLÁR covers extensive areas in four Municipal Districts and a smaller area of the Athenry-Oranmore District. It is proposed that the areas in CLÁR will be review in 2025 in advance of the 2026 programme.

The 2025 Scheme was advertised in local print media and GCC social media and via Galway County Public Participation Network and details circulated among Elected Members and Members of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). A webinar was held on April 30th in collaboration with the PPN with morning and evening time slots and over 70 attendees.

- A total of 52 applications were submitted the Galway County Council SUBMIT grants further to verification eligibility and initial review 27 proposals were recommended for further detailed assessment. Galway County Council can put forward a maximum of 16 proposals including one from Gaeltacht community for consideration by the Department of Community and Rural Development in

advance of June 13th 2025. The maximum grant level has increased from 50,000 in 2024 to 65,000k in 2025. Of the sixteen projects Galway County Council can put forward two proposals if eligible for 100k in grant funding. Grant funding is at 90% with 10% matching funding.

- The facilities and amenities must be freely available (nominal fee acceptable) to all members of the community without any additional restrictions or requirements being imposed and applicants are asked to have relevant statutory permission in place.
- In line with other Schemes, in the case of capital works, the applicant must own or have a 15 year lease in place at the time of application.
- Decision on the 2025 Scheme are due from the Department by end of September 2025.
- Completion and drawdown date for successful projects extended by 6 months from 12 months to 18 months approximately to allow for a more substantial amount of time for procurement and completion of the works, given the increasing scale of the capital fund.

THE TYPE OF PROJECT ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE:

Small scale renovation works to community facilities open to the wider community such as community centres/sports centres/clubhouses of sporting groups/youth centres/men's sheds etc. This includes external works such as parking and accessibility enhancements

- Multi-use gaming areas (MUGAs)/Astro-turf facilities including upgrades
- Playgrounds/skateboard parks/pump tracks/cycling tracks/teenage spaces
- Walking/running /athletics tracks
- Handball alleys/tennis courts/basketball courts/cricket grounds/ outdoor bowling areas
- Community gyms/community cinemas
- Sensory gardens/Community gardens/ allotments/ biodiversity planting
- Access to unique local heritage sites / areas of natural beauty
- Enhanced outdoor toilet and changing facilities
- Car parking
- Improving access at sports grounds e.g. development/upgrade of spectator stands at local sports grounds with a particular focus on improving access for people of all abilities and ages
- Solar Bins

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE ONGOING IN 2025

Organisation	Reference Number	Project Description	Amount
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal - Ballygar National School	C124G01	Deliver a MUGA within existing boundaries	€50,000
Kilchreest National School Board of Management	C124G02	Complete additional 450m of walking track	€50,000
Roundstone Community Development Council Ltd (Playground Committee)	C124G03	Enhance village centre playground	€50,000
Williamstown Development Company CLG, Supported by Williamstown GAA Club & National School	C124G04	Walkway enhancements with lighting, sensory garden and landscaping.	€50,000
Clonberne Community Centre Co Ltd & SNO Club (Special Needs +Others)	C124G05	Playground enhancements	€50,000
Moylough Parish Sports Field	C124G06	Upgrade to Moylough Playground	€50,000
Leenane Development Association CLG	C124G07	Install Sensory play equipment around the internal accessible paths of the Leenane Community Park	€45,000
Dunmore Tidy Towns & Galway County Council	C124G08	Upgrade and enhance Dunmore River Walk	€50,000

Clontuskert Community Development Group	C124G09	Upgrade and refurbishment of community rooms and changing facilities at local community pitch	€45,000
Killimordaly Community Centre CLG	C124G10	Small Scale Renovation and Roof Repairs to existing Community Centre	€50,000
Killererin Community Council	C124G11	Small Scale Community Centre renovation	€49,456
Woodford Parish Development	C124G12	Village centre community playground and additional seating	€50,000
Esker Committee Centre	C124G13	Small scale renovations (lighting and internal thermal upgrades)	€48,262
Kilconly Community Recreational Group	C124G14	Add 1 x Tennis Court and 1 x Basketball	€44,730
Gort Community Playground	C124G15	Install a net climbing frame	€42,307

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The next meeting of the LCDC committee will take place on 15th July at 10.30 a.m. in County Hall. The SICAP mid-year reports for the three Lots will be presented and discussed at this meeting.

Pobal have been receiving feedback from LCDCs on the need to provide ongoing and introductory training for LCDC support staff and Board members overseeing SICAP to improve programme understanding and the role of LCDCs, DRCD and Pobal in programme and contract management.

Therefore, DRCD in conjunction with Pobal, are inviting relevant support staff and LCDC Board members if available to a regional workshop covering the above topics. The LCDC SICAP Support Workshop is taking place in the **Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo on Tuesday 24th June 2025**. Please click on link below to register attendance:

[LCDC SICAP Support Workshop, Radisson Blu Hotel Sligo, 24th June 2025](#)

Men's Health Week 2025

Healthy Galway County is actively preparing to participate in Men's Health Week 2025, which will take place from Monday, 9th June to Sunday, 15th June, concluding on Father's Day. This initiative represents a significant opportunity to raise awareness, encourage conversations, and promote positive action around men's health and wellbeing.

This year's theme, "Shoulder-to-Shoulder – Connecting for Health," highlights the importance of community and connection in supporting men's wellbeing. Across Galway City and County, a diverse programme of events will offer men the chance to engage, learn, and take proactive steps toward better health.

The key aims of Men's Health week are to heighten awareness of preventable health problems affecting males of all ages, support men and boys in making healthier lifestyle choices and engaging in health-promoting activities and encourage early detection and treatment of health issues by promoting timely access to healthcare services and providing free health checks at events.

A wide-ranging programme of events will take place across Galway City and County, offering men opportunities to engage, learn, and take proactive steps toward better health. Healthy County Galway will be actively supporting and participating in several of these events, including the Men's Health Fair at T. O'Higgins Homevalue Hardware in Galway on Monday, 9th June; a Currach event on Inis Meáin on Tuesday evening; and the launch of an online seminar, "Men Supporting Each Other," on Wednesday, 11th June at 8pm. Also on Wednesday, a health information event providing free health checks will be held at Fursa's Parish Hall in Headford. Further activities include the Men's Health Symposium at the Wild Goat Café in Letterfrack on Thursday, 12th June; a community health event at Temperance Hall in Loughrea, led by GRD; and a Farmers' Health Event at Maam Cross Mart on Saturday, 14th June.



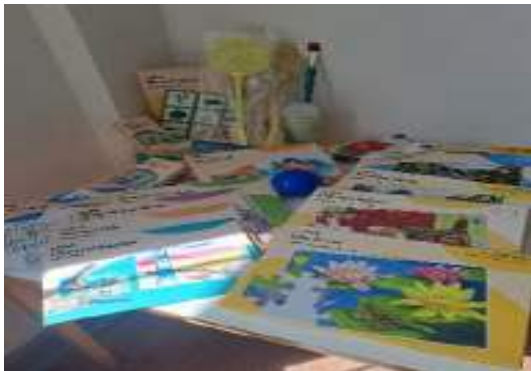
Healthy County Galway is proud to support and lead several of these initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to improving men's health outcomes and fostering inclusive, health-conscious communities. In addition to coordinating and participating in events, Healthy Galway is actively promoting Men's Health Week through a comprehensive communications campaign. This includes broadcasting key messages and event highlights on local radio stations within the county, publishing features in regional newspapers, and engaging audiences across social media platforms to maximise reach and community involvement.

DEMENTIA CAFES AND SOCIAL CLUB IN CONNEMARA

All three of our dementia cafes were launched in May in Leitir Mealláin, An Cheathru Rua, and Clifden in Connemara. Healthy County Galway will continue to spread the word about this welcoming and supportive space for people living with dementia and their carers in partnership with stakeholders from Alzheimers Ireland, HSE, Age Friendly, Creative Ireland, Carers Ireland and Forum Connemara.



The launch of the Dementia Café initiative in Connemara has also gained strong visibility, with coverage across several media outlets including Galway Bay FM, Connemara Community Radio, and RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta in addition to social media platforms



Looking ahead, we plan to expand support for both the cafés and the social club through a structured programme of activities. This will include scheduled guest speakers, craft and music sessions, and further distribution of dementia support packs—containing arts, crafts, and games—to foster connection, creativity, and community engagement.

AFRICA DAY IN TUAM – A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY!

Healthy County Galway recently subsidised a new gazebo to further support Health & Wellbeing events, which was proudly used by the Galway County Integration Team during their vibrant Africa Day celebration at the Palace Grounds in Tuam in May.

The event brought together people of all ages for an afternoon of live music and dancing, face painting, entertainment, and a delicious array of food representing diverse cultures.



Healthy County Galway was delighted to support this joyful occasion with our brand-new gazebo and a selection of healthy snacks for everyone to enjoy.



FURTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COUNTY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Community Health and Wellbeing Board initiative continues to raise awareness of local and national supports and services available to County Galway. This month, several boards were delivered to different localities to specifically highlight these supports and services, as well as to promote the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give.

Some of the clubs and community groups that recently received and displayed their community boards include GRETB, Outdoor Activities in Petersburg, Stuntworx Elite in Doughiska, St. Cuans Utd in Ahascragh, and the South Galway Special Olympics Club.

Clifden Men's Shed recently celebrated the conclusion of an 8-week Tai Chi and Mindfulness course with a Presentation of Certificates Ceremony, followed by a course evaluation and refreshments. Congratulations to the 21 shedders and family carers who completed the course, held at Clifden District Hospital. This was a great initiative organised by the HSE Carers Department and funded by Healthy County Galway. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this journey towards wellness and mindfulness.



AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Galway County Council has submitted several projects under various award categories of the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, which close for applications on 12th June 2025, and has also encouraged partner agencies on the Age Friendly Alliance to submit nominations for the awards. Shortlisting will occur during the summer and notifications will issue to the successful projects of judging dates in early September.

The first draft of an Age Friendly Strategy 2025-2030 is due to be received from the Consultant in June and will be considered at the Older People's Council (OPC) Meeting on 19th June, following which further consultations will take place with the Age Friendly Alliance, Elected Members, etc., prior to the strategy being brought forward for adoption at a Plenary Meeting.

TIDY TOWNS

A second tranche of Tidy Towns Groups will be moved over to the local authority insurance cover package through Irish Public Bodies (IPB) which will offer a consistent and comprehensive insurance cover for their activities. This Insurance Cover has been agreed between local authorities and IPB as a "Thank You" to all Tidy Towns Groups for the valuable work they undertake across our towns and villages. Approximately half of the County's 40+ groups had been moved over in April, and further discussions were required with the groups in this second tranche prior to processing the changeover.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Department of Rural and Community Development have published the Annual Report 2023 for Public Participation Networks, for which all PPN's and local authorities submit reports and statistics for collation. The Report shows that Galway County PPN, with 1,268 Member Groups, is the second-largest PPN in the country, and is also in the top 5 nationally for the number of PPN Representatives which sit on various boards and committee structures, which correlates directly to the primary purpose of PPN's which is to increase input by local communities into decision-making at local government level. The PPN Support Worker also circulated notification of all local and national consultation opportunities, and all open funding and training opportunities, to all PPN Member Groups through the June Newsletter. The PPN Workers will also attend a national Networking Meeting on 10th June to discuss upcoming issues for the PPN's at national and local levels.

PUBLIC ART

The installation phase of Stephen Burke's Per Cent for Art Commission – OPW Flood Relief Schemes at Dunkellin River & Aggard Stream is now complete.

Delivery and install of the 5 stone artworks took place at Old Bridge, Craughwell on Thursday 05 June. Thank you to the Gerard Haugh and David O'Loughlin who supported the installation phase.

Stone Walls and The Grass is Green Per Cent for Art Commission, Baile Chláir is now open for applications. Deadline for Stage 1 applications is 21 July.

Baile Chláir has been awarded a Per Cent for Art grant of €41,000 and a Public Art Working Group has been established as guardians and community representatives of this process.

The Public Art Working Group would like to site engaging Permanent Visual Artwork(s) close to the Nine-arch road bridge in the centre of Baile Chláir that will both complement and enhance this historical bridge and provide interest and engage those who live, work and visit the town. Please note that artworks may not be placed on the bridge.

The Public Art Working Group are keen to commission artwork(s) that are permanent, contemporary, inclusive, meaningful and lasting in both material and context with an awareness of the local, historical, environmental, social and cultural context of Baile Chláir.

The artist(s) should be willing to interact with the local community during the creative process, this can be facilitated by the Curator and Arts Office. Elements of the artwork(s) may be further developed through that engagement process. This process should be at a level that will not significantly diminish the budget for this artwork.

[For more information click here](#)



CREATIVE PLACES TUAM – CULTURAL GROWTH FUND

The Cultural Growth Fund open call had a deadline of 04 April. 21 eligible applications were received. The assessment panel took place on 23 April. €20,145 was awarded supporting 7 projects in and around Tuam.

- Alan Meany & Bru Bhríde Arts Hub. Young Travellers will create, produce and distribute their own podcasts.
- Emily Walsh & St. Oliver's Special School. A sensory play programme for children with complex needs with artist Hande O'Keefe.
- Fiona Dempsey & Youthreach Tuam. Youthreach Arts Festival will engage and inspire learners through visual art and dance workshops and performances.
- Jennifer Cunningham & Tuam Tidy Towns. Jennifer will collaborate with participants to create a project investigating the River Nanny, local biodiversity and climate change.
- Karena Ryan & Tuam Sugar Factory. Karena will research a new textile project based on stories and lived memories of the factory and its impact on Tuam.
- Mary O'Connor & The Tome Chanters. Produced and documented a flagship event at St. Mary's Cathedral on 23 May. The event celebrated local musicians, singers and songwriters.
- School Completion Programme & Galway Community Circus. Circus workshops for students at risk of early school leaving to inspire growth and equip them with life skills through circus.



[Click here for more information](#)

MARY PAULINES RIBBON BY KARENA RYAN, 2024

DANCE ARTIST RESIDENCY SCHEME – MOVING EARTH

Curated by Linda Schirmer Galway County Dance Artist in Residence, Moving Earth takes place on Saturday 14 June, 12-6pm at Interface, Inagh Valley.

This day of dance, performance and community is rooted in ecological awareness and connection through movement. [For the full schedule click here.](#)

Film screenings include:

- **Sand** by Bernadette Divilly
- **Bowland Beth** by Vidda Le Feber and Catherine Seymour
- **Augusta, Liquid Spine** by Katie Pustizzi

- **Em-BOG-iment** by Ailbhe Wheatly and Tony Whelan
- **Filleadh - Return** by Zoe Ui Fhaolain Green
- **Nothing Exists until it Moves** by Sophie Hutchinson and Billy Kemp



BOWLAND BETH BY VIDDA LE FEBER AND CATHERINE SEYMOUR.

PERFORMING ARTS FORUM GATHERING – ARTIST BURSARY

DANCE AND FILM ARTIST JESSIE KEENAN WAS THE RECIPIENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT ARTIST BURSARY TO ATTEND THE 2025 PERFORMING ARTS FORUM GATHERING IN LIMERICK ON THE 27 & 28 MAY. THIS ANNUAL ARTS CONFERENCE IS THE LANDMARK EVENT FOR CONVERSATION, PROVOCATION, AND INSPIRATION.

The bursary included:

- Ticket to Performing Arts Forum Limerick Gathering including all day sessions, two lunches, dinner, coffee breaks and the artistic programme
- Honorarium
- Contribution to accommodation and travel

[For the full conference programme click here](#)

JESSIE KEENAN. PHOTO: JULIA DUNIN



LIMELIGHT CREATIVE ARTS – STUDIO MÓR RESIDENCIES

This is our second year of supporting a series of week-long artist residencies at Studio Mór Oranmore which is part of Limelight Creative Arts run by Brothers of Charity.

Studio Mór is a supported visual art studio providing a safe, accessible and inclusive space for people with disabilities to create art. Studio Mór artists come from all over Galway both independently or with support to use the space one day a week.

The deadline for residency applications was 10 January. Studio Mór artists supported by their facilitator Amy Brannigan selected 4 artists to take part in the 2025 residencies from March – May.

Successful artists received an artist fee, access to the studio facilities and delivered a workshop for Studio Mór artists at the end of their time there.

March - Kristyn
Fontanella (Dance)

April - Ferdia Mac
Aonghasa and Rosa
Makela (Visual Art)

May - Anthony Cullen
(Visual Art)

MISS MARY BY
KRISTYN
FONTANELLA.



KINVARA PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL 2025

The Kinvara Plein Air festival took place on June Bank Holiday weekend in the picturesque Kinvara village. This is the fourth year of the festival of outdoor painting in Kinvara, the Burren and South County Galway. Over 150 painters travelled to Kinvara to take part in workshops, paint outs and all the social activities arranged in the town. Artists were encouraged to join in on “Paint outs” in various outdoor locations in Kinvara, Coole Park, Clarinbridge Village and Thoor Ballylee. The festival was organised by members of Kinvara Area Visual Arts (KAVA) as a not-for-profit community arts event. This project was supported by Galway County Council through the Community Support Grants 2025.



SHARON O’GRADY, ARTS OFFICER PRESENTS A PRIZE TO BETTINA NORTON AT
KINVARA PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL 2025



The Launch of OCAP's Summer Arts Programme took place on Friday 16th June. For Summer 2025 OCAP present 4 vibrant exhibitions featuring work from 77 artists across the West of Ireland. The Season kicks off with the annual group show by Uachtar Arts Group. This year, 34 artists draw inspiration from the beauty and importance of Lough Corrib, a national treasure at the heart of our community. The exhibition is the result of the creative journey, including learning from the Corrib Catchment Partnership and a boat trip to Inchoigoill Island with Corrib Cruises.

The launch was opened by Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer. The Arts Programme is supported by Galway County Council through the Community Support Scheme (Arts Grants) 2025.

CREATIVE IRELAND

KINVARA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA – DANCE OF LIFE

Over the June Bank Holiday weekend, the Kinvara Community Orchestra delivered 2 sold out performances of their show, 'Dance of Life'. This project, supported under the Galway County Council Creative Communities Open Call, consisted of an evening of song, poetry, dance, and community. Audiences were treated to a two-hour long performance which featured classical, country, traditional, and contemporary music and dance. The strong sense of community was palpable in the room as 3 generations took to the stage to share their art forms. Special recognition was given to members of the community who had passed away in recent months as performances from family members were dedicated to their memory.



KINVARA
COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG

On Saturday the 7th of June, we celebrated Ireland's National Day of Creativity for Children and Young People, Cruinniú na nÓg. The only event of its kind in the world, Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan and is managed locally by each Local Authority's Creative Communities Engagement Officer.



Each year Cruinniú na nÓg has grown bigger and better. The 2025 programme consists of 59 events taking place in every corner of Galway County, including across the 3 Aran Islands. Creative Communities Engagement Officer for Galway County Council, Valerie Kelly spoke on Galway Bay fm, Connemara Community Radio, and Cúla4 about the events, detailing highlights and where people could go for more info.

GARY MCMAHON & VALERIE KELLY WITH YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

A goal of this year's programme was to achieve a 50% ratio of Irish language events. This was surpassed with the final tally hitting 52% of events either incorporating or fully as Gaeilge. This included family fun days on Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr. We also had Nature Art in Ros a Mhíl, Lego Coding in Scoil Naomh Ciarán Cill Chiaráin, Drumming in Moycullen and Headford, Cyanotype Printing and Eco Art in Gaelscoil Iarflatha Tuam, Drama Workshops on Inis Mór, a day of creative workshops and Irish language celebration in Drom Soccer Park, Yoga as Gaeilge in Leabharlann An Spidéal, and a whole lot more.



POSTER FOR CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG CELEBRATIONS IN ÁRAS ÉANNA, INIS OÍRR

Other highlights of the programme included Sparkcatchers! 'Any News', a retro magazine style tv show performance that saw teens asking locals and their peers about the issues facing their community and facilitating open discussion all with a great sense of humour and the creative flair for which Sparkcatchers! are known and loved.

SPARKCATCHERS! IN TUAM TAKING PART IN CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2025



FUSE JUNIOR 'LET'S SING!' - CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2025

EXPLORING THE LAND OF BRENA - CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2025



CRUINNIÚ LATE

DISCO IN A DAY PARTICIPANTS IN CLIFDEN AS PART OF CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG 2025

One of the highlights of Cruinniú na nÓg for 2025 was our Night Time Economy project, 'Disco in a Day'. This was an initiative of the Night Time Economy Officer of the department. Additional funding was allocated to programme an event specifically aimed at older teens from 15 to 18 years old. This year's NTE event was facilitated by Sing Along Social founder, Aoife McElwain and hosted by the Station House Theatre in Clifden. During the afternoon, teens attended workshops wherein they learned



all about how to plan and present a disco in a day. They learned how to DJ, how to decorate, and how to manage all the details of running an event. Then in the evening the doors were opened to family and friends as the teenage attendees managed everything from welcoming committee, to décor, refreshments, and even taking to the decks to show off their newly acquired DJ skills.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

INCLUSIVE ON THE MOVE

Galway Sports Partnership launched the first Inclusive 'On the Move' programme in Ballinasloe on the 15th May. This program is an adaptation of the mainstream 'Men on the Move' and 'Women on the Move' programs. The 'On the Move' programme is aimed at adults with disabilities from the HSE Creagh Training Centre and there are currently 9 participants taking part in the 6-week program in Ballinasloe. This programme is funded through Galway Sports Partnerships grant funding from the HSE.



AUTISM IN SPORT TRAINING

Galway Sports Partnership facilitated an Online Autism in Sport workshop from Active Disability Ireland which took place on Tuesday the 7th May. There were 13 participants from various backgrounds such as teachers, coaches, students, SNA's and parents and the feedback from the course was extremely positive.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Galway Sports Partnerships were delighted to be invited to attend the Special Olympics' Swim Qualifying Event in Galway to present medals to the successful participants on the day. Clubs from across the west of Ireland took part in this event which was used to qualify for the All-Ireland competition. We would like to wish all the athletes who qualified for the All-Ireland competition all the best representing their clubs and the western region!



ACTIVE ISLANDS INIS MEAIN COMMUNITY MEETING

Galway Sports Partnership through the Dormant Account funded project Active Islands held an Information meeting on Inis Meáin on the 19th May. This was an introductory meeting to highlight the role of the Active Island's coordinator and the Active Islands Project. It was also to outline the information that has been collected to date from various surveys and consultations and to further see what the residents would like to see on Inis Meain to help them to be more active. It was a positive meeting and was well attended by the Inis Meain residents.



INIS MEAIN COME AND TRY ROWING

Club Iomramh - Bain Triail as (Rowing Club - Come and Try) took place on the 9th June on Inis Meáin. This programme was designed for all the island residents to try Currach rowing and the come and try event is followed by a 6-week summer rowing programme.



READY TO GO ORIENTEERING COURSE

Galway Sports Partnership in conjunction with Orienteering Ireland delivered a *Ready To Go Orienteering (RTGO)* course on 21st May. This is a practical training programme designed to equip primary and post-primary teachers, youth leaders, scout leaders, disability groups, and camp providers with the skills and resources needed to introduce orienteering to beginners and young people. The course was attended by 12 participants and covered how to teach basic orienteering skills in an engaging way, integrating the sport into school curricula or group activities, and prepare participants for local events.



NATIONAL PLAY DAY

Galway Sports Partnership is delighted to be bringing a pop up 'Play Day' event to Tuam Palace Grounds on 5th July 2025 from 12pm-2pm. This year play day is all about the power of play and we will have lots of opportunities for young people to experience the power of play through circus activities, orienteering & picture orienteering, basketball, tennis, obstacle courses, fun games, face painting and much more so make sure to pop along on the day!



BIKE WEEK 2025

This year Bike Week was held from 10th May to the 18th May 2025 with 21 grants awarded to schools and organisations throughout Galway County.

A total of 3,286 people took part in Bike Week in Galway County.

There was a great variety of events held from Smoothie Bikes to Bike Maintenance Classes to Tour De Villages!! Schools like Carnaun National School, Maree National School, Scoil Mhuire Naofa Menlough, Kiltormer National School, St Vincents Turloughmore, Gaelscoil Riada and many more held events during Bike Week. Community groups came together and held their own fantastic events, like Lawrencetown , Ballinderreen, Headford Women's Cycle Club and Gort Cycle Trails.



The Wheels of Athenry hosted a family fun day with over 350 participants attending where they enjoyed throw games, bunting, large wheel art installation, flags, and 'photo-booth' frame, A vintage bike showcase, A bike repair station with mechanic, An information stand

with free bike swap supplied by the BikeWeek team, A bike decoration station and many more fun activities.



INCLUSIVE BIKE WEEK EVENT IN PORTUMNA

On Monday, 12th May 2025 we had an incredible time showcasing the amazing Triobike at the OPW Castle Car Park, with scenic rides to the Marina. This event was all about making cycling more accessible and fun for everyone of all abilities. Huge thanks to all the fantastic local partners Ability West, Portumna Community College, St Brendan's Primary School, Whyte's Nursing Home and Portumna Cycling Club for making it all possible! The Triobike will be available on loan to the public this summer!



WOMEN ON THE MOVE – TUAM

Over the past 12 weeks, we've had the absolute pleasure of running the Trinity Women on the Move programme — a vibrant, energetic, and empowering initiative designed to bring mothers together through movement and connection.

With a rich mix of yoga, aqua aerobics, and pilates, this programme provided a fantastic opportunity for a diverse and multicultural group of women to come together, get active, and most importantly — support one another. The sessions were about more than just physical activity; they created a space for friendship, fun, and wellbeing. This programme was a collaboration with the Trinity Primary School Home School Community Liaison Team and Galway Rural Development through their SICAP Programme.



WOMEN IN SPORT – MÍDE CONNECT EVENT

Míde connect held their second annual professional networking event in Farnham Estate, Cavan on May 7th & 8th at which Galway Sports Partnership was in attendance. The Míde connect network is still in the early phase of development whose working vision is *“To foster a community of professional women who are connected, supported, engaged, and empowered to create a better experience for more women in their work in sport, physical activity and health”*.

The network is closely aligned to [míde research](#), a new all-island, cross-institute consortium set up to conduct high-quality interdisciplinary research on women and girls in physical activity, exercise and sport which launched a national survey to help shape the future of research in women and girls’ physical activity and sport across the island of Ireland in collaboration with Galway and Donegal Sports Partnership funded by Sport Ireland . The survey is targeted at anyone aged 18+ who has a perspective, whether you’re involved in sport, active living, physical activity in any way (including athletes, coaches, teachers, fans, parents, professionals, and anyone else with an interest or insight!).



BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

On 13th May Spraoi Games took place on the Ballinasloe Recreational track for over 80 1st Year students from Garbally College Post Primary School in collaboration with Athletics Ireland and Ballinasloe and District Athletics Club. A wonderful sunny day of relays, javelin, long jump and sprints was enjoyed by all involved.

On 25th May in collaboration with Mini Athletics Galway a free taster was held in Scoil Ui Cheithearnaigh for children aged 3–6-year-olds to meet a hub need identified in that there was very few activities available for this age group due to club insurance stipulations. The taster sold out with 27 children availing of the taster opportunity. This has led to a Mini Athletics 6-week programme being rolled out from 8th June with the Hub Dormant Accounts funding supporting 16 children identified by Ballinasloe’s Family Resource Centre and Parent Child + Connect programmes to partake.



10 YEARS OF BALLINASLOE MEN ON THE MOVE

The Ballinasloe Men on the Move group marked a decade of movement, motivation, and community with a scenic walk at Diamond Hill!

This inspiring journey has been supported by Galway Sports Partnership, initially funded by the HSE and later by the Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub through Sport Ireland's Dormant Accounts. At the heart of it all has been the super leadership of Shirley Keating, guiding the group with energy and care every step of the way. Here's to a decade of steps forward—and many more to come!



BUGGY BUDDIES + TODDLER!

Buggy Buddies with your Toddler in Ballinasloe started on Tuesday, 20th May 2025 at Shear Fitness. These classes are designed to help you make time for exercise and get back to fitness in a supportive and fun environment by our qualified tutor Alana Roddy. The 6-week postnatal-friendly exercise classes has 15 mothers registered and is supported by HSE and Dormant Account Hub Funding.



BALANCE BIKE PROGRAMME

Happy Days Pre-School Ballinasloe were the first to pilot Galway Sports Partnership's Wiggly Wobbly Balance Bike 6-week Programme funded by HSE. The programme is aimed at pre-school children aged 2 ½ to 6 years old and is the fundamental starting point for children's cycling and an excellent opportunity to promote active lifestyles at the earliest possible age. The programme will incorporate fun activities to help children develop gross motor skills, spatial awareness, bilateral coordination, and enhance their physical literacy. Upon completion of the programme, children will more easily transition to riding a pedal bike in a safe environment. The programme combines balance bikes with a variety of fun activities that build confidence, spatial awareness, and dynamic balance skills, enabling young children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers.

Balance is important to achieving success in almost every sport or physical activity and is fundamental in the process of learning to ride a bike.

Galway Sports Partnership loan Balance Bikes, Helmets and a programme plan for 6-weeks free of charge.



INTEGRATION



In the lead-up to World Refugee Day on Friday June 20th 2025, we have been publishing a poem from a different country each weekday at noon on our dedicated Instagram page – @poetry.of.place.

The Integration Team worked with the Africa Day Committee to deliver a fabulous community event for the County in Tuam. Residents of County International Protection Accommodation centres attended alongside locals to hear African, Irish, Ukrainian music, to taste African food and enjoy the entertainment, which included face painting and puppetry.



The aim of this project is to highlight the cultural richness that people from other countries have brought to Galway. A range of community members in Galway have volunteered to read a poem that means something to them – from their home country, in their home language. Some of the poems reflect the refugee experience, including themes of peace, conflict, resilience, home, belonging, language, and compassion. The one thing every reader has in common is a connection to Galway. The lineup includes well-known Galway poets Louis de Paor and Elaine Feeney as contributors, both of whose poems are now live.

CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2025

In 2025, The Community Support Scheme will be facilitating festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was cofunded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants (€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000. A total of 63 communities were granted support through this scheme in 2025. For any event/festival that is not on this calendar, details can be emailed to tourism@galwaycoco.ie



110 new and existing Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism Operators took to the waters of Lough Ree and the River Shannon, to kick off a series of networking and peer-learning events. An initiative of Fáilte Ireland's EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme, the event was organised by the Just Transition Activators of East Galway, Westmeath, Roscommon, and Longford.

25

The networking events marked the beginning of a series of similar opportunities being offered to tourism businesses across the region. The initiative aims to combine the wide variety of assets and tourism offerings, including both those which are established and new, to build packages and multi-day experiences that will attract and retain visitors.

The JTF Activator continues to create further opportunities for connection and collaboration across East Galway.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GUM LITTER TASK FORCE CAMPAIGN



The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) took to the streets of Athenry to promote positive gum litter disposal. As part of its Summer Roadshow campaign, the GLT collaborated with Galway County Council to promote the importance of proper litter disposal through fun education and awareness initiatives that

highlight the negative environmental impacts of gum litter and draw awareness to the €150 gum litter fine.



PRIMARY SCHOOL WINNERS



SECONDARY SCHOOL WINNERS

RECORD ENTRIES FOR ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITION IN COUNTY GALWAY

County Hall was a hub of creativity and environmental awareness this week as students from across County Galway gathered for the announcement of winners in Galway County Council's annual Anti-Litter Poster Competition.

A record 1,524 entries were submitted by students eager to highlight the importance of litter prevention and environmental responsibility.

Posters addressed a range of themes, including the value of maintaining a clean and litter-free county, the detrimental impact of litter on Galway's scenic landscape, the importance of using public bins correctly, and the need to bring waste home to reduce pollution.



Top honours in the Primary Schools category went to Ellen Troake and Dorothy Niland of Ballindereen National School. In the Secondary Schools category, Gloria Piwinska of Coláiste Bhaile Chláir was named overall winner.



Councillor Martina Kinane, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said, "The competition winners are representative of the talents of the hundreds of people who entered. The high standard made it very difficult for the judges to select the best entries as each entrant created their very own personal work of art which also reflected their attitude towards littering."

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council commented, "The Poster Competition is part of our ongoing Anti-Litter programme to encourage everybody to be part of the drive to make our County Litter Free as it is everyone's responsibility to

keep Galway clean in our everyday activities. Galway County Council recognises the important role our schools play in delivering environmental awareness messages, and I want to thank everyone who takes part in our many environmental and litter awareness initiatives. Litter across our County is a scourge and can be avoided by people taking personal responsibility.”

Kieran Coyne, Acting Director of Services for

Rural & Community Development, Integration and Environment, stated, “The competition provided the entrants with a great opportunity to develop their learning experiences by

showing their creativity through language and art and increasing their awareness and responsibility for the environment.”

“Galway County Council is delighted with the response to the Anti-Litter Poster Competition. We plan to run the competition again in 2026 and to continue with our efforts to make Galway Litter Free,” added Mr. Coyne.



NATIONAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING WEEK

An information Stand was set up in the Atrium and a social media campaign was run as part of national Food Waste recycling Week.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating and learning about the importance of brown bin recycling. Let's keep the momentum going!

Remember, even small changes can make a big impact. Let's strive to keep up the good work all year round. Together, we can create a more sustainable future! [#FoodWasteRecyclingWeek](#) [#MyWaste](#) [#BrownBin](#) [#Sustainability](#) [#LetsGetCircular](#) [#CircularEconomy](#) [#NFWRW25](#)





New research from [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie) shows we're doing great with brown bin usage, but a few sneaky "intruders" are causing some issues. Let's work together to keep them out!

Top 3 Brown Bin Intruders to Watch Out For:

- General Waste: This belongs in your regular bin!
- Plastic Around Veggies: Peel it off and recycle the clean and dry plastic separately!
- Stones/Rocks: These can't be composted, so keep them out!

We know it can be confusing sometimes, and that's okay! We're here to help. This National Food Waste Recycling Week (June 1st - June 8th), let's become Brown Bin Champions!

Head to [MyWaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie) (link in bio) for a super helpful A-Z guide, tips, and answers to all your brown bin questions! We've got your back! Let's make a positive impact, one brown bin at a time!

[#BrownBinChampions](#) [#NFWRW25](#) [#FoodWasteRecycling](#)
[#MyWaste](#) [#CircularEconomy](#) [#RecycleRight](#)
[#NationalFoodWasteRecyclingWeek](#) [#Ireland](#) [#Composting](#)
[#Sustainability](#) [#Environment](#) [#WeGotThis](#) [#HelpfulTips](#)



BURIAL GROUNDS

The burial ground maintenance grants were advertised on Friday 30th May 2025 in the Connacht Tribune, with a closing date of Friday 15th August 2025. The grant is available for works carried out by the voluntary committees, and depending on the amount of work involved, the grants available are €200, €300, €450, €600, €900 or €1,400.

Application forms are available from our website on the attached link

[BG Main Grant App form 2025 GCC-ENV-14\(B\)09 \(002\).pdf](#)

DOG CONTROL

672 licences were purchased during the month of May, with 502 purchased at the local post office with the remainder online. At this stage of the year licencing compliance remains on par with that of 2024.

6 fines were issued for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended during the month of May. 36 fines have been issued under the Act year to date with 12 fines paid in full and 7 partially paid through agreed payment plans. The remainder are still being processed through the system.

The dog warden service had one case before Gort District Court in regard to a prosecution under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended. The matter was in respect of sheep worrying and failure of the owner to keep dogs under effective control as per the Act. The matter was adjourned to the 24th July for finalisation as per Judge Gabbett.

73 stray/abandoned and surrendered dogs have come through the dog warden service year to date.

BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS



CÉIBH AN SPIDÉIL - WORKS COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE AWARDS CEREMONY IN MAY

CONNEMARA BEACH REGAINS PRESTIGIOUS BLUE FLAG AFTER 12-YEAR ABSENCE

In a major boost for the local community and tourism in Connemara, Céibh an Spidéil beach has regained its coveted Blue Flag status after losing it in 2013.

The announcement was made today (Friday, 16 May) at the national Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards ceremony hosted by An Taisce at the Ravenport Resort in Curracloe, Co. Wexford.

The beach is among eight locations in County Galway to receive the prestigious Blue Flag for 2025, with a further six beaches recognised with Green Coast Awards.

The Blue Flag is an internationally recognised symbol awarded to bathing areas that meet exceptional standards in water quality, safety, environmental education, and beach management. Alongside Céibh an Spidéil, this year's Blue Flag recipients include Long Point at Loughrea Lake, Portumna bathing area, Trá Inis Oírr, Trá an Dóilín (An Cheathrú Rua), An Trá Mhór (Indreabhán), Trá Chill Mhuirbhígh (Inis Mór), and Traught Beach (Kinvara).

Six beaches were also honoured with Green Coast Awards, which recognise clean water and pristine natural environments in more remote or less developed areas. The Green Coast awardees are Trá Inis Oírr and Trá Poll na gCaorach (Inis Oírr), East End and Dumhach (Inishbofin), Aillebrack (Ballyconneely), and Renvyle Beach (Tully).

“County Galway’s beaches are renowned for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty, and we are delighted that once again so many of them have received the coveted Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards,” commented **Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway**. She continued, “These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of those who clean our beaches. I am particularly happy to see that the beach at Céibh an Spidéil has regained its Blue Flag which will be very much welcomed by the local community.”

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council, stated, “These awards let our citizens and people around the world know that County Galway is a wonderful place to live in and to visit and that our beaches are clean, well-managed and safe to enjoy. We are grateful to the staff in Area Offices, Community Wardens, and all the volunteers and beach clean groups for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring our coastline is kept clean. Galway has some of the best beaches in the country and we are proud to maintain them.”

Kieran Coyne, A/ Director of Services, Environment Section, said, “These awards are a credit to the collective efforts of Galway County Council staff, volunteers, residents, and businesses who have worked tirelessly to maintain, protect, and improve some of our best-loved and most popular beaches. Visitors to a beach flying a Blue Flag can be assured the beach will be clean, safe, and meet the highest environmental standards, as well as international bathing water quality standards and visitors to a beach flying a Green Flag can be assured that the water is of excellent standard.”

COASTAL WALK BY THE SE

An event celebrating nature and music took place on Saturday 24th May 2025 at An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán as part of Biodiversity Week. The beauty of the beach was a central part of the walk as we celebrated this pristine blue flag beach. A guided walk commenced at the car park at An Trá Mhór, and it followed the coastline where Aedín Ní Thiarnaigh and Ríona Ní Aodha, experts on plants and birds give the participants an insight into the rich biodiversity of Conamara. The event was organised by the Environment Section with support from our Biodiversity Officer, Rosina Joyce, Cumann Gorbatha Chois Fharraige and Fóram Chois Gharraige um Pleanáil Teanga Biodievent and was delivered as Gaeilge.



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Further sampling was carried out in the Truskey Stream, Bearna after a dry period of weather. This was the second run of samples taken, and a report on the results is being drafted at present. The report when finalised will detail the work required by the relevant stakeholders to reduce pollution inputs into this waterbody.

An on-site meeting took place at a development near An Spidéal with a proposal to replace a malfunctioning wastewater treatment plant with a new system. The proposal also incorporates a plan to decommission two older septic tanks which formed part of the first stage of development at this site and treat the wastewater instead in the new system. The

whole development would then only have one treatment plant. On-site were the owners, project engineer, hydrogeologist, and council staff.

Work continued during the month on finalising the beach posters and water sampling plan for this year's bathing season. Pre-season samples were taken on the 26th and 28th May at all 28th bathing areas in County Galway. An EPA audit was carried out on the 20th May on our sampling procedures. EPA staff accompanied council staff while carrying out river sampling to ensure correct procedures are being followed.

A Western Local Authorities Liaison Meeting took place on the 19th May with updates from the previous meeting given by each member. The main topic discussed was the Local Authority Action Plans which are being developed at present. These plans will outline specific tasks that the local authorities will be required to do each year in order to implement the National Water Action Plan. Action timelines will also be included.

The Western Regional Operational Committee meeting took place on the 22nd May in Castlebar. Topics covered included:

- Estuarine issues in the Western Region
- Nitrogen concentrations in selected major rivers
- Challenges and Opportunities – Bord Iascaigh Mhara



POSTER FOR NEW BLUE FLAG BATHING AREA - CÉIBH AN SPIDÉIL

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

Council staff attended National Agricultural Inspection Plan working group meetings in Portlaoise on the 8th and 28th May. NAIP training took place in Sligo and one member of our technical staff attended. Our agricultural inspector attended a court appeal regarding a conviction and fine to a farmer for the discharge of effluent to an open drain. The previous conviction was upheld, and the farmer gave an undertaking to the court to complete works by the next court sitting in June 2025.



SLURRY DISCHARGE TO DRAIN

SEVEN PLANNED FARM INSPECTIONS WERE COMPLETED IN THE HEADFORD STREAM 020 WATERBODY. COMPLIANCE LEVELS WERE ALL SATISFACTORY.



STOCK PROOFED RIVERBANK IN HEADFORD STREAM WATERBODY

Environment and Housing staff carried out inspections in Tuam relating to waste collection services and dog licensees at Council owned properties.

COURT CASES

The Environment Section had several cases in the District Court for prosecutions under the Waste Management Act. 2 cases were adjourned.

One case was a prosecution for non-compliance with a Section 55 Notice. In this instance, the defendant failed to remove a large collection of mixed waste from his front driveway. The defendant pled guilty and agreed to remove all waste before the next court date. Prosecution secured under the Waste Management Act.



WASTE IN DRIVEWAY - SECTION 55 PROSECUTION

A second case involved the stockpiling of household waste at the rear of a house. This was a repeat offence. Prosecution under Section 32 and a Section 58 Order was secured directing individual to cease the stockpiling of waste at the property.

In another case relating to an unauthorised end of life vehicle site, a Section 58 Order was secured directing the site owner to clear the site.

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

The Environment section is currently processing an application for a Waste Facility Permit, the main activity of this site will be the recycling of C&D Waste. This site was inspected as part of the application process in May

WERLA

Staff attended a site visit arranged by WERLA of a Construction and Demolitions recycling site in Wicklow. This was of benefit as there are several similar sites in the planning phase in Galway County. These sites will be applying for end of waste status under the EPAs Article 28, this will allow the recycling and reuse of construction waste that was previously destined for landfill.

Staff attended training for Waste Collection Permit Holders in Tullamore. Staff also attended online training provided by the NWCPO for validation of annual returns.

LITTER

9 fines were issued for offences under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended, during the month of May.

The Environment Section had one case in the District Court for prosecution under the Litter Pollution Act which was adjourned for hearing for the 5th June 2025.

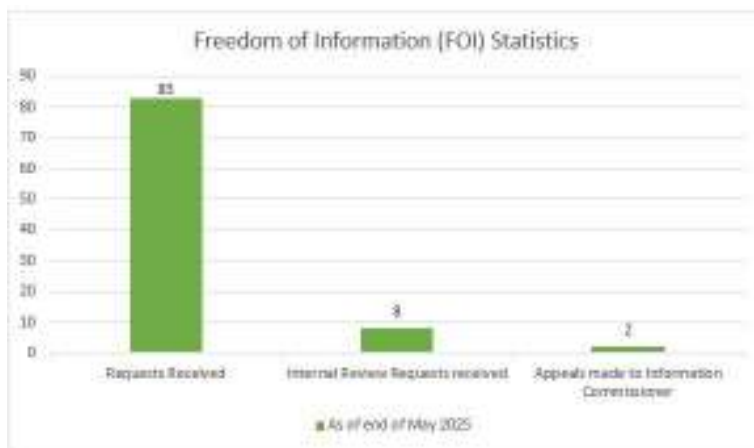
Out of hours patrols commenced by the Community Warden service in Portumna town and its environs in response to complaints received in respect of dog fouling/littering in the town. These patrols will continue over the coming weeks and will be rolled out to other areas of the County over the summer period.

CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

CORPORATE SERVICES

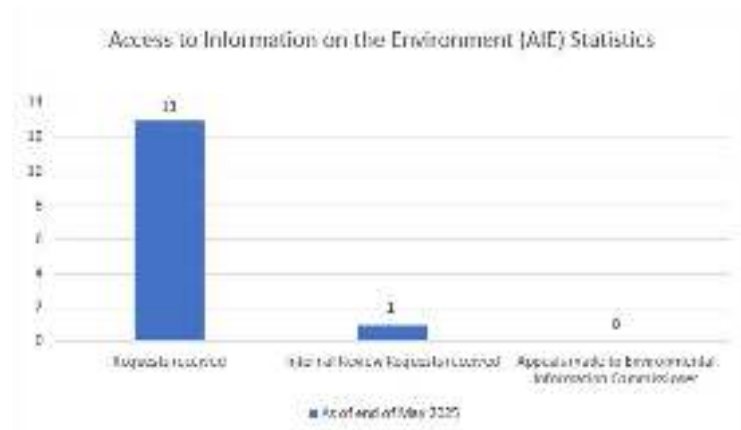
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

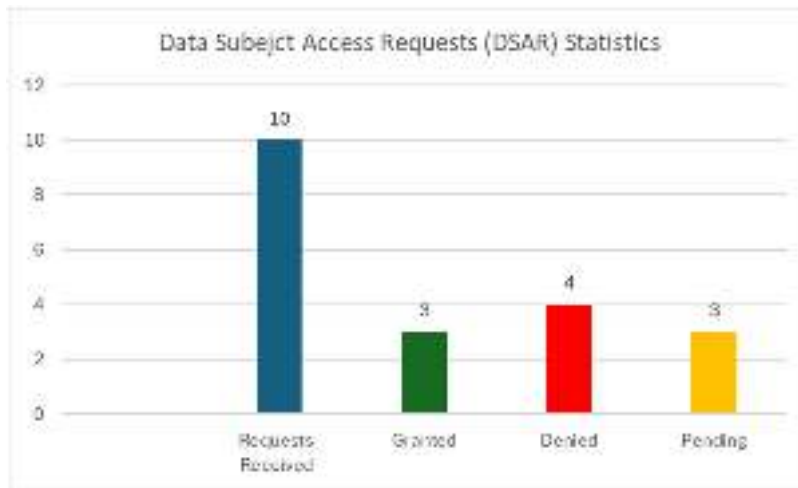
2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.05.2025



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT





DATA PROTECTION

- 10 Subject Access Requests received:
 - 8 Data Subject Access Requests
 - 2 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána
 - 3 granted, 4 denied, 3 pending decisions.
- GDPR/Data Protection

Training:

- Online Induction Training issued to all new Staff
- Online GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
- Online Training on Cyber Security issued to all new Staff
- In person training provided to Lifeguards Staff

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

RE-OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE – 2025 SEASON

We are delighted to announce the re-opening of the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre for the 2025 season! The Centre will once again welcome visitors to explore the rich history and heritage of one of Ireland's most significant battles.



As part of our seasonal programming, we are excited to introduce a series of monthly historic talks, offering deeper insights into the events, people, and legacy of the Battle of Aughrim. These engaging sessions will be held at the Centre, with the first talk scheduled for Friday, 20th June 2025.

We look forward to welcoming both returning guests and new visitors to experience history brought to life.





OUR RECREATION & AMENITIES TEAM SECURES FUNDING FOR INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND UPGRADES IN TUAM

Galway County Council has received €18,887 under the Capital Grants Scheme for Play and Recreation to enhance the Palace Grounds Playground in Tuam. The funding will support the installation of a wheelchair-accessible roundabout, two inclusive benches, and repairs to existing equipment.

Announced on 12th May 2025 by Minister Norma Foley, the grant aims to improve accessibility, inclusivity, and safety in local play areas. These upgrades will ensure children of all abilities can enjoy the playground, while also providing comfortable, accessible seating for all visitors.

The Council remains committed to creating welcoming, high-quality recreational spaces for the community.



FÓRAM PLEANÁLA TEANGA NA N-ÚDARÁS ÁITIÚIL/LA LANGUAGE PLANNING FORUM

Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dara Calleary attending a meeting of the Fóram Pleanála Teanga na n-údarás áitiúil/LA Language Planning Forum held on 19th June 2025.



On June 11th, the Chief Executive attended a breakfast meeting in Dublin, where the Northern & Western Regional Assembly presented a report to Government Ministers, TDs, Senators, and Senior Government officials.



The report outlined 33 infrastructure projects that could significantly transform the Northern and Western Region of Ireland.

SOCIAL MEDIA

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Our Customer Services team, part of Corporate Services, diligently monitor and update the Council's social media content daily.

Their creative and dynamic efforts, aim to enhance our engagement with the Public and support our drive for better awareness of the Council's excellent work.

LIVE STREAMING SUCCESS – CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS 2025

We are pleased to report another successful live streaming event for the Cathaoirleach Awards, held on Friday, 16th May 2025 at the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. The event was broadcast live to audiences both near and far, ensuring broad accessibility and engagement.

As of the latest count, the recorded stream has received 6,605 views, reflecting strong interest and continued reach beyond the 'live' event itself. This level of engagement highlights the growing impact of our digital outreach efforts and the value of making key civic events accessible to a wider audience.






This success underscores the importance of maintaining and enhancing our live streaming capabilities for future events, as part of our broader strategy to foster community connection and transparency.

MAY 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.

OVERVIEW MAY OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Social Media Audience Metrics	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
 www.facebook.com/galwaycounty	121	224,872
 www.x.com/galwaycoco	95	21,150
 www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil	122	27,919
 www.linkedin.com/galwaycoco	6	2,374
Total Number of Posts	344 (96 posts in Irish – 28%)	
Fans & Followers across Social Media Platforms	42,678  0.5% from 42,458 Fans & Followers	

FACEBOOK

MAY'S TOP 3 FACEBOOK POSTS



X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

MAY'S TOP THREE POSTS



INSTAGRAM

MAY'S TOP THREE POSTS



LINKEDIN

MAY'S TOP THREE POSTS



YOUR COUNCIL DAY – FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2025

Galway County Council will join local authorities across Ireland on Friday, 27th June 2025 to mark *Your Council Day*. This is a national campaign promoting the vital work of both City and County councils and the people behind the services that support our communities every day.

This year's theme is *Building Stronger Communities* focusing on how local authorities foster environments where people feel connected, supported, and empowered to thrive.



In the week leading up to the event and on the day itself, the banner above, newly designed by our Customer Services team, will be prominently displayed in front of our County Hall building. Our social media feeds will feature highlights from various departments showcasing their works complimenting this years theme.

On the day, there will be an online opening address video clip from our Chief Executive, followed by an update from our Irish Officer on the Irish language community, and a message from the Cathaoirleach. Additionally, various departments will provide insights from their respective Directorates of how they build stronger communities every day.

Expect to see lots of Your Council Day activity at the end of June.

CATHAOIRLEACH'S CHARITY BALL 2025

An Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Martina Kinane hosted this year's Cathaoirleach Charity Ball on Saturday, 7th June in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry to help raise much needed funds for two very worthy beneficiaries, Oranmore Maree Coastal Search Unit and Hand in Hand – Children's Cancer Charity. A great night was had by all in attendance! Photo Credit: Seán Lydon



CATHAOIRLEACH COUNCILLOR MARTINA KINANE
WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE LIAM CONNEALLY

CATHAOIRLEACH COUNCILLOR MARTINA KINANE WITH
CITY MAYOR COUNCILLOR PETER KEANE



LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH
AND MC FOR THE NIGHT
COUNCILLOR OLLIE
TURNER WITH
CATHAOIRLEACH
COUNCILLOR MARTINA
KINANE



CATHAOIRLEACH
COUNCILLOR MARTINA KINANE WITH THE BAILE
CHLÁIR COMMUNITY CHOIR



COUNCILLOR
GERALDINE
DONOHUE,
COUNCILLOR DR. EVELYN PARSONS,
CATHAOIRLEACH COUNCILLOR MARTINA KINANE &
COUNCILLOR GERRY KING



IRISH OFFICE

IRISH CLASSES.

Galway County Council will be seeking submissions within the next few weeks for the provision of Irish classes for staff and elected members. Classes for staff will be held during normal working hours for 1 hour per week and will be held for two semesters. Semester 1 will run from September to December and Semester 2 will run from January to March.

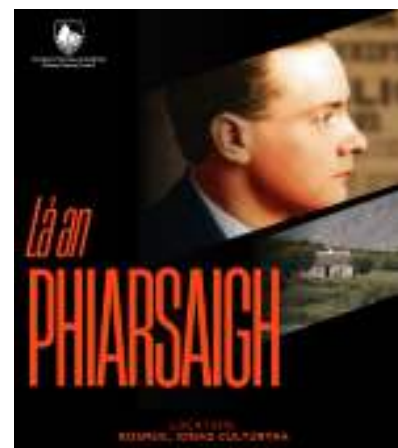
SAVE THE DATE

Scoil An Phiarsaigh, Ionad Cultúrtha An Phiarsaigh, RosMuc,
24th & 25th September.

**This year's theme is "Passing the Pearse torch on to
existing and future generations".**

Galway County Council will be hosting Scoil An Phiarsaigh in Ros Muc again in September.

This year we are adding a little twist. There are 2 language planning service towns/networks in the county of Galway, Clifden and Loughrea. To assist with our local authority official languages



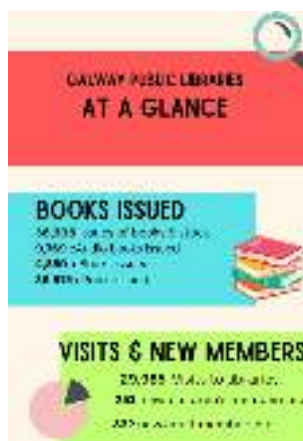
obligations with respect to these language planning towns, we will be inviting a school from Loughrea and a school from Clifden along with the local school in Ros Muc to attend.

Events on the 24th September will be focused on 6th class National school pupils and will consist of Music, talks, a guided tour of Pearse's cottage, Theatre show and workshop along with Arts and crafts workshops aimed at this age group.

Events on the 25th will be focused on transition year students/adults and will consist of Poetry, a Debating competition, panel discussion, a guided tour of Pearse's cottage and will finish off with music from Johnny Óg Connolly who won the 2025 TG4 music composer of the year.

All events will take place through Irish.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Galway Public Libraries provide an extensive array of services to the community and fulfil the key actions set out in national policy on the provision of an inclusive library service.

Over 38, 000 books were issued during the month of May along with 29,985 visits to libraries throughout the County. Utilization of services continued to increase with a particular interest in the ePress platform which provides access to National and International Newspapers and Magazines.

The programming of the Bealtaine Festival, which celebrates creativity in older years provided opportunity for members of the public to experience creative writing workshops, art exhibitions from some of the older members within our communities along with poetry workshops exploring the theme 'Music of our Generation with Irish Poet, Meave McKenna. These opportunities were in addition to fibre crafting workshops in Tuam Library with the focus on creating worry worms to deal with anxiety and fear.

The programme for Bealtaine was kindly funded by the Creative Communities Team in Galway County Council.

Right to Read is a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. As part of



this effort, four dedicated programmes focus specifically on encouraging children's reading and literacy skills. Libraries play a key role in supporting this mission by celebrating reading and preparing for the Summer Stars Reading Programme, which kicks off in early June and runs through August 31st. Children are invited to keep their reading habits alive over the summer and continue their journey with books in a fun and engaging way. This initiative will encompass events, workshops and activities throughout the summer all free of charge.

Healthy Ireland, a government-led initiative, is the national strategy to improve health and wellbeing, place a focus on prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer. Public libraries are currently delivering the nationwide Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme and this is a valuable resource within the community for health information.

The initiative includes a comprehensive collection of books on health and wellbeing, extensive online resources incorporating eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines. In addition to this remit there is an extensive programme of events, workshops and talks with a focus on physical health, mental health, and health literacy.



The Galway City library hosted a series of bilingual (Gaeilge & English) breathwork and meditation sessions in May. These sessions were run by trainer Marian Ní Chonghaile, a native Irish speaker, and certified breathwork specialist.

BALLYBANE LIBRARY

RIGHT TO READ:

Every second Thursday our Creative Writing group meets in the library to mentor each other in their creative endeavours, assisted by staff member Zara.

On two Saturdays of this month our teenage readers met to discuss this month's book "Bite Risk", whilst our 8- to 11-year-old readers met to discuss "The House of 100 Clocks", in all nineteen children attended.

Music Generation supports our youngest patrons and their parents with a new Rhyme Time on Wednesday mornings, and Lisa and Joanna continue to support our local parents and toddlers with a Song time on Friday mornings.

As part of Galway Public Libraries' Summer Stars programme author Lucy Kelly Desmond facilitated a workshop in Ballybane Library's Maker Space.



The children of the ACE Afterschool from the Ballybane Resource Centre attended and enjoyed designing their own Barrel Top Caravans with Lucy, indeed two of the children told us their Granddad still has one and so this really enlivened the chat.

On Friday 23rd of May ATU Children's Studies Artist in Residence Monica Monez entertained parents and children in the library with two interactive dance sessions.

The ATU sponsored this in recognition of Ballybane Library's diligent efforts to encourage the use of the library by young families.



These sessions were attended by 33 adults and 45 local children including a group from the local playschool based in Radharc na Mara school.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Every Tuesday morning, up to 16 local women gather at the library to sew and embroider vibrant banners that will be featured in the **Eastside Arts Festival** this October. These creative workshops are guided and supported by local artists **Helen Flynn** and **Rowena Carr**, who provide mentorship and inspiration throughout the process. Funded by **Galway City Creative Ireland**, the initiative celebrates community, creativity, and collaboration. The beautifully crafted banners will be proudly displayed in the library as part of the festival's October showcase.

BIO-DIVERSITY WEEK

This year Executive Librarian Caroline Rowan kindly organized a visit by author and bird conservationist Susan O' Donoghue whose successful book "Golden Wings" will be reprinted due to its success.

She gave a fantastic interactive talk in our library which was attended by thirty-five 4th class children from Scoil Caitríona in Renmore.



ART EXHIBITIONS:



During this period, **Galway City Library** hosted two captivating art exhibitions.

Nishanth Sugathan, an artist originally from Kerala in South India who relocated to Galway three years ago, showcased a collection of his work featuring both tech-inspired pieces and still-life paintings, reflecting a blend of innovation and tradition.

Meanwhile, **Anna Rozanska-Batra**, a talented quilling artist, exhibited her intricate paper art. Using rolled strips of paper, Anna creates detailed and delicate designs—some of which require over 100 hours to complete—highlighting the patience and precision behind this unique and labour-intensive craft.



EARLY YEARS PROGRAMMING:

Baby Rhyme Time took place on its new date and time of Thursdays at 11. These sessions are in collaboration with



GRETB and Music Generation Galway. 132 people took part in these sessions.

Age-Friendly events included weekly Scrabble for Seniors and the Creative Crafters meetings. These continue to be popular with over 80 people attending throughout the month.

BIODIVERSITY WEEK IN GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

Author Susan O'Donohoe gave a presentation to 40 students from Mercy Primary School about owls. Susan is an ornithologist and the author of the book *Golden Wings*. Each student received a copy of the book to take home. This event was sponsored by the Biodiversity Office of Galway City Council.



FORÓIGE COLLABORATION

Galway City Library hosted a variety of engaging events in collaboration with **Foróige**, offering creative and interactive experiences for young people.

- The **monthly Anime/Manga workshops** provided a space for 13–18-year-olds to explore their passion for Japanese pop culture through art and storytelling.



- The **monthly tabletop role-playing game sessions** invited teens aged 13–18 to dive into imaginative worlds, build characters, and collaborate through gameplay.



- On **7 June**, an **animation workshop** for 10–13-year-olds gave participants the chance to get hands-on with both traditional and digital techniques, blending creativity with technology under the guidance of Foróige facilitators.



ORANMORE LIBRARY

The period May 12th – June 7th has been dominated by events for our older generation through the Bealtaine Festival, our Leaving Cert students using the library to prepare for their exams, (each day every study space (20 spaces) has been filled and a quiet studious atmosphere has prevailed.), preschoolers collecting their “Little Library Bags” and our celebration of Cruinniú na nÓg at Oranmore Library.



LAUNCH OF ACTIVE IN AGE ART EXHIBITION

Tuesdays, May 13th, 20th, 27th, June 3rd: DUPLO for toddlers. Parents are invited to bring their toddlers to the library to play with the blocks and meet other parents and children. Aimed at children aged 18 months to 5 years. This is a social inclusion event and works well as an introduction to what the library has to offer.



THURSDAY, MAY 15TH:

BEALTAINÉ EVENT: LAUNCH OF ACTIVE IN AGE ART EXHIBITION. DISPLAY OF PAINTINGS FROM SOME OF THE OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THE EXHIBITION REMAINED IN PLACE FOR 1 WEEK.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK IN ORANMORE LIBRARY

National Biodiversity Week. Display of books, interactive handouts in Irish and English and colouring pages provided to take away. These proved so popular we had to photocopy more, and they are still being requested throughout the month.

Storytime with Anne Marie continues to be a popular event, drawing a steady average attendance of young listeners and their families.



As part of the Little Library Bag initiative, Bláth Beag Crèche from Oranmore visited the library to collect their Little Library Bags. A total of 22 bags were distributed during their visit, supporting early literacy and fostering a love of reading from a young age.

Thursday, May 22nd: Bealtaine Event : Poetry Workshop “Music of our Generation” with Irish poet, Maeve Mc Kenna. Writing poetry based on memories generated by songs from childhood. Funded by Creative Communities, Galway County Council. Feedback from host Maeve:

“The group were lovely. I think everyone enjoyed the workshop and went home with a first draft of a poem. They read their work towards the end of the workshop and it was excellent!”



POETRY WORKSHOP WITH MAEVE MCKENNA

Saturday, May 24th: LEGO® at the Library: Children were invited to unleash their creativity using LEGO® bricks provided by the library. The session sparked imagination and hands-on fun, with an attendance of 25 participants.

Thursday, May 29th: Evening Book Club: Members gathered to discuss Good Behaviour by Molly Keane, engaging in a lively conversation about the novel’s themes and characters.



Wednesday, June 4th: Morning Book Club: The group met to explore The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne by Brian Moore, sharing insights and reflections on this poignant literary work.

Saturday, June 7th: Cruinniú na nÓg:

- Origami Workshop with Tom Cuffe in the morning aimed at children aged 10+. Origami is the ancient Japanese art of folding paper to create almost anything you want. No glue, no sticky tape, just **Folding for Fun**. From birds to planes to foxes to boxes, from wonderfully simple to



wonderfully geometric. A workshop for all and great for sharing with friends. Be careful, this artform is very addictive and its only paper-just any old paper or just any beautiful paper. 10 attended

- Play and create at the Library. Colouring, arts and crafts in the afternoon. 20 attended



TUAM LIBRARY

Creative Galway County funded knitting/crocheting workshops hosted by Marie Reilly which ran over four weeks starting 6th of May. These sessions allowed participants to create a textile worry worm which is utilized as an aid to deal with anxiety and worry.



ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Stephen Cotter Art Exhibition

Running from May 10th to June 10th, this exhibition showcases the work of local artist Stephen Cotter, offering visitors a chance to enjoy a diverse collection of visual art.



Community Connects

Held every Friday at 11am, this welcoming social gathering brings people together for conversation, connection, and community spirit.

LEGO® Free Play – Saturday, May 27th

Children were invited to enjoy a full day of creative play with LEGO® bricks. A total of 27 children participated, building imaginative creations throughout the day.

Rhyme Time – Every Wednesday at 11am

Led by Caroline, this lively and interactive session includes songs, stories, bubbles, shakers, and more. The programme averages 24 attendees each week, with a peak of 30 participants on May 28th.

MUDDY PUDDLES PRESCHOOL MORNING EVENT:

Sunflower seed planting, Storytime and face painting for a preschool class of 12 on the 22nd of May



SOUNDBITES

29th of May, Tuam Library hosts local musicians and poets for a monthly lunchtime music session. All are welcome to attend.



MAKE YOUR OWN ZINE WITH ARTIST JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM

Crinniú funded event Saturday 7th June:

A zine is a self-published booklet made from 1 or 2 pieces of paper. The event was fully booked and was well received. Jennifer has since informed us through email that the event was well received by parents and that the children who attended have expressed their interest in future events.

This event was funded through Creative Ireland Galway County Council in partnership with the Library Service.



Crinniú Staff Led Activities: Face-painting, Bookmark making, sunflower seed planting, Lego Free Play and colouring all day.



There was a fantastic response to our staff-led activities, our end-of-day numbers recorded were 322 people in attendance on Saturday June 7th.



Throughout the month of **May**, the library was a hub of creativity and community activity:

- A **1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle** was gradually completed by both children and adults, offering a relaxing and collaborative challenge for all ages.
- The **Ciorcal Comhrá** (Irish conversation circle) took place on **May 20th**, providing a welcoming space for Irish language practice and cultural exchange.
- An **art exhibition** showcased the impressive work of finalists from the **Community Games Art Competition**, celebrating young local talent.
- **Medals** were awarded to children who earned top honours in the competition, recognizing their artistic achievements.
- **LEGO® free play, puzzle time, and board games** were available throughout the month, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and fun for all visitors.



Crinniú na nÓg Workshops Book

Art Creative workshops for children were held on Saturday 7th June to celebrate Crinniú na nÓg.

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

May 12th – June 7th inclusive

RIGHT TO READ

Class visits to libraries are more than just a change of scenery—they are powerful educational experiences that foster a lifelong love of reading and learning. When students step into a library, they enter a space that encourages curiosity, imagination, and independent thinking.

These visits expose children to a wide range of books and resources beyond the classroom, helping them discover new interests and develop critical literacy skills. Librarians play a key role, guiding students in how to find information, evaluate sources, and explore topics that excite them.

Loughrea Library welcomed 215 children from St. Brendan's Boys NS and St. Ita's NS over the month

BOOK LAUNCH

Friday 6th June at 7pm. Launch of paperback edition of 'Gerald O'Donovan: a Life' by John F. Ryan, in association with Charlie Byrne's Book Shop.



SPRING INTO STORYTIME

Thursday 5th June 12.00-12.45pm.
Toddler Storytime & Play-Doh Fun



Saturday 24th May – LEGO Free Play Day (approx. 25 children)

Thursday May 15th 11am -1pm –
Loughrea Creative Craft Group

Thursday May 22nd 11am -1pm –
Loughrea Creative Craft Group

Thursday May 29th 11am -1pm
– Loughrea Creative Craft
Group

Thursday 5th June 11am -1pm –
Loughrea Creative Craft Group



CRINNIÚ NA NÓG 7TH JUNE 2025.



Craft activities and LEGO play throughout the day. 11.30am 'Design and create your own bookmark, decorating with your own micro poem and illustrations' for ages 7-12 with children's author Serena Molloy.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

During the month of May Westside Library hosted the following regular community groups: the Ukrainian After School Family Craft Sessions (GCP), the Newcastle Active Retirement Group, the Speckled Eggs Dance Group, Cuidiú Breastfeeding Support Group, the HSE Weaning Workshop, the Community Choir, an English Conversation Class for speakers of languages other than English (LOTE) and the weekly knitting group .

BRIDGE PROJECT

We were delighted to welcome back The Bridge Project in the auditorium space. They hosted an information session about Mental Health Awareness and Emotional Wellbeing. The workshop was attended by over 20 participants. The Bridge Project, based at Galway City Partnership, seeks to promote the effective delivery of reception and integration supports to asylum seekers and third country nationals in Galway.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Our regular library activities, such as the monthly book club, Lego Free Play Session, Baby Rhyme Time (in cooperation with Music Generation), and staff-led Storytime, remain highly popular.

CLASS VISITS

Both 3rd classes from Knocknacarra NS visited for a storytime and a browse in the library.



BIODIVERSITY WEEK:

Staff at Westside Library created a wonderful book display to celebrate Biodiversity Week.



Author Susan O'Donohue gave a talk to children from Scoil Chroí Íosa's 5th and 6th class for Biodiversity Week. She read from her book about Irish barn owls and gave a talk about the fascinating birds. Every child also received a free copy of her book to take home.



CREATIVE IRELAND

1st class pupils from Scoil Chroí Íosa had a great time when Lucy Kelly Desmond, author of "The Horse, the Stars and the Road", held a very special storytime and art workshop here at Westside Library.

Thank you, Lucy, for a wonderful morning and thanks also to Creative Ireland and Galway City Council for funding the event.



AUTHOR LUCY KELLY DESMOND



An Ghrúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí

Bhí a lán spraoi againn ar maidin le Julie Anne De Brún don Ghrúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí i Leabharlann An Taoibh Thiar. Go raibh míle maith agat Julie Anne!

HOUSING

HOUSING SUMMIT

On Wednesday 11th June 2025, The Chief Executive spoke at the Housing Summit as the Chair of CCMA Planning & Land Use Committee, which was held at the National Gallery of Ireland.



VACANT HOMES

VACANT HOMES

The Vacant Homes Officer, presented before the “AHB Forum Meeting “ on the 27th May 2025, providing an update on the schemes and programmes available to support and address housing needs and how these may be utilised by AHB (Approved Housing Bodies) in our communities.

Galway County Council has received 583 applications since the start of the scheme with 358 approved to date to a value in excess of 19 million. 111 has been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme, and 37 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants have been paid to date which represents a significant investment in local communities.

CPO ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

The CPO Activation Programme identified 40 properties in the initial First Tranche for Activation. There is a high level of engagement from owners of the properties engaging directly with the Vacant Homes Team. Owners have advised that they are working to resolve title matters, engaging with the Probate process and some owners have placed their properties for sale on the open market. Where owners have not engaged, further action is being contemplated with several properties being referred to the Environment Section in consideration of same being included on the Derelict Sites Register.

SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

Above is a detailed snapshot of Galway County Council’s social housing stock as of **June 2025**, broken down by:

- **Social Housing Category** (e.g. LA, AHB, HAP, RAS, Leasing, MTR)
- **Letting Status** (e.g. Occupied, Awaiting Minor Repairs, Derelict)
- **Property Status** (Occupied, Under Offer, Vacant)

KEY FIGURES

- **Total Properties:** 5,489
- **Occupied:** 5,391 (98.21%)
- **Under Offer:** 22
- **Vacant:** 76 (1.39%)

BREAKDOWN BY SOCIAL HOUSING CATEGORY

1. Local Authority (LA)

- **Total:** 3,019
- **Occupied:** 2,942
- **Under Offer:** 18
- **Vacant:** 59
- **Letting Statuses:**
 - **Awaiting Minor Repairs:** 40 (13 under offer, 27 vacant)
 - **Derelict:** 29 (all vacant)
 - **Available For Letting:** 7 (4 under offer, 3 vacant)
 - **Major Refurbishment:** 1 (under offer)

2. Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

- **Total:** 902
- **Occupied:** 882
- **Under Offer:** 3
- **Vacant:** 17
- **Letting Statuses:**
 - **Available For Letting:** 10 (3 under offer, 7 vacant)
 - **Major Refurbishment:** 10 (all vacant)

3. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

- **Total:** 1,350
- **Occupied:** 1,350
- **Under Offer/Vacant:** 0

4. Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

- **Total:** 96
- **Occupied:** 96
- **Under Offer/Vacant:** 0

5. Leasing

- **Total:** 70
- **Occupied:** 70
- **Under Offer/Vacant:** 0

6. Mortgage to Rent (MTR)

- **Total:** 52
- **Occupied:** 51
- **Under Offer:** 1

OBSERVATIONS

- **High Occupancy:** 98.21% of the housing stock is occupied.
- **Under Offer:** A total of **22 properties** are under offer, distributed as:
 - LA: 18
 - AHB: 3
 - MTR: 1
- **Derelict Properties:** All 29 derelict properties are within the **Local Authority** category (6 are part of the regeneration project in Portumna and 12 are in the process of being sold)
- **Zero Vacancy:** HAP, RAS, and Leasing schemes report **100% occupancy**.
- **Refurbishment & Repairs:** AHB and LA have properties under refurbishment or awaiting minor repairs.

STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

1. **Addressing Dereliction:** The 29 derelict LA properties represent a significant opportunity for regeneration, redevelopment or sale. (See above)
2. **Turnaround of Under Offer Units:** With 22 properties under offer, monitoring and expediting the letting process will further reduce vacancy.
3. **Maintenance Investment:** Targeted repairs in LA VM stock will bring more units into use.
4. **Scheme Efficiency:** HAP, RAS, and Leasing continue to demonstrate high performance with full occupancy.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The 5 year Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029 was adopted by the plenary Council in November 2024. Work has commenced and is ongoing on the programme, with funding provided by the Traveller Accommodation Unit (TAU) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:

WORKS COMPLETED:

Cloonlyon Road – 6 properties underwent major refurbishment including installation of Part M and adaptation of 2 properties.

Cloonlyon Crescent – 6 properties underwent major refurbishment, 1 demountable property was demolished and removed from the site.

WORKS ONGOING:

Athenry – Property refurbished and extended. Part M bathroom installed and energy efficiency upgrade completed. Cloonlyon Road, Ballygar – 6 houses – Major Refurbishment completed

Castleblakeney – 2 properties refurbished internally and externally to include upgrade of sewage facilities, works substantially completed

PLANNED WORKS:

Cartron, Ballgar – Property to be reroofed and refurbished. Procurement completed, works to commence Summer 2025. Funding approved by TAU.

Gortbride, Loughrea – 6 properties are to be refurbished and upgraded. Design and procurement underway. Funding approved by TAU.

Ballydavid, Athenry – 6 houses to be refurbished and upgraded with energy efficiency works, submission for funding with TAU for consideration.

Rahard, Athenry – property to undergo major refurbishment – proposal to be agreed and submitted to the TAU for consideration.

Mountbellew – property to be refurbished and extended to facilitate multi-generational living. Proposal to be agreed and submitted to the TAU for consideration.

Tuam Halting Site Redevelopment

CENA were commissioned by Galway County Council, with the support of Dormant Accounts Funding, to prepare and submit a feasibility study and a proposal for the re-development of the 10 bay Tuam Halting Site into Traveller Specific Accommodation. Both reports have been received by the Council and are being considered. The Council will meet CENA representatives in the coming weeks to progress the redevelopment further.

DORMANT ACCOUNTS

An application for Dormant Accounts Scheme funding for two projects related to Traveller Accommodation has been successful. Mediation training has been provided to a Social Worker and a Feasibility Study and Development Proposal for the re-development of Tuam Halting Site has been commissioned and completed by CENA.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information Sessions were held recently in Ballinasloe and Tuam by Galway County Council, with 23 Community Healthcare Workers (CHWS) in attendance from Galway Traveller Movement and Brú Bríde. Information and advice was given on completing and submitting housing applications and responding to the annual Summary of Social Housing Assessment. This useful advice will enable CHWS to assist the Traveller community in applying for Social Housing Supports. It is intended to provide these information sessions twice a year, as noted in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2027.



EXTENDED TRAVELLER SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION – ATHENRY



ROOF REPAIRS, TRAVELLER
SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION
CASTLEBLAKENEY

INSTALLATION OF NEW
BATHROOM, TRAVELLER SPECIFIC GROUP SCHEME, BALLYGAR



DISABLED PERSONS GRANTS

A Disabled Persons Grant is available to assist in the carrying out of adaptation works/extension in local authority owned properties, which are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering the dwelling more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.

THE TYPES OF WORKS ALLOWABLE UNDER THE SCHEME INCLUDE:

- Access ramps
- Bathroom adaptations
- Stairlifts/Hoists -OT report required from applicant
- Accessible showers,
- Adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access,
- Extensions– OT Report required from applicant
- Any other works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability

Galway County Council received funding notification this week of the 2025 allocation of 777,481 for Disabled Persons Grants/Improvement Works in Lieu/Extensions. This funding (90%) is matched by a contribution towards the works of 86,387 from Galway County Council (10%), a total of 863,868. This is an increase of 15% on the 2024 allocation.

The status of the 2025 DPG programme of works, which are carried out on Galway County Council owned properties is as follows:

23 properties – DPG works completed

24 properties – DPG works underway

15 properties – DPG works to be completed in 2025

The works completed included the provision of wet rooms, ramps and rails and associated adaptations.

In addition to the above works, extensions to meet the needs of households are progressing as follows:

3 properties – extensions completed

2 extensions – extensions underway

2 extensions – design completed and procurement underway

PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS

Three types of housing grants are available for older people or persons with disabilities to make necessary adaptations or improvements to their homes to improve their housing conditions:

- 1) The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability (HAG) is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.
- 2) The Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People (HAOP) is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.
- 3) The Mobility Aids Housing Grant (MAG) is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing.

A total of **452 applications for grants** for adaptations for private houses have been received in 2025:

274 HAOP

163 MAGs and HAGs

15 on-hand to be processed

A total of **473 house inspections** have been completed and processed in 2025:

328 HAOP reports

121 MAG

27 HAG

A total of **1,766,607 has been paid** in private housing grants to date in 2025:

HAOP 1,159,727

HAG 270,128

MAG 336,752

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOANS

A Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) is a Government backed mortgage for first time buyers and fresh start applicants, available from the local authority. It can be used to purchase a new or second-hand property or for self-build. A Local Authority Home Loan provides up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum value of a property which can be bought/built under this scheme in the County of Galway is 330,000.

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) is also available. The loan, which is an expansion of the Local Authority Home Loan supports both the purchase and renovation of homes which are eligible under the existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG).

It is a Government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes. The property must be eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, whether derelict, non-habitable or simply vacant.

Under the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan, a first-time buyer or Fresh Start applicant who wishes to purchase and/or renovate a Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant eligible home but cannot get sufficient funding from commercial lenders are now able to apply to the Local Authority for a Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan.

Twenty applications for a local Authority Home Loan have been received in 2025. A number of enquiries have been received regarding the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan, with one application received to date. One application has also been received from a person applying for Affordable Housing.

HOMELESSNESS

In May 2025, 49 adults and 29 children who are housing applicants with Galway County Council were residing in emergency accommodation. This accommodation includes supervised hostel accommodation (one male and one female hostel), private emergency accommodation (B & Bs) and an addiction treatment centre.

All emergency accommodation is provided in Galway City and is sourced and monitored on behalf of Galway County and City Councils by COPE Galway. The emergency accommodation is currently at capacity. It is intended that Galway County and City Councils will seek Expressions of Interest in the provision of additional emergency accommodation in the coming weeks.

It is recognised that clients are presenting with increasing complex needs and that one housing solution does not fit all. Galway County Council provides supported shared housing options to eligible housing applicants with 22 occupants in 10 Community Based Houses and 8 young people, aged between 18 and 25 years of age, in 5 designated Youth Houses. Support is provided to the occupants of these properties by Galway Simon to enable them to develop skills necessary to sustain a tenancy.

The development of medium-term supported housing and a Cold Weather Response facility is ongoing with a recent closing date for submissions on the Part 8 planning proposal.

PART 8 PLANNING PROPOSAL ST BRIDGETS ROAD, PORTUMNA

Part 8 planning for Partial demolition of 11 no. detached dwelling houses and complete refurbishment and extensions to provide 11 No. 2 Bedroom single-storey detached dwellings at St. Bridget's Road, Portumna, Co. Galway was applied for on the 2nd of May. Submissions for the development closing on the 24th of June.

The aim of the proposal is to create an inclusive residential community that respects the existing character of the village of Portumna but acknowledges the sustainable growth of the village with an appropriate development for a fully serviced residentially zoned Site.

The proposal seeks to respect the existing residential development pattern of the area by aligning the new development. The proposal will be connected to the locality by the use of materials sympathetic with the locality and adapting to the location of the existing Streetscape.

PART 8 PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 38 HOUSING UNITS AT ST JOSEPH'S ROAD PORTUMNA

On Friday 23rd May 2025, 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 on St. Joseph's Road, Portumna.

The development consists of the construction of 38 no. residential units comprising:

- 6 no. single storey two-bed dwellings,
- 1 no. single storey three-bed dwelling,
- 25 no. two-storey three-bed dwellings,
- 4 no. two-storey two-bed dwellings,
- 2 no. two storey four-bed dwellings.

Proposed site works include provision of an electric substation, landscaping and boundary wall construction. It is proposed to provide an access connection to the site via the adjacent regional road, R352, together with all service connections, ancillary siteworks and services.

FIGURE 1: 3-D MODEL OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



NRPO UPDATE

TAKING IN CHARGE

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

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>		2
<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>		2
Total Taken in Charge/Bond Release		4

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 09/06/2025

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	0
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	4
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.

WORK TO BEGIN ON NEW PHASE OF ATHENRY NORTHERN RING ROAD

Construction of the western section of the Athenry Northern Ring Road will commence in the coming weeks with a completion date of late 2025.

On Monday 16th of June 2025, the Local Authority signed contracts with Tower Plant and Civil Engineering to deliver the scheme, located in the townlands of Ballygarraun North and Ballygarraun South.

The Athenry Northern Ring Road is identified in the Athenry Local Area plan as a key infrastructure project to support the economic development of the town and support housing growth. The project is funded under the Department of Transport and the first section of the road, from Raheen Road (L3103) north



to a roundabout junction with Ballydavid Cottages and the R347 was constructed and opened to traffic in mid-2013. This next phase includes the connection between the Presentation College and the of the Raheen Road (Ballygarraun North).



N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

On 14th April 2025, Galway County Council, in collaboration with Galway City Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, submitted a comprehensive response to An Bord Pleanála's Request for Further Information concerning the proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road. The submission included updated environmental surveys covering ecology, geology, traffic, and climate compliance, aligning with the latest Climate Action Plan.

On 6th June 2025, An Bord Pleanála issued a letter acknowledging that the additional information constitutes significant further details regarding environmental impacts, proper planning, and sustainable development. Consequently, the Board has formally requested that this information be made available for public inspection and purchase, allowing written submissions in response.

Galway County Council will publish newspaper notices later this month outlining:

- The process for public access and purchase of the information.
- Guidelines for submissions or observations to the Board.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE NWRA FOR THE NDP REVIEW

Galway County Council has made a submission to the North West Regional Assembly that has outlined a strategic and balanced set of priorities to inform the ongoing review of the National Development Plan. The submission has reaffirmed the critical importance of the N6 Galway City Ring Road as a priority project to address long-standing transport issues, enhance regional connectivity, and enable sustainable economic development.

In addition, the Council has highlighted the urgent need to progress the Galway East Main Drainage Scheme to address wastewater capacity constraints and facilitate planned housing and population growth. Strategic emphasis has also been placed on rail infrastructure upgrades including the double-tracking of the Athenry–Galway line and the proposed Tuam rail link, alongside investment in rural and urban regeneration, active travel infrastructure, and essential utilities.

Key proposals in the submission include:

- Delivery of the N6 Galway City Ring Road
- Implementation of the Galway East Main Drainage Scheme
- Double-tracking of the Athenry–Galway rail line and reopening of the Athenry–Claremorris line
- Development of the Tuam Quarter and associated rail infrastructure
- Regeneration initiatives in towns such as Tuam, Gort, Ballinasloe, and Portumna
- Investment in national and regional roads (e.g., N59, N84, Baile Chláir Bypass)
- Completion of the Galway–Athlone Greenway and expansion of walking/cycling networks
- Upgrades to harbours (Rosaveel, Aran Islands, Cleggan) to support marine services and offshore wind
- Flood relief works in priority areas (e.g., Clifden, Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Gort Low lands)
- Upgrades to fire services and electricity infrastructure to support growth and resilience

FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE OWENRIFF RIVER, OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY

Galway County Council’s intention to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the construction of a new clear span footbridge over the Owenriff River in Oughterard, will be published in the coming weeks. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared as part of the planning application, as the footbridge will be located in a Special Area of Conservation. Amongst other things, the Owenriff River is a highly important habitat for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

A compulsory purchase order will also be applied for, but it is anticipated that land acquisition will be negotiated by agreement with the landowners. The footbridge will be located approximately 150m downstream (east) of the existing N59 road bridge in Oughterard and will provide connectivity to footpaths through the provision of a pedestrian crossing on each side.

This is a long-awaited project by the community and aims to provide much safer passage for vulnerable road users, particularly school goers, from the town to Carrowmanagh Road where both the national and secondary schools are located.

FIGURE 1 PHOTOMONTAGE OF PROPOSED NEW FOOTBRIDGE, VIEWING FROM THE NORTH OF THE OWENRIFF RIVER AT CARROWMANAGH ROAD.



COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUNDING

The government has allocated €4.33 million to fund 57 marine infrastructure projects across 11 coastal local authorities under the Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025. This initiative, led by Minister of State Timmy Dooley, aims to support the maintenance and development of fishery and aquaculture-linked infrastructure owned by local authorities.

Each project can receive up to 75% co-funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, capped at €187,500, with the remaining costs covered by the respective local authority.

The full cost of projects is estimated at €477,000 for Galway County Council and grant allocation amounts to €357,750. These projects focus on improving safety, accessibility, and structural integrity of piers and marine infrastructure across Galway County.

LA	Project	Description	Full Cost (€)	Grant Allocation (€)
Galway County Council	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
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	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
	Galway Bay Pier	Galway Bay Pier (approx. 100m) - structural repairs and safety improvements	180,000.00	135,000.00
Galway County Council Total			1,277,000.00	957,750.00

JUNIOR SCHOOL WARDEN SCHEME CELEBRATES LOCAL HEROES

In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting road safety and civic responsibility, the Junior School Warden Scheme continues to make a meaningful impact in the communities of Ballygar National School, St. Mary's National School, Mountbellew and St. Patrick's National School, Moylough. This collaborative programme ensures that children can crossroads safely near their schools.

Sponsored by Galway County Council and the Road Safety Authority (RSA), the scheme equips young wardens with official uniforms, clear road markings, and prominent signage to enhance visibility and safety. The training, delivered by dedicated members of An Garda Síochána, instils both confidence and a strong sense of duty in these young volunteers. On the 18th June 2025, the Junior School Warden final was held in Ballygar National School. Each Junior School Warden from the participating schools proudly received a Certificate of Achievement, recognising their commitment to keeping their peers safe and their contribution to the wider community.

Prizes were presented by Cathaoirleach Martina Kinane. This initiative not only fosters a culture of safety but also empowers students with leadership skills and a sense of civic pride; values that will serve them well into the future.



ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Islands Committee, comprising representatives from the three Aran Islands and Inishbofin, convened on Inishbofin on 17th June 2025 for its quarterly meeting. The discussion focused on key issues affecting the islands, including infrastructure, planning, and public services.

Topics covered included pier maintenance, road conditions, housing, water supply, sewerage systems, public toilets, burial grounds, fire services, coastal erosion, waste management, and signage.

The Committee consists of two representatives from each island, nine Conamara Councillors, the Director of Services for the Infrastructure & Operations Unit, two Roads Senior Engineers, and technical staff from the Conamara Area Office. Meetings are coordinated by Administrative Officer Geraldine Byrne.

This committee plays a crucial role in maintaining regular communication between the islands and local authorities, providing guidance and support for various projects and funding opportunities.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR CRAUGHWELL AND CLARINBRIDGE

This briefing is to update and inform Elected Members of Galway County Council on the Measure A8 of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) for the provision of wastewater infrastructure in the villages of Craughwell and Clarinbridge. The absence of public wastewater services in Craughwell and Clarinbridge continues to constrain sustainable housing delivery, creates risks to environmental protection, and limits the potential for economic and community development in both locations and this issue is a high priority for Galway County Council.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recently written to the Council seeking confirmation that we are in a position to meet the required 15% co-funding contribution towards the overall project cost. The financial implications for the Council are significant. The estimated minimum contribution required from Galway County Council is €3.81 million, but the final figure is estimated to approach €5 million. This level of expenditure has not been provided for in the adopted 2025 budget. Any such commitment would need to be met from the Council's own resources under the 2026 Budget Process.

It is also important to highlight that the proposed investment will not generate any identifiable financial return for the Council. On completion of the project, the infrastructure will be handed over to Uisce Éireann, who will assume ownership and operational responsibility, including the collection of connection charges to the public that connect. As such, the Council will be making a substantial upfront investment without any subsequent revenue stream or retained control of the assets.

The Council will continue to liaise with the Department and with Uisce Éireann as we assess the financial and governance implications of this proposal and the council co-funding contribution towards the project will be considered under the 2026 budgetary process.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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

Construction works are now complete and pedestrian crossing is in operation near LIDL in Oranmore. The Road Safety Audit is scheduled for June to complete final Close-out, Phase 7 of NTA PAGs. This vital infrastructure project was initiated in response to a clearly identified need to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity between local communities, schools, and the Oranmore town centre.



The project received strong support from elected members, reflecting a shared commitment to improving active travel options and fostering a safer, more accessible environment for all residents. The new crossing will serve as a key link in the local transport network, encouraging walking and supporting sustainable mobility.

Funding for the project was generously provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA), whose continued investment in community-focused infrastructure is greatly appreciated. This development marks a positive step forward in making Oranmore a safer and more connected place to live, work, and learn.

GCO/23/0012 BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Works are envisaged to be completed by the end June 2025.





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

Bus Stops added to the project and design approved by NTA Bus Team. Consultation material prepared for Irish Rail. Draft of

Emerging Preferred Route anticipated by the end of June.

GCO/23/0021 TUAM ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Approval in principle was given by the National Transport Authority (NTA) to progress the identified emerging preferred option designs and develop the associated documentation for Phase 2 approval.

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

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

We are nearing completion of Phase 3. Preliminary design workshop was held with the NTA and we are finalising Preliminary Design Report. We have engaged Road Safety Auditors ORS to carry out RSA's on all 5 schemes. Councillor briefing is being arranged for mid-June. Schools currently being briefed on proposed measures in advance of Planning.

GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

Works Completed, awaiting Road Safety Audit Stage 3. We are progressing to Phase 7 of NTA PAGS, Close-Out.



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)





We are in Phase 2, the Design Consultants carried out site visits and are procuring necessary surveys before we can progress further with the NTA approvals.

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. 10 out of 11 Draft Delivery Plans have been received for information purposes. A workshop to discuss options for Milltown N.S. was held in April. All the TOPO surveys have been completed. The NTA have directly engaged with Active Travel Services Office (ATSO) to complete a design for all Round 3 schools.

GCO/25/0002 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST. JOSEPH'S ROAD PORTUMNA

Topographical survey was carried out in May. Approval in principle was given by the National Transport Authority for the location near junction with N65. We are developing the design in-house and arranging for Road Safety Audit 1/2 before we can seek the next stage NTA approval and proceed to planning.



Fig 1- Location of Proposed Scheme

CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE FUND

The three islands of Oileáin Árann form the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Galway County. To support Climate Action in the DZ, Galway County Council launched the Pilot Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund on 28th April 2025. The deadline for the fund was extended to 11th June. The €60,000 fund is open to organisations, businesses and communities of Oileáin Árann that are interested in developing Climate Action projects and initiatives.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Communities are currently implementing projects which were awarded funding in 2024 under the Community Climate Action Fund. Seven of the thirty-two projects have been completed. Galway County Council is supporting the 2nd highest number of projects in the Country. Both East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Ltd and Annaghdown GAA recently installed solar panels on their community buildings.

SOLAR PANELS - ANNAGHDOWN GAA CLUBHOUSE



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY PROGRAMME (SEC)

The 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. In May 2025, the Climate Unit provided funding to the Doon East SEC.

UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION EVENTS

GREEN CLUBS INFORMATION NIGHT

A GAA Green Club Programme Information Night will take place on June 17th in Ballindeerran GAA Club organised by the Climate Action Unit. There will be presentations from Croke Park GAA Green Clubs Programme representatives, field studies from Green GAA Clubs, as well as presentations from Galway County Council staff. Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action Officer will provide information on the Community Climate Action Fund 2025, which we expect to launch in the coming months. GAA clubs will be able to apply for funding under the following themes: Energy, Biodiversity, Transport, Recycling and Local Climate Action.



ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Climate Unit continues to work towards reducing energy use and emissions.

Project	Update
Building Audits	Codex Energy Consultants Ltd were appointed to conduct non-domestic BER assessments on four of our buildings to identify projects that can avail of 50% funding under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme. Site visits took place in May, and it is expected that the reports will be issued in July.
Energy Management System	A meeting of the cross-organisation Energy Team took place in May. Optien Ltd provided an update in relation to the recent Internal Audit and the Climate Unit provided a demonstration of the new Energy Data Management System. Documentation and procedures are being developed with a view to applying for ISO50001 certification in Q4 2025.

ADAPTATION

NATIONAL ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

The National Adaptation Committee held an in-person meeting in Galway / Inis Mór on the 27th/28th May. The Adaptation Committee was established by the Climate Change Advisory Council to advise on matters related to climate change risk. It includes representatives such as the Head of the Risk Management Division in the OPW and the Senior Meteorologist in Met Éireann's Climate Services Division. Galway County Council supported the visit which included the following presentations and site visits. Sites at risk from climate change were identified and highlighted to the Committee.

Presentations and Site Visits	Facilitator
GCC Climate Action and DZ Update	Tina Ryan, GCC
Flooding Projects Update	Enda Gallagher, Tom Prendergast, GCC
Comharchumann Forbatha Árann Projects Update	Geraldine Ní Ghóill, Comharchumann
Adaptation Risk and Projects, Site Visit	Naoise O'Conaola, GCC
Drinking Water Constraints, Site Visit	Enda Gill, Dmitriy Zhukov, Uisce Éireann / GCC
Athchursail Árann Recycling Centre, Site Visit	Gerry Mullan, Athchursail Árann
High Nature Value Farming, Site Visit	Patrick McGurn, ACRES Burren Aran



FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

On the 13th May the West Regional Control Centre (as a hub of the National Mobilisation and Communications System (NMACS)) migrated and went live on the new Command and Control System. This migration offers a considerable element of resilience for each of the 3 regional hubs (Castlebar (west region), Limerick (South region) and Dublin (East region)), in that in times of spate calls in a region or a hub going offline, 999/112 emergency calls can be handled, and local resources dispatched by another regional hub.

The new system has resulted in monthly reports not yet being available to authorities, however NMACS has been requested to continue to provide the monthly/quarterly/annual reports as heretofore. This will enable fire authorities complete end of year KPI submissions and annual reports and monitor trends in incident types and numbers. The current unavailability of a monthly report unfortunately means that it is not possible to provide call types and numbers and mobilisation and attendance times in this current operations report.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the May 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 11 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 6 applications. 5 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 10 applications. 5 new licences were issued in February and 21 inspections were conducted.

CIVIL DEFENCE

MEDC (MAJOR EMERGENCY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

The Civil Defence Officer (CDO) attended the May meetings of the MEDC for both Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

ACTIVITIES

Galway Civil Defence were tasked to assist with the search of a missing fisherman on Lough Corrib. A Boat crew, Drone crew and Control Unit responded to the search area near Cong. All were returned to their bases as the missing person was located safe and well on one of the Islands.

Crews from around the county provided medical cover for various events, particularly the Darkness into Light in which 6 of the walks were covered by members of Galway Civil defence in the early hours of the 6th May.

KEY Statistics : 1 st JANUARY – 31 st May 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	823/693
Granted	657
Grant Rate	91%
Refused	62
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (3)	
Permission (519)	
Retention (121)	
Permission Consequent (3)	
Extension of Duration (11)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	85%
Stage 1LRD	1
Stage 2 LRD	0
Major Meetings	7
SID Meetings	1

- **LRD Application (Pl. Ref. No. 25/60251), Athenry Ventures Ltd.**
- **Decision: grant with 35 conditions on 2nd of May 2025. (Appealed on 28th May 2025).**

- **Development description:**

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 1 st JANUARY – 31 st May 2025	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	290
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	45

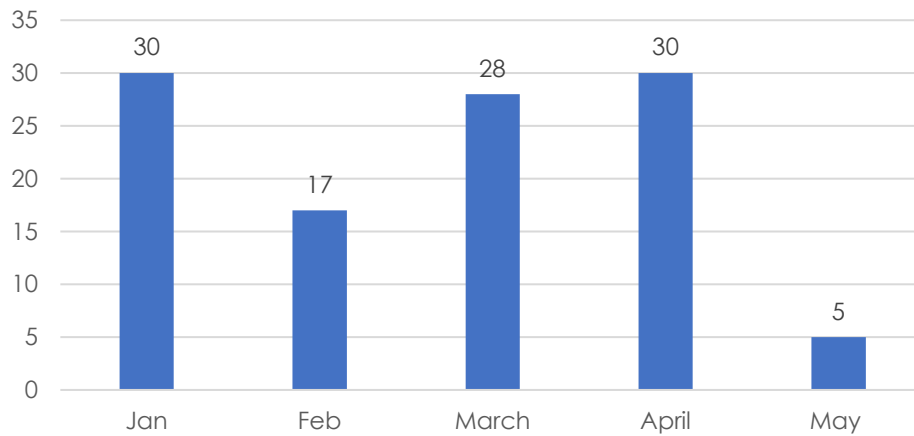
KEY STATISTICS 1 st JANUARY 2025 –31 st May 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	77
Exempted	38
Not Exempted	24
FI	4
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	10
Appealed	1

PRE PLANNING MEETINGS JANUARY TO MAY 2025

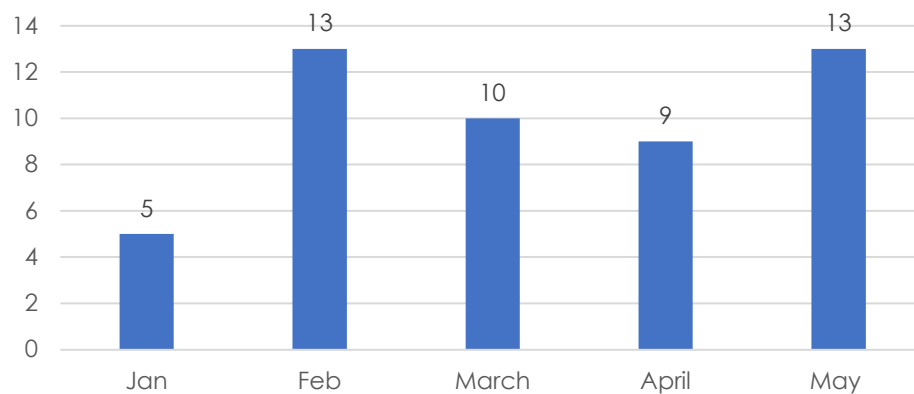
A	B	C	D	E	F
PPM per MD per Month	January	Februa	March	April	May
Ath/Ora	3	7	5	5	7
Ballinasloe	2	2	5	6	2
Connemara	3	4	6	7	3
Loughrea	8	9	9	5	2
Tuam	1	6	3	3	7
Total per month	17	28	28	26	21

ENFORCEMENT

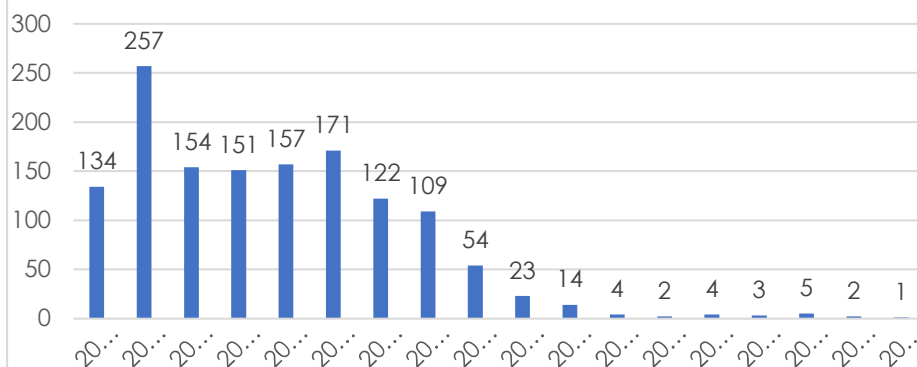
Warning Letters Served Jan to May 2025



Enforcement Notices Served Jan to May 2025



Active Enforcement Files by year
2008-2025
ytd



KEY PLANNING UPDATES

MEETING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE &, PLANNING SPC HELD

TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED :

Gort Local Area plan status

National Planning Framework

Backland development report

Local Enterprise Office supports

Rural Regeneration latest projects e.g. Tuam Station house development

Rates Waiver regulations

FORWARD PLANNING

GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Material Alterations for Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 are currently on public display until 20th June 2025. CE Report will be prepared on submissions received on Material Alterations and will be available in July/August 2025.

MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Vacancy survey is now underway. The metropolitan towns have now been surveyed. Policy will also accompany this piece of work

URDF

Works progressing with consultants with respect to design of local centre, ecopark and density typology study at Garraun with finalisation due in late August/early September.

SET enabling works now complete at Oranmore Train Station.

BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

Works underway preparing design of local/nodal centre and density typology study at Briarhill with finalisation due in late August/early September.

JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Received 3rd draft/final document from consultants. Currently reviewing comments in respect of same in conjunction with Galway City Council colleagues.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

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

DEXCOM

The attached photo showcases the latest advancements in the Dexcom build in Athenry.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
OF MR. BARRY REGAN,
VICE PRESIDENT DEXCOM



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:

TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES

SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet specific business requirements. Please note our short training courses stopped on June 4th for the Summer months and will recommence on 9th September.

BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business. Our advisor will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any other relevant services that may be available to aspiring or existing business promoters.

A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year. Our sessions are both in person and by phone. Please keep an eye on our website for the next upcoming available dates.



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.



START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The May SYOB evening programme commenced on the 19th of May 2025 and finished on the 11th of June. Our current SYOB programme commenced on the 9th of June and will run until the 3rd of July.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DESIGN MINGLE WITH RÓISÍN CURÉ

Róisín Curé will speak about her inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 20th June. Growing up on a mountainside in Wicklow, Róisín sold her first paintings at the age of 14. Her education included art in NCAD, a design HND in London and an MSc in Geology in Galway. Raising children and fielding endless rejections resulted in very little professional success for about twenty years. Thirteen years ago, while living in Mauritius, Róisín discovered urban sketching. She established Urban Sketchers Galway in 2014 along with two co-founders, which is going from strength to strength these days. She taught her first international urban sketching workshop in 2015 and in the ten years since she has taught across Europe and worked as a professional on-location sketcher for various government bodies.

Róisín Curé has represented Ireland on the world stage at USk Porto (2018), USk Amsterdam (2019), USk Switzerland in Bern (2021), and will carry the flag this year in Poznan, Poland and Geneva, Switzerland. Between 2019 and 2021 Róisín published three bestsellers with sketching as their theme: *An Urban Sketcher's Galway* (Currach Press 2019), reprinted as *Galway In Sketches And Stories* (Red Stripe Press, 2024); *The Urban Sketcher's Handbook: Drawing Expressive People* (Quarto, 2020) and *Dublin In Sketches And Stories* (Merrion Press, 2021 and 2024). All are in second edition and / or translation. Róisín started teaching sketching live online to her followers early in 2020. From 2022 to 2024 she hosted the Sketch Therapist podcast. She started broadcasting on YouTube in 2023 making videos about life as a sketcher. In 2023, frustrated by the shortcomings of sketching bags available,

she started designing a bag for sketchers, and in 2024 her cactus leather SketchPocket hit the market, selling out in a few weeks. The Róisín Curé Sketch Club is in full swing, with subscription-only live classes twice weekly broadcast to a global community. She lives in Kilcolgan in south Galway.

Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs. It serves as a dynamic platform where creative minds come together to share ideas, collaborate, and foster meaningful connections.



GRANT CLINICS WITH LEO GALWAY & THE PORTERSHED

Sandra Regan (LEO Galway) & Stephen Geary (PorterShed's Community & Funding Support Manager) will provide a special edition Grant Clinics in Portershed a Dó, 15 Market St. (H91 TCX3) on the first Wednesday of every month.

The June clinic was held on June 4th. The next Grant Clinic will run on July 2nd from 1-4pm.

Whether you're just starting your funding journey or in the middle of a grant application, this session is designed to help you move forward with confidence.

What to expect:

- Tailored guidance on specific grants and available supports
- Step-by-step advice on navigating the application process
- Direct feedback, evaluations, and hands-on proposal development

Who should attend:

Entrepreneurs, startups, and small business owners looking to access funding, improve their applications, or better understand the support landscape.



PAST EVENTS

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL, DRIVING CHANGE: A STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL GROWTH AND COLLABORATION 2025 - 2029

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise) recently attended the launch of the Western Development Commission's (WDC) new strategy '*Unlocking Potential, Driving Change: A Strategy for Regional Growth and Collaboration 2025–2029*'. This event took place on May 30th in Mount Falcon Estate, Ballina.

This 5-year strategy sets out a bold vision for the West and Northwest—focused on enterprise, investment, innovation ecosystems, sustainability, and inclusive, place-based growth. It outlines a framework for delivering measurable change across the region through collaboration, grounded in strong data and engagement.

The keynote address on the day was delivered by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Dara Calleary.



WDC STAFF IN ACTION ON THE DAY.



MINISTER FOR RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DARA CALLEARY.

BORD BIA BLOOM 2025

Noreen Donohue and Cailiosa Keaveney (LEO Galway) recently attended Bord Bia Bloom on Thursday May 29th in Phoenix Park, Dublin. Bord Bia Bloom is Ireland's premier festival celebrating horticulture, food, and drink, with sustainability and nature at its heart. Originally established to showcase plants, garden design, and gardening, Bloom has evolved into a world-class experience that also champions Ireland's thriving food and drink industry. Each year, thousands of visitors enjoy a dynamic mix of expert-led gardening demonstrations, sustainable living insights, and top-quality Irish food, drink, and culture.

As part of Bloom 2025, the Local Enterprise Offices launched an exciting pilot exhibition – The Local Enterprise Village @ Bloom within the Retail Marquee. This initiative provided five businesses from across the country with a unique opportunity to showcase their products and connect with thousands of potential customers.

NOREEN DONOHUE AND
CAILIOSA KEAVENEY
(LEO GALWAY).



ATLANTEC FESTIVAL: WOMEN OF IMPACT EVENT

Noreen Donohue and Cailiosa Keaveney (LEO Galway) recently attended the AtlanTec Festival Women of Impact event hosted by itag's Digital Women's Forum. This event took place on Thursday May 22nd in the Hardiman Hotel in Galway. This was an insightful session on "Thriving through Change: Leading resilient, high-performance tech teams in a dynamic landscape," and explored strategies for fostering adaptability and collaboration amidst disruption.

Elaine Murphy (Signify Health Ireland) shared her expertise on navigating change and leading high-performance tech teams. Elaine's leadership at Signify Health and her role as the 2024 President of the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland highlighted her commitment to innovation and talent development.

The panel discussion on the day included Eimear Coffey, (Technology Management, Fidelity Investments), Julie Dowling (CEO, AIM Centre) and Florence Higgins (VP of International Sales, Smartbear).



FOUNDER LISTENING TOUR

Caroline McDonagh (Head of Enterprise) recently attended an event hosted by Enterprise Ireland in the PorterShed, at 15 Market Street, as part of its Startup Ireland initiative, on Tuesday May 20th. This event was a key part of EI's next phase of consultation, and it was a unique opportunity for founders to have their say on the needs of the startup ecosystem.

The outcomes on the day have contributed to EI's Startup Ireland strategy. Silicon Republic was a partner on the day also. The Panel discussion on the day included, local founders, Ann O'Dea (Chair, Silicon Republic) and many more.

ANN O'DEA (SILICON REPUBLIC),
DAVID BOWLES (ENTERPRISE
IRELAND), AND BRANDON
BLACOE (FOUNDER BYOWAVE).



DELEGATE INFORMATION - ATLANTEC CONFERENCE

Caroline McDonagh & Eoin Connaire of LEO Galway recently attended the AtlanTec Conference on Thursday, May 29th in the Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway. This annual conference brings together thought leaders, educators, policy makers, innovators and pioneers to discuss Connect Communities through Technology Innovation and the skills necessary for a better future.



MICHAEL MARTYN
(GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL), EOIN
CONNAIRE (LEO GALWAY)
AND CAROLINE MCDONAGH (HEAD OF ENTERPRISE
GALWAY)



Over 500 delegates attended this event. The morning segment consisted of a plenary session, MC'd by Pa Eustace Cisco and Karen Conway (Fidelity Investments). There were many key speakers on the morning including Peter McHugh (Interim President University of Galway), Edel Joyce (Cisco), Amanda Colreavy (Fidelity Investments) along with many more. The afternoon was split into two sections: AI Track & Cyber Track with guest speakers including Seán Morris (TitanHQ), Prof Michael Madden (School of Computer Science University of Galway) along with many more.

STRIPE SNACKS; THE FUTURE OF WORK WITH AI:

Sandra Regan (LEO) attended 'Stripe Snacks; The Future of Work with AI' on May 22nd at the PorterShed. This lunch and learn was for Galway's tech community exploring how AI is transforming the way we work, build products and run businesses.

Topic covered included, Why AI companies are scaling faster than traditional SaaS, the shift from human centric to AI-native organizations, practical strategies for AI integration and real-world success stories and lessons learned.

Speakers on the day included Rob O'Shaughnessy (Switch Dimension), Sean Blanchfield (Jentic AI), Joe Smyth (Genesys) and MC Jamie Heaslip (Stripe).



ROB O'SHAUGHNESSY (SWITCH DIMENSION), SEAN BLANCHFIELD (JENTIC AI), JOE SMYTH (GENESYS) AND MC JAMIE HEASLIP (STRIPE).

STUDENT VISIT TO GALWAY

Arianna McDonagh and Cailiosa Keaveney of LEO Galway recently held a presentation for a group of German students on an exchange visit to Galway. The students joined us in the Chamber in Galway County Council and enjoyed an insightful presentation learning all about the Local Enterprise Office and the supports available.



STUDENTS & THEIR TEACHERS ENJOYING THE PRESENTATION

"THE POWER OF 3" SHOWCASE & MASTERMIND

Network Ireland Roscommon, Mayo and Galway Branches came together for their inaugural collaborative event "The Power of 3: Showcase and Mastermind". Sandra Regan (LEO Galway) attended this event on the 16th of May at the Ard Ri Hotel in Tuam. Local Enterprise Office Galway had the opportunity to represent Galway and our regional partners from



Mayo and Roscommon as part of the 'Showcase your business'. This event was attended by over 100 Business women from Galway, Mayo and Roscommon alongside 20 businesses from the region showcasing on the day.

The Network Galway awards will be held on Friday June 20th in the Radisson Red Hotel.

SOME SMALL BUSINESSES IN ACTION ON THE DAY

PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2025

Aoife Ni Eochaidh, International Pelvic Physiotherapy Management Ltd showing her Award of Physiotherapy Service of the Year to Eoin Connaire, LEO Galway. Aoife (IPPM) recently completed an Internationalization Plan through LEO Galway where part of the plan included entering the All-Ireland Private Healthcare Excellence Awards 2025.

AOIFE NI EOCHADH (INTERNATIONAL PELVIC
PHYSIOTHERAPY MANAGEMENT LTD) AND EOIN CONNAIRE
(LEO GALWAY)



NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Celebrating over 25 years, the National Enterprise Awards was first introduced in 1998 to celebrate the contribution that small businesses make to the Irish economy. The aim of the National Enterprise Awards is to showcase, encourage and support a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship in our communities in Ireland, to promote entrepreneurship and to showcase, encourage and to celebrate the achievement of clients of the LEOs.

Previous participants have benefitted from increased publicity, networking and marketing opportunities. The National Final took place in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Thursday May 22nd, 2025, **Marteye Limited** were finalists at this year awards.

CAROLINE MCDONAGH (HEAD OF
ENTERPRISE), ARNO WELGEMOED
(MARTEYE), MARGARET MONAGHAN
(MARTEYE), CLLR. MARTINA KINANE
(CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF
GALWAY), CIARAN FEENEY (MARTEYE) AND
AARON SIGNORELLI (MARTEYE)



RENEWABLE INNOVATION HUB STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Cailiosa Keaveney (LEO Galway) recently attended the Renewable Innovation Hub Stakeholder Forum at the PorterShed in Market Street Galway on June 9th.

The panel discussion on the day included Liam Curran (Senior Technologist Enterprise Ireland), Majella Maher (Regional Development Executive Enterprise Ireland) and Javier Santoyo (Founder Sylvestris Sustainability Global).

Other key speakers on the day included Finn Delaney (Serial Founder and Employee XOcean), Helena Deane (Marine Institute), Cathal Heneghan (Meehan Green) and Tomás Ó Síocháin (Údarás na Gaeltachta).

MARY RODGERS (CEO PORTERSHED), JAVIER
SANTOYO (FOUNDER SYLVESTRIS SUSTAINABILITY
GLOBAL), MAJELLA MAHER (REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE ENTERPRISE Ireland)
and Liam Curran (Senior Technologist Enterprise Ireland).



SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

Facebook:

7.4k likes

Reach year-to-date: 16.9k

LinkedIn:

1.3k followers

Reach year-to-date: 2.7k

Instagram:

3.3k followers

Reach year-to-date: 5.2k

X (Twitter):

5896 followers

REGENERATION SCHEMES

TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

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. The process of distilling the public feedback from the public engagement is complete and a further meeting with the town team has been arranged for June 17th. Dates for a further engagement evening where draft projects will be presented will be finalised shortly.



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.

A further meeting of the Town Team will take place to reflect on the recent public consultation event and the feedback received. The process of drafting the final Town Centre First Plan will now begin.



PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The official opening of Portumna Courthouse will take place on June 25th at 10am, performed by Minister of State, Sean Canney (note change of Minister). An invitation has issued to Municipal District Members.



Preparations are continuing in advance of the official opening including installation of new planters and painting of the entrance to the rear courtyard.



Ms. Karagh Kelly has commenced employment as Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility and is the new point of contact for enquiries relating to use of the building.

An evaluation of tenders for the operation of the on-site café is complete; provisional notice has been given to the preferred tenderer.

Galway County Councils Regeneration Team collaborated with ATU to enable their final year Architectural Technology students use Portumna Courthouse as a studio project. The Regeneration Team facilitated a site visit by the students and tutors where they walked them through the project outlining the aspirations and design ethos for the project. The Regeneration Team were on hand with ATU throughout the project and were delighted to be invited to their end of year presentation of works on 29th May 2025, where the Portumna Courthouse project took centre stage.



RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Finna Construction are progressing with demolition works ongoing. Work has commenced on the construction of the new build three storey rear extension to the original structure.

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.



RRDF PROJECT – SOMERS SHOUSE

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. The detailed design process has commenced.

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. Works are progressing on site and are expected to be completed in advance of the high tourism season.



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. A Meeting of Tuam Municipal District convened on May 29th to consider the Chief Executives Report on the planning file. The application was approved unanimously. A funding application to deliver the capital project has been made to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly under the European Regional Development Fund. The funding sought amounts to some €6.6 million euros.



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. Engagement with Iarnród Éireann has progressed in the past number of weeks, further exchange of information is scheduled to take place.

It is anticipated that a workshop with Elected Members will take place in the coming months. Further public engagement will also be held.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION

MASONRY AND LIME WORKSHOP 2025 MAREE, ORANMORE

The training will be carried out with Éoin Madigan and Hugh Dorrian (details below)

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.



SCHEDULE FOR TRADITIONAL SKILLS TRAINING DAY:

8.30 – 10.30 theory and demonstrations of mixing the mortars.

- Hotlime mixing and pointing.
- Choosing the right mortar for the right job.
- The associated hazards of imported Lime Based insulating plasters used on Irish solid-wall structures.
- How to naturally insulate with fully breathable Irish Lime Plasters.

- Questions and answers.

Tea / Coffee / Water Break

11.00-13.00 wall prep, pointing and plastering

- Wall preparation for lime plastering and rendering.
- Lime plastering.
- Understanding solid wall systems and how they function.
- The like for like approach when repairing old buildings.
- Questions and answers.

Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 whitewashing and sealing around doors and windows with natural materials

- Whitewashing/ shelter-coats and how to add colours to them.
- How to seal around windows and doors with natural materials.
- Questions and answers.

HERITAGE OFFICE

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL UNVEILS LANDMARK HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN

Attending the launch of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030 in the Marine Institute were Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council, Cllr Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach, Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development & Planning, Dr Martina Moloney, Chairperson, Heritage Council. Photo Credit: Jacinta Fahy



Galway County Council has launched a landmark strategy for preserving and enhancing the county's rich built, natural, and cultural heritage over the next six years.

Unveiled at the Marine Institute in Rinville, the **Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030** sets out a detailed roadmap to address challenges such as climate change,

biodiversity loss, and the need for community-driven heritage preservation and the safeguarding and protection of our intangible cultural heritage.

Developed in collaboration with Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum and The Heritage Council, the plan is the only one of its kind in Ireland to fully integrate biodiversity and heritage under a single strategy.

MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY
HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY FORUM AT
THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY
HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN
2024 – 2030 IN THE MARINE INSTITUTE.
PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY



STAFF OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT
THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY
HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024 –
2030 IN THE MARINE INSTITUTE. PHOTO
CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

Among the key priorities are conducting a comprehensive biodiversity audit of Council-owned lands, updating Galway's Invasive Alien Species Strategy, and developing a countywide Tree and Hedgerow Management Plan. The plan also commits to protecting sensitive habitats such as peatlands and marine ecosystems, while expanding environmental education through the Heritage in Schools programme.

The built heritage aspects of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 aim to preserve, protect, and enhance the county's built and archaeological heritage by promoting best practices, supporting community engagement, and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation. The plan also seeks to raise awareness, provide education and training, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of these heritage assets.

On the cultural heritage front, the plan aims to empower communities to actively engage with and safeguard their local heritage. This involves recording and digitising cultural heritage data, supporting community-led arts and oral history projects, and strengthening investment in both staffing and funding to grow the sector sustainably.



RICK OFFICER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARINE INSTITUTE, DR MARTINA MOLONEY, CHAIRPERSON, HERITAGE COUNCIL, LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, HERITAGE COUNCIL & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF, MEMBERS OF GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY FORUM AT THE LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024 – 2030 IN THE MARINE INSTITUTE. PHOTO CREDIT: JACINTA FAHY

The Council's last plan (2017–2022) delivered several notable achievements, including the award-winning **Digitising Galway's Graveyard Heritage** project, which made more than 40,000 burial records accessible to the public online. Other successes included an **Audit of the County's Holy Wells**, a **Barn Owl Conservation** initiative that showed the first signs of species recovery in 50 years, and a countywide masterplan for oral heritage collections. The Council also supported **Féile na gCloch**, or "Festival of Stone," on Inis Oírr, which celebrates traditional stonework craftsmanship.

"I am honoured to launch the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030—a shared commitment to protecting the rich natural, built, and cultural heritage of our county," stated **Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway**.

"This plan reflects the passion and dedication of communities across Galway and outlines practical, adaptable actions to raise awareness and safeguard our biodiversity," added the Cathaoirleach. "In the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, it serves as a roadmap for collective action. I invite everyone to get involved—together, we can create lasting, positive change."



Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council, said, "The Plan sets out a clear, action-driven vision to protect and celebrate our county's rich natural, built, and cultural heritage. It will guide our efforts in addressing climate and environmental challenges, promoting sustainability, and enhancing awareness and stewardship."

"I thank the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum, the Heritage Council, and all who contributed. Galway County Council is proud to lead this important work and looks forward to its successful implementation," added Mr. Conneally.

Martina Moloney, Chair of The Heritage Council, commented, "The launch of this plan marks a groundbreaking step forward in how we protect and celebrate our shared heritage and environment. This plan is exceptional in its holistic vision—recognising biodiversity not as a standalone issue but as an integral thread woven into Galway's rich cultural, archaeological, and built heritage."

Ms. Moloney continued, "By bringing together heritage and biodiversity efforts under one unified strategy, Galway is setting a national example of forward-thinking stewardship. We are proud to have supported this ambitious plan and remain committed to working closely with Galway County Council and the community to ensure its successful implementation, safeguarding Galway's unique identity for generations to come."

The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030 was shaped by extensive public consultation over the past two years. Engagement efforts included countywide consultation events, an online survey, and targeted workshops with the Traveller community, Brothers of Charity, primary and secondary schools, and active age groups. The plan, which received over 450 public submissions, was formally approved by Elected Members in December 2024.

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Economic Development at Galway County Council, said, "This plan demonstrates the powerful impact that collaboration between the public, community groups, and key stakeholders can have on shaping Galway's future. By drawing on local knowledge and expertise, we've developed a strategy that not only protects our heritage and biodiversity but also supports sustainable economic growth through tourism, education, and community-led initiatives."

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, noted that the Plan is the result of extensive collaboration and consultation over the past two years.



"The Plan reflects the insights, passion, and commitment of individuals, communities, and organisations across the county. Through public workshops, online surveys, and creative art consultations, we have captured the voices of diverse groups, ensuring that this plan is inclusive and representative of the people it serves. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and perspectives to this process."

Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer for Galway County Council, said climate change and biodiversity loss are central to the newly launched plan.

She added, "Galway County boasts a rich mosaic of natural, built, and cultural heritage—from the wild beauty of Connemara's landscapes to the distinctive limestone pavements of south Galway, and from the soulful tradition of sean nós singing to the rare biodiversity

found in our turloughs and bogs. Our heritage is a cornerstone of community pride and identity. This plan not only celebrates these unique assets but also addresses pressing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity decline, and the evolving needs of our society.”

“We are committed to integrating climate resilience into all actions, ensuring that Galway’s heritage and biodiversity contribute to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

By promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions, we aim to create a legacy of resilience for future generations,” said Ms. Joyce.

The members of the Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum, who supported the development of the plan, include representatives from the Galway Roscommon Education Training Board, Údaras na Gaeltachta, the National Monuments Service, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Local Authority Waters Programme, INSIGHT at the University of Galway, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, BirdWatch Ireland, BurrenBeo, and Galway City Museum. Supporting the Forum in an advisory capacity were Maria Hitchcox (Artist/External Expert), Sheila Murphy (Ecologist/External Expert), Eimear O’Connell (Heritage/External Expert), and Zena Hctor (Heritage/External Expert).

The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024–2030 is available to view at www.galway.ie and <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritage-publications/galway-county-heritage-and-biodiversity-plan-2>

GALWAY’S HERITAGE UNVEILED: A DIGITAL JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENTS
CARLOS GRACE, LAURA DALY
GIADA SOLITO AND LIAM FLAHERTY
AT THE LAUNCH OF THEIR WORK IN
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE. PHOTO CREDIT:
SEÁN LYDON

On Friday, 30th May 2025, a significant event took place at the Council Chamber of Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway. The occasion marked the launch of a groundbreaking collaborative initiative between Galway County Council, the University of Galway, community heritage groups, and Tidy Towns Groups in Monivea, Moylough, Clarinbridge, Moycullen, Gort, and Loughrea. This initiative focuses on townland research and town and village digital storytelling.

Through the dedicated efforts of University of Galway students Carlos Grace, Giada Solito, Liam Flaherty, and Laura Daly, in collaboration with Galway County Council's Heritage Office, GIS Department, and local communities, a journey has begun to chronicle the rich histories and vibrant stories embedded within several townlands, towns, and villages in Galway County.



CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT LAURA DALY, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MEMBERS OF GORT COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUPS AND STAFF FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT LAURA DALY, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MEMBERS OF CLARINBRIDGE COMMUNITY HERITAGE GROUPS AND STAFF FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON



CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT LIAM FLAHERTY, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MEMBERS OF LOUGHREA TIDY TOWNS, STUDENTS FROM GAELSCOIL RIABHACH AND STAFF FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY & GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

These students have conducted in-depth townland research for the civil parishes of Stradbally (Clarinbridge), Monivea, Moylough, and Moycullen. Their meticulous research has uncovered and documented the rich history and heritage of these areas, providing valuable insights and preserving important information for future generations.

Cllr Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, expressed her enthusiasm for the project: "As we navigate the digital landscape, we honour the traditions of the past while embracing the opportunities of the future. Through these StoryMaps, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the essence of our townlands, towns, and villages, to witness the evolution of time reflected in the fields, roads, streets we walk, and the buildings, landscapes, and structures we admire."

CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT
CARLOS GRACE, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY,
MEMBERS OF MOYLROUGH HERITAGE AND STAFF
FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY & GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON



CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT LIAM
FLAHERTY, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY, MEMBERS OF
MONIVEA HERITAGE GROUP AND STAFF FROM
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY & GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

Digitisation and StoryMaps

The digitisation of townland research represents a significant leap forward in preserving our heritage and making it accessible to a wider audience both at home and abroad.

Additionally, the StoryMaps for Loughrea, Moylough, Moycullen, and Gort, meticulously crafted by the students, serve as a visual tapestry of our collective past, weaving together narratives of resilience, creativity, and community spirit. These StoryMaps combine the latest mapping technology with text, images, and multimedia content to tell powerful location-based stories accessible from any internet-enabled device with a web browser, including tablets and phones. They are an ideal tool to communicate the rich heritage of our county.

CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH,
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH STUDENT
GIADA SOLITO, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY,
MEMBERS OF MAIGHCUILLINN HERITAGE GROUP
AND STAFF FROM UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY &
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL. PHOTO CREDIT:
SEÁN LYDON



Liam Conneally, Chief Executive, Galway County Council, commented: “The accomplishments of these outstanding students and their significant contributions to preserving and promoting the heritage of Galway County is immense. Their efforts exemplify the power of collaboration and the necessity of investing in future generations”.



UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENTS CARLOS GRACE, LAURA DALY GIADA SOLITO AND LIAM FLAHERTY, WITH THEIR LECTURERS DR LISA WALSHE, DR GEARÓID BARRY AND DR KATHRYN MCDERMOTT AT THE LAUNCH OF THEIR WORK IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE. PHOTO CREDIT: SEÁN LYDON

Dr. Lisa Walshe, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Galway commended the students' efforts: "It has been a privilege for our university to collaborate with Galway County Council on this initiative, which highlights the rich heritage of Galway County through innovative student research. This partnership exemplifies the value of academic and civic engagement, and I commend our students for their dedication, creativity, and commitment to preserving and sharing our local history. Together, we are helping to deepen public appreciation of Galway's unique cultural landscape."

Dr Gearóid Barry (History) emphasized the path established in recent years for students of the four-year BA History programme facilitating valuable Heritage Office placements: "Current BA History student Giada Solito immersed herself in all things Moycullen heritage! Trained in cutting-edge StoryMap technology, Giada, a Milan native, discovered a link to Italian transport pioneer Bianconi in the village's well-known Coach House."

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer of Galway County Council highlighted the collaborative nature of the initiative: "This project is a testament to the power of collaboration and the importance of investing in our future generations. The dedication and passion of the students, combined with the support of our local communities and the expertise of the Heritage Office and GIS Department, have brought this initiative to life."

While Dr Kathryn McDermott, University of Galway said "Placements such as those with the Heritage Office allow students from across the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies to develop important skills and broaden their horizons in terms of longer term career options open to them while learning from mentors and each other. The positivity shown by students in their presentations at the event only serves to demonstrate the value of the experience and we look forward to collaborating with the Heritage Office going forward".

The event highlighted the importance of safeguarding local history and making it accessible to a wider audience, ensuring that Galway County's rich heritage is treasured and remembered for years to come.

See the following media reports:

<https://www.galwaydaily.com/news/from-townlands-to-tablets-galway-heritage-gets-a-digital-makeover/>

<https://techbuzzireland.com/2025/06/10/from-townlands-to-tablets-galway-heritage-gets-a-digital-makeover/>

ICAN NETWORK MEETING, BAILE CHLÁIR, 23 MAY 2025



CLLR MARTINA KINNANE, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ADDRESSING THE NATIONAL ICAN MEETING IN BAILE CHLÁIR CASTLE. PHOTO CREDIT: EMMA LAFFEY

On Friday 23 May, almost 100 people travelled from across the country to attend iCAN's annual in-person gathering co-hosted by the National Museum of Ireland, Galway County Council Heritage Office and Baile Chláir Historical and Cultural Society (CHCS). The venue was the stunning Baile Chláir Castle, stronghold of the Clanricarde Burkes from the early 15th century.

The proceedings commenced with an address by the Cathaoirleach of County Galway, Councillor Martina Kinane. This was followed by a warm welcome from Pat Coen, Chair of the Baile Chláir Historical and Cultural Society (CHCS). Subsequently, Brendan Noonan delivered an insightful presentation on the historical features of Baile Chláir.

All present were subsequently treated to a musical interlude by the Coláiste Bhaile Chláir Junior Traditional Group, comprising twelve exceptionally talented musicians who performed on the accordion, fiddle, and harp. The performance was met with a standing ovation, and the musicians were proudly escorted back to their school by their music

NATIONAL ICAN MEETING IN BAILE CHLÁIR CASTLE. PHOTO CREDIT: ANTOINETTE LYDON





NATIONAL ICAN MEETING IN BAILE CHLÁIR ON A VISIT TO BAILE CHLÁIR MUSEUM AND FORGE. PHOTO CREDIT: EMMA LAFFEY

Attendees had the choice of participating in one of three tours which included the Franciscan Friary, Baile Chláir Museum and Forge and Baile Chláir Castle.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT –JUNE 2025

- 1. Restoration Improvement –2025 Contractor signed up – Staring works next few weeks – Internal works commencing next week**
 - a. Old Church St, Athenry (2024) – Complete
 - b. RI R347 Laraghmore 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - c. RI R348 Derrydonnell 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - d. RI L4105 Millplot (Station Road) 2025 – RI Contractor
 - e. RI L3106 Ballinvoher 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - f. RI L2129 Drumgriffin 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - g. RI L3107 Tysaxon (Monivea Rd) 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - h. RI L2119 Baunmore 2025 – RI Contractor
 - i. RI L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan 2025 – RI Contractor – In Progress
 - j. RI L2134 Castlegar 2025 – City Contractor
 - k. RI L6195 Liscananaun 2025 – In Progress
 - l. RI L6117 Mullaghtruttery 2025
 - m. RI L31026 Moor 2025 – Complete
 - n. RI L71102 Carnmore East 2025 – In Progress
 - o. RI L81031 Rinn 2025

- p. RI L71523 Toorkeel 2025 – Complete
- q. RI L31078 Carrantarramud 2025 – Complete
- r. RI L7168 Knockroe/Rafort 2025 – Complete
- s. RI L7130 Farravaun 2025 – Complete
- t. RI L7114 Kiltroque 2025 – In Progress

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

Surface dressing – preferred contractor Has been appointed – works commenced

- a. RM R354 Lackaghbeg 2025
- b. RM L7139 Corrafaireen 2025 - Complete
- c. RM L3110 Farmhill 2025
- d. RM L31104 Stonepark 2025 - Complete
- e. RM L71761 Gortnahultra 2025 – In Progress
- f. RM L3118 Cappanasruhaun 2025 - Complete
- g. RM L31043 Rathmorrissey 2025 - Complete
- h. RM L7108 Castlelambert 2025
- i. RM L2124 Ballybrone 2025
- j. RM L7104 Cregboy 2025 – In Progress
- k. RM L2117 Annagh West 2025
- l. RM L6194 Cregduff 2025 – In Progress
- m. RM L6202 Roaunmore 2025 - Complete
- n. RM L6197 Waterdale 2025 – In Progress
- o. RM L31021 Cahernashilleeney 2025 – In Progress

Recycling Contract – Contractor appointed

- a. RI L3117 Cormacuagh 2025
- b. RI L7115 Carheenlea 2025

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Road safety Audit complete. Further works include. Contractor planning following works
 - i. Tarmac works to alter turning circle towards Athenry
 - ii. Vehicle actuated signs
 - iii. Definition Posts repositioned
 - iv. Road lining and reflectors
 - v. Signs Improvement
 - vi. Petrol Station Entrance works
- b. Carnmore Cross Junction – Works being Planned/Designed to renew junction

4. Climate Change

- a. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508 – works to connect storm water completed, reinstatement works complete
- b. CC2025 L-2119 Auclogheen Drainage GC/25/009
- c. CC2025 L-3105 Coolarne Retaining Wall GC/25/012

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 – Complete

6. Other Items

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Designer response issued to Landowners. Received reply form landowner but no commitment to sign Consent form
Hydrological study Clarin River	Application to be updated again to latest OPW information.
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Lights powered on Stage 3 Road safety audit to be completed
New Line Junction Athenry Ped Crossing	Works to continue contractor detailed week commencing 9 th June

FIGURES AND PICTURES



FIG.1 – N83 – LOUGHGEORGE FOOTPATH



FIG. 2 – FARRAVAUN SURFACING



FIG. 3 – OLD LIMERICK ROAD, ORANMORE
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POWERED UP

FIG. 4 – SURFACE DRESSING – MOOR

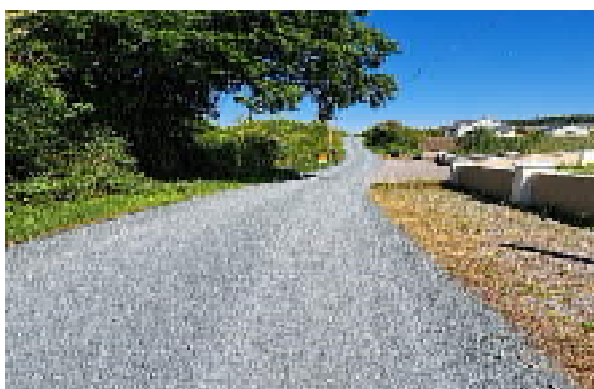


FIG. 5 – GLENASCAUL JUNCTION

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During May 2025, roadworks programme projects have begun to be completed under the restoration maintenance grant allocation (surface dressing). It is expected that the restoration improvement grant works will begin in June. Direct labour crews have been undertaking preparatory works on all road sections in advance of the contracted roadworks. In addition, direct labour crews in Ballinasloe MD have undertaken road strengthening works in Ballinasloe South. Separately, at Ballinasloe Civic Offices, external repainting of the building and remarking of the carpark including pedestrian access routes and disabled spaces, has been completed. As part of the countywide bus stop upgrade programme, two new bus stops were completed in Ballymoe on the N60 Roscommon Road.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN MAY 2025



SURFACE DRESSING AT CLONBROCK AND FAHY, AUGHRIM



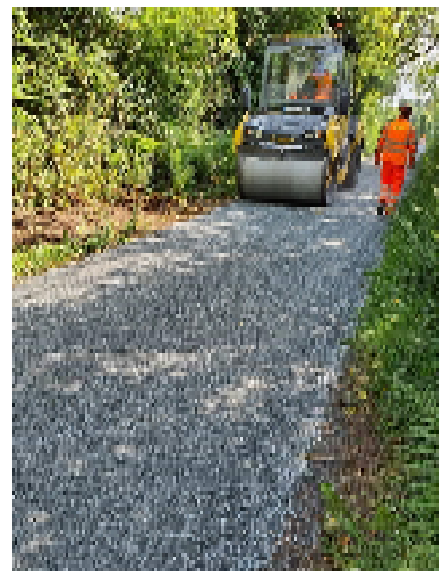
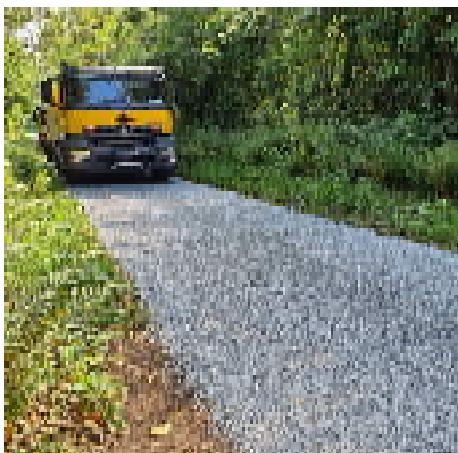
SURFACE DRESSING AT LENALOUGHRA



BEFORE & AFTER - DIRECT LABOUR WORKS COMPLETED ON L-87131 OCHIMORE



BALLYMOE – COMPLETED BUS STOP UPGRADES



SURFACE DRESSING ROADWORKS UNDERWAY AT FAHY

UPDATE ON ROADS PROGRAMME FOR CONAMARA – MAY 2025

		RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI)	STATUS
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone	Started - Base Course Complete
R	344	Inagh	Started - Base Course Complete
R	336	Leenane	Started - Base Course Complete
R	341	Bridge Street	Yet to Commence
R	340	Gleann Chatha	Complete
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais	Complete
R	336	Forai Maola	Yet to Commence
L	11063	Mannin low rd	Substantially Complete
L	5132	Errislannin High Rd	Substantially Complete
L	51253	Faul	Started - Base Course Complete
L	5116	Claddaghduff	Started - Base Course Complete
L	5113	Cloone	Started - Base Course Complete
L	51033	Rosroe	Yet to Commence
L	51374	Glencoaghan	Yet to Commence
L	11072	Ballyconneely Old Graveyard	Complete
L	5300	Gleantreague	Started - Base Course Complete
L	53262	Drumsnauv	Started - Base Course Complete
L	1301	Finny	Started - Base Course Complete
L	5327	Glann	Started - Base Course Complete
L	1310	New Village	Started - Base Course Complete
L	53283	Leam	Started - Base Course Complete
L	1202	Doire Fhearta	Complete
L	52291	Leitir Caladh	Yet to Commence
L	52334	Trá Bháin	Yet to Commence
L	52346-2	Truscain	Yet to Commence
L	52332	Tobar Naomh Anna	Yet to Commence
L	5238	Camus Íochtar	Started - Base Course Complete
L	5242-16	Garafin	Complete
L	52441	Ard Mhór O Thuaidh	Started - Base Course Complete
L	12075	Domhras	Yet to Commence
L	1320-22	An Spidéal Moycullen	Substantially Complete
L	5395	Baile an tSagairt	Complete
L	53951	Baile an tSleibhe	Complete
L	1200-24	Ros an Mhil	Complete
L	5366-19	Rocks Rd	Yet to Commence
L	5362	Gortmore	Complete
L	5345-17	Doon High Road	Complete
L	5361-8	Park, Roscahill	Complete

L	5376	Claideach	Started - Base Course Complete
L	5347-10	Knockaunranny	Complete
L	53946	Pairc Thoir	Complete
		Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)	
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	
R	341	Ballinahinch	Yet to Commence
R	379	Cleggan	Yet to Commence
R	336	Bothuna	Yet to Commence
R	336	Minna	Substantially Complete
R	336	Na Doirriú	Substantially Complete
R	336	Leitir Mucú	Complete
R	374	Tuairín	Substantially Complete
R	374	Leic	Substantially Complete
L	1105	Bog Road	Complete
L	5132	Low rd Errislannin	Complete
L	5117	Aughrus Beg	Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
		Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)	
L	1104	Sky Rd Letterdean	Substantially Complete
L	1310	Gortdrishagh-Glann Rd	Yet to Commence
L	1103	Ballynew	Yet to Commence
L	5300	Bothán - Gleantreague	Yet to Commence
L	1304	Ardan Cong	Yet to Commence
L	5341	Maghera More	Yet to Commence
L	5101	Glennagevlagh	Yet to Commence
L	11031	Bannouges	Yet to Commence
L	11034	Ross Moyard	Yet to Commence
L	51101	Rossadillisk Salerno	Yet to Commence
L	11023	Rossadillisk	Yet to Commence
L	51311	Munga	Yet to Commence
L	11056	Inis Ni	Yet to Commence
L	5219	Trá an Doilín	Yet to Commence
L	1206-51	Maíros	Yet to Commence
		DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)	
Road Class.	Road No.	Road Name	
L	51255	Riverside Clifden	Substantially Complete
L	51372	Imleach Mór	Yet to Commence
L	11059	Inis Ní	Substantially Complete
L	52285	Leitir Caladh	Yet to Commence
L	1205-14	Doire Iorrais	Complete
L	5396-13	Baile Liam	Complete
L	5354	Garrynagry	Complete



UPGRADE WORKS AT TRÁ MHÓR BLUE FLAG
BEACH – SIGNAGE AND RELOCATION OF PICNIC
BENCHES



RECENT RESTORATION MAINTENANCE
WORK R374 AN TUAIRIN



RECENT
RESTORATION
IMPROVEMENT WORK
L5132 ERRISLANNIN
HIGH ROAD



RECENT RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT WORK L11072 OLD
GRAVEYARD ROAD BALLYCONNEELY

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works on the Roads Programme are progressing well.. Surface dressing, in particular, was significantly aided by the unseasonably good weather in late May. The last two weeks have seen a return to a more typical “Irish Summer” and this has had the expected impact on progress. A high-level overview is as follows:

- 48 Restoration Improvement Grant projects - 13 Complete (27%)
- 22 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects - 18 Complete (82%)
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads – 2 Complete (25%)
- 5 No Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes - 2 Complete (40%) and 1 On-going
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 1 On-going
- 2 No. Former National Schemes – Yet to commence
- LIS and CIS Schemes – Yet to commence

AN OVERVIEW OF OTHER WORKS ON-GOING IS AS FOLLOWS:

DISTRIBUTING PLANTERS IN LOUGHREA TOWN



CLEANING LITTER, EDGING AND STRIMMING AT THE LONG POINT AND GROVE, LOUGHREA



LOW-COST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ON R350, BULLAUN



BEFORE WORKS TOOK PLACE



DURING WORKS



SURFACE DRESSING WORKS AT GORTYMADDEN, LOUGHREA



ROAD MARKING ADJACENT TO TYNAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL



SOAKPIT, PIPING AND GRATING AT LEITRIM CHURCH



DRAINAGE AT POLLNABANNY



ERECTION OF CHEVRON SIGNAGE ON THE COROFIN ROAD, GORT



ROAD RAISING AT GRANNAGH

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE WORKS ON R350, BULLAUN



WALL REBUILDING - N67 AT CLARINBRIDGE



REFRESHING OF DEDICATED PARKING BAYS ON MAIN STREET, LOUGHREA



WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

ROADS PROGRAMME

The Roads programme commenced last Month in Tuam MD by both contract works and direct labour works. Currently the Tuam MD is ahead of schedule on all works.

- o Restoration improvement grants - overlay programme is 80% complete by Roadstone
- o Surface dressing contract is 70% complete by Colas Contracting
- o Direct labour roads jobs are 50% complete
- o Community Involvement schemes are being finalised with 5 projects with budget of €170,000 for the MD
- o Local improvement schemes are being finalised with 5 schemes with budget of €109,000 for MD



SIGNS AND LINES COMPLETED AT FLASKEAGH JUNCTION DUNMORE AS PART OF THE SURFACING CONTRACT

OVERLAY AND SURFACE DRESSING CORTOON



NEW SIGNAGE AND LINE MARKING

Dunmore River Walk is a Community Park located along the bank of the Sinking river and linking the town centre to some key community facilities such as playing pitches, numerous housing estates, and playground. This is a freely available public space within the town and is used by all members of the community on a daily basis, however, the basic infrastructure could be improved to maximise accessibility and safety for all members of the community. The projects to be undertaken have been identified through consultations with members of the local community and respond directly to their identified needs.

Dept. of Rural & Community, Integration and Environment allocated funding through Clar 2024 for this project and works commenced in the last month. The project will encompass 3 main elements:

- Safety Works to replace fencing along the boundary with the river which has become dangerously deficient in places and poses a risk to the public.
- Accessibility Works to improve the condition and width of walkways to ensure they are accessible, allied with the provision of age friendly benches and accessible picnic tables – these works will be underpinned by a Walkability Audit conducted with older people to maximise accessibility for all. Additional works to improve the usability of the area for all will include provision of bins and signage at strategic locations.
- Biodiversity Works will also be undertaken as currently the area predominantly comprises of grassed areas, therefore, emphasis will be placed on additional planting of native species to improve biodiversity and the visual appearance of the amenity.



OTHER WORKS



NEW FOOTPATHS CORTOON

UPGRADING OF PATHS IN THE PALACE GROUNDS IN TUAM



BASKETBALL ARENA TUAM

Galway County Council has secured funding from the Participation Nation Outdoor Fund for the installation of permanent sports equipment in the Park. The Palace Grounds in Tuam has received funding for the installation of a 3v3 Basketball Court. Works for this installation have been completed with just venting unit to be installed. An official opening will occur in the coming month.

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive
Galway County Council
18th June 2025**