



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Bealtaine 2024
May 2024

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

SICAP

The contracts for SICAP 2024-2028 will be finalised in May with the programme commencing across 3 Lots – Galway East, Galway Islands, Galway West – from 1st June 2024. Training on the new SICAP Programme will be delivered to Programme Implementers by Pobal, following which LCDC approval will be required to revised Annual Plans 2024.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 is open for Expressions of Interest from locations which are hosting significant numbers of New Arrivals, and a briefing session has been held for Elected Members and PPN Members. Under the first application window, consideration will be given to proposals from the 4 areas hosting the highest level of New Arrivals, i.e., Clifden, Oranmore, Maam, and Letterfrack, and 3 Administrative Officers have been assigned across these areas to conduct site visits with potential applicants, and conduct comprehensive consultations with a range of stakeholders, as required under the Departmental Guidelines.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Staff from a range of departments of the Council visited Inis Oirr on 25th April to carry out an audit of social & leisure activities, with the aim of increasing opportunities for older people to engage in community, cultural and sporting activities. A site visit to Inis Meain is taking place on 16th May, with further visits to Inisbofin and Inis Mór to be finalised, following which further events are planned for Men's Health Week in June.



PICTURED AT ARAS EANNA MEETING THE MEN'S SHED ARE ADELE RANKIN HEALTHY IRELAND COORDINATOR, VALERIE KELLY CREATIVE IRELAND COORDINATOR, UNA KELLY GALWAY LIBRARIES, MARY MCGANN & HELEN MELIA COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT, ELLIE LOFTUS SPORTS INCLUSION & DISABILITY OFFICER, WITH MEMBERS OF THE MEN'S SHED AND MEMBERS OF SEID NA BHFEAR DUICHE SHEOGHNACH WHO WERE OFFERING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON THE DAY.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Preparations are being finalised for the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball and Cathaoirleach's Awards to be held in the Clayton Hotel on 16th May at 6.30 p.m. Representatives from groups in a range of categories have been invited to the Ceremony to honour their achievements, and further information will be provided in the June Management Report.

AFRICA DAY 2024

Preparations are being finalised for Africa Day 2024 which will be celebrated in Tuam with a series of events culminating to an all-day festival of events on 25th May which is the designated Africa Day in 2024.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Galway County Public Participation Network continues to grow its membership and during May, facilitated information and invitations to the AIB Community Fund and the CLAR and Community Recognition Fund information sessions. The PPN are also involved in the planning of the Cathaoirleach's Awards, events for Men's Health Week, and a summer Plenary Meeting.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN

Request for quotation exercise just before Christmas to develop a framework Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and an initial two year Implementation Plan for County Galway. Hub Planning appointed early in the new year. ASG recommended the socio economic statement for approval to both the Economic SPC and LCDC. Both committees approved these

documents. Hub Planning have merged both documents, added in some packaging and branding. The public consultation element will commence in the third week of May. As part of this in June there will be a walk-in event at one location in each of the five MDs with separate on street engagement in separate locations within each MD. The anticipation is the LECP will go before plenary Council for adoption in the Autumn of 2024.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 (GCC received €1,303,230) aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the county in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Projects situated in areas that do not currently have high levels of New Arrivals cannot be deemed eligible, therefore, Galway County Council has collated the list of towns/villages which are eligible at this time, by virtue of hosting significant numbers of New Arrivals.

CURRENT ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

Clifden	198
Oranmore	150
Maam Cross	146
Letterfrack/Kylemore	110
An Cheathrú Rua	107
An Spidéal	106
Oughterard	102
Carna	92
Bearna	83
Tuam	80
Baile Chláir	79
Kinvara	72
Gort	62
Kiltormer	61
Glenamaddy	55
Athenry	54
Na Forbacha	51
Ardrahan	42
Craughwell	42
Clonbur	38
Woodford	35
Dunmore	34
Tullycross	22

Monivea	20
Indreabhán	15
Cleggan	14
Headford	6
Ballygluinin	5
Portumna	4

There will be three application windows. Queries to crf@galwaycoco.ie

ARTS OFFICE

The arts sector is in full flight and Galway's festival season upon us. Wishing our colleagues at Cúirt (April), Galway Theatre Festival (May), Galway Film Fleadh (July) and Galway International Arts Festival (July) every success.

May see's the last of the Arts Office Open Calls for funding this year. We have open calls for Tiny Mutiny an exciting pilot project where Sparkcatchers! will support teenagers to create new work and later this month our annual Culture Night Open Call for artists, community groups and arts organisations.

ÁRAS ÉANNA RESIDENCY 2024



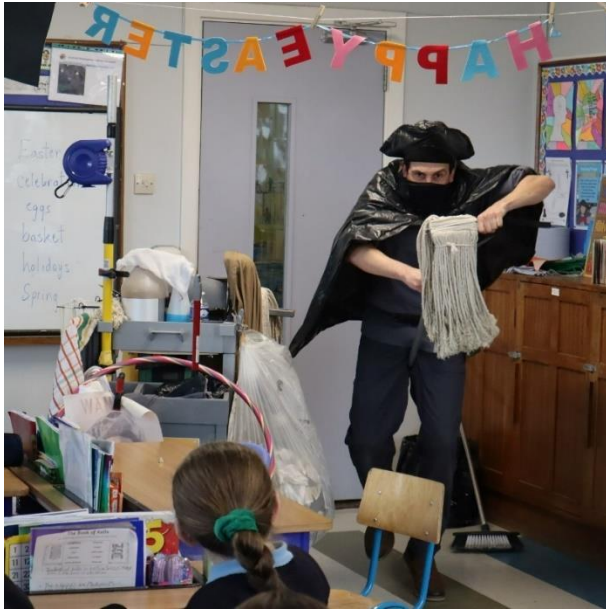
Congratulations to Robbie Blake who was awarded the Galway County Residency at Áras Éanna on Inis Oírr. Robbie is a composer-performer, arts worker, and the artistic director of Tonnta vocal ensemble based in Furbo. During their month-long residency in May Robbie will focus on their practice as a vocal performer and composer while engaging with all the island has to offer.

GALWAY COUNTY RESIDENCY
RECIPIENT ROBBIE BLAKE. PHOTO
JULIA DUNIN

BALLAD OF A BANDIT TOUR 2024

Branar's local tour of Ballad of a Bandit, written and performed by Miquel Barceló was a roaring success thanks to the Community Support Scheme.

The show toured to 7 schools in the county bringing the story of Captain McNamara of Cong, the legendary historical figure who stood with tenants during Penal Law Times through 15 performances. The show combined music, object animation, clown, and expert storytelling by Miquel in an immersive theatre experience that took students completely by surprise!



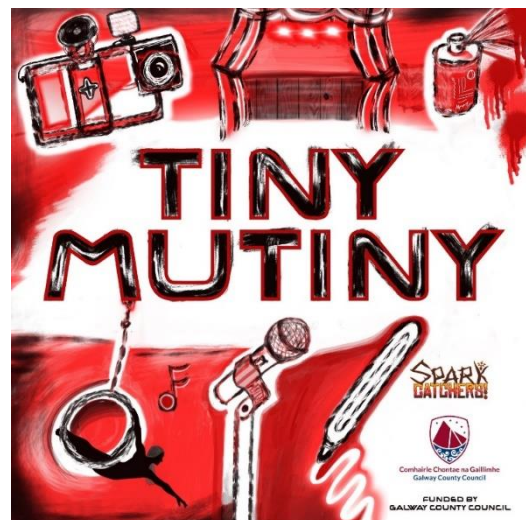
BALLAD OF A BANDIT BY MIQUEL BARCELÓ

TINY MUTINY OPEN CALL

Tiny Mutiny offers creative teenagers the opportunity to realise their artistic ideas with support from a professional mentor along with a production budget. Teenagers can apply with an idea focusing on creative practices like theatre, visual art, dance, film, circus, writing, digital media, graffiti, music etc.

The selected young artists will be given a professional artist mentor, a budget and practical support from Sparkcatchers! from June to October 2024. At the end, there will be a showcase at an arts event for children and young people in October.

Sparkcatchers! are Jojo Hynes & Midie Corcoran; artists, producers, festival makers and disruptors that work with young people to make brilliant art. This call out is a follow up to a



project called [Tiny Mutiny](#) and inspired by a project in The Netherlands called [Broei](#).

The **closing date for applications is midnight on 14th June**. ‘Ideas and Information’ workshops for interested 13–17-year-olds will be in Tuam, Gort, Ballinasloe and Oughterard.

ARTS AND OLDER PEOPLE

Three free arts projects for older people have recently been completed.

ONLINE CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Writer Ken Harmon led 8 workshops for participants over 65. The workshops fostered creativity, focused on developing writing skills in poetry, short stories and personal non-fiction. Produced by Nova Productions.

ST. BRENDAN, CRANNÓGS AND LOUGHREA



Loughrea Library Craft Group & Loughrea Men’s Shed worked together with artist Marie Reilly to create a new craft exhibition at Loughrea Library.

PORTUMNA DAY CARE CENTRE WRITER’S GROUP

Writer Gerry Hanberry led 5 creative writing workshops examining participants life stories and journeys. The project culminated in the launch of a publication called Days Gone By. Produced by Portumna Social Services.



CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG – NATIONAL DAY OF CREATIVITY FOR CHILDREN – JUNE 15TH

It's been a busy month for Creative Ireland. With preparations for Cruinniú na nÓg 2024 well and truly underway, the team have been working hard to get as many free events as possible taking place for children across the county.



This year there has been a focus on increasing Cruinniú na nÓg engagement on the Aran Islands. A youth consultation was carried out on the islands by Branar theatre company. The report from this was used to plan and budget a programme of events on the island. An additional €7,000 of funding was secured to deliver this programme which looks to be an engaging and exciting day for the children on the islands. All of the workshops will be delivered through Irish. The programme so far features drumming, gardening, music, painting, coding, and mosaic work with more to be added in the coming weeks.

There is also a push to increase engagement with older teens. With this in mind, Creative Ireland have introduced Cruinniú Late, an initiative whereby events will be specially programmed for 16–18-year-olds and held later in the evening. An additional €4,000 of funding was secured from the Nighttime Economy Officer of Creative Ireland to support this. Galway County Council's Cruinniú Late event is being managed by Gliondar Creative Arts and will consist of a 1-day Youth Festival held in Athenry on the night of June 15th. The celebrations will include stilting, circus skills, and a live gig from youth band Moonlight Eclipse with more details coming soon.

In total so far 55 events have been registered for Cruinniú na nÓg up from 29 last year, and 49% incorporate the Irish language up from 20% in 2023. All in all it's looking like it's going to be a great day. For details on Cruinniú na nÓg events taking place in your area check [here](#).

CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES

Many of the Creative Ireland Bursary projects are underway. We have seen great interest in these projects which cover music, ceramics, and circus skills. With 5 months left to complete the bursaries, it's very exciting to see what will come next from our Creative Communities.

Athenry Music School have started their 'Samba le Chéile' drumming workshops. These are open to all levels of ability and will be ongoing until October.



Brú Bhríde are continuing their highly successful programme of Circus Skills training. This programme is specifically run for children from the Travelling Community in Tuam. Last year's participants reported a rise in confidence and self-esteem after taking part in the programme. The 2024 workshops began in March and will run until early June.



Cois Cladaigh Centre Art Group, a BOCSI group based in Casla, have begun their 2024 Creative Ireland project. 'Aistear an tSaoil' is a ceramics workshop where participants will create boats to reflect the history of fishing in their homeplace. This is a follow-on from their 2023 project which consisted of self-portraits that examined the participants' place within their community.

FUSE Music Collective are seeking participants for their 'Half-Speed Trad' sessions. The ideal outlet for anyone who has ever wanted to give Traditional Music and Sean Nós singing a go but felt it was all just a bit too fast for them. The sessions are led by Tuam Comhaltas and will take place from 8-9pm at The Mall Theatre, Tuam on May 30th, June 27th, July 25th, August 29th, and September 19th.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Safeguarding 1 – 7th May 2019 – 16 people registered – Private Course
Online Safeguarding 1 14th May 2024 – 19 registered
Online Safeguarding 1 15th May 2024 – 16 people registered – Private Course
Online Safeguarding 1 22nd May 2024 – 18 people in registered.

Online Safeguarding 1 28th May 2024 – 18 people registered.

Future Courses

Online Safeguarding 2 5th June 2024 – can be booked [here](#)

Online Safeguarding 1 11th June 2024 – can be booked [here](#)

Online Safeguarding 1 19th June 2024 – can be booked [here](#)

For more information on course contact galwayactive@galwaycoco.ie / 091 – 509 670

HEALTHY IRELAND OUTDOOR SWIMMING INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

Galway Sports Partnership attended the launch of Healthy Irelands Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Grant, which was launched in Renville, Oranmore by Minister Hildergarde Naughton on 4th April. Local Authorities through the Local Sports Partnership can apply for funding up to €30,000 towards projects that enable broader participation in outdoor swimming, such as improving access, developing, and enhancing changing facilities and procuring equipment to assist people with disabilities.



L-R JASON CRAUGHWELL, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, LOUISE BURKE, SPORT IRELAND, MINISTER HILDERGARDE NAUGHTON, PROFESSOR BREDASMYTH, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, ANDREW MC BRIDE, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

PARTICIPATION NATION OUTDOOR FUND

The Minister of State for Sport, Physical Education and the Gaeltacht, Thomas Byrne T.D., has launched a new sport investment fund, the 'Participation Nation Outdoor Fund', for the purchase and installation of permanent sport equipment that can be placed on public land for community use.

Local Sports Partnerships will apply for the fund as the representative body and the project will be delivered in collaboration with Local Authorities, Climate Action Officers and/or the National Governing Bodies for Sport.

In respect of the Local Sports Partnerships, it is proposed that applications will be a minimum of €100,000, which will focus on the purchase of low-cost permanent sport equipment and to cover the costs of biodiversity measures. Given the significantly higher cost of installation of outdoor sport equipment compared to biodiversity measures, it is proposed that the funds be broadly allocated on a 3:1 basis; it is therefore expected that in the order of €30,000 of the allocated amount will be provided to biodiversity measures.

The list below, which is indicative and not exhaustive, sets out sports/means of physical activity which are considered amenable to fulfilling the purpose of the fund:

- Installation of sport equipment lockers.
- Storage containers for water sports such as kayaking, canoeing.
- Croquet, boules, table tennis tables.
- 3x3 basketball courts.
- Multi-use projects – e.g., aerial activity with mountain biking courses.
- Permanent volleyball nets; and
- Golf (putting greens).

The list below, which is indicative and not exhaustive, sets out biodiversity measures which are considered

to fulfil the purpose of the fund:

- Installation of bat/bird/owl boxes and/or beehives.
- Native hedgerow and grass verge management.
- Installation of ponds.
- Planting of native flora species, pollinator habitats and/or mini/pocket forests.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 21st June 2024 at 12pm.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Galway Sports Partnership through funding from Sport Ireland ran a Club Development Grant Scheme worth €30,000. The Club Development Scheme is designed to support your clubs or sporting organisation to expand and develop in the areas that support our main target groups getting active and getting introduced to the club for future membership.

These main targets include women & girls, older adults, unemployed individuals, individuals from disadvantaged areas, individuals with disabilities, young people & ethnic minorities.

28 Clubs and Organisations across Galway were successful with their applications.

BIKE WEEK 2024

Bike Week is a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling and takes place from Saturday 11th May to Sunday 19th May. There are a number of events taking place across Galway throughout the week and to see what is happening in Galway check out

<https://www.transportforireland.ie/.../bikeweek/galway/>



L-R DECLAN BURKE, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, RACHEL DERVAN, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, CLLR EDDIE HOARE, MAYOR OF GALWAY, JASON CRAUGHWELL, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR LIAM CARROLL, EOIN MCDERMOT, ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, ELLIE LOFTUS, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

INIS OIRR

On Thursday 25th April Galway Sports Partnership along with Healthy Galway County and Galway County Council visited Inis Oírr as part of the Age Friendly Healthy Islands Programme. Galway Sports Partnership Sports Inclusion Disability Officer demonstrated various social games and activities the islanders could take part in and discussed how Galway Sports Partnership can support them to be more active in their day to day lives.



L-R ELLIE LOFTUS GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, ADELE RANKIN, HEALTHY IRELAND COORDINATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

ATHENRY MENS SHED

Athenry Men's Shed took part in a 6-week Activator program between March and April funded through Healthy Galway County funding. There were 12 participants that took part in the program which took place in their own shed-space with an outdoor area also. The men all thoroughly enjoyed the program. And look to continue with this activity going



forward.

MEMBERS OF ATHENRY MENS SHED

GO 4 LIFE EVENT

On Tuesday 7th May Galway Sports Partnership hosted an older adults Go for Life event in Leisureland in partnership with Healthy Galway City and County. There were just under 40 attendees from across Galway City and County that took part in the three Go 4 Life Games Flisk, Málaí and Scidils. Age and Opportunity who run Go for Life hold a National Go for Life



Games competition annually in Dublin, and through this event a team of 12 participants were picked to represent Galway at the National Go for Life Games in Dublin on Saturday 8th June.

PARTICIPANTS TAKING PART IN GO 4 LIFE EVENTS

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



In April 2024, the communities of Gort, Dunmore and Maree have received a major funding boost after Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D. announced an allocation of €750,000 to Galway County Council under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023.

A grant 250k has been approved for the renovation and improved Accessibility of Dunmore Community Centre which will be implemented in partnership with Dunmore Community Council. Traditionally referred to as the Town Hall, the space on The Green remains essential to the social and cultural vibrancy of Dunmore.

Maree Community Centre has been awarded 250k to understand essential repairs to ensure the continuation of community activities at the Centre. The Groups will have until August 2026 to complete proposed works and draw-down Grants.

Furthermore, an allocation of €250,000 has been granted to for implementation of a Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Gort Town Centre. The Gort scheme allocation has been warmly welcomed by the local community and follows an application by the Gort Town Team with the support of Galway County Council's Town Regeneration Officer. This Scheme Gort and will allow individual property owners and tenants in the designated streets to submit an application for funding of up to 80% of the costs to a maximum amount per property, towards the enhancement of their façade, including painting, appropriate lighting and decluttering. The Guidelines are being finalised which will state the amounts, type of works. Galway County Council Rural Schemes Team and Regeneration Team have supported similar Schemes in 10 locations across the County since 2020. The engagement by Galway County Council of a colour consultant to provide recommendations on paintcolour schemes for properties owners has added value to the quality and outputs of the Scheme and can assist in motivating shop keepers / property owners to take part.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



GORT TOWN
CENTRE IMAGE:
GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL



DUNMORE TOWN
HALL – PHOTO
DUNMORE
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

RURAL SCHEMES - CLÁR 2024 PROGRAMME

Applications are now sought for the CLÁR 2024 Scheme which can be submitted to Galway County Council up to May 31st, 2024. Open to designated CLÁR areas, the maximum grant is €50,000 at 90% of Eligible Costs for small scale infrastructural projects.

The 2024 programme will be delivered through 3 separate Measures as follows:

- **Measure 1:** Developing Community Facilities & Amenities
- **Measure 2:** Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport
- **Measure 3:** 'Our Islands'

Measure 1 will support a variety of capital projects provided that they contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities. The list below provides an indication of the types of projects that may be supported, but is not exhaustive:

- Small scale renovation works to community facilities open to the wider community such as community centres/sports centres/clubhouses of sporting groups/youth centres/mens sheds
- Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)/Astro-Turf facilities including upgrades
- Playgrounds/Skateboard parks/Pump tracks/Cycling tracks

- Walking/Running /Athletics tracks
- Handball Alleys/Tennis Courts/Basketball Courts/Cricket Grounds
- Community Gyms/Community Cinemas
- Sensory Gardens/Community Gardens/Allotments
- Access to unique local heritage sites/areas of natural beauty
- Outdoor Bowling Areas/Outdoor Toilet 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
- Biodiversity planting

Fully completed forms for **Measure 1** must be returned to Galway County Council by **5:00 pm on Friday 31st May 2024** via <https://galwaycoco.submit.com>. A maximum of 15 projects will then be shortlisted and developed into a final submission to Department of Community and Rural Development.

Applications for Measures 2 and 3 must be made directly to the Dept. of Rural and Community Development and cannot be accepted by Galway County Council.

Any facilities funded must be available to the public without a requirement to be a member of a club, enrolled in a school etc. Facilities on school grounds must be open to the public outside of school hours e.g., during the evenings, weekends, and school holidays.

The staff of the Community & Rural Development Unit held Webinar on CLÁR in association with the Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN) on Tuesday May 7th and Friday May 10th, 2024.

TOURISM

EU JUST TRANSITION FUND ACTIVATOR FOR THE BALLINASLOE MD

Loretta Raftery has been appointed EU Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) Tourism Activator for



County Galway. Ms. Raftery, has over 20 years of local authority experience in the fields of tourism, community, and economic development.

The Ballinasloe MD is included in the EU JTF territory and SMEs in the region can avail of Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands

2023-2026, which is being co-funded by the Government under the EU JTF. The programme is investing in projects that promote the sustainable development of tourism in the region with the aim of diversifying the regional economy by creating jobs, supporting habitats and biodiversity and sustaining communities.

A series of public information evenings will take place in Ballinasloe and Glenamaddy next week.

Local community groups and tourism SMEs are invited to attend the upcoming information evenings on Wednesday, **May 8th, from 6.30 to 8.30pm in the Shearwater, Ballinasloe and on Friday, May 10th from 6.30 to 8.30pm in Glenamaddy, The Old Technical School.**

Eligible projects under the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme currently fall into four categories, namely Development or Enhancement of Sustainable Visitor Experiences, Development of Sustainable/Low Carbon Tourist Accommodation, Capital Project Planning & Design and Accessibility enhancements to provide a more inclusive visitor experience.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 30th June next and once deemed eligible, groups will have the opportunity to make an application to the fund up to 30th December 2024.

JTF SCHEME F – TOURISM LEARNING NETWORK PROGRAMME

Galway County Council applied under scheme F of the JTF for Failte Irelands Tourism Learning Network Programme. The application was successful.

The EU Just Transition Fund Activator attended the Launch Day event on April 22nd.

The EU Just Transition Tourism Learning Network Programme is a collaborative learning programme for the successful development of regenerative tourism in the EU Just Transition Territory.



All participants have now registered on the LearnFi platform and pillars have been chosen for courses to commence.

EU JUST TRANSITION FUND - INFORMATION EVENING IN BALLINASLOE

Full House! In the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe for the EU Just Transition Fund information evening. 58 tourism service operators, community & Heritage groups and accommodation providers attended the briefing.

EJTF Tourism Activator Loretta Raftery gave a presentation on the scheme alongside Caren Caruthers from Failte Ireland and John Neary Tourism Officer.

Great interest in the scheme was shown on the night with many follow up appointments made in relation to submitting Expression of Interests before the deadline of 30th June 2024.



LORETTA RAFTERY, JUST
TRANSITION FUND
ACTIVATOR, GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL



EU JUST TRANSITION FUND
INFORMATION EVENING



L-R: JOHN NEARY, TOURISM OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CAREN CARUTHERS, FAILTE IRELAND, AND LORETTA RAFTERY, JUST TRANSITION FUND ACTIVATOR, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

NEW NATIONAL TOURISM OFFICER NETWORK



The Tourism Officer Network was officially established during an inaugural meeting on April 19, 2024, at Killashee Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare, with representatives from every county in Ireland. This network is designed to enhance collaboration across County Council Managed Authorities (CCMA) to promote tourism and

drive economic growth. The network will provide a platform for sharing best practices, coordinating tourism-related initiatives, and supporting sustainable tourism development across the regions. With structured meetings set to occur three times annually, the network aims to significantly impact the effectiveness of tourism activities managed by local authorities.

GCC Tourism Officer John Neary was elected as the Deputy Chair of the Tourism Officer Network for a 3-year term.



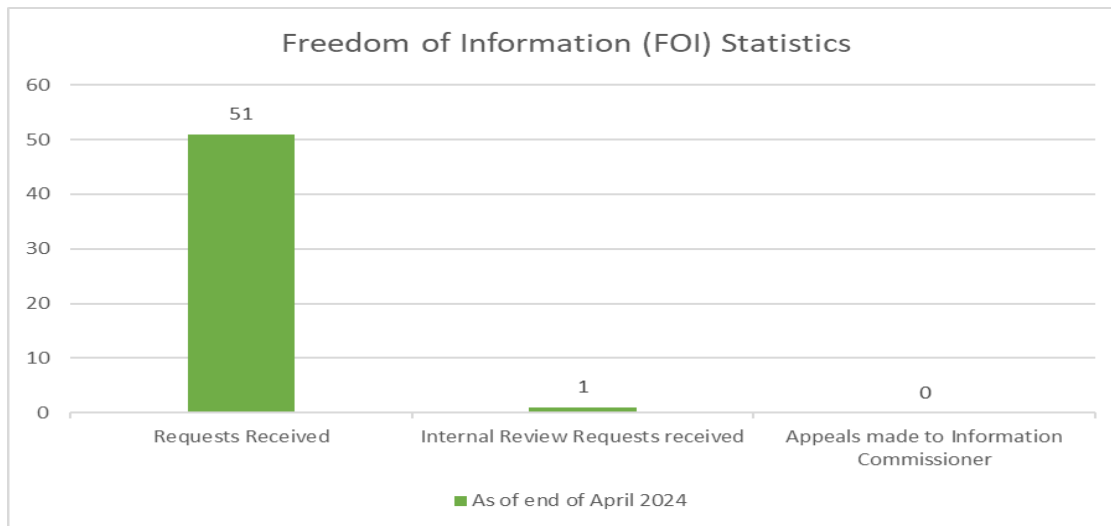
The project at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) represents the establishment of Ireland's first International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO). This initiative, part of a global network supported by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), aims to monitor, evaluate, and enhance sustainable tourism practices. By gathering data and insights on tourism's impacts, the observatory seeks to inform and shape policies that foster environmental, social, and economic sustainability in tourism.

Galway County Council played a supportive role in the launch of Ireland's first International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) Observatory at Atlantic Technological University (ATU). This significant event, hosted at ATU, marked a crucial step towards sustainable tourism, focusing particularly on the Aran Islands. The observatory is set to monitor and evaluate sustainable tourism practices, aiming to significantly influence Ireland's tourism policies in line with global sustainability efforts. This initiative underscores the proactive involvement of Galway County Council in championing sustainable tourism developments.

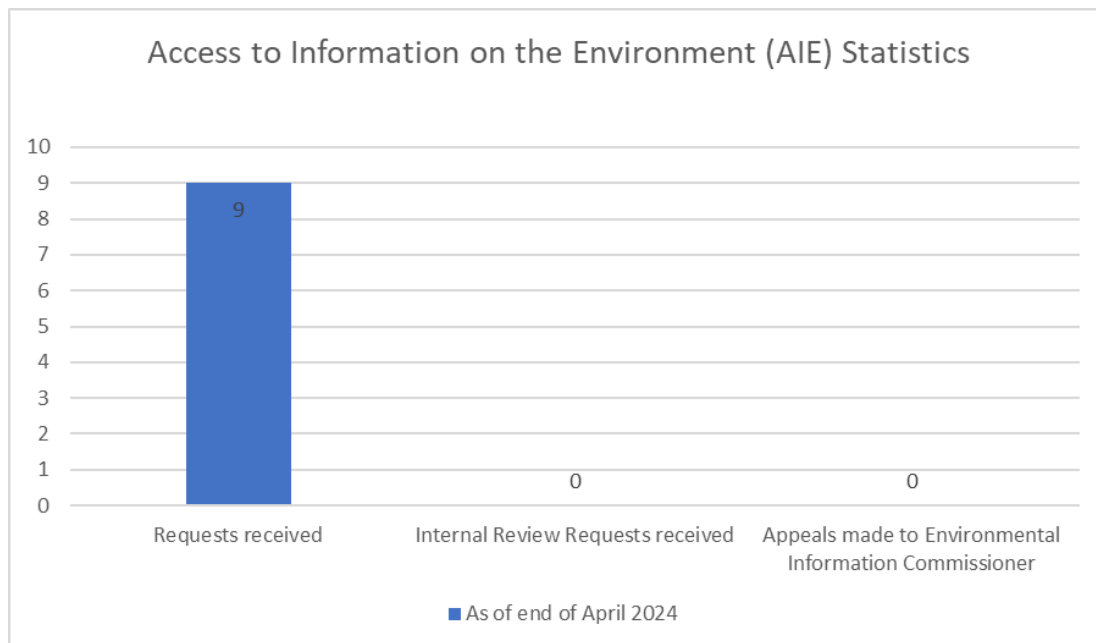
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2024 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.04.24

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



Data Protection

- **10 Data Access Requests**
7 Data Subject Access Requests -

3 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána

- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**

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

Online Refresher Training on Cyber Security & Data Breaches issued to all Staff

Quarterly Data Protection Awareness Newsletter circulated to all Staff

CIVIC RECEPTION



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

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



MEMBERS OF THE ST.
THOMAS'S SENIOR MEN'S
HURLING TEAM AND
MANAGEMENT WITH THE
CATHAOIRLEACH, CHIEF
EXECUTIVE AND ELECTED
MEMBERS OF GALWAY
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cathaoirleach on behalf of the Elected Members and people of Galway honoured the St. Thomas's Men's Senior Hurling team on winning the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Championship in 2024.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

36,296
↑ 2.1%
from 35,540
Fans & Followers

339
Total Posts
Irish 36.5%
(124 posts)




FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 120 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function on Facebook 34 times this month with followers. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 94.4k.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 162 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of April 30th, 2024, to 16,761 with audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.1% of this age group are women and 10.5% are men. In total, 31.8% of Galway County Council's Facebook followers are male and 68.2% are female.

April's Top Three Posts

 Galway County Council Apr 22, 17:49	 Galway County Council Apr 30, 10:01	 Galway County Council Apr 22, 17:40
Fáilteú Cathartha arna thionóil ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe De Luain 22 Aibreán 2024 in onóir: CLG Naomh Tomás Seaimpíní i gCraobh Shinsir na gClubanna in iománaíocht 2023 St. Thomas' Hurling Club #Galway #Gaillimh #YourCouncil	A Road Safety Message - There have been a few incidents in the past number of weeks of tourist drivers driving on the wrong side of the road in Connemara, when leaving tourist attractions. Therefore, the Council's Community Warden, Thomas O'Sullivan, An Garda Síochána,	Civic Reception Organised by Galway County Council On Monday 22nd April 2024 In honour of: St. Thomas' Hurling All-Ireland Senior Club Title Winners 2023 St. Thomas' Hurling Club #Galway #Gaillimh #YourCouncil
14.46 % engagement rate	13.48 % engagement rate	12.85 % engagement rate

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 59 tweets with 26.1k impressions. The account had a total following 16, 692, as of the 30th April 2024.

April's Top Three Posts

		
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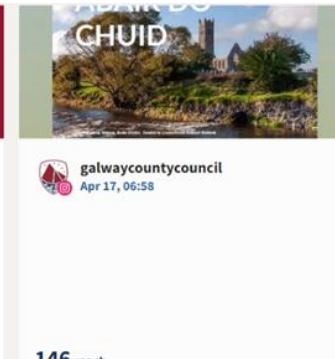
INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 127 posts to Galway County Council's Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function 68 times this month with followers as well as sharing 12 reels. Galway County Council's overall reach for this period was 7,250.

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page. Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 70% being female and 30% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 35.7% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 26.1% women and 9.6% men. Over the last month the account has increased their followers from 1019 in March 2024 to 1058 followers by the 30th of April 2024.

April's Top Three Posts

		
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AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

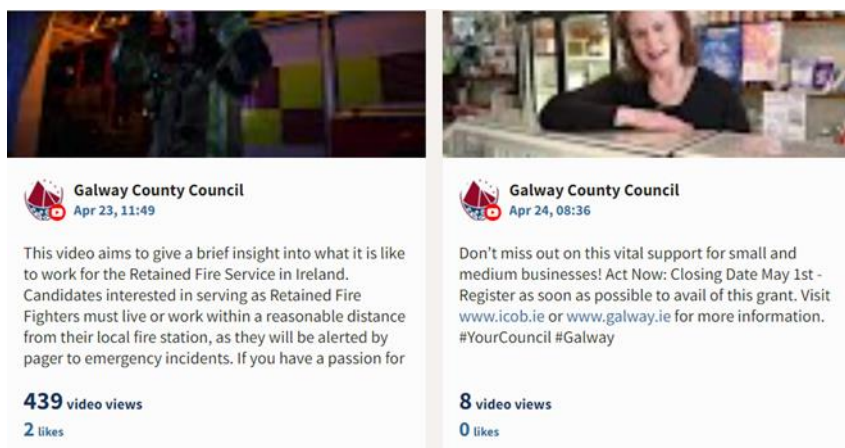
During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 35 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,752. Galway County Council shared 9 posts with 2,436 impressions this month.

April's Top Three Posts



AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

During this period on YouTube, Galway County Council's account has 33 subscribers as of 30th April 2024. The Top Ranking post this month was 'A Day in the life of a Retained Fire Fighter' which Kildare Fire Service gave permission to use as part of Galway County Council's recent Recruitment campaign. The video received 3,447 impressions and had a total 'watch time' of 10.7 hours for this period.



Galway Public Libraries is 100 years old this year. Our first public Centenary celebration took place on April 23 in Ragoon Cemetery with a graveside commemoration and wreath laying ceremony to honour Galway Public Libraries' first librarian, Samuel James Maguire, who established, developed, and managed the county's public library service for 31 years, from 1924 to 1955. In attendance was the Mayor of Galway City Cllr. Eddie Hoare, the Cathaoirleach of the County Cllr. Liam Carroll, members of Samuel's family, former County Librarians and current library and archives staff.

Our MC for the event, Galway County Council Archivist, Patria McWalter welcomed all to the very special event, which she said, 'marked not only the centenary of Galway Public Libraries, but most especially honours its first librarian, Samuel – better known as Sam – James Maguire'.

Samuel Maguire began work in Galway in 1924 on behalf of the Carnegie Trust and was appointed County Librarian in 1926 when Galway County Council assumed control of the service. During his tenure Maguire managed over 300 book lending centres and branch libraries in Abbeyknockmoy, Athenry, Ballinalsoe, Ballygar, An Cheathrú Rua, Clifden, Dunmore, Glenamaddy, Headford, Killimore, Loughrea, Moylough, Oughterard, Portumna, An Spidéal, Tuam and Woodford – most of which were open 10-hours a week.

The legacy of Samuel Maguire lives on in a vibrant library service with 29 branches across the County of Galway including 4 which are offshore on the Aran islands and Inisbofin. It has adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of Galway communities.

Galway Public Libraries is indebted to Cllrs. Carroll and Hoare, County Librarians Jo Vahey, and Pat McMahon, Galway County Council Archivist Patria McWalter and Fergal Pettigrew (grandson) who all spoke so movingly about Samuel J. Maguire.

L-R: CLLR LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, PAT MCMAHON, BERNADETTE KELLY, JOSEPHINE VAHEY, COUNTY LIBRARIAN AND CLLR EDDIE HOARE, GALWAY CITY MAYOR



The event in Ragoon Cemetery on 23rd April was the first in a series of events, to include a publication and an exhibition, which will take place throughout the year to commemorate and celebrate the establishment of the public library service in 1924.



CLLR LIAM CARROLL, GALWAY COUNTY CATHAOIRLEACH AND CLLR EDDIE HOARE, GALWAY CITY MAYOR, LAYING A WREATH ON SAMUEL J MAGUIRE'S GRAVE



FAMILY & STAFF REPRESENTATIVES COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT SAMEUL J MAGUIRE'S GRAVE

ALL STRATEGY



Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) is a 10 year, whole-of-government and society strategy dedicated to addressing the unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs for people across Ireland.

Galway Public Libraries in association with GRETb are at the forefront of delivering the ALL strategy by providing access to drop-in digital skills sessions for those you may need them. Four libraries, Oranmore, Tuam, Athenry and Loughrea are facilitating a tutor for one morning a week who will meet with people and

address their digital literacy needs. We provide access to a laptop or people can bring their own device for help.

Sessions are busy and will run until June, expecting them to continue in Autumn. Feedback is universally positive, and tutors and library staff are dedicated to enabling people to fully engage with society through enhanced digital skills.

BEALTAINÉ FESTIVAL IN OUR LIBRARIES



Inter-generational storytelling and opportunities to hear from the renowned storyteller Niall De Búrca in our libraries over the past few days. The sessions were held in Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea and Portumna Libraries.



NIALL DE BURCA IN PORTUMNA LIBRARY

MOBILE LIBRARY OUTREACH WITH HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

Galway Mobile Library Roadshow
Friday 19th April 2024
Cill Chairáin (GALA) 11.00-12.30
Baile na hAbhann (An Pota) 2.30-4.00

Featuring:

- Galway Mobile Library
- Galway School's Library
- Healthy Ireland At Your Library
- Europe Direct
- Children's Storytime
- Message In A Bottle
- Mental Health Ireland
- The Alzheimer Society of Ireland
- ALONE
- Irish Cancer Society
- Blood Pressure Checks

This is a free event open to all
 Refreshments sponsored by Galway Rural Development

The Mobile Library along with the school's library service and the branch support vehicle visited Conamara as part of an outreach community event.

The Roadshow also included support from the Alzheimer's Association of Ireland with their mobile unit, Mental Health Ireland as well as information from the Irish Cancer Society and Healthy Ireland At Your Library.

The event was supported by Galway Rural Development and storyteller Julie Ann De Brún entertained the children with her new puppets and magical storytime as gaeilge.

The event also launched the distribution of the Message in A Bottle initiative which the mobile library will promote across the rural network of library stops throughout the county.



Europe Direct promotional campaign to create awareness of the importance of the upcoming elections and the vote was also part of the day long roadshow.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



L-R JOSEPHINE VAHEY, COUNTY LIBRARIAN, CLLR DR. EILEEN PARSONS, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY AND SHEILA BUGLER, AUTHOR AT BALLINASLOE LIBRARY CRIME BOOK CLUB

Ballinasloe Library Crime Book Club led by Bríd welcomed Ballinasloe author Sheila Bugler to Ballinasloe Library. It was a very enjoyable relaxed talk and discussion with Sheila fielding plenty of questions!



Europe Direct Ballinasloe in partnership with ATU Galway held an event on the upcoming EU Elections in June, distributing information on the EU and ensuring you are registered to vote. Patrick O’Riordan, Head of Public Affairs from the European Parliament Office in Ireland gave a presentation to some of the students on the day.



AOIFE O’KELLY REPRESENTED EUROPE DIRECT BALLINASLOE AT A STUDY SCHOOL IN HELSINKI, FINLAND.

On April 11th the Ballinasloe Women's Group enjoyed a fabulous (and very delicious) Eid-Al-Fitr celebration.



BALLINASLOE LIBRARY HOSTED A MOSAIC WORKSHOP FOR THE BALLINASLOE WOMEN'S GROUP



CREAGH NS JOINED ABBIE FOR A SPRING INTO STORYTIME SESSION



Ballinasloe Library in partnership with Healthy Ireland At Your Library hosted a talk on “Understanding Autism: A guide for parents of a child who is waiting for a diagnosis or who has been diagnosed with autism.

Understanding Autism
A guide for parents of a child who is waiting for a diagnosis or who has been diagnosed with autism



Healthy Ireland
at your Library




Thursday
18th April 2024
11:15
Ballinasloe Library

Máire Bríd Ní Chonghaile
Galway Autism Partnership

This is a free event open to all

Hosted by Galway Public Libraries as part of the Healthy Ireland At Your Library programme



LOUGHREA LIBRARY



Spring into Storytime: Author visit by Meabh McDonnell, who talked about writing and inspiration to 5th class from St. Ita’s Girls’ NS and read extracts from her newly published children’s novel, “Into the Witchwood”.

MEABH MCDONNELL



The launch of the Creative Ireland funded project helmed by Moira Fox, involving a collaboration of knitwork, crochet, felting, woodwork, carving and model-building between the members of the Loughrea Library craft group and the Loughrea Men's Shed. They created a knitted 3D model of the town and landmarks, of St. Brenda's Boat and a model crannog and a 3D map of the lake with the crannógs marked.



LOUGHREA LIBRARY STAFF
MEMBERS WITH THE
LOUGHREA MEN'S SHED





STORY TIME WITH GRETA ST JOHN SULLIVAN, LOUGHREA BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Spring into Storytime: Teddy Bear’s visit to the library with storytime and crafts for preschoolers, who brought their teddies to the library to hear stories and then make a “I visited the library today” badge and certificate for their teddies.



CEOL AGUS SCÉALAÍOCHT DO PHÁISTÍ LE JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN, I GCOMHAR LE GAEILGE LOCHA RIACH AGUS GLÓR NA NGAEL



BALLYBANE LIBRARY



Glass Painting workshops with the Craft Group in Ballybane Library and the completion of the textile tapestry utilizing knitting patterns and stitches learned in the start knitting workshops. Sessions were supported and funded by Creative Ireland.



GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

AGE AGE COMPUTER CLUB

This is the second workshop series of 2024 with older participants learning from volunteers about using computers, the apps on their mobile phones and tablets. The one-to-one sessions offer older people the opportunity to get to grips with technology that they use on a day-to-day basis such as sending emails, using WhatsApp, completing online forms and more.



LAUNCH OF BRIDGIE HANLEY ART EXHIBITION



Bridgie Hanley is an Oranmore-based artist who has been painting for many years. She launched her art exhibition at Galway City Library on Tuesday 16 April

NATIONAL DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

National Drop Everything And Read Day took place on April 26th. This was a perfect opportunity for members of the public to try out our Quick Reads section of books.



ORANMORE LIBRARY

POETRY DAY IRELAND



To celebrate Poetry Day Ireland, we had members of our Poetry Reading Group read a wide selection of their favourite poems during a lunchtime poetry recital session on Thursday April 25th.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT EXAM TIME – TALK BY MICHAEL RYAN (MA/MIACP)



We had a great talk from Michael Ryan (MA/MIACP) on "Supporting Students at Exam Times" on Monday April 29th. He gave lots of helpful hints and ideas to keep calm and maintain focus for students and their parents/guardians. We were delighted to have him speak at Oranmore Library.



A TINY HUT GALWAY – ART DISPLAY

Students from A Tiny Hut Galway (local art group) put their art on display in our library. The title of the piece is "We bloom like flowers so beautifully inside and out".

OUGHTERARD LIBRARY



Our new library staff member Vanessa from Oughterard Library is settling in well and had the little ones enraptured during their recent story time on Wednesday. A big thank you to everyone who attended.



#Springintostorytime has brought great excitement to the library. Kids have dived into the worlds of David Walliams and Roald Dahl during the new Friday afternoon Storytime; had great fun with Saturday #springintostorytime Lego and story fun and made some fantastic Mathilda themed bookmarks to celebrate their readings.

L-R: WITH ANNE COLLINS, NEW HARMONY, AND LIBRARIAN MARIA CUNNINGHAM



Community Connects brings diverse members of the community together for friendly discussions and guest speakers. It has become an important social event for members and is well attended. We ran three events in April. On Tuesday 2nd, Grace from Tuam & District Mental Health have a short talk on resources available in the County. On the 16th Tuam librarian Margaret discussed local history and genealogy research, demonstrating how to use Microfilm and archives. The final speaker on the 30th was Anne from New Harmony.





Chair Yoga has proved a huge success. We have a mixture of abilities and ages attending the Tuesday morning class. This was funded by Healthy Ireland At Your Library.

We asked customers to tell us about their celebrations for Eid al Fitr and received some great stories. Pictured are librarian Gaby Walsh (Right) and a generous library patron who baked us Eid cookies.



LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA



Beidh Seisiún Scéalaíocht nua ar siúl gach Satharn ag a 12 i Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua. Beidh sé dírithe ar ghasúir óga 3 – 6 bliana. Míle fáilte roimh chách!

We are running a new regular Storytime Session in Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua, every Saturday at 12pm. Suitable for young children ages 3 - 6 years. All are very welcome!

VACANT HOMES



Further to information events held throughout the County in previous weeks, the Vacant Homes Unit attended an information evening in the Clifden Station House Hotel on the 22nd April, to give information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, the Local

Authority Home Loan scheme, the Disabled Persons grant, the Housing Aid for Older Persons, and the Mobility Aids grants. The event was hosted by Connemara Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Galway County Council, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO). Information on Business, Energy and Housing supports were provided on the night.

VACANT HOMES ACTION PLAN

The Elected Members of Galway County Council have approved a five-year plan by the Local Authority to tackle vacancy rates and increase new housing supply.

The Vacant Homes Action Plan 2024-2029 features seven key objectives that include bringing vacant and underutilised privately-owned properties back into use and acquiring derelict and vacant brown field sites to convert into residential units to meet social housing demand in key county towns.



The residential vacancy rate in Ireland’s second largest county was the third highest in the country in June 2023 at 6.0%, compared to the national average of 3.9%.

“Galway County has a high demand for housing across all tenures, which is exacerbated by a growing population and wider issues around the affordability and availability of rental and purchase properties,” commented **Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council**.

He continued, “The Elected Members fully support the objectives of this high-level strategy document in addressing vacancy and underutilisation of residential properties, thereby increasing the supply of housing in the county.”

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council said the new plan looks at why private properties become vacant, what advice and assistance is available to the owners of vacant properties, and how Galway County Council uses the range of available schemes and supports to support owners and prospective owners of vacant properties to return the properties to use.

He added, “This action plan aims to provide a targeted approach to identifying vacant housing units with the intention of bringing these properties back into use for both private and social housing. The plan also seeks to promote the development of town and village centres, which can help reduce dereliction and vacancy.”

Galway County Council has committed to implementing a series of targeted actions in the lifetime of the plan including establishing and maintaining a database of vacant properties, reintroducing the Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme for houses in hard to let locations, and the compulsory purchase of buildings under the Derelict Sites Act and the disposal of derelict social houses that are no longer viable so that they can be brought back into use as private or social housing.

Other actions include working with owners of vacant properties identified in a Vacant Homes Survey conducted by the Local Authority in 2023 with a view to bringing vacant properties back into use, minimising the vacancy level of unfinished housing estates, and increasing participation in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme), which attracted 364 applications up to the end of the first quarter of 2024.

The Local Authority also has appointed a full-time Vacant Homes Officer to co-ordinate the roll-out of the new plan. Their role includes collecting and monitoring vacancy data and increasing uptake within the local community of various initiatives, schemes, and funding programmes to address vacancy and bring vacant properties back into residential use.

Michael Owens, Director of Services, Housing & Ukrainian Response, said the shortage of housing within the county is affected by the number of applicants (3300) on Galway County Council’s social housing list, an increase in housing support applications being received by the Local Authority, a rental market where demand exceeds supply, and people and families remaining in either rental accommodation or private accommodation that is unsuitable for their needs.

“The provision of housing for those who are unable to do so for themselves is a high priority and a major challenge for Galway County Council,” he added. “The aim is for every household that has a need to be able to access a quality and affordable home that is suited to their needs and is in a secure environment. Bringing vacant homes back into use will assist us in achieving this objective.”



Mr. Owens confirmed that Galway County Council is in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to set an annual target for the number of vacant properties to be activated during the lifetime of the new plan.



“This target will include the number of vacant properties to be subject to CPO by Galway County Council, if necessary, to bring them back into use. It is envisaged the target for activation will be several hundred per year,” he concluded.

Prepared by the Housing Department of Galway County Council under the auspices of Pathway 4 of the

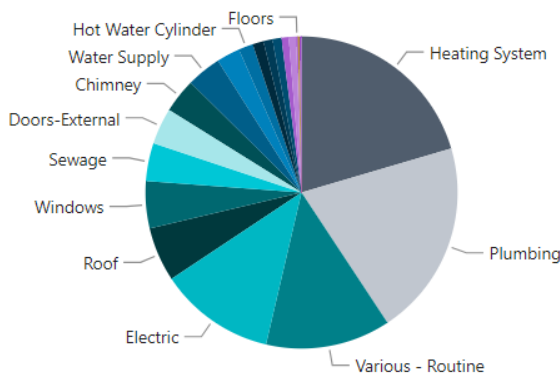
Government’s Housing for All programme, the Vacant Homes Action Plan 2024-2029 has featured input from the Local Authority’s Planning & Economic Development and Rural & Community Development departments in relation to the activation of vacant properties in the Town & Village Renewal Scheme as well as key criteria in the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) and the Town Centre First Policy.

VACANCY/DERELICTION ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

Targets to activate vacant properties will be set annually for Galway County Council by The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Under this Programme, Galway County Council is now required to adopt a proactive, planned, and systematic approach to the identification and activation of vacant and derelict properties. 138 properties have now entered the Vacancy/Dereliction Activation Programme, these 138 properties are properties which have been approved for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. Three properties have exited the Programme as the properties have been brought back into use, following payments of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

REPAIR CATEGORY



The Galway County Council Housing Unit has a dedicated Housing Maintenance team that deal with reactive maintenance requests received from tenants. There are currently three crews based in Ballinasloe, Sandy Rd. and Tuam. Tenants can log their repair requests anytime of the day via an online application. In Q1 2024 the

council received 1,234 repair requests, of these 701 were deemed invalid as repeat requests or requests relating to items of tenant responsibility, as per the tenant's Handbook. 533 were sanctioned for repair and 362 of these were closed out during that period. The nature of the request is categorized below. As can be seen from the chart below, the majority of repair requests relate to plumbing and heating at 48%. Electrical repair requests are greatly reduced as a result of the ongoing Planned Maintenance Programme where all houses over 10 years old are having a full electrical check and upgrade works where deemed necessary.

DISABLED PERSONS GRANT SCHEME

Every year Galway County Council receive an allocation of funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to provide funding to the council to carry out works to council owned housing stock to facilitate tenants with disabilities so that they can continue to live in their existing homes. For the 2024 scheme Galway County Council received an allocation of €676,898 from the Dept. In Q1 2024 the council received 16 applications for DPG works and these are currently being assessed. In addition, in Q1 the Housing Maintenance team carried out detailed design and tendering for works to 20 houses from existing applications. The successful contractor was recently appointed, and works have commenced. It is intended to carry out four extensions to existing houses to provide ground floor accommodation. These are currently at design and tender stages. A sample of the works can be seen in the photos below.



SAMPLE
DPG
WORKS TO
EXISTING
COUNCIL
HOUSING

NEW SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALLY OPENED IN GLENAMADDY



22 New Social Homes at Lakeview, Glenamaddy
A 22-home social housing scheme was officially opened in Glenamaddy, County Galway today (Wednesday, 8 May 2024) by Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Evelyn Francis Parsons and Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District, Cllr. Declan Geraghty.

Supported by €6,118,074 in funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Lakeview development is the latest in a series of local authority led housing schemes taking place across County Galway.

The housing scheme was acquired by Galway County Council from Renaissance Property Ltd. as a turnkey development and is a continuation of an existing private estate of 20 detached and semi-detached homes.

The homes include 2 two-bed detached bungalows and 8 demi-detached three-bed, 4 semi-detached four-bed, 4 end terrace 3-bed and 2 mid terrace two-bed town houses.

Cllr. Evelyn Francis Parsons said the delivery of the new homes marks the completion of the housing estate and greatly boosts existing social housing stock in the area.

“These modern and A-rated new homes will inject new life into Glenamaddy due to their location between Glenamaddy Community Centre and Glenamaddy GAA grounds and close proximity to the town centre and other sports and recreational facilities,” he added. “The town also has a primary and secondary school, both located within walking distance to the Lakeview development, which makes it an ideal location for families to integrate into and become valuable members of their new community.”

Cllr. Declan Geraghty said the new homes deliver much-needed social housing for the wider north Galway area.

“The Lakeview homes have incorporated the latest design and materials to ensure a high level of energy efficiency,” he said. “The high standard of construction of these stylish and

energy efficient will support and enhance family life and ensure that they are future proofed for their occupants.”

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council commented “I wish to acknowledge the central role played by the Department in providing the necessary funding for this scheme and Renaissance Property Ltd. for their delivery of these high-quality homes. Galway County Council is firmly committed to delivering our targets under Housing For All and ensuring that the housing needs of all of County Galway are provided for.”

Michael Owens, Director of Housing with Galway County Council said the recent adoption of the Galway County Council Vacant Homes Action Plan 2024-2029 underpins the local authority’s commitment to increasing housing supply in the county.

Mr. Owens explained, “The opening of this new scheme is evidence of the progress being made across County Galway. There continues to be a shortage of housing within the county, but our planned programme of investment ensures that more and more of social housing list applicants will be accommodated in the coming months and years. In recent weeks, for example, we have announced the planned provision of 222 homes in seven new housing developments in Ardrahan, Athenry Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Portumna and Tuam.”



CLLR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, CLLR. DECLAN GERAGHTY, CATHAOIRLEACH OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, AND CLLR. PETER KEAVENEY WITH THE STAFF OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.



CLLR. EVELYN FRANCIS PARSONS, LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, CLLR. DECLAN GERAGHTY, CATHAOIRLEACH OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AND CLLR. PETER KEAVENEY WITH THE EXISTING AND NEW RESIDENTS AT LAKEVIEW, GLENAMADDY.

NOEL COSTELLO, HOUSING LIAISON OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH DAVID DAGLISH, SARAH JARUIS AND ALISHA DAGLISH AT LAKEVIEW, GLENAMADDY.



BRENDA BYRON AND NOEL COSTELLO, HOUSING LIAISON OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT LAKEVIEW, GLENAMADDY AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING ON THE 8TH MAY 2024



CLLR. EVELYN FRANCIS
PARSONS, LEAS
CHATHAOIRLEACH OF
COUNTY GALWAY, CLLR.
PETER KEAVENEY AND CLLR.
DECLAN GERAGHTY,
CATHAOIRLEACH OF
BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT AT LAKEVIEW,
GLENAMADDY

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING DWELLING AND OUTBUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO. 2 BED DWELLINGS @ BARKHILL, WOODFORD, CO. GALWAY UNDER PART 8

It is proposed to demolish an existing dwelling and outbuilding which are in a state of dereliction and to construct 2 no. 2-bedroom dwellings, together with connections to existing public services, including all other ancillary site works and services at Barkhill, Woodford, Co Galway. Planning permission is now sought under part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The application site is located within the settlement of Woodford which is defined as a Rural Settlement in The GCDP 2022-2028. The design shall encompass the principles of Universal Design for homes in Ireland to cater to a wide variety of occupants. Roadside parking shall be provided as shown in the site layout drawing PL01 below.

The planning report provided by Consultants Jennings O'Donovan, states that *"the planning application will not have any impact on the setting of any cultural heritage assets. There is one monument of regional importance....which would have once acted as a communal water source and has since been removed."*

A screening assessment for EIA was carried out by Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd. in December 2022 and determined that *"it can be concluded by the Galway County Council that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion"*

On 29th April 2024 a submission was made on the proposal by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consideration of the existing vernacular building on site.

Galway County Council Planning Department have issued a request for further information on the proposed development as follows:

(a) The Local Authority shall seek the advice of a suitably qualified conservation architect/professional to consider the adaptive reuse of surviving vernacular structures on site.

(b) In the event a decision is made to proceed with demolition a measured and photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the building shall be carried out by a suitably qualified building surveyor.

Requests for quotations have been issued to a number of Conservation Architects with a return date of Thursday 9th May.

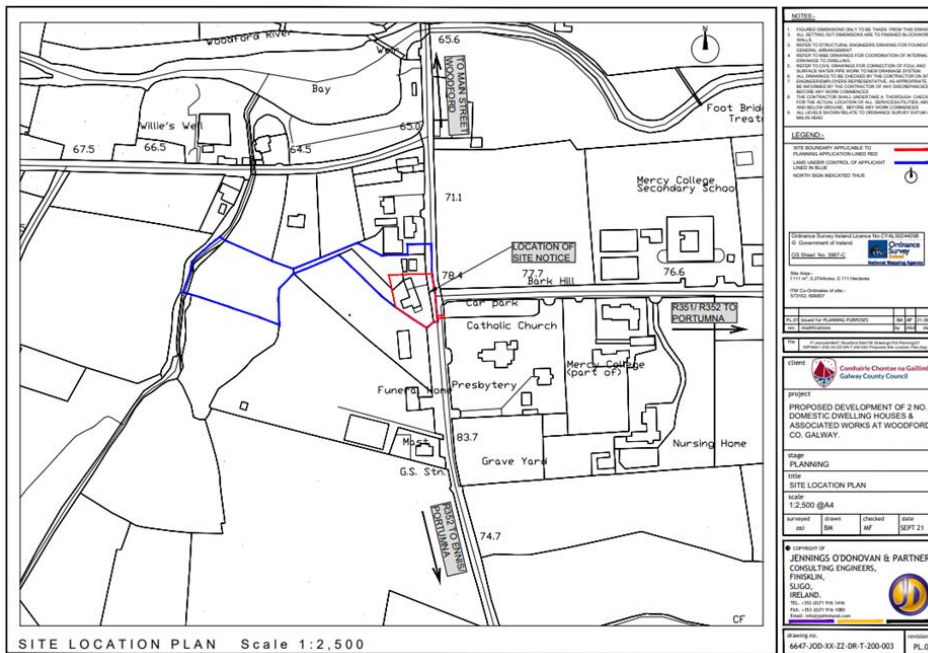


FIGURE 1 – BARKHILL, WOODFORD DEVELOPMENT - SITE LOCATION MAP – NTS

FIGURE 2 - BARKHILL, WOODFORD DEVELOPMENT - SITE LAYOUT PLAN – NTS

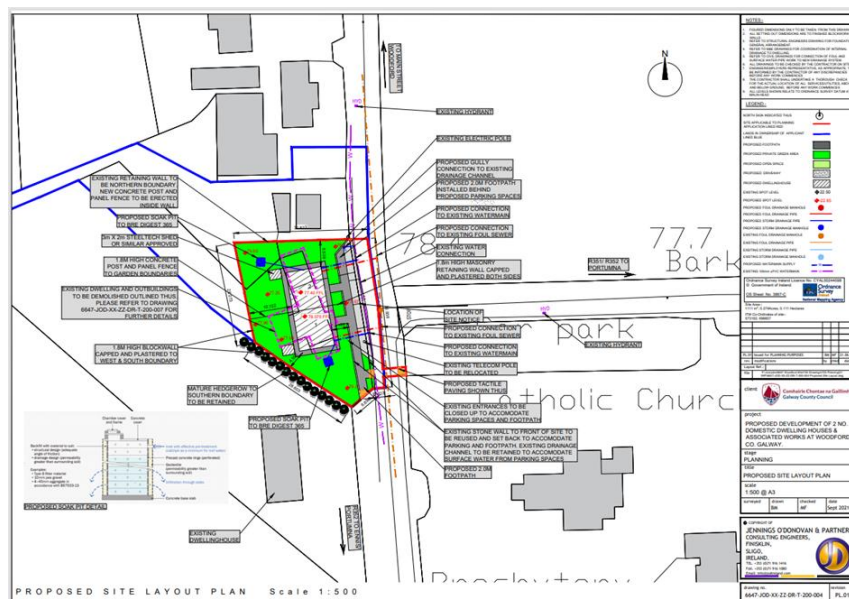




FIGURE 3 -
BARKHILL,
WOODFORD
DEVELOPMENT –
EXISTING
DWELLING AND
OUTBUILDING

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE & FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

As a follow on to Action 6 of Ireland’s Government Road Safety Strategy (2021 – 2030) – *Our Journey Towards Vision Zero*, a working group was established to examine and review the framework for the setting of speed limits on Irish roads. The report “Speed Limit Review”, with recommendations, arising from this review was published in September 2023.

The report contained principal recommendations relating to three different road categories:

- Recommendation that a default speed limit of 30km/h for **built up and urban** areas be introduced.
- Recommendation that the default Speed Limit on **National Secondary Roads** be reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h to align with the Safe System principles and to reduce the severity of head on collisions.
- Recommendation the default Speed Limit on **Local Roads** be reduced from 80 km/h to 60 km/h to align with the use of the network and the Safe System principles.

These priority actions are being progressed through necessary legislation and supporting Statutory Guidelines. The legislation became law on 17th April 2024 (Act Number 10 of 2024). Following the enactment of the legislation relevant Sections relating to Speed Limits will be commenced. Updates to the Statutory Guidelines for Managing Speed Limits will issue to local authorities by way of a Direction.

The Department of Transport have indicated an intention to work to implement the changes to a timeline that will see commencement dates for the new default speed limits as follows:

- End of November 2024 for Rural Local Roads.
- First half of 2025 for National Secondary Roads and Urban Speed Limits.

Galway County Council have developed a plan to ensure that all required changes can be made to meet the projected timeline. The first step involves an assessment of all local roads (total length 5,315km) that will default to 60kph, to ascertain if there are sections where

retention of the existing 80kph speed limit might be more appropriate. Such changes would be made by way of Special Speed Limit Bye Law, in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, where the change was consistent with the “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland”.

A high-level desktop assessment of the local roads has shown that there may be up to 235km to 400km of local roads that may be suitable for an 80kph speed limit, based on criteria set down by the Department of Transport. This was also considered at the Transport SPC meeting on the 26th April, and members having been asked to consider the matter, agreed that should roads meet the criteria - having a road width of greater than 5.5m and centre road markings - that they then should be considered and assessed under the Guidelines for Managing Speed Limits to determine if they are appropriate for a special speed limit of 80kph. That assessment is now being undertaken.

On completion of the assessment, the recommendation arising will be brought before Municipal Districts for the consideration of the Members. Thereafter, the prescribed process for the approval of Special Speed Limit Bye Laws, including Public Consultation, will be followed. Bye Law approval will need to be in place ahead of the commencement of the new default 60kph speed limit for local roads, this coming November.



L1320 AN SPIDÉAL TO MAIGH CUILINN – EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF ROAD TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SPECIAL 80KPH SPEED LIMIT

A very significant signage programme will be required to mount/erect all the additional and changed signs required as a result of the 2023 Speed Limit Review. The DoT will centrally purchase all the signage required on behalf of Local Authorities. Galway County Council will work with the Department to ensure accurate information gathering and the subsequent supply of appropriate numbers and types of signs and poles.

In summary, by the end of November 2024, the default speed limit on local roads will change to 60kph. For any sections of road where a speed limit higher or lower than this default has been assessed as appropriate, a Special Speed Limit Bye Law to that effect will have to be in place by that commencement date. All changes to signage to give effect to the changes will also have to be implemented at that time.

GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY

Westmeath County Council and Galway County Council have developed a plan to deliver the next phases of the project and bring a development consent application to An Bord Pleanála. Due to its scale and complexity, the Galway to Athlone Cycleway Scheme will now be delivered as two separate schemes:

- Scheme 1 - Galway to Portumna - 114km in length: This scheme extends from Ballyloughane in Galway to the existing Waterways Ireland Greenway at Portumna Castle.
- Scheme 2 - Portumna to Athlone - 83 km in length: The scheme extends from the existing Waterways Ireland Greenway at Portumna Marina to Athlone Castle and includes a link to Ballinasloe.

Scheme 1 will be managed by Galway County Council and Scheme 2 will be managed by Westmeath County Council. A framework competition to procure new suitably qualified consultants to deliver the schemes was published on eTenders on the 2nd April 2024 and it is anticipated that the framework will be in place in June 2024.

TII NATIONAL ROADS PAVEMENT SCHEMES

Transport Infrastructure Ireland have written to Galway County Council to advise that they are currently undertaking a review of their overall budget available for 2024 against planned expenditure. We have been instructed to pause the following projects once designs and tender documents have been completed and not to proceed to tender.

- N83 Baile Chláir Pavement Scheme
- N84 Bunnaconeen to Shrule Pavement Scheme

We have not been given a timeline for the review and as to what the outcome will be, however we will raise it at our monthly meeting with TII next week.

ROADS UPDATE

LIS SCHEME

On the 23rd April 2024, Minister Heather Humphreys announced allocations for the LIS scheme for 2024 and 2025.

Additionally, the criteria was amended to now require only 1 no. herd number.

The two-year allocation for Galway County is €3,088,444. This is the largest allocation in the country.

Funding for 2024 and 2025 is per table below.

2024	2024	2025
Co Galway	€1,564,965	€1,023,479
Co Galway Islands	€250,000	€250,000
Total Allocation	€1,814,965	€1,273,479

The Department has advised that the list for 2024 must be submitted by 24th May. This short timeframe will not facilitate the reopening of the scheme and assessment of new applications for submission to the Department for the current years work programme. Therefore, the Council will utilise the existing list for the 2024 works programme. For the 2025 programme of works please note that the scheme will reopen for applications per the table below.

Dates for scheme reopening and closing per table below.

Dates to Note	
Reopening of LIS Scheme for new applications	31 st May 2024
Closing Date for 2024 applications	9 th August 2024

A revised form will be available to Councillors and the public on 31st May 2024.

In relation to approved schemes on the existing list, where works have not yet commenced, these will be retained. There is no need for these applicants to re-apply. However, if a scheme was rejected previously for not meeting the requirement of two herd numbers, those applicants will need to re-apply.

ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Islands Committee consists of the three Aran Islands and Inishbofin Island and meets four times a year to address issues of concern on the four islands, e.g., piers; roads; planning; sewerage; housing; water supply; public toilets; burial grounds; fire service; coastal erosion; recycling centre; bins; signage, etc.

The Committee members are two representatives from each of the four islands, 9 Conamara Councillors, Director of Services Infrastructure & Operations Unit, two Roads

Senior Engineers, Conamara Area Office technical staff and meetings are co-ordinated by Deirdre Caulfield, Staff Officer.

The Committee plays a vital role by liaising with the four islands on a regular basis and giving assistance and guidance with projects and funding.



ISLANDS COMMITTEE
MEMBERS – 08TH MAY
2024



PLASSEY SHIPWRECK,
INIS OÍRR

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target each year is to have 12 estates processed for Taking in Charge and/or for Bond Release. The Table A hereunder outlines out progress to date.

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>		1
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>		1
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD's meetings</i>		3
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>		1
Total		5

In addition to the above, the following is position@ 01/05/2024

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	2
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	2
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand This includes Bond Claim - Old Mill Road Estate, Ballinasloe	22
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	37
Bond Claims -	2

HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES 2024-2026

The safety representatives committee for the term 2024-2026 has been formed. 16 safety reps in total are on the committee, the current safety representatives are from a variety of different sections across the organisation.

Safety rep training was rolled out from March 19th to March 21st, 2024.

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS

The information below is based on April data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 142 turnouts to 119 Incidents. That is an increase of 4 incident on 115 the previous month. 52 were fire incidents, 65 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standbys either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 42.61% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 33.04% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 23.35% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.05 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.56 minutes.

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry continues with the project substantially complete and the building is now fully enclosed. Installation of services and remaining



siteworks are underway. It is anticipated that the station will be completed by the end of May 2024 subject to ESB connection going ahead as planned.

REAR OF NEW FIRE STATION
ATHENRY, HEAT PUMPS AND
TRAINING TOWER

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

It is intended to proceed with public consultation in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station. It is hoped that a report will be submitted to the Loughrea Municipal District meeting in September for members consideration.

BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Tender for Design Team is due to be issued in mid-May.

HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Preferred site identified and awaiting Chief Executive approval. There will be the initiation of a screening exercise in advance of any future development. Capital appraisal 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is available.

PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the April figures. The Fire Authority received 21 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 20 applications. 8 Disability

Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 8 applications. A total of 8 new licenses were issued and 27 inspections were conducted.

GRANT AID FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management are progressing to procure high volume pumps for flood and large fire situations. The pumps will be capable of pumping 8000 litres of water a minute to over 2 kms away and Galway Fire and Rescue Service have been allocated one of these units, the procurement process is underway with each unit costing approximately €1.2m euro and is fully funded by the NDFEM.

TRAINING

Five new firefighter recruits successfully completed their initial training Firefighting Skills course which commenced on 8th April and lasted three weeks concluding on 26th April last. This brings the total number of new recruits who have completed their initial training thus far in 2024 to 12. These newly trained firefighters will be stationed at An Cheathrú Rua (x2), Gort (x2) and Cill Rónáin (x1) fire stations. It is planned to train a further five new recruit firefighters on a training course as soon as training places become available. These additional recruits will be stationed at Cill Rónáin (x2), Ballinasloe (x1), Portumna (x1) and Tuam (x1). Once completed this will bring the total number of newly recruited firefighters thus far in 2024 to 17 which already exceeds the average total annual intake of recruit firefighters.

Training was provided to members of the administration team in fire service headquarters on the use of the Gartan pay software system. Of particular relevance were updates in relation to changes required on the software system arising from the recommendations of the recent Workplace Relations Commission retained fire service agreement.

1 no. fulltime fire service officer attended the National Directorate For Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) “Managing Fire service Incidents – Module 1” training which took place in Sligo fire station.

1 no. fulltime fire service officer attended the NDFEM Effective Decision-Making training which took place at the Hydra Suite training centre in Clonmel fire station. The aim of this course was to enhance the ability of fire authorities to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services, by providing fire service officers with the opportunity to explore critical decision making relating to their role.

1 no. senior fire officer attended the NDFEM “Fire Safety Engineer” course. This was an intensive five-day training course which took place in Kilkenny.

1 no. fulltime firefighter attended the NDFEM “Fire Station Trainer” course which took place in Newbridge Fire Station from 15-19 April.

A number of training allocations were requested and granted on a number of National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management’s training courses scheduled to take place later in May. The courses in question being “Managing Fire Services Incident – Module 2” and “Fire Service Management 1” training courses.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A multi-Principal Response Agency Review commenced of the Upper Tier Control of Major Accident Hazards Site in Oranmore, with a Principal Response Agency & Relevant Stakeholder meeting early April and follow up exercise scheduled for the 23 May 2024. The Review will update the 2021 External Emergency Plan for the site, with a view to releasing a revised draft plan in June for Public Consultation.

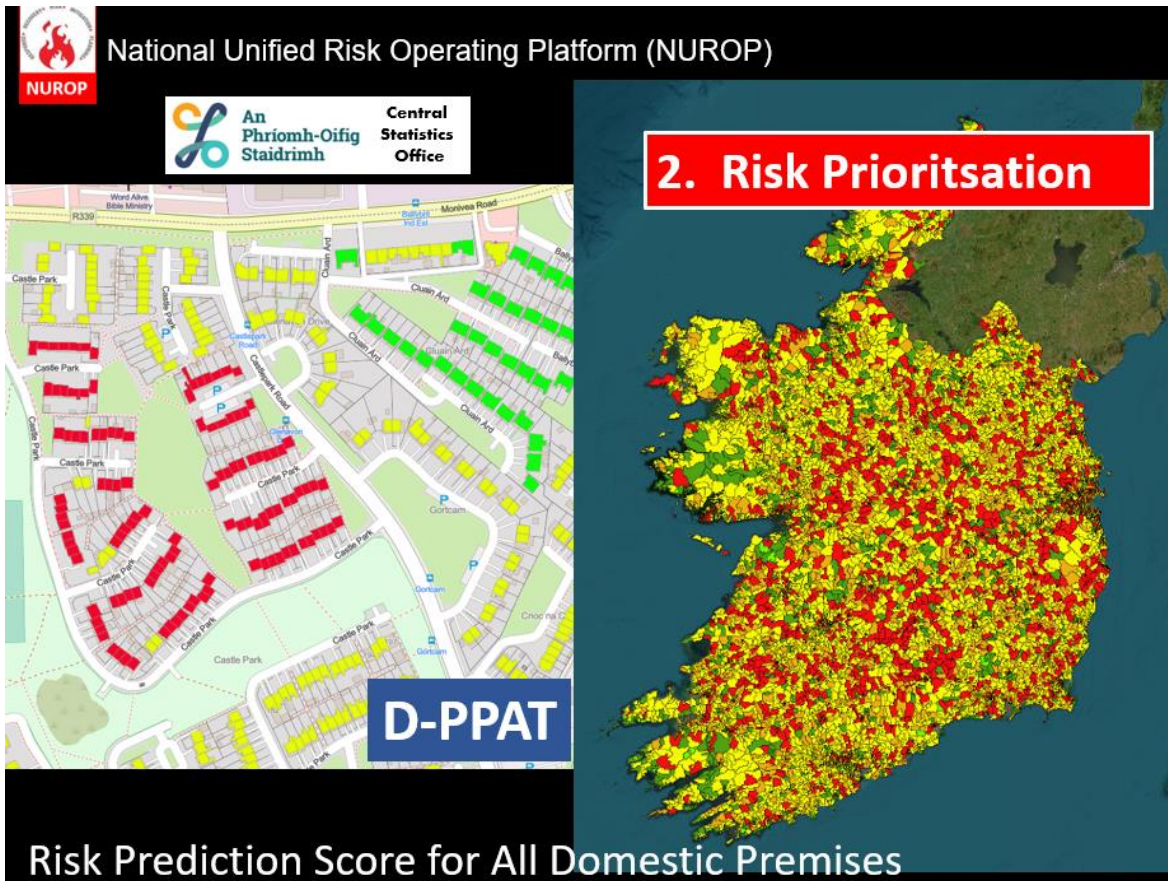
During the Colas exercise, Galway Fire and Rescue Service hope to unveil our new Hazmat ROV Support Unit and remotely operated vehicle capability. This capability will significantly increase firefighter safety in high-risk areas including Control Of Major Accident Hazard sites. The capability has been funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and local Control Of Major Accident Hazard sites.



NEW HAZMAT
ROV SUPPORT
UNIT AND THE
AVENGER FIRE
ROV

NATIONAL UNIFIED RISK OPERATING PLATFORM (NUROP) PROJECT

The National Unified Risk Operating Platform project continues jointly with the Geographic Information System and Information Technology Section and the project team will be demonstrating its latest work at the Chief Fire Officer Association Conference in Trim on the 8th May 2024. In ground-breaking work, the system can now predict a risk score for every domestic residence (in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office) and every non-domestic premises in the country. This will facilitate targeted interventions which can also be mapped. Major emergency hazards have also been mapped for the entire country and will be factored into the new automated Area Risk Categorisation (ARC) process. Finally, a new pre-incident planning process has been developed to streamline the process.



NUROP – DOMESTIC PREMISES PRIORITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

CIVIL DEFENCE

Training for new members is currently ongoing in all 5 operational units across the county. Eight new members have enrolled in Civil Defence in April 2024. They have completed their Garda Vetting and will be inducted into the Unit over the coming weeks.

Emergency Medical Technician Practitioners have and are currently upskilling to the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council 2023 Clinical Practice Guidelines at the Civil Defence College in Roscrea. This upskilling must be completed by the end of 2024.

Civil Defence Boat and Drone Crews have been assisting with a request from An Garda Síochána with a search for a missing person in a local area. This assistance is coordinated by relevant Gardai and involves providing assistance to the Garda Water Unit, Mayo Civil Defence Drone crew and The Irish Coastguard. Civil Defence boat crews are utilising Sonar Technology on this task.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

On 1st May 2024 the Management Team met with Denis Curran, Ricky Conneely and IDA Senior team to discuss economic development opportunities for County Galway. The focus of the meeting was strategic opportunities within Galway's Strategic Economic Corridor.



MANAGEMENT TEAM ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE IDA (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) AT A MEETING THAT WAS HELD IN IDA HQ ON 1ST MAY 2024

PLANNING

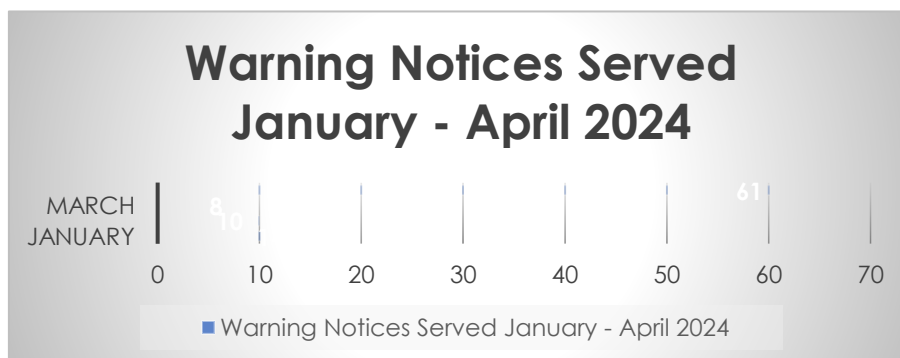
PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the planning Enforcement Team over the last number of months, and the dedication of the team has begun to show in the number of files being progressed.

A total of 110 enforcement complaints have been received between January and April 2024 and 95 files have been closed during this period.

The total number of Enforcement Notice served between January and April was 25.

The number of cases listed for Court Hearing between April and June is 32.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 598 planning applications have been received between January and April 2024, of which 482 were e files representing 81% and 116 paper files representing 19% of files received.

Decision decided January – April 2024

Decisions Granted January-April		Decisions Refused January-April	
Extension of Duration	7	Extension of Duration	3
Outline	2	Outline	1
Permission	384	Permission	71
Retention	97	Retention	16
Permission Consequent	3	Permission Consequent	0
Total	493	Total	91

During the period of this council 9,327 applications were received. The number of applications granted was 7,079, the grant rate for decisions made during this period was 81%.

A pre planning meeting was held for Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm. In Strategic Infrastructure Development a CE report is being prepared for Laurclavagh Wind Farm

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION WAIVER SCHEME EXTENSION

Minister O'Brien has received Government approval to extend the levy waiver and water charge refund arrangements beyond the dates indicated in previous Circular letter PL 04/2023 as follows:

- development works on qualifying housing units shall commence not later than **31 December 2024;**
- the combined pre-existing waiver and refund arrangements shall continue in place for a further period of just over 5 months until **30 September 2024;**
- the water connection charge refund arrangements shall terminate on 30 September 2024 with the development levy waiver remaining in place on its own for the remaining 3 months of the year until **31 December 2024;**
- claims for the levy waiver shall be submitted by developers to local authorities not later than **28 February 2025;**

- requests for refunds of new water services connection charges shall be made to Uisce Éireann not later than **31 December 2024**.

The date for the completion of development works on qualifying houses under the scheme is extended from 31 December 2025 to **31 December 2026**. This completion date applies to all qualifying houses commenced since the introduction of the scheme, including those that have already commenced prior to the extension of the levy waiver and water charge refund arrangements as communicated in this Circular Letter.

In recognition of the fact that developers are required to submit “commencement notices” or “7-day notices” to the local authority, in accordance with the Building Control Regulations, prior to the commencement of works, the following should be noted –

- (i) “commencement notices” should be submitted to the local authority prior to the 14 day period preceding 31 December 2024 i.e. the latest date for submission will be 17 December 2024; and
- (ii) “7-day notices” should be submitted to the local authority not later than 24 December 2024.

A Commencement Notice or a 7 Day Notice may be filed electronically on the Building Control Management System or submitted manually to the local authority in the form for that purpose included in the Second Schedule to the Building Control Regulations (taking into account season specific local authority and NBCMSO leave arrangements).

It is an offence, under Section 16 the Building Control Act to commence works in the absence of a valid Commencement Notice or 7 Day Notice.

In the case of new single unit developments where the developer has opted-out of the requirements for statutory certification under the Building Control Regulations, confirmation of commencement of works on site can be verified by way of visual drive-by inspection by suitable local authority technical personnel. Where this is not possible, the local authority should request relevant supporting documentation to substantiate the commencement date i.e., evidence of payment for pouring of foundations etc.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE



The final meeting of the Planning SPC for the 2019-2024 period was held on the 30th April 2024.

Topics discussed included review of County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Residential Zoned land Tax & Waiver of Development Contributions Scheme.

The Chair, Cllr Mary Hoade and the other members thanked the Planning staff for all the work carried out during

the past 5 years including preparation of the new County Development Plan 2022-2028 and progressing a number of Local Area Plans with tight resources. The Director of Services thanked the Committee & Planning staff and outlined some of the work of Development Management e.g., numbers of planning applications processed etc.



FORWARD PLANNING

ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030 came into effect on 20/02/2024.

On 19/02/2024 – Minister of State for Local Government & Planning issued a “Notice of Intention to issue a Direction” on the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030. The Draft Direction concerns the zoning of five parcels of land in the town. CE Report on Submissions to Draft Ministerial Direction to the Athenry LAP 2024-2030 was submitted to Minister for Local Government & Planning; Members for Athenry MD and Prescribed Bodies on 03/04/2024. Still awaiting on Final Direction from Minister for Local Government & Planning.

LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

CE Report was discussed at the Loughrea MD Meeting on 26/03/2024. A number of Material Alterations were made and are on public display until 13th May 2024. CE Report will be prepared on submissions received on Material Alterations and will be available in early June 2024.

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

Annual Draft Map was published in January 2024 and closing date for submissions on Annual Draft Map was 01/04/2024. Five submissions were received during consultation period.

Where land is identified on the Annual Draft Map as being subject to the RZLT and is included in a Development Plan or Local Area Plan, a person may on or before 31st May 2024, make a submission to request a variation of the zoning of that land. No submissions received to-date.

URDF

Ongoing work in relation to URDF Team in the delivery of Call 2 Funding Application.

MASTERPLAN OF THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT LANDS

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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

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

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.

MAY SCHEDULE

May 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd	Social Media Bootcamp
May 11 th	1:1 Website & Online Marketing Workshops
May 15 th	Tax and Vat for beginners
May 16 th & 23 rd	Instagram Advanced
May 21 st & 28 th	Make Reels like a pro using CapCut
May 28 th	Trading online voucher training

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO GALWAY organises a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme.

The May programme SYOB evening programme will commence on 28th May.

NATIONAL STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS



The Student Enterprise programme is an enterprise education programme for second level students from first to sixth year students and is run by the Network of Local Enterprise Office of Ireland. Students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan. This year's final will be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 9th May.

Esker Timer Creations from Presentation Athenry will compete in the intermediate category. Zing Zap from Coláiste an Chreagáin will compete in the Junior My Entrepreneurial Journey and Moore Fresh from Presentation Athenry will compete in the Intermediate My Entrepreneurial Journey category. Noreen Donohue from LEO Galway will attend the final

and will provide support to the intermediate judging panel.



CORMAC MONAGHAN,
ESKER TIMER CREATIONS,
FROM PRESENTATION
ATHENRY

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 will take place in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Thursday May 23rd, 2024, Grainne Mullins from **Grá Chocolates** is a finalist at this year awards. Caroline McDonagh and Ann Marie Costello will attend the awards from LEO Galway.



GRAINNE MULLINS FROM GRÁ CHOCOLATES

TAKE ACTION ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION



LEO Galway is working with Action Tuam and are calling on people with a new, innovative idea or those who have set up a business within the last 5 years to “TAKE ACTION” to compete in an exciting Entrepreneur Competition with a first-place prize of €20,000. The pitches from the finalists will take place in the Ard Ri in Tuam on May 22nd with winners being announced that afternoon. LEO Galway will be providing mentoring and training supports to the winners.

NEW FRONTIERS PHASE TWO INTERVIEWS

New Frontier is a programme that supports entrepreneurs research and test the market potential of a business idea. New Frontiers consists of three phases, each providing essential business development support to participants.

The New Frontier phase two interviews took place on 2nd and 3rd May with Stephanie Colombani from Leo Galway as a judge on the judging panel.

NETWORK GALWAY BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Stephanie Colombani from LEO Galway will assist in judging the Network Galway Businesswoman of the Year Awards on Friday 10th May.

DESIGN MINGLE



LEO Galway held its first Design and Mingle event in Crew on 10th April. Design Mingle is a vibrant networking event tailored for craft and design entrepreneurs.

Our speaker, Colin Burke, a talented Galway designer, is reshaping the landscape of Irish knitwear by seamlessly blending traditional Irish motifs with modern sensibilities. Colin Burke creations are not only visually striking but also delightful to wear. Colin Burke's meticulous attention to detail and use of exceptional yarns result in collections that exude luxury, each piece is meticulously crafted by hand in the west of Ireland.



COLIN BURKE WITH CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY

The next Design and Mingle takes place in CREW on Friday May 10th with guest speaker Finbar McHugh who is an accomplished Irish Multi-Disciplinary Artist.



INNOVATE AND GROW YOUR CREATIVE BUSINESS

This management development programme is aimed at business owners and managers who are looking to develop and grow a commercially sustainable creative business.

The first day of this in-person training took place on 23rd April and the next training dates are as follows: 8th May 21st May and 4th June, taking place from 9.30am to 4.30pm each day.

There are 14 participants on the programme.

CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP START-UP PROGRAMME - CEED SHOWCASE

The CEED Showcase is taking place on Friday 17th May. This will be attended by Caroline McDonagh who will take part on the judging panel.

CREW is focused on the empowerment of digital creatives in the West of Ireland to create, develop and scale. Their mission is to support increased enterprise development, innovation and job growth in the CreaTech sector.

This creative entrepreneurship start-up programme is designed to support early-stage entrepreneurs in the creative technologies industries to turn their creative idea into a sustainable business. CEED is supported by LEO Galway and is delivered in partnership with ATU Galway City (Wellpark Rd) and is an accredited postgraduate certificate (Level 9); this innovative delivery model provides participants with an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills through a theoretical and applied programme, bringing together academics, industry experts, and thought leaders.

AIM OF THE EVENT

The CEED Showcase is an opportunity for participants to reflect on their journey as entrepreneurs and the development of their venture over the past 8 months. There will be 3 prizes awarded on the day - Sustainable Impact, Storytelling and Best Overall Pitch.

GALWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On Thursday April 11th, Caroline McDonagh attended presentations from business start-ups and entrepreneurs from the Coordinator Horsemanship Level 6 programme and discussed LEO supports and services.

ESG – UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Eoin Connaire gave a presentation on the LEOs sustainability supports at the ESG compliance for Environmental, Social and Governance Standards event in UOG on April 12th. The seminar aim was to help businesses:

- Understand the implications of ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance – for their business.
- Be aware of the supports such as online training, mentoring and grant aid to help businesses with their ESG compliance.
- How compliance with ESG standards can enhance their reputation and brand and is a proven factor in staff retention



CONSTRUCT INNOVATE WEBINAR



Construct Innovate is Ireland's national research centre for construction technology and innovation, based in Galway held a webinar series each Tuesday from 12-1pm in association with Engineers

Ireland. Caroline McDonagh presented on the final topic of innovation and entrepreneurship on Tuesday, 23rd April between 12-1pm.

AGINNOVATON EVENT AT UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Caroline McDonagh took part on a panel to discuss LEO supports for the students and alumni from the MSc program in AgInnovation at UOG to help develop their ideas further.

CLIFDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Caroline McDonagh gave a presentation on LEO supports and services and spoke to business owners afterwards in an informal setting. This took place on April 22nd in the Station House Hotel in Clifden.

L-R: MICHELLE CONNELLAN, VACANT HOMES OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY

ECOSME AT BIA INNOVATOR

This event is designed for hospitality professionals seeking further information on sustainable initiatives for their workplaces and takes place on April 17th at BIA Innovator. Caroline McDonagh took part in a panel on the discussion of Economic Sustainability for food enterprises.



L-R: DR JAMES HANRAHAN, ATU AND EMMA COLLERAN, BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS AND CAROLINE MCDONAGH LEO, GALWAY

DESIGNER IN RESIDENCE FINAL IN CREW



Enterprise Office Galway with Galway Culture Company and the Institute of Designers in Ireland are collaborating on design and the convergence of business worlds through the Designer in Residence Programme 2024. Five talented graduate designers will pair with five forward-thinking companies to collaboratively tackle real-world, intricate challenges—

commonly known as "wicked problems."

The outcomes of this partnership could manifest as innovative solutions for communication hurdles, streamlined systems, or research-driven insights. This collaboration is a unique opportunity for businesses to witness first-hand the immense value of design as a problem-solving tool, one that not only assists their operations but also wields significant strategic influence.

Upon completion, the final solutions were formally presented in CREW on April 26th. Caroline McDonagh and Eoin Connaire represented LEO Galway as a judge on the judging panel.



SÍOR STÍL

The Local Enterprise Office National Network supported the new TV production from Fíbin which will be broadcast on TG4 later this year. Caroline McDonagh represented the Network as a judge for the Sior Stil judging finale and presentation of the winner's award which was held in Fíbin, Baile na hAbhann on 27th April. The winner receives support from their Local Enterprise Office to the value of €10,000.

SÍOR STÍL OVERVIEW

The series is essentially a fashion-based competition akin to The Great British Bake Off, Sewing Bee or Next in Fashion. The show stands apart from other fashion-based competitions as all the materials that the competitors use to build their garments and accessories will be second hand, recycled or up-cycled.

The world is in a perilous state when it comes to global warming and the youth of today in particular, are becoming more educated about what is harmful for mother nature. This series will not only be a chance to see some brand new imaginative and inspiring fashion designers create some stylish pieces, it will also be an advert for how we shouldn't throw out clothes. There is plenty in our wardrobes already, that can create a brand-new wardrobe and set of outfits.

The series will start off with six competitors, who over five episodes will be whittled down to a final two. The final sixth episode will culminate in the finalists' creating garments, putting on a fashion show and also telling us their story. Whilst at the same time showing an entrepreneurial side where they will promote their own brand, business, and business goals.



CAROLINE MCDONAGH, LEO GALWAY (MIDDLE), WITH TWO OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY



TÁ Átha an RÍ AG GLAOCH ORT!

BA MHAITH LE COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE CUIREADH A THABHAIRT DO LÉIRITHE SPÉISE ÓN BPOBAL ÁITIÚIL CHUN FOIREANN BAILE THIONMNAITHE DO LÁR AN BHAILE AR DTÚS (LBT) A CHRUTHÚ

OIBREOIDH AN FHOIREANN BAILE LEIS AN OIFIGEACH ATHNUACHANA BAILE AGUS AN FHOIREANN ATHNUACHANA CHUN TIONSCADAIL A AITHINT ATÁ DÍRITHE AR ÁIT CHÓNAINTHE AGUS OIBRE NÍOS FEARR A DHÉANAMH DÁ MBAILE

CLÁRAIGH DO SPÉIS TRÍ FHOIRM LÉIRITHE SPÉISE A CHUR ISTEACH LE DO THOIL. IS FÉIDIR É SEO A FHÁIL TRID AN GCÓD QR THÍOS A SCANADH

Is é an dáta deiridh le haghaidh aighneachtaí ná Dé Luain an 6 Bealtaine 2024

DÉAN MÉ A SCANADH



An expression of Interest call was issued for members of the local community to join the Athenry Town Centre First team. The closing date was the 6th May and applications will be shortlisted with a Team of 12 people shall be responsible for working with the own Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) to deliver the Athenry Town Centre First (TCF) Plan in 2024. A tender for a multi-disciplinary Design Team has been published on etenders and it is hoped the successful consultants shall be appointed over

the summer to assist the new TCF Town Team and TRO in the delivery of the transformative plan for Athenry Town Centre.



ATHENRY NEEDS YOU

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO CREATE A DEDICATED TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) TOWN TEAM

THE TOWN TEAM WILL WORK WITH THE TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER AND REGENERATION TEAM TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS AIMED AT MAKING THEIR TOWN A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM. THIS CAN BE FOUND SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW

SCAN ME



Closing date for submissions Monday 6th May 2024

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Tenders for suitable works contractors for the redevelopment of Loughrea Town Hall have been sought through e-Tenders. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 4pm on 20th June 2024.



HOARDINGS TO WINDOWS WERE REPLACED FOLLOWING RECENT STORM DAMAGE.

CLIFDEN

LUC are nearing completion of the Planning Package for the application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Community Park, and Beach Road Quay.

Works on Destination Towns initiatives funded by Fáilte Ireland are advancing and nearing completion at the Coach House Pavilion, The Ard Bear Bridge (Greenway Readiness) and the Gateway Signage on the approach roads to Clifden. Contractors NUARK, O Malley's, and Kents Steel are progressing on programme.

PORTUMNA



Works are progressing on programme at Portumna Courthouse to elements such as, slating to roof, cleaning, and pointing of the external stonework and installation of subfloors.



The demolition works unearthed the original entrance door open to the bridewell at the rear of the courthouse. This lay covered under drylining for many years and a plan is now underway to restore this feature to its former glory.



GORT

Gort received €250,000 in town and village funding thanks to an application by the Gort Town Team. The TRO in collaboration with the Town and Village administrators and the Gort Town team shall organise an information evening over the coming weeks to explain the eligible works under the scheme and encourage applicants from the eligible properties to avail of the streetscape enhancement funding. This scheme will avail of the services of a colour coordinator to advise applicants and will provide a real lift to the town centre, making it an attractive place.

Consultants have been appointed to work with the Gort Town Hall Management Committee to avail of the project development funding to get all necessary drawings and statutory consents in place for the renovation of the Gort Town Hall under the Historic Structure funding received from The Heritage Council. This project will ready the building for a capital funding application next year.

The Gort Public Realm Enhancement scheme is in its final stages of preparation for a Part 10 Planning application to An Bord Pleanála. It is expected the application will be submitted by quarter 3 2024.

TUAM

Tuam Town Hall and the Shambles projects are awaiting the decision of the Department of Rural and Community Developments CAT 1 Funding Call which is anticipated to be at the end of May.

An application for THRIVE funding was submitted to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of the design for the reuse of the Station House building as a remote working facility in partnership with Action Tuam and the lands surrounding Tuam Station Quarter to deliver a transportation hub for the Town. An announcement for the funding is expected at the end of May.

BALLINASLOE

An application for THRIVE funding was submitted to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of a dedicated Town Centre First Plan focusing on the historic core and Fair Green. An announcement for the funding is expected at the end of May.

URDF CALL 3 – VACANCY AND DERELICTION

Valuers appointed to the three qualifying towns of Ballinasloe, Tuam and Oranmore with 20 properties initially identified as candidate properties that are either vacant or derelict.

Ownership is being determined in many cases and engagement will be pursued with these owners to assist in having these properties re occupied.

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2024 - 2030



Galway County Council Heritage Office and Galway County Council Biodiversity Office undertook public consultation with regards to the development of a new Heritage & Biodiversity Plan for the county of Galway from 2024 to 2030. These well attended events were held in Oranmore, Leitir Meallain, Abbey, Milltown, Ballygar, Oughterard and Bearnaderg.

These events were held in partnership with local heritage and biodiversity groups.

In addition to this the Heritage and Biodiversity Offices commissioned "The Wishing Tree Project" facilitated by artist Maria Hitchcox. The "Wishing Tree Project" consisted of a series of art facilitation workshops. The workshops targeted primary school children in Inishbofin.



TY students in Seamount College, Kinvara the Traveller Community in Tuam, people with intellectual disabilities in The Brothers of Charity, Clarinbridge and Mountbellew Active Retirement. This initiative resulted in

a fantastically diverse collection of viewpoints and perspectives, which were well outside our expectations.





Complimentary to this, a large number of written submissions were received. The feedback from the workshops and submissions is currently being analysed and it will contribute to the development a Heritage and Biodiversity Plan that reflects the needs and priorities of our cultural, built and natural heritage as voiced by a diverse cross-section of the people of County Galway.



STAKEHOLDER FORUM: MANAGING VEGETATION ON HISTORIC MASONRY

The Irish Walled Towns Network & Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme held a stakeholders' forum with regards to managing vegetation on historic masonry in Athenry on 11th April. Over 60 people travelled from all parts of the country to attend this event. The Heritage Office of Galway County Council provided assistance to the Heritage Council in hosting and promoting the event. Martin Coombes Biogeomorphologist, Oxford Resilient Buildings & Landscapes Lab Co-author, Ivy on Walls Research Report, Historic England spoke about "Ivy on Walls and other stories". This was followed by three case studies one on the Lea Castle Project by Fiona McGowan Consultant Ecologist, another entitled "Knockboy Church & Graveyard" was presented by Tom Pollard Stone Mason & GLAS and Farmer; the

third case study dealt with recent works at Dunmore Caves, Co Kilkenny and this talk was delivered by Faith Wilson Consultant Ecologist.



This was followed by breakout discussion groups and a visit to Athenry Walls to discuss the works being undertaken there and how vegetation on the walls is being undertaken.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF EAST GALWAY MONUMENTS AND HERITAGE SITES

History enthusiasts and community group representatives from across County Galway have participated in whistlestop bus tour of some of East Galway's most intriguing built heritage sites.

Galway Community Archaeology Project and Galway County Council's Heritage Office hosted the

free bus tour of Kilboght Church and Graveyard, Abbeygormican and St. Kerrill's Abbey in Gurteen as part of International Day for Monuments and Sites 2024.



Gurteen Community Council, Kilboght Graveyard Heritage Group and Abbeygormican Cemetery Group have each prepared conservation management plans and undertaken conservation works at the historic sites through the Community Monuments Fund, which is administered by Galway County Council on behalf of The National Monuments Service.

Participants of the day tour first visited the Abbeygormican, an Augustinian House founded by the Cormicans in the 12th Century. What stands today is the chancel wall and transept chapel, now conserved thanks to ongoing work by the graveyard committee in securing funding. An artist's impression of what Abbeygormican may have looked like was also shown to allow the group to visualise this important site. The group has also carried out the

Digital Recording of the Graveyard, funded by Galway Rural Development and supported by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council.

Next up was Kilboght Church, Graveyard and Mausoleum, which also has seen a transformation with the removal of ivy and stabilisation of the church and The Blake Mausoleum. Peggy Doherty told the group about the years of ongoing struggle for the community to maintain this rare and sensitive site. Dr Christy Cunniffe and Dominic Delany were on site to guide the visitors and point out architectural fragments used as grave markers, medieval tool marks on the water font and the outline of the original medieval parish church and later extensions. Mike Herwood, Galway Stone Design was also on hand to demonstrate the skills of the tradesmen who carried out the works at Kilboght 2023.

The touring group were treated to an enlightening talk by Pat Roberts, Ecologist with MKO Ltd on his involvement with each conservation project, and the need to engage with professional services in advance of any works at an archaeological site or monument, particularly when overgrowth or ivy is involved.

The final stop of the day was at St Kerrill's Abbey in Gurteen, also known as



Cloonkeenkerrill, where Martina Donnellan highlighted St Kerrills significance within the community, and informed the group about the folklore and traditions of the church and graveyard. An effigy to Bishop O'Kelly, A cat-o-mount on a Burke tomb and several medieval architectural features including an ogee headed window were highlighted.



ANGLICIZING TUDOR CONNACHT: THE EXPANSION OF ENGLISH RULE IN THE LORDSHIPS OF CLANRICKARD AND HY MANY

Anglicizing Tudor Connacht: The expansion of English rule in the lordships of Clanrickard and Hy Many" written by Dr Joe Mannion was launched recently in Baile Chláir castle. The book charts the episodic expansion of English rule into the lordships of Clanrickard (Burke) and Hy Many (Kelly), while taking cognisance of major government initiatives such as surrender and regrant programme of the early 1540s, the establishment of the Connacht presidency in 1569 and the composition of Connacht in 1885. The Heritage Officer speaking at the event said that was a very important publication which provides us a greater understanding of the people, places, and the rich history of the county of Galway.

History in the air on all fronts

Claregalway Castle sees launch of major new book on Tudor Connacht in the 16th century

IT was a step back in time on every front - the launch of a major new historical work looking at the Galway landscape of the sixteenth century... launched in the surrounds of a beautifully restored Anglo-Norman tower that was built a century before that!

Because it was in the majestic and historic surroundings of Claregalway Castle that Dr Joe Mannion's new book, *Anglicizing Tudor Connacht: The expansion of English rule in the lordships of Clanrickard and Hy Many*, was officially launched by Professor Emeritus Steven G. Ellis of the University of Galway last Friday evening.

This substantial work begins at the start of the sixteenth century, when the South Connacht lordships of Clanrickard and Hy Many lay beyond the effective control of the Tudor government.

Clanrickard was ruled by the Burke dynasty, descendants of the thirteenth-century Anglo-Norman conquerors and co-rulers of Connacht, while Hy Many was governed by the indigenous Gaelic Irish O'Kelly lords.

So it was fitting that the launch should take place in the beautifully restored 15th cen-

tury Anglo-Norman tower house in front of a room full of history enthusiasts from across the county and beyond.

The occasion proved to be a wonderful opportunity for networking among like-minded individuals, and sales of Dr Mannion's book were brisk throughout the evening.

Following the customary signing of copies of the book by the author, the attendees were treated to some high-quality addresses by a panel of noted speakers.

Dr Éamonn O'Donoghue initiated the proceedings by outlining the connections between the Burkes of Clanrickard and Claregalway Castle, a most appropriate venue for the launch of a book in which the Clanrickard Burkes feature so prominently.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer for County Galway, was next to speak, and she emphasised the significance of the book in the overall context of County Galway.

She also pointed out that it was much more than a local study, being of regional and national importance as well, on account of the broad range of topics and regions covered in the book.

Donal Burke, Manager of the Irish Workhouse Centre in Fortumna, then spoke from the perspective of the Burkes of Clanrickard.

Having had his fact-filled website burkesofgalway.com archived by the National Library of Ireland in 2017, he was in an ideal position to share aspects of the history of his ancestral Burke family with the audience.

Joe Kelly, the current President of the Kelly Clans Association, then spoke on behalf of O'Kellys of Hy Many. He outlined the aims and objectives of this voluntary organisation and introduced his listeners to some of the more notable members of O'Kelly clan from medieval times up to the present day.

The keynote speaker, Professor Emeritus Steven G. Ellis, then addressed the audience and gave an insightful summary of the various themes incorporated into the book.

He also outlined the importance of the book as a source of information on the process of anglicisation in the western region during the sixteenth century, not only in the lordships of Clanrickard and Hy Many but also in the broader context of the province of Connacht as a whole.



Dr Joe Mannion, author of *Anglicizing Tudor Connacht*, with the magnificently restored Claregalway Castle where the book was officially launched in the background.

The proceedings were then brought to a close by Dr Mannion, who was gracious in his praise of those who had helped in one way or another during the course of his research and writing of the book's manuscript.

He also thanked those who had helped to publicise the launch, and the speakers who had contributed so much to the success of the event.

He concluded by sharing with the audience some of the very positive feedback that he had received from people who

had read the book, here in Ireland and as far away as America and Australia.

The book is for sale in all good bookshops, or directly from Four Courts Press: <https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2024/anglicizing-tudor-connacht/>



Speakers and organisers of the official launch of *Anglicizing Tudor Connacht* in Claregalway Castle (from left) Dr Lydia Mannion, Richard Casey, Joe Kelly, President of the Kelly Clans Association, Donal Burke, Manager of the Irish Workhouse Centre, Fortumna, Dr Joe Mannion, author of the book, Professor Emeritus Steven G. Ellis of the University of Galway who officially launched the book, An 1-Oileán Mairín Ní Dhonnchadha, Dr Éamonn O'Donoghue, Master of Ceremonies, and Galway County Heritage Officer Marie Mannion.



Doctors in discussion... Dr Christy Cunniffe in conversation with Dr Joe Mannion at the launch of Joe's new book in Claregalway Castle last Friday.



Dr Joe Mannion, author of *Anglicizing Tudor Connacht*, with Professor Emeritus Steven G. Ellis of the University of Galway who officially launched the book in Claregalway Castle last Friday evening.

SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING & VIDEO EDITING COURSE

Galway County Council Heritage Office working with Garry Kelly (GK Media/Digital Training Hub) has developed a 4-week Oral Heritage Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway. The course will be delivered online and is free of charge. There are limited places available on the course and booking is essential. Details of the course are as follows:



Week 1: Wednesday 15th May

- Recording Equipment
- Positioning & Filtering
- Camera Movement
- Camera Shots & Sizes

Week 2: Wednesday 22nd May

- Lighting Techniques
- iMovie v Final Cut Pro (mac)
- Phone Apps (Android & Apple)
- Importing Footage

Week 3: Wednesday 29th May

- Logging & Subfolders
- Assemble Editing
- Visual Effects

Week 4: Wednesday 05th June

Advanced Editing Session

- Titling
- Colour Correction & Balance
- Export Formats

Galway/Mayo Groups Meeting Wednesday 17th April



Galway and Mayo ICAN Group members met in Killererin on 17th April. During the first part of the day, each group gave an account of their activities, events, and projects. The range and richness of the work happening across the network is incredible, from heritage and castle trails in Skehana and Woodlawn, conservation

Management Plan of Moylough Castle, letter collections in Milltown, the gathering of songs and stories in Oughterard, and the restoration of a telephone kiosk in Abbey to the Minor Placenames of Baile Chláir, as well as heritage research, audits, biodiversity projects in Maigh Cuillin and Killererin and the planned transcription of a 1930s GAA Minute Book. And that's just a flavour of the work that is being carried out.

Lots of the heritage groups collaborate with others, whether schools, sports clubs, Tidy Towns, Mens Sheds, community groups or organisations and funders to achieve their aims. The second part of the day was devoted to consultation on the County Galway Heritage & Biodiversity Plan and a discussion on the upgrade of the Galway websites (Galway Community Heritage). The final part of the day involved a trip to Killererin Graveyard (one of three in the parish) to see the graves, the remains of the medieval church and the information boards that form part of the Graveyard Survey project.

BIODIVERSITY

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECTS

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has agreed to grant €107,130 for a series of 12 projects biodiversity projects around the county this year. This funding will see continued work on invasive alien species through mapping and eradication, which represent a serious threat to the habitats in the county. This funding stream will also see work will also be carried out on restoring a roost for the lesser horseshoe bat near Belclare, studies on the conservation status of Mayflies and outreach and community engagement projects relating to pollinators, barn owls and the biodiversity of the Shannon Callows.

The full list of projects are as follows:

Alpine newt eDNA
Clonbur Large Carder Bee Project
Removal of the Alpine Newt in Galway
Barn Owl monitoring and conservation in Galway
Survey of the Wooded Islands of Lough Corrib
Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status
The Hare’s Corner – County Galway
Baseline survey of Shannon Callows Reserves, and promotion of biodiversity recording through citizen science
Management and long-term control of IAS in Clifden
Survey to determine the detailed distribution and status of IAS in east Connemara
Castlehacket House Ice House - restoration and enhancement as a lesser horseshoe bat roost.
Connemara Birds Awareness and Engagement

SOCIAL MEDIA & RADIO INTERVIEWS

The Biodiversity Officer has carried out interview slots on Galway Bay FM (Ours to Protect) and Connemara Community Radio (The Great Outdoors) promoting the pre-draft public consultation session for the development of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024 – 2030, outreach projects such as the Hare’s Corner and the line-up of events run by Galway County Council for National Biodiversity Week.



The Biodiversity Office Facebook page generated a reach of 9,588 in the last 28 days, with 17 additional followers and Instagram saw 751 accounts reached with an additional 122 followers.



Rosina Joyce met with the Biodiversity Officer of Kylemore Abbey, Inez Streefkerk to discuss the issues of invasive species, restoration projects and collaborations. The management of Rhododendron was of particular interest as it presents a serious threat to the biodiversity of the wider environment and the region as a whole.

L-R: INEZ STEEFKERK BIODIVERSITY OFFICER, KYLEMORE ABBEY AND ROSINA JOYCE, BIODIVERSITY OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY WEEK PREPARATIONS

Final touches are being put on the programme of events for National Biodiversity Week which runs from the 17th – 26th May. The Biodiversity Office will be running and collaborating with events around the county, morning, noon, and night with Dawn Chorus Walks taking place near Clifden and Portumna, Gardening Workshops in Glenamaddy and Clarinbridge, and Bat Walks in Portumna and Bird Talks in Roundstone and Portumna.

Friday 17th May - Talk on the Breeding Birds of Connemara with John Lusby from BirdWatch Ireland in the Community Hall Roundstone

Saturday 18th May - Sustainable Gardening Course with horticulturist Aoife Munn in Glenamaddy Community Garden and is a joint project with the Community Development Office

Sunday 19th May - Roundstone Bog Dawn Chorus with John Lusby from BirdWatch Ireland meeting at the Wild Atlantic Way Signature Point at Derrigimlagh at 4.30am This event is supported by NPWS through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2024.

Monday 20th May - Wildflower Walk & Talk at Brigit's Garden with Kay Synott (Living Gardens) and Jenny Beale (Brigit's Garden). Volume 2 of Weed or Wildflower bilingual swatch will be launched, with a copy for all attendees. This will be followed by a talk by Kay about some of the common wildflowers found in County Galway and a guided walk through the grounds of Brigit's Garden by Jenny.

Tuesday 21st May Invasive Species Webinar with Colette O Flynn (Invasive Species Expert with the National Biodiversity Data Centre). There will be two sessions held, with one specifically focused on the needs of local authority staff.

Wednesday 22nd May Gardening for Biodiversity Talk with Kay Synott (Living Gardens) and hosted by Clarinbridge Cairde Club.

Thursday 23rd May Bird Call Workshop & Biodiversity Table Quiz for Primary Schools with Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce and in partnership with the OPW Athenry Castle. Local schools will learn how to identify common bird calls.

Portumna Bioblitz (Day 1) with MKO. There will be a whole series of events taking place on Thursday and Friday (from bat walks, moth trapping, river kick-sampling and a demonstration of conversation dogs)

Friday 24th May - Portumna Bioblitz (Day 2) with MKO. The fun continues with lots of events taking place around the town from OPW's Portumna Castle to Coillte's Forest Park Birds of the Shannon Callows talk by Kathryn Finney from BirdWatch Ireland. Learn about the birdlife that lives in this stunning habitat. Venue: The Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna. H53 EK74 Time 7.30pm

Discover Co. Galway's Blue Flag Beaches – Trá an Dóilín. Staff from the Environment Section and the Biodiversity Office will join Galway Atlantaquaria for a seashore bioblitz, a scavenger hunt, and a beach clean-up.

Saturday 25th May - Maigh Cuilinn Bogs Heritage Trail Launch Biodiversity Officer Rosina Joyce will launch Cumann Staire Ruaidhrí Uí Fhlaitheartaigh/Maigh Cuilinn Heritage's latest addition to their series of trails around the village and the surrounding areas.

Clonbur Pollinator Project: Talk on Bumblebees of Clonbur with Celia Graebner followed by a Nature Walk looking at spring wildflowers and the bumblebees and butterflies that visit them.

Sunday 26th May Seoladh 'Pabhsaeir Inis Meáin' & Siúlóid Bláthanna Fiáine Díríonn an leabhrán nua 'Pabhsaeir Inis Meáin' ar ainmneacha áitiúla na bpabhsaer (bláthanna) fiáine ar Inis Meáin agus ar an seanchas a bhaineann le flóra an oileáin. Seolfar an leabhrán ar a 12:00 san Ionad Pobail agus tógfaidh Aedín Ní Thiarnaigh muid ar shiúlóid pabhsaeir ina dhiaidh sin ag 13:00. Ní fhéadfá bealach níos deise a aimsiú le Seachtain na Bithéagsúlachta a thabhairt chun críche, ná lá a chaitheamh faoin aer ar Inis Meáin agus an t-oileán a fheiceáil faoi bhláth!

For information on all the National Biodiversity Week Events taking place in County Galway go to www.biodiversityweek.ie

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

One of the priority actions identified in the Climate Action Plan under the Community and Partnerships Theme is Action CP 1.2: *Training, information and support programme for individuals, community groups and community event organisers.*

As part of the implementation of this action, the Climate Action Unit participated in the Green Recovery Group Energy Masterplan Dissemination Sessions which are scheduled to be held in each Municipal District. Sessions were carried out in Tuam, Ballindereen, Laurencetown and Lackagh and there will be a further session in Maigh Cuilinn. The sessions included presentations from SEAI, Housing Section, Climate Unit and Community Section.



The Climate Unit also participated in an Information Event on Business, Energy and Housing Supports in Clifden which included presentations from SEAI, Housing Section, Climate Unit, Community, Planning and the Local Enterprise Office.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The Community Climate Action Fund closed on February 29th with a high level of applications received from the community and voluntary sector. There were 56 applications in total and projects included building upgrades, solar panels, bike repair stations, swap shops and community gardens. An internal evaluation committee is currently assessing the applications and the recommended applications will be sent to DECC for approval.

INTERNAL ENERGY USE

Work is ongoing to attain ISO 50001 energy management standard within the organisation to optimise energy use and attain our 2030 targets. A tender for an automated Data Collection System was published on the 11th of April and submissions are due by the 11th of May. Outputs from this system will support analysis of energy use within the organisation.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DAY



In conjunction with Kinvara Tidy Towns, Galway County Council attended the Kinvara Farmers market with an information stand on food waste prevention and recycling. 6th class from the local primary school also attended for the presentation for a question-and-answer session.

CLARINBRIDGE CÁIRDE CLUB

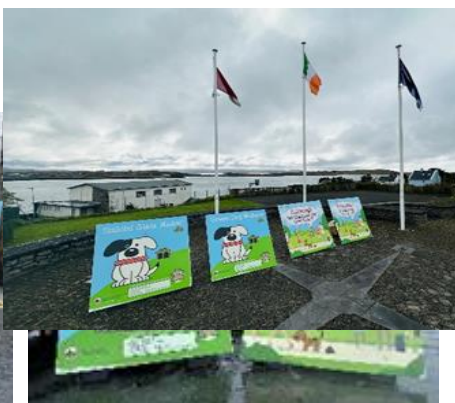
The Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation to 30 members of the Clarinbridge Cáirde Club on Food Waste Management and Recycling.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN



Registration concluded for National Spring Clean 2024 with 200 groups or individuals registered. Support continues for cleanups through 2024.

ANTI-DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN



During the month of April Galway County Council worked in partnership with the Tidy Towns Groups in An Spidéal, Bearna, Cleggan, Clifden and Roundstone in highlighting the Dog

fouling issue and encouraging the public to clean up after their dog and be responsible dog owners.

BATHING WATERS

Discover Co. Galway's Blue Flag Beaches
Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe



Friday 24th May 2024
11.30 - 13.30

Seashore BioBlitz
Scavenger Hunt
Beach Clean

Free Event - Booking Essential
<https://tinyurl.com/mryf7f4j>

As part of Biodiversity Week, Galway County Council's Environment Section are hosting a Bilingual Seashore Event at Trá an Dóilín on Friday, 24th May 2024. This is one of our Blue Flag beaches and it is hoped to connect the local community with nature and promote the biodiversity of Trá an Dóilín's coral beach and crystal-clear waters. The event will include a Seashore Bioblitz, a Scavenger Hunt and Beach Clean.



WORKSHOP HELD AN TRÁ INIS OIRR AND AN TRÁ MHÓR, INDREABHAN



A workshop held by Ecologist Marie Louise Heffernan, Aster Environmental Consultants, as part of our educational awareness programme, was held on our Blue Flag beach at An Trá, Inis Oirr on the 26th of April 2024. All the local school children from the Island participated in the workshop and learned all about the local beach, the rocks and marine litter and how it impacts on the beach.

Also, Pupils from Colaiste Cholmcille, Indreabhán participated in the ecology workshop as part of our education awareness programme, at our blue flag beach at An Trá Mhór, Indreabhan during April 2024.





WASTE MANAGEMENT

WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Inspections of premises under Producer Responsibility Initiatives were continued during April.

JOINT INSPECTIONS

Two vehicle checkpoints were held with the Gardai during April. One in Maigh Cuilinn and one in Na Forbacha. Vehicles capable of transporting waste illegally are stopped and checked during checkpoints to detect illegal collectors and prevent illegal dumping across the county. Over 40 vehicles were stopped and close to 20 were inspected on the day. The campaign was highlighted on TG4 and in the Connacht Tribune.





VALIDATION OF ANNUAL WASTE RETURNS

Each year, all permitted waste collectors and facilities/certificate of registrations must submit information on the tonnage and types of waste transported/accepted for the previous year to the NWCPO by the 28th of February. These figures are then validated by Enforcement Officers. Of the 32 permitted waste collectors and 72 waste permitted facilities/COR in Galway, 8 operators had failed to submit figures before the deadline. These operators were issued with Fixed Payment Notice Fines for non-submission. Enforcement officers can access these figures from April when the validating of Annual Returns figures takes place over the months.

WASTE PRESENTATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Following on from the Waste Presentation Bye Law inspections carried out in March, Warning Letters and Fixed Payment Notices were issued to Householders for non-compliances on the day.

COURT FILES

Three files were submitted to the Law Department to initiate legal proceedings during April. Two of the cases are for an offence under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act. This is where an individual is causing environmental pollution by holding, sorting or storing waste. The other case is for a Section 32 offence and for non-compliance with a Section 55 notice. Section 55 is a legal notice issued to an individual directing them to carry out certain measures within a specified timeframe to limit and remediate environmental pollution.

COURT ATTENDANCE

There was one court case heard in April. It was a prosecution for a failure to comply with a Section 55 notice to clear a site of End-of-Life Vehicles. It had previously been adjourned to give the offender a chance to clear the site. When heard in April the site was nearly cleared and it was adjourned again until May to allow the site to be fully cleared.

ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

1. Restoration Improvement –2024 Plan Preferred Bidder

- a. Coast Road
- b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane)
- c. Old Church St, Athenry
- d. School Road, Carnmore
- e. Knockdoemore (Tinkers Lane)
- f. Polkeen
- g. Gurraun North
- h. Kiniska
- i. Caherteenmore (Coolarne)
- j. Carnaun (Baunmore NS road)
- k. Slievefinn
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches)
- m. Sheeaun

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

a. Surface dressing –

- R339 Newford
- LS3109 Crumlin
- LS7138 Knockauncarragh
- LS71149 Kiltrogue
- LS7126 Ballydavid Middle
- LS3112 Gloves Middle
- LS3102 Moneymore
- LS2117 Ballylee/Annagh West/Barana
- LS6200 Cahergowan/Mointagh
- LS7103 Kiltullagh

b. Works completed by direct labour crews.

new plan being produced by Area team.

c. Recycling Contract –

- i. Cormachugh
- ii. Lisheenoran
- iii. Carnaun
- iv. Waterdale

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Section 38 and Tender documents for contractor.
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Section 38 and Tender documents for contractor

4. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions

- b. CC2024 N67/R446/L4105 Carrowmoneash GC/24/35508
- c. CC2024 Lackagh Flood Relief GC/24/35508
- d. CC2024 L2119 Corrandulla GC/24/35508

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.91.23 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Cycle path Extended towards village.
- b. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Rooanmore planned - **Complete.**
2024 CIS scheme Details being planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. New projects being considered for 2024.

7. Other Items

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Belville Road realignment | Issues resolving agreement Landowner working towards part 8 planning. |
| b. Hydrological study Clarin River Hydrological | Funding Approved by OPW – Pre-feasibility review ongoing. Report should be issued soon. |
| c. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore | Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design and feasibility report to be completed, GCC Active travel team. |
| d. Monivea Pedestrian Crossing | Contractor started on site delays getting electrical contractor and anti-skid to site. |
| e. Raheen Woods Crossing | Awaiting ESB connection, Line-marking and Anti-skid surfacing (April). |

FIGURES AND PICTURES



NEW BENCHES ATHENRY



FOOTPATHS CAHEROYN PARK
ESTATE



DRAINAGE REPAIRS
ORANMORE



DRAINAGE WORKS CASTLE
ELLEN



TUAM ROAD – TRAFFIC LIGHT REPLACEMENT

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Ballinasloe MD staff have been primarily working on the following projects, during April 2024.

- Procurement and contract award of:
 - RI Bituminous Pavement Overlay Contract No.1
 - RI Bituminous Pavement Inlay Contract No.2 (Ballinasloe Town)
 - RM Surface Dressing Contract No.3
 - RM Road Recycling Contract No.4

In advance of the above planned roadworks, contained with the contracts above, throughout the MD preparatory works have been completed by Ballinasloe MD outdoor teams, including drainage maintenance and improvements.

Tree Maintenance works have completed at the following locations.

- Deerpark, Ballinasloe - removal of trees and reinstatement of footway
- Garbally Drive – Laneway adjoining HSE Portiuncula University Hospital, including crown lift of trees.
- Pines – removal of failing/aged evergreen trees adjoining housing properties.

Before



After

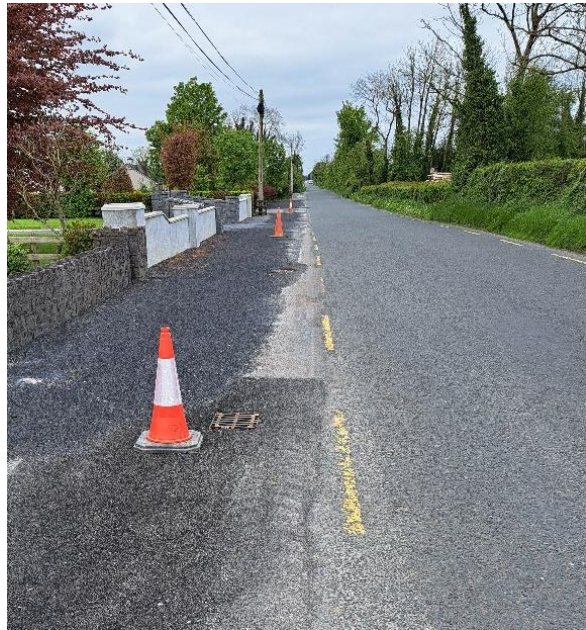


TREE MAINTENANCE COMPLETED AT GARBALLY DRIVE, BALLINASLOE (BEFORE AND AFTER)

Before



After



DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS COMPLETED AT KILLURE MORE, BALLINASLOE



Before



After – Works ongoing

DRAINAGE WORKS AND PIPE LAYING AT COOLCARTA, CLONFERT, TO ADDRESS FLOODING ON A BEND IN ADVANCE OF PAVEMENT OVERLAY UNDER THE RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT ROADWORKS GRANT 2024



WARNING SIGNAGE & STOP SIGNS UPGRADED AT DOOROS CROSSROADS ON R355/L4301, LAURENCETOWN



L-4304 LOUGHTURK – ROAD MARKINGS AND SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED – KILTORMER TO CLONTUSKERT ROAD

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – MAY 2024

- The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works has been awarded and works have commenced. A total of 120 sections of roads throughout Conamara MD will be resurfaced.
- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mor, Inis Meain and Inis Oir has been submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Substantial funding was granted in 2023 and a decision on 2024 funding is expected shortly.

- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €35,000 has been granted to refurbish the traffic signal heads and push button units in Maigh Cuilinn.
- Climate Change Projects €305,000 (4 projects) has been allocated.
- Outdoor staff principal concern is the undertaking of the roads programme.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ringbuoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- preparing for summer 2024.



JOINT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
BETWEEN GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
AND AN GARDA SÍOCHANA TO NOTIFY
TOURISTS TO DRIVE ON THE LEFT

BASKING SHARK REMAINS WASHED UP
ON SHORE IN INISHBOFIN



A RECENT BEACH CLEAN IN AILLEBRACK

LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

During the April/May period the construction stage of implementing the Roads Programme has begun. The majority of the procurement has been finalized and our outdoor staff are carrying out the necessary preparation work to allow us to complete the planned maintenance and restoration works required in the coming months.

To-date, nine roads have been completed in the Loughrea Municipal District

A sample of the general maintenance work and the more significant road preparation and reconstruction works are outlined in the following pages.



ILLEGAL DUMPING AT LOUGHREA BOTTLE BANK CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM AND DRAIN ON RESOURCES



FLOWERS IN BLOOM IN LOUGHREA TOWN



INSTALLATION OF
NEW PICNIC BENCH
AT THE LONG POINT,
LOUGHREA



VEHICLE SPEED AND TRAFFIC
VOLUME COUNTER ON OLD
GALWAY ROAD, LOUGHREA
TO MONITOR VOLUME AND
SPEED OF TRAFFIC.



ROAD
CONSTRUCTION AT
BOLEYROE AND
RAHYCONNOR,
LOUGHREA



KILLENEEN MORE COMBI WORKS

FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT WORKS, CRAUGHWELL
VILLAGE





PEDESTRIAN
IMPROVEMENT WORKS
COMMENCED AT BRIDGE
UNDERPASS,
CRAUGHWELL VILLAGE



CES
TOPSOILING
KINVARA



CIS PROJECT GORT AREA OFFICE



TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The road improvement overlay schemes, road recycling schemes and surface dressing schemes were all tendered out throughout last month and returned. The successful contractor for the road overlay tender was Harrington Quarries Ltd, with Colas Contractors successful in both the Surface dressing and recycling contracts. Both successful contractors will commence the works in the coming weeks.

WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

All the traffic management plan road markings in Tuam Town were refreshed by Colas Contractors recently to highlight specifically the disabled and loading bays. All the road markings such as disabled bays, loading bays, and double yellow lines are essential for effective traffic flow and management through the town. Disabled bays ensure that individuals with mobility challenges can access public facilities, businesses, and services conveniently. Loading bays serve several critical functions related to logistics and traffic flow whereby businesses and delivery vehicles have designated areas to load and unload goods efficiently. By having dedicated loading zones, we prevent congestion caused by vehicles stopping in regular traffic lanes in the town.



SENSORY GARDEN – PALACE GROUNDS

The project to build a Sensory Garden in the Palace Grounds reached a milestone during the month at the sod turning event. In attendance were Sean Canney TD, Cllr Mary Hoade, Cllr Donagh Killilea, members of Tuam Womens Shed and staff from the Tuam MD office.



COMMUNITY UPDATE ON TRANSPORT COMMUNITY PLAN FOR HEADFORD



The engineering staff of Tuam MD met with the Active Travel and Town Regeneration teams and Systra - planning and transportation consultant - on the proposals for the Headford transport community plan.

Systra are commencing their report and analysis of existing information from various groups and engineering proposals. Going forward there should be a full transport plan from Systra in 3 to 4 months which will be brought to

MD meeting for review. There will also be public consultation meeting held as well before end of year.

DUNMORE AREA WORKS

The roads crew in the Dunmore area were kept busy during the month carrying out various grant works. These included road improvement schemes, line marking, and signage works, safety improvement works and installation of footpaths.



LINE
MARKING
DUNMORE



NEW SIGNAGE APPROACHING CORTOON COMMUNITY
CENTER

NEW SIGNAGE ON N83 AT SYLANE EAST





FOOTPATH WORKS MILLTOWN



SAFETY WORKS AT KILCONLY



ROAD OVERLAY WORKS KILTEVNA



ROAD SURFACING AT L-22301 MEENLENA



ROAD SURFACING L-6457 LOUTHLODGE

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive
Galway County Council**

13th May 2024