



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



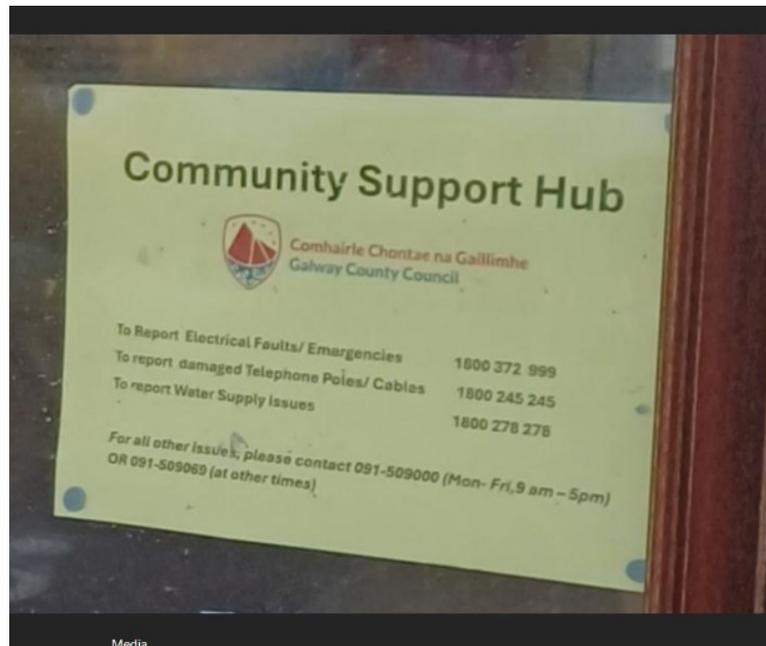
Feabhra 2025

February 2025



COMMUNITY RESPONSE - STORM ÉOWYN

The Community Department coordinated the Community Response elements of the local authority supports to people who were significantly affected by Storm Éowyn. In the first instance, this took the form of reaching out to local community groups & clubs and developing a network of Emergency Response Hubs across the County to assist with basic needs such as hot drinks, kitchen facilities, phone charging, broadband, and access to shower facilities. As the worst



affected County regarding power outages, Galway County had the highest number of hubs in the country with 54 at the height of outages, reducing to 36 hubs as power was reconnected to the majority of households. The Council is deeply appreciative of, and indebted to, the numerous volunteers and facilities who responded so quickly and efficiently to the needs of their local areas. A Community Response Forum was also established including ESB, An Post, An Garda Síochána, HSE, Local Development Companies, etc., to focus on the welfare of vulnerable or elderly people across the various agencies and coordinate targeted supports to these individuals. These supports included phone and in-person checks on vulnerable people, provision of medical supports, and linkages with meals and accommodation where required. The emergency helpline was utilised while e-mail facilities were also established to respond to individual queries about supports and services, with information made available through websites, social media, and local media.

RURAL GRANTS SCHEME

CLAR

The CLÁR 2023 programme, which aims to support rural areas experiencing population decline, has successfully completed several projects towards the end of 2024. These projects include the development of community facilities, sports amenities. The following

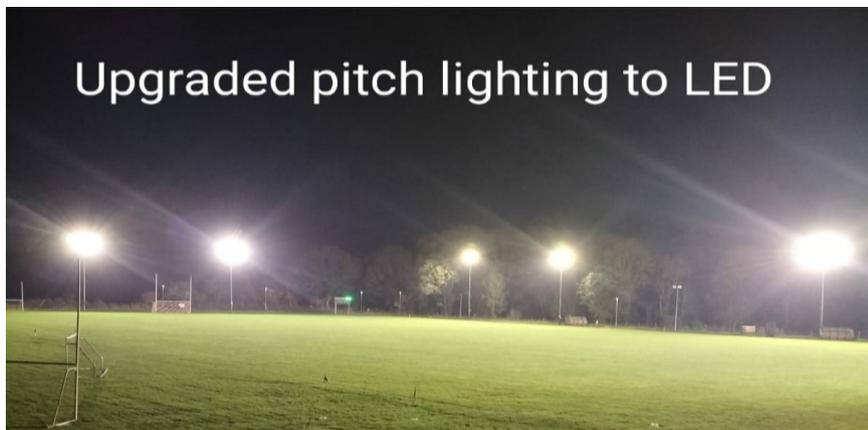
projects were completed Portumna GAA's grounds resurfacing, Beagh GAA' Lighting and the Tennis Court at Caltra National School and Tommy Larkin's Lighting project which was completed. Site visits have been conducted in first weeks of January and continuing into February to include Comhar Chuigeal Teoranta's site visit to the community hall upgrade for the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Finalisation of the 8 remaining Clár projects is being guided by the Community and Rural unit at present.

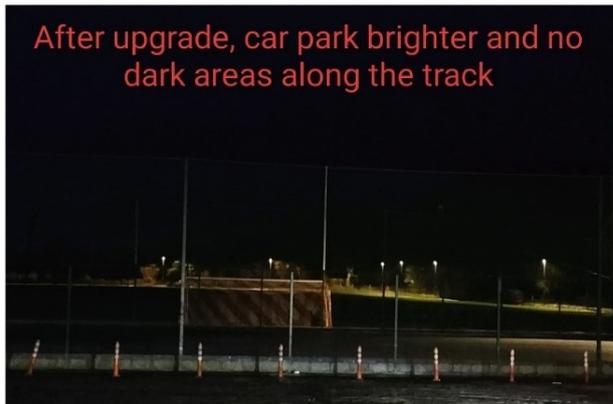
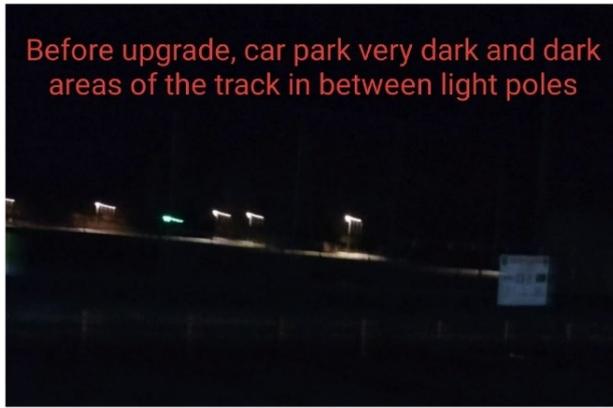
A Claim to the Dept for Rural and Community Development was submitted in January 2025 for €58,000 at present. A Further 4 projects are nearing completion at present and the Unit has been very busy finalising inspections in the month of January for the 15 new projects commencing to get them off the ground. At present there are 23 live projects in the Clár programme.

The 15 projects awarded funding under the 2024 CLAR programme will be implementing activities in 2025 and will be supported by staff in rural development on procurement, governance and claims. Site visits are continuing, and the Webinar scheduled for Tuesday February 4th 2025 had to be postponed until later in the year, so meeting the groups on the ground and the telephone where possible were used to navigate the newly approved grantees to commence works.

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## TOMMY LARKINS PITCH LIGHTING





#### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

The next LCDC committee will be meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 a.m. via MS teams. Items on the agenda include Performance Review of Annual Plans 2024, Annual Plans for 2025 for Galway East, Galway West and Galway Islands, Case Studies and LCDC Annual Report 2024.

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#### LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2025

Galway County Council has received funding of €213,601 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 (previously Community Enhancement Programme). This funding is comprised as follows:

- a) €175,000 in capital funding for carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to community facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment for community use, etc. In line with previous years, the LCDC will endeavour to allocate 30% of this fund towards small grants of €1,000 or less to maximise its benefit to small grassroots groups. Grants over €1,000 will be targeted at improving facilities in disadvantaged areas, projects which support improved access for people with disabilities/reduced mobility, enhancing community participation for other disadvantaged or marginalised groups, and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

- b) €30,515 in current funding to support small grassroots groups such as Men's/Women's Sheds with their non-pay running costs, e.g. insurance, electricity, heating, etc.
- c) Galway County Council administration fee for the scheme - €8,086

The funding available under a) and b) is now open for applications with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Funding recommendations of the LCDC will be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development by the end of March 2025, for funding announcements by the Minister for Rural & Community Development in April 2025. All capital projects will be required to be completed and grants drawn down by end of 2025. Applicants should apply via our online grants system at <https://galwaycoco.submit.com/>

## HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy County Galway has recently partnered with Healthy Galway city to publish a Healthy Galway newsletter for county and city. The newsletter is published monthly and serves several purposes in support of health and wellbeing within the community. It aims to keep community members informed about upcoming events, programs, and important announcements happening in Galway city and county, it helps maintain a connection with the local community, encourages participation and it provides valuable information on various topics around mental, physical and mental health.

Additionally, the newsletter highlights the current activities of the Healthy Ireland program, including the rollout of programs and events and community engagement initiatives. It offers a platform for community feedback, helping to improve future initiatives and contributions, meeting local needs, and promoting a positive community spirit.

**Healthy Galway City & Healthy Galway County Newsletter January 2025**

Healthy Galway City  
 aising.cooleavy@galwaycity.ie  
 Follow us on Social Media  
 @healthygalway  
 Healthy Galway City Website

Happy New Year  
 From Healthy Galway City and County!  
 Wishing you happiness and health in 2025

Healthy Galway  
 arankin@galwaycoco.ie  
 Follow us on Social Media  
 @healthygalwaycounty  
 @healthygalwaycounty  
 Healthy Galway City Website

**Top Tips for Keeping Warm in Winter – from Keeping warm in winter - HSE.ie**

During winter, it's important to stay warm and protect yourself from the cold weather. Colder temperatures can affect your body's ability to fight off viruses and other infections.

It can be hard to keep the heating on if you are worried about bills. But it's important to keep your home warm. It will help you avoid getting sick and keep your home from getting damp.

If you are worried about bills, there are some Government schemes that can help you pay them.  
 Fuel Allowance - [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)  
 Household Benefits Package - [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)  
 There are also grants that can help you improve your home for winter. [Home energy grants - sea.ie](http://homeenergygrants-sea.ie)

If possible, try to heat:  
 • the room you spend the most time in to about 18 to 21 degrees Celsius  
 • the rest of your house to at least 16 degrees Celsius

Heavy curtains and draught excluders help to keep the heat in.  
 Be careful with air quality if you have an open fire or a gas stove. Make sure your carbon monoxide alarm is working.

**Keeping warm in winter HSE**

- dress in layers - a few light layers will keep you warmer than 1 heavy layer
- wear thermal underwear
- keep active indoors by walking around or try some indoor exercises
- hot drinks can also help you keep warm - have them during the day and before bed
- eat at least 1 hot meal a day to help you stay warm
- check the weather forecast so you can be prepared for very cold weather

**Physical Activity**

**SOCIAL STEPS DANCE CLASS FOR OVER 60'S**  
 Starting in January 2025! - Dates to be confirmed!  
 In three locations in Galway City  
 Running throughout 2025, drop ins welcome

Come along and enjoy a fun and friendly dance class, with tea, coffee and refreshments served

Teachers from Galway Dance will demonstrate social dances including jiving, waltzing, line dancing and much more!

Suitable for all abilities, FREE to attend

This project is funded through the Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health and is supported through the Creative Ireland programme.

**'Social Steps' Dance Classes for Older Adults is returning to Galway City in January 2025!**  
 Over 60's can come along and enjoy free dance workshops in a warm and welcoming setting in their community and enjoy tea, coffee and refreshments.

Dates and locations to be confirmed - check out the [Healthy Galway City Facebook page](#) for updates.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH**

**What is Stress?**

Stress is a natural response to certain scenarios. In some cases, stress can give you some motivation to get on with a task, such as revising for an exam or doing more training before a sports event.

This short-term stress can be positive as it drives you to do the best you can. However, sometimes you might feel disproportionately stressed about something that shouldn't cause you too much stress, such as speaking in front of an audience. Public speaking can be nerve-wracking, and if it doesn't go well you may feel frustrated or embarrassed. However, objectively nothing terrible will happen when you give a speech.

Everyday events shouldn't cause you to feel so stressed that your mental health starts to suffer. If stress lasts for a long time, or you feel stressed about small things, this emotion is no longer healthy. People who have chronic or severe stress may start to notice worrying physical or emotional symptoms, and so it is important to manage this.

**Coping with Stress**

Stress is a normal part of life. It can affect people of all ages, including teenagers, and often it won't last for long. However, sometimes stress can last for a long time, and in this case it may start to affect how well you feel physically and mentally. Luckily, there are plenty of strategies that can help you to both cope with the symptoms of stress and manage it so that you feel less stressed.

**How Do I Recognise Stress?**  
 Everyday events shouldn't cause you to feel so stressed that your mental health starts to suffer. If stress lasts for a long time, or you feel stressed about small things, this emotion is no longer healthy. People who have chronic or severe stress may start to notice worrying physical or emotional symptoms, and so it is important to manage this.

- Problems at home such as your parents separating, or difficulties with your siblings
- Increased pressure to perform well at school, college, university, or in your job
- Worrying about money, or living in poverty due to financial difficulties
- Being bullied at school
- Having friendship problems or finding it hard to fit in socially
- Moving to a new school
- Having a physical illness
- Feeling under pressure from friends to try alcohol, use drugs, date or have sex.

By supporting the Healthy Ireland vision, the newsletter contributes to creating healthier environments and encouraging healthy lifestyle behaviours. Some of the topics recently covered include an overview on stress, coping with stress and how to recognise the negative impacts of stress. Additional articles provide healthy snack options, tips on cooking healthy food, and advice on losing weight safely. Other articles have focused on social connection and 'ways to connect' in the workplace, at home, and within the community, as well as 'Other News' covering events happening in the broader community.

At the end of each newsletter, we invite those who wish to submit an article or receive the newsletter to email us directly. There is also a mailing list for community groups or individuals working in the sector, which they can join if they wish. We look forward to sharing more content in the coming months through the Healthy Galway newsletter for 2025.

**Want to be included in February's issue?**

**Healthy Galway Newsletter**

Would you like to submit a piece for the Healthy County Galway Newsletter?

**\*If you work with or are involved with an agency, an organisation, community or voluntary group and you would like to submit an item to be included in the next edition, please follow the guidelines below:**

- A high quality image or poster in jpg format (not pdf)
- Name of event / activity / programmes
- Date and time
- Location (include Eircode)
- Target audience / who is it suitable for?
- Cost (if any)

Please email your entry to Adele Rankin at [arankin@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:arankin@galwaycoco.ie)

The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health.

Do you want to submit an item to be included in next month's edition of the Healthy Galway City newsletter?

Please email the following to [aisling.colreavy@galwaycity.ie](mailto:aisling.colreavy@galwaycity.ie):

- A high quality image or poster in jpg format (not pdf)
- Name of event / activity / programmes
- Date and time
- Location (include Eircode)
- Target audience / who is it suitable for?
- Cost (if any)
- Brief description of event / activity / programmes
- Any additional information
- How to register (if necessary)
- Contact details
- QR Code / Link (if available)

Healthy Galway City

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

A joint meeting of Galway City and County Older People's Council took place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 as the preliminary consultations on the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the City & County. Thereafter, focus group consultations will be arranged across the County through the PPN in tandem with an online survey, which will be followed by targeted consultation sessions with key stakeholders such as the Age Friendly Alliance Members and other agencies required to deliver actions. Staff from the Community Department also attended a Networking Meeting for all Men's Sheds in the County to provide information on funding schemes appropriate to the development of Men's Sheds which are vital hubs for wellbeing and social inclusion at local level.

### COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

A report on the 2024 activities of Galway County Comhairle na nÓg will be submitted to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth during February, setting out the research and awareness done by the Comhairle Members on their chosen topic of "Mental Health – Teachers Awareness and Responses to Student Mental Health".

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEMES 2025

The closing date for the Community Support Schemes 2025 has been extended to Monday 10th February 2025, due to widespread disruptions to power and connectivity as a result of Storm Éowyn. As a result of the extended closing date, it is anticipated that recommendations for funding will be brought to the March Plenary Meeting.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

The PPN will be seeking Expressions of Interest this month for a number of voluntary positions on the PPN Secretariat, which is the primary advisory committee for PPN activities between Plenary Meetings. PPN Representatives on the Strategic Policy Committees attended training in Sligo on 7th February which was organised for all representatives from the North-West Region. The PPN Workers attended a Networking Meeting on 10th February which provides vital linkages and support with other PPN's, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and other stakeholders.

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## ARTS OFFICE

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### STORM ÉOWYN RESPONSE

The Arts Office team supported and worked with their colleagues in the Community, Rural and Integration Directorate on the Community Response elements of Galway County Council's supports to people who were significantly affected by Storm Éowyn.

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### TINY MUTINY AT THE MALL THEATRE, TUAM

Excited audiences gathered on Saturday 01 February to experience animation, art, documentary film and music by teenage artists who were awarded our Tiny Mutiny Project Award and First Sparks award at The Mall Theatre, Tuam. This programme was a unique pilot programme led by Sparkcatchers in collaboration with Galway County Arts Office. This showcase of young Galway County Artists was the final presentation of their work.



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TALLON PERFORMING TRAPPED A SINGLE THEY RECORDED AS PART OF TINY MUTINY. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL

Artists showcased: TALLON, Ciarán Mahony, Lauren Caine & Eske Walsh Olesen, Thomas Roche & A.N. Saville, Alannah Canavan, Afina Ostapenko & Lev Rulerskyi, Alexandria Wilson, Breandán Ó Donnacha, Niamh Ní Dhonnacha.

Tiny Mutiny 2025 is now open for applications. For more details about the 'Tiny Mutiny Project Awards' & 'First Sparks' [click here](#).



TINY MUTINY ARTIST AND MENTOR PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE MALL THEATRE. PHOTO: LIAM CARROLL

Mentors were Jojo Hynes, Midie Corcoran, Tracey Bruen, Paschal Cassidy, Jane Cassidy, Garreth Joyce, Jennie O'Connell, Amy Louise O'Callaghan and Paul McDonnell.

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#### ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME 2025

Our annual Artist Support Scheme opened on 18 December and closed on 06 February. An information session for artists was held on 14 January. A deadline extension was given to applicants due to Storm Éowyn.

66 applications were received. The total requested amount is €163,122.47.

A peer panel of artists will meet at the end of February to assess and award the €30,000 available.

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#### SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR GAWAY THEATREMAKERS

In partnership with Irish Theatre Institute (ITI), Galway County Arts Office and Galway City Arts Office and announced new script development workshop series led by multi-award-winning playwright Caitríona Daly. Workshop Dates: Wednesdays on 5th March, 12th March, 19th March, 26th March, 2nd April and 9th April 2025.

## IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE OPEN CALL FOR GALWAY COUNTY ARTISTS

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**Script Development Workshops**  
**with Caitríona Daly**

**This workshop is for Galway City and County-based playwrights and theatre-makers.**

Galway City Arts Office and Galway County Arts Office, in partnership with the Irish Theatre Institute (ITI)

**Workshop Details:**  
Attend all six sessions.  
Dates: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March, 2nd and 9th April  
Time: 2pm - 5pm  
Venue: tbc, Galway



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: THURS, 13th FEB, 1PM**

VISIT [irishtheatreinstitute.ie](http://irishtheatreinstitute.ie)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO APPLY

Caitríona Daly has extensive experience mentoring emerging voices, having founded the playwriting group One Giant Leap and lectured in script development. In this workshop series, Caitríona will focus on character creation, narrative structure, and honing the dramatic arc of your script. Participants will also benefit from peer feedback, practical writing exercises, and guidance on articulating creative intentions with clarity and confidence.

**Deadline for applications was 13th February 2025.**

IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE



## CREATIVE IRELAND

### CREATIVE IRELAND 2025 OPEN CALL

The 2025 round of funding for Creative Communities opened in mid-December and ran until the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. Four online info sessions were held to provide guidance and advice to applicants.

A total of 58 applications were received for grants ranging from €2,000 to €8,000. This was then shortlisted down to 38 applications which were brought to the assessment panel.

From this assessment 12 were chosen with a total spend of €65,025. The panel favoured projects which demonstrated strong community involvement in their development and execution.



Clár Eite Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme

Comhairle Chiontae na Gaillimh  
Galway County Council

Galway County Council  
Creative Ireland  
**OPEN CALL**

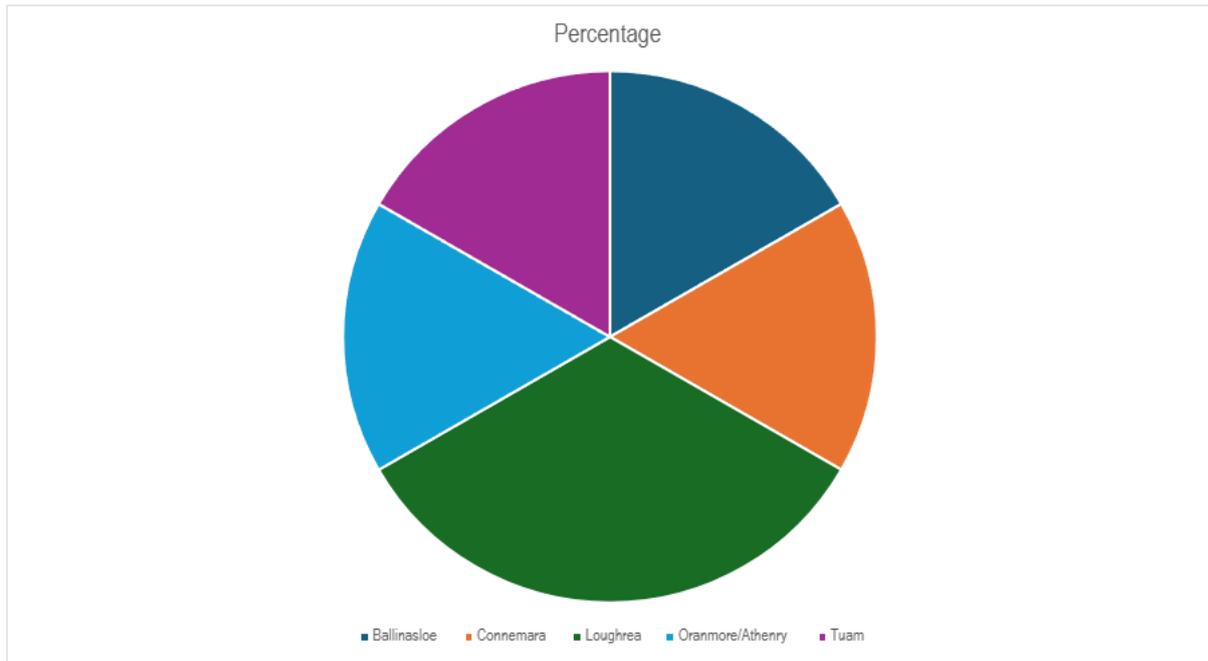
**Applications are now open for  
2025 Creative Ireland funding!**

**Applications:**  
<https://galwaycoco.submit.com/>

**Closing Date: Friday Jan 24th**

**email: [creativeireland@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:creativeireland@galwaycoco.ie)**

## BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

### FEDERATION OF IRISH SPORT – VOLUNTEER IN SPORTS AWARDS

The Federation of Irish Sport is proud to announce that Frances Daly has been named County Galway’s 2024 recipient of the Volunteers in Sport Awards. Frances will be honoured at a special awards ceremony on Friday, 28th February 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown, alongside a volunteer from every county in Ireland in recognition of their dedication and passion for their local club.

#### A Lifelong Commitment to Special Olympics Ireland

Frances Daly has been a dedicated volunteer with Special Olympics Ireland since 2002, tirelessly supporting athletes with intellectual disabilities for more than two decades. Her journey began as a volunteer at the 2003 World Summer Games, and since then, she has taken on numerous roles at local, regional, and national levels.

As the event manager for all local swimming events, Frances has been instrumental in organising many area and regional competitions. Her ability to inspire others is evident in her recruitment of students from

**FEDERATION OF IRISH SPORT**

**VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT AWARDS 2024**

**Congratulations to Frances Daly on her Volunteer in Sports Award 2024 for Galway**

A Lifelong Commitment to Special Olympics Ireland

Frances Daly has been a dedicated volunteer with Special Olympics Ireland (SOI) since 2002, tirelessly supporting athletes with intellectual disabilities for more than two decades. Her journey began as a volunteer at the 2003 World Summer Games, and since then, she has taken on numerous roles at local, regional, and national levels.

**Special Olympics Ireland**

**Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe Galway Sports Partnership**

SPÓRT ÉIREANN | SPORT IRELAND

Coláiste Iognáid as volunteers for her classes and Special Olympics Ireland events. Her contributions go beyond swimming, having served as Swimming Head Coach for Connaught from 2006 to 2018 and as Assistant Coach for Team Ireland at the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games. Additionally, Frances has played key roles in operations management for various golf events, organised Annual Collection Day fundraisers, and served as an advocate for Special Olympics within her local community. Her unwavering commitment to promoting inclusion and empowering athletes is a shining example of the transformative impact volunteers can have on the lives of others.

## MEN ON THE MOVE

Men on the Move is a free exercise programme that targets sedentary men (35 yrs+) to take the first step to getting back to fitness & staying active. Classes are once or twice weekly over 8-12 weeks and designed to work with the unique needs of its participants. Each programme incorporates fitness testing at the start and finish, access to a coach/instructor at every session and finish with the option of having a chat over tea/coffee. Ballinasloe Community Sports Hub is delighted to be starting a new Men on the Move programme starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February at Dunlo Recreational Track.



**Men on the Move**  
The best MOVE you'll ever make

**10 WEEK PROGRAMME**

BEGIN OR RETURN TO YOUR FITNESS JOURNEY

STARTS : 25TH FEBRUARY  
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

DUNLO RECREATIONAL TRACK  
BALLINASLOE  
TIME: 7-8PM

REGISTER ON ARRIVAL OR SCAN HERE NOW

Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe Galway Sports Partnership  
SPORT ÉIREANN | SPORT IRELAND



## AUTISM IN SPORT

Galway Sports Partnership is hosting an Online Autism in Sport Workshop on Thursday 27th February. This workshop is suitable for students, coaches, teachers and anyone who works with people with disabilities.

Anyone interested can register [HERE](#)



active disability Ireland

Training

**Autism in Sport**

Date: **Thursday 27th Feb**

Time: **6:30pm - 9pm**

Venue: **eloftus@galwaycoco.ie**

Email: **087 7511141**

Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Na Gaillimhe Galway Sports Partnership

## EDUFIT MENOWELL PROGRAMME

Galway Sports Partnership is currently supporting over 500 women across the county in a 6-week online evidence-based exercise nutrition and health education programme. It aims to promote wellness for women in all stages of adult life. The programme is being delivered free of charge for women in Galway through Sport Ireland's Women in Sport funding. The programme includes a weekly workshop and 2 x 40min exercise classes, all delivered live online by a team of qualified exercise physiologists, nutritionist and fitness coaches.

**Menowell** FOR WOMEN LIVING IN COUNTY GALWAY

A FREE 6-week online evidence-based exercise, nutrition, and health education programme promoting wellness for women in all stages of life, with a special focus on perimenopausal and post-menopausal.

**WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

- 2 LIVE ONLINE WOMEN-SPECIFIC MULTIMODAL EXERCISE CLASSES PER WEEK**  
These 40-minute classes will take place on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8pm** via Zoom and are suitable for women of all ages and fitness abilities and for those living with clinical conditions.
- 1 LIVE ONLINE EVIDENCE-BASED WOMEN-SPECIFIC HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOP PER WEEK**  
These 30-minute workshops will take place on **Monday at 7pm** via Zoom, with time allocated afterwards for Q&A with the experts. Practical take-home resources will also be provided.
- AN ON-DEMAND LIBRARY OF NUTRITION RECIPES, PRE-RECORDED EXERCISE VIDEOS AND HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS RECORDINGS IF YOU MISS THE LIVE ONES**

**WORKSHOP TOPICS:**

- MUSCLE MATTERS IN MENOPAUSE
- NUTRITION FOR A HEALTHY MENOPAUSE
- BUILDING BONES IN MENOPAUSE
- HEALTHY HEARTS IN MENOPAUSE
- SLEEPING SOUNDLY IN MENOPAUSE
- S.E.L.F. CARE IN MENOPAUSE

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

Please scan the QR code above or click the link in the description or visit <https://edufit.ie/menowell-galway>.

**STARTING MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025 FOR 6 WEEKS**

Logos: Galway Sports Partnership, ATU, Sport Ireland.

## GALWAY WOMENS MINI MARATHON



Galway Sports Partnership was delighted to support the Galway Women's Mini Marathon again for 2025 with over 600 people participating on St Brigids Day.

## WOMEN IN SPORT WEEK

Women in Sport Week takes place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The week aims to celebrate every woman and girl who plays, coaches, officiates, volunteers, works in and leads out on Women in Sport.

It provides a platform to promote and highlight the ongoing work of Sport Ireland, National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships, stakeholders and clubs in delivering programmes and initiatives that are funded through Women in Sport.

Galway Sports Partnership will be supporting, promoting and running a variety of programmes throughout the week with an online presentation titled 'Fuelling Performance for the Female Athlete

**Women in Sport Week**  
3rd-9th March 2025

- Monday March 3rd - Visibility
- Tuesday March 4th - Coaching
- Wednesday March 5th - Her Moves - Teenage Girl Participation
- Thursday 6th - Officiating
- Friday 7th - Leadership & Governance
- Saturday 8th - International Women's Day & WIS parkrun
- Sunday 9th - Active Participation

Logos: Galway Sports Partnership, Sport Ireland.

Hashtags: #WomenInSportIre, #AccelerateAction

keeping it simple' with Professor Sharon Madigan, who has 25 years of clinical and sports nutrition experience being one of the highlights!

**International Womens Day** is a Global Day of Celebration, which takes place on 08<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to mark social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The theme this year is to accelerate action for gender equality. #IWD2025 #AccelerateAction

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## OLDER ADULT GRANT INFORMATION & COME AND TRY EVENT

Galway Sports Partnership in partnership with Healthy Galway County and Healthy Galway City hosted an Older Adult Grant Information & Come and Try Day on Friday 7th February.



The event took place in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre with over 100 older adults in attendance. Stands from Age Friendly Homes, Community Finance Ireland, Healthy Galway and Galway Sports Partnership offered information and advice on upcoming grants and events that may be of interest to the attendees. There were

also demonstrations of various activities such as Scooch, Activator Poles, Boccia, Go for Life Games, Parachute, Walking Football and Siel Bleu Ireland for attendees to try out and to also get information on where to purchase through the various grant schemes that were highlighted on the day.

## INTEGRATION

The Integration Team supported migrants and accommodation centres impacted by Storm Éowyn - reaching out to ensure that they were linked with community hubs where needed and that vulnerable cases were referred to the HSE. In addition to this, the team delivered the following:

15 clinic sessions with our target groups across the County

Delivery of art & craft sessions in An Spidéal with Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and local residents. The Integration Team attended training delivered by Galway Rape Crisis Centre and the Child and Family Support Network.



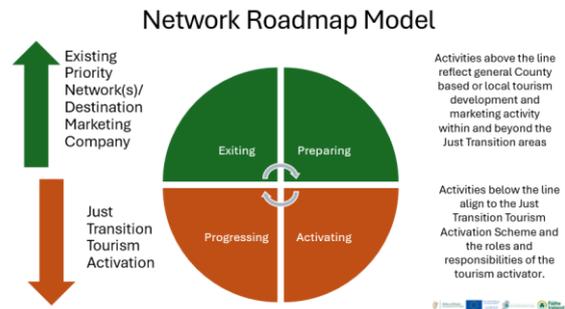
MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GROUPS TO DELIVER COMMUNITY EVENTS IN RELATION TO CREATIVE IRELAND, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP AND HEALTHY IRELAND PROJECTS IN GLENAMADDY, BALLINASLOE, TUAM AND AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

## TOURISM

### THE EU JUST TRANSITION REGENERATIVE TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING SCHEME 2023-2026

All applications for the Just Transition Fund will be assessed by April.

The activators are now working on the Network Roadmap. At a meeting in Tullamore, a framework template was created for the region, which can be tailored by each activator to suit the needs and activities in their functional area. This network development helps build capacity at the network, encouraging the



sharing of experience and cross-promotion between businesses. It will build relationships and mutual buy-in between state agencies, local authorities and other public stakeholders on the one hand and local businesses and communities on the other.

Training continues in assisting applicants in the next phases. All applicants will be supported in ensuring their projects progress with funding from the JTF or other available sources.

## ENVIRONMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GLOBE Ireland has recently launched registration for its 2025 Ecosystems campaign. All schools Galway were invited to take part. campaign encourages students to make a visual inspection of their local river or stream and to assess the rivers health.



River in Co. Galway. This first

### GREEN SCHOOLS



Visits and Assessments continue in with school visits to Scoil Náisiúnta Tír an Fhia, Carnaun NS, and Clarin Secondary school, Athenry.

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## LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE



An update on progress in the Litter Management plan 2023-2025 was outlined to the Councillors in the Loughrea MD on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Progress in relation to education and awareness, partnership and community support, litter prevention and control measures and enforcement was outlined.

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## POLYTUNNEL AT ARD SCOIL MUIRE BALLINASLOE

Galway County Council supported Ard Scoil Mhuire to put a polytunnel in place in their school as part of a garden project. This is part of a garden development which will teach students about environmental issues and the effects of climate change and educate about the benefits associated with growing their own food (Farm to Fork approach).



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## BURIAL GROUNDS

Part 8 planning approval for an extension to Leitir Moir burial ground was granted by the Conemara MD council members in January. The extension will provide an additional 193 burial plots and 10 urn plots. Tender documents will now be prepared for construction this year.

Plans for an extension to the Rinville burial ground outside Oranmore were outlined to the members of the Loughrea MD at the February meeting. The National Monument Service and HSE were consulted during the design process. A planning application will be submitted this year.

There has been notable damage within several Galway County Council's burial arising from the recent Storm Eowyn. Clearance and repair works will be organised over the forthcoming weeks.

We supported the Heritage Section with submission of 12 applications to the National Monuments Service seeking Community Monuments Funding relating to works to be carried out in Council owned burial grounds.

## DOG CONTROL

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### DOG WARDEN SERVICE

1 fixed penalty notice issued under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended during the month of January 2025. This was on foot of a significant sheep kill in the Eyrecourt area where 6 sheep were lost in a dog attack. A responsible dog ownership campaign carried out in the area by the dog warden service and a post on sheep worrying by dogs highlighted on our social media platforms also.

769 dog licences purchased during the month of January, with 250 of those licences purchased online.

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### XL BULLY BAN

Regulations introduced on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, prohibit the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs.

Since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, it is illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption', or proof of application for a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority.

Regulations introduced on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, prohibit the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs.

Since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, it is illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption', or proof of application for a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.

Galway County received 24 applications for a Certificate of Exemption to own an XL Bully type dog during the month of January. 32 applications have been received since the regulations came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2024. 2 of the applications received could not be processed as they were received past the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2025. 17 Certificate of Exemptions have been issued by Galway County Council to date.

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### COUNCIL DOG SHELTER

Upgrade work to Galway County Council's dog shelter is nearing completion with the provision of 7 additional kennels which will greatly improve help futureproof the service in respect of the health and wellbeing of the dogs in our care as well as assisting in improving health and safety for the dog wardens, shelter keeper and veterinary personnel on site. This work is being carried out with funding provided by the DRCD as part of the Dog Control Initiative 2024. A full update on the works when completed will be provided to the Plenary in next month's report

### AGRICULTURE

LAWPRO carried out a catchment assessment of the Failmore\_010 high status objective waterbody in October 2024 after a red dot notification was received from the EPA. A red dot notification is where there is a marked deterioration in a water quality monitoring point. LAWPRO's catchment assessment included water testing which detected active ingredients for sheep dip. Galway County Council conducted some farm inspections in the area in January 2025. 3 farms were inspected with one farm having a dipping tank close to a water course. This dipping tank contained spent dip and there was evidence on-site of an overflow to a drain which led to a stream tributary of the Failmore river. Water testing was also carried out with results due shortly. Enforcement of the GAP regulations will be carried out as necessary.



This dipping tank contained spent dip and there was evidence on-site of an overflow to a drain which led to a stream tributary of the Failmore river. Water testing was also carried out with results due shortly. Enforcement of the GAP regulations will be carried out as necessary.

### SHEEP DIPPING UNIT

### SECTION 4 DISCHARGE LICENCES

A meeting took place in Kylemore Abbey with Kylemore management team, MKO environmental consultants, Molloy environmental, caretakers and Galway County Council to discuss compliance with the premises section 4 wastewater licence. It was agreed that daily plant checks, increased sampling with extra locations and increased plant de-sludging would be implemented in 2025.

### RMCEI

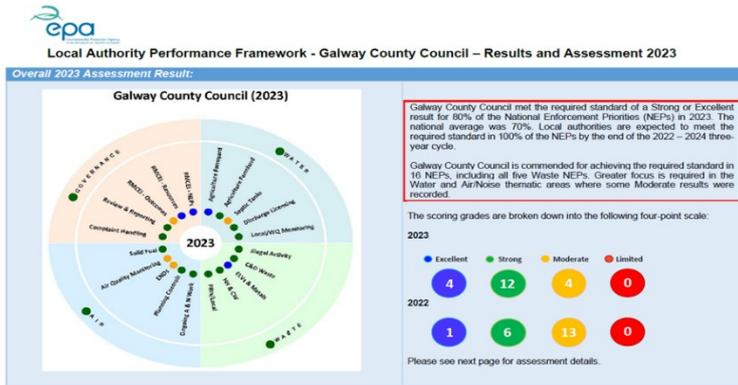


Figure 1 Map of Kylemore Abbey showing Water Sampling Location SW1, SW2, SW3

The annual returns to the EPA are due at the end of February. Work commenced on this in January. Under the water section, work carried out during 2024 in the following areas are reported:

- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage
- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks
- Discharge Licences / Misconnections

- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring



The Plan for 2025 needs to be finalised which will outline the number of inspections, etc., that will be undertaken in the different areas.

## NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN

6 on-site inspections of domestic wastewater systems were carried out, made up of 2 verification inspections where works have been completed, and 4 site visits following up on progress with closing out older advisory notices. 3 advisory notices have been closed since these inspections.



VERIFICATION INSPECTION OF NEW TRICELL SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT AND PEAT TERTIARY TREATMENT MODULES

## OTHER

Sampling and inspection programmes for 2025 were completed. These included:

- Discharge licencing sampling and inspections
- River and lake sampling
- NIP for domestic wastewater treatment systems
- Air licence facilities

Further information was provided to An Taisce in relation to our recent Blue Flag applications. 6 applications for Green Coast will be submitted this week to An Taisce.

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## WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

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### RMCEI

The annual returns to the EPA are due at the end of February and work on this started in January. Under the Waste and Air sections, work carried out during 2024 in the following areas are reported:

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### WASTE

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity and Multi-Agency Sites of Interest
- Construction and Demolition Activity
- End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal Sector
- Household & Commercial waste
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives

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### AIR

- Solid Fuel
- Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use
- Environmental Noise Directive
- Air and Noise Control (including Planning)
- Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work

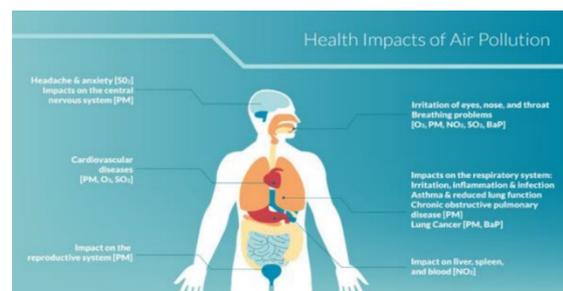
Approximately 1060 waste complaints and approximately 30 air complaints were received by the Environment Section in 2024.

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### SOLID FUELS

The enforcement of the Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 is ongoing throughout this winter heating season. Over 35 retail premises have been inspected so far. Of the 35 approx. 75% were found to be compliant with selling only approved fuels. All premises found not to be compliant are

being issued warning letters outlining the non-compliance found. A register of all solid fuel retailers and transporters is being maintained. Online market sites are also being requested to remove any non-compliant products for sale in the county.



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### NOTICES ISSUED / FILES SENT FOR PROSECUTION

6 litter fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act by the Community Warden service during the month of January.

2 Section 18 Notices were issued in January, and 5 files were referred to the Law Agents for Prosecution.

## STORM ÉOWYN / FALLEN WIND TURBINE.

Environment staff inspected the site of a fallen wind turbine at Indreabhán. The site in question is one of the oldest wind farms in the County and was constructed 25 years ago. There are 5 turbines at this location, one of which was blown over in the storm. The entire turbine was destroyed and approx. 120L of oil was released into the bog. The owner of the site was contacted, and a Section 14 Direction letter was issued directing him to obtain the services of a specialist consultant in contaminated land before any clean up works were carried out.

The owner has since obtained the services of a specialist, and they are liaising with the Council.



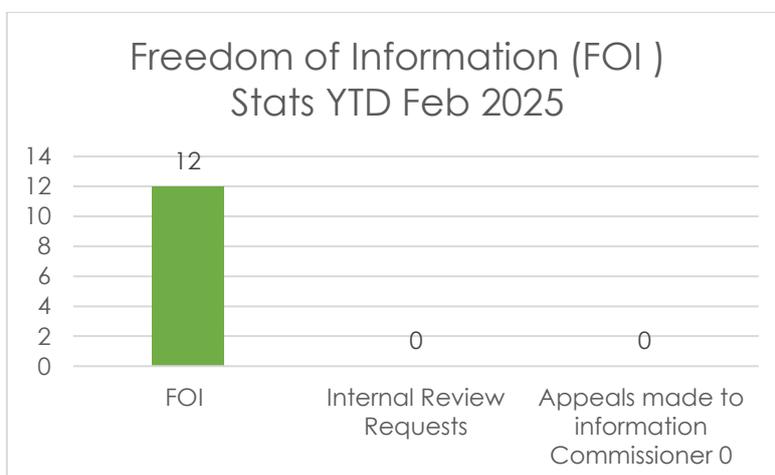
CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

CORPORATE SERVICES

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

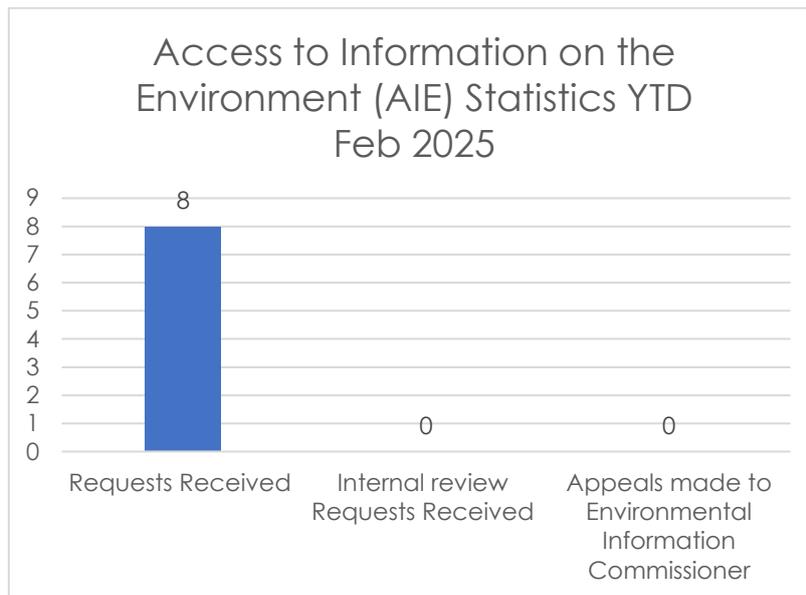
2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 13.02.2025

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



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## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



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## DATA PROTECTION

- Data Access Requests
  - No Data Access Requests in January 2025
- GDPR/Data Protection Training
  - New online training for Cyber Security issued to all Staff
  - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
  - Online Refresher Training on Cyber Security & Data Breaches issued to all Staff
  - GDPR Induction Training provided to new staff

## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

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### PARKMORE PLAYGROUND

Galway County Council is delighted to announce the recent upgrades at Parkmore Playground. These enhancements include the installation of a new multi-unit with a slide, play panels, and repairs to existing equipment. This project was made possible through our successful grant application, receiving funding from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth for 2024, co-funded by Galway County Council.



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### BEFORE & AFTER AT PARKMORE PLAYGROUND, INSTALLATION OF MULTI UNIT WITH SLIDE

The addition of sensory play panels offers all children the chance to engage with one another, fostering learning and the development of tactile skills in an inclusive and easily accessible manner. Additionally, these panels create a play area for children and parents who may have additional needs.

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### INSTALLATION OF PLAY PANELS



BEFORE AND AFTER, REPAIRS TO WETPOUR



REPLACEMENT OF SWING SEAT



REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF NEW SIGNAGE



## WATER SAFETY DEVELOPMENT

Galway County Council invites applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Beach Lifeguard for Summer 2025. Closing date for this year's applications is the 13th February 2025 at 4 pm. Galway County Council administers Lifeguard Services on behalf of both Galway County and City Councils and the service is funded by both Councils. Each year a panel of highly qualified Lifeguards is put in place. A minimum of two Lifeguards provides services at designated bathing areas in accordance with standards set out by the International Life Saving Federation of Europe (ILSE).



## VISIT TO ÁRAS AN CHONTAE BY THE SWISS AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Councillor Martina Kinane, welcomed Her Excellency Ms. Jenny Piaget, Ambassador of Switzerland to Áras an Chontae. Also in attendance was, Michael Owens, Deputy Chief Executive. Accompanying the Ambassador was Mr. Andreas Luessi, Deputy Head of Mission. The visit will further enhance the strong and growing relationship and the continued economic co-operation and support between the two communities.



L-R: MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, HER EXCELLENCY MS. JENNY PAGET, AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND AND MR. ANDREAS LUESSI, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

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

During the month of January 2025, Storm Éowyn tested all of us, especially our way of communication with each other. Our Customer Services Team worked tirelessly over the weekend of the storm to ensure the public was provided with timely updated messaging and advice and continued to do same, post the storm for 16 days straight. During the 3 days of 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of January alone, 90 posts were loaded onto our Social Media Channels – a record number in any period for the team.

### POSTS IMPRESSIONS

The number of times that posts on our Galway County Council Facebook, X and Instagram



accounts appeared on someone's screen. Content viewed includes posts, videos, and reels. This was an unprecedented level of post impressions for us but not unexpected, considering the scale of this event.

### JANUARY OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Social Media Audience Metrics	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty">www.facebook.com/galwaycounty</a>	218	605,480
 <a href="http://www.x.com/galwaycoco">www.x.com/galwaycoco</a>	190	140,103
 <a href="http://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil">www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil</a>	238	74,560
<b>Total Number of Posts</b>	646 (219 posts in Irish)	

# FACEBOOK

## JANUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 24, 11:26

**Storm Éowyn Update for Galway County** Storm Éowyn has swept across the country, bringing destructive



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 24, 16:36

**Galway County Sees Impact**



**Galway County Council**  
Jan 23, 15:09

**BOOK PRESENTATION** Author Dominic Rooney, who hails from Leitrim originally, visited the Local Studies section of Galway County Libraries on

# X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

## JANUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

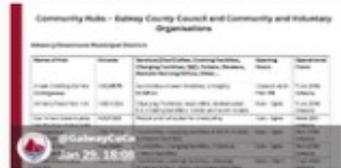
**Top tweets**



**@GalwayCoCo**  
Jan 24, 14:30

**Galway County Sees Impact**

85.21% engagement rate



**@GalwayCoCo**  
Jan 25, 18:09

**Community Hubs - Galway County Council and Community and Voluntary Organisations**

31.41% engagement rate



**@GalwayCoCo**  
Jan 24, 12:36

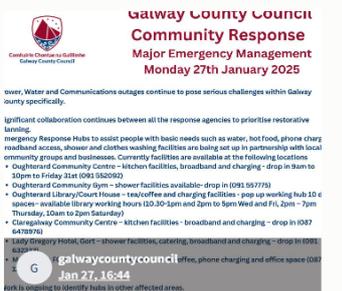
**Storm Éowyn Update for Galway County** Click on the link for further details <https://ow.ly/IFRW50UMuTn>

26.87% engagement rate

# INSTAGRAM

## JANUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**



**Galway County Council**  
Community Response  
Major Emergency Management  
Monday 27th January 2025

85.21% engagement rate



**Galway County Council**  
Press Statement Galway County Council - Major Fire Incident at Claregalway Corporate Business Park

31.41% engagement rate



**galwaycountycouncil**  
Jan 24, 14:31

**Galway County Sees Impact**

26.87% engagement rate

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### GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

We have received a huge volume of applications for the Gaeltacht scholarships (aimed at secondary school level students) residing within the functioning areas of Galway County Council.

By the extended closing date for applications (due to Storm Eowyn) of Friday Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 4pm, we had 228 completed applications for 2025. This is an astounding increase from the 85 applications received in 2024.

We have also managed to get another Irish Summer college onboard with us this year which is greatly appreciated and through much persistence on the part of our Irish Officer. The new college is Coláiste Cholumba based in An Cheathrú Rua. This addition will follow Coláiste Chonnacht, Coláiste Lurgan, Coláiste Chamuis, Coláiste Chiaráin, Coláiste Sheosamh, Spleodar and Coláiste na nOileán that are all currently participating in the scholarships since 2024.

Students will get the opportunity to spend 3 weeks submerged in the Gaeltacht and the Irish language.

The draw will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February after the Galway County Council Pleanary meeting @4pm in the Atrium as part of our launch event for the Program of activities for Galway County Councils' Seachtain na Gaeilge countywide. We look forward to having as many of our staff and Elected Members join this event.

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### SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

There are a lot of activities planned to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 running from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

This year we have teamed up with Brannar Theatre Company where they will perform shows in different schools across the county.

The schools at which the shows will be performed in are as follows:

- Scoil Mhic Dara, an Cheathrú Rua – 2 shows
- Scoil Cholmcille Ros a'Mhíl, SN Leitir Mealláin, SN An Trá Bhán, SN An Tuairín – All schools to attend in Ros a'Mhíl Community Centre- 2 shows
- Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oran Mór – 4 shows
- Scoil Naomh Fhursa, Claran , Headford– 2 shows
- Ballinasloe (awaiting confirmation of venue)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, we will also host an event in County Hall for the presentation of the 16 2025 Gaeltacht scholarships places to the very fortunate students being awarded same post the draw on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. This awarding ceremony will then be followed by a performance from Brannar Theatre Company & Galway Community Circus group for a number of schools

invited to County Hall on this day to again immerse themselves in the arts through the medium of Irish and to also enjoy the traditional Irish music session we have arranged for the event.

**Seoladh clár imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**

*Dáta don dialann*

Beidh féile Sheachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 01ú go dtí an 17ú Márta 2025. Is í seo an fhéile Ghaeilge is mó ar domhan, a léiríonn cultúr agus oidhreacht na hÉireann. Seolfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe 'Clár Imeachtaí' ar an Luan, 24 Feabhra - bíg linn!

**Dé Luain 24 Feabhra 2025**  
**4pm - 6pm**

16:10 PM	Fáilte an Príomhfheidhmeannaigh
16:15 PM	Ráiteas ón Cathaoirleach - Tábhacht ár ateanga/ár n-oidhreacht
16:20 PM	Oifigeach Gaeilge - Clár imeachtaí
16:25 PM	Aitheantas d' Faighteoirí scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Piarais 2024
16:40 PM	Crannchur do scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta Phádraig Mhic Piarais 2025 Ceol/Bia & Soldaist

**Launch of 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' Program of Events Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**

*A date for your diary!*

The annual Seachtain na Gaeilge festival runs from 1st to 17th March 2025. This is the world's largest Irish language festival, showcasing Irish culture and heritage. Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe will launch our 'Program of Events' on Monday, 24th February - please join us!

**Monday February 24th**  
**4pm - 6pm**

16:10 PM	Chief Executive Welcome
16:15 PM	Cathaoirleach - Importance of our language/heritage
16:20 PM	Irish Officer - Program of events
16:25 PM	Recognition of 2024 Padraic Pearse Gaeltacht scholarships recipients
16:40 PM	Draw for the 2025 Padraic Pearse Gaeltacht scholarships Followed by Music/Finger Food & Refreshments

## LIBRARY SERVICES

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

January was busy in our branches with **38,252** visits and just under **39,000** issues of books across the network.

## HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

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

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

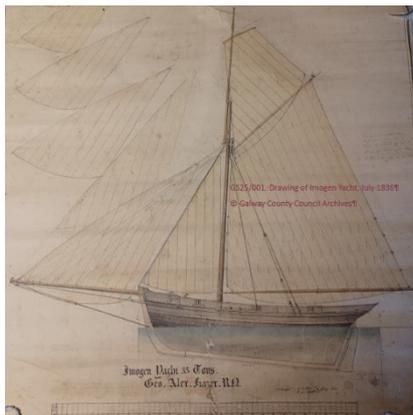
## HEALTHY IRELAND EVENT

As part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative, pharmacist Megan Casey delivered an engaging session on “Weight Management as Part of a Healthy Lifestyle.” Her talk captivated the audience and provided valuable insights into health and mindset transformation. The event was held in Westside Library.



## ARCHIVES

Galway County Council Archives acquired (by transfer from Local Studies) this wonderful drawing of the yacht *Imogene*, dated 1836 (GS25/001). Research into Frazer



and *Imogene* has revealed that Captain George Alexander Frazer, of the Royal Navy (1817-1852), used the *Imogene* while surveying the east coast of Ireland from Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire) to Wicklow. Dublin Corporation awarded the Freedom of the City on Frazer in 1841, ‘*in testimony of his skill and diligence in effecting a survey of the coast between Kingstown and Wicklow*’ (Warder and Dublin Weekly Mail, 2 Oct 1841).

Frazer had a distinguished career working with the Admiralty’s Hydrographical Department, surveying much of the Irish coast. He is reported to have had his headquarters in Galway while surveying the west coast. Further details are available on the Archives [online catalogue](#)

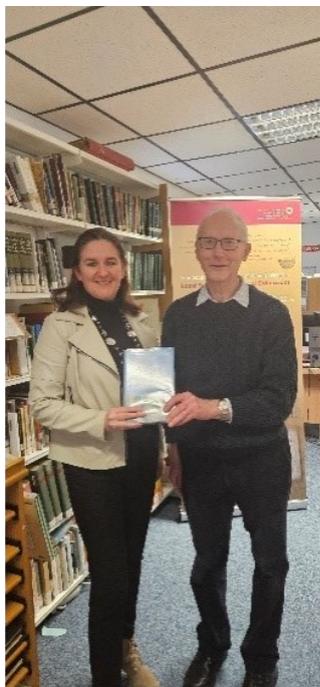
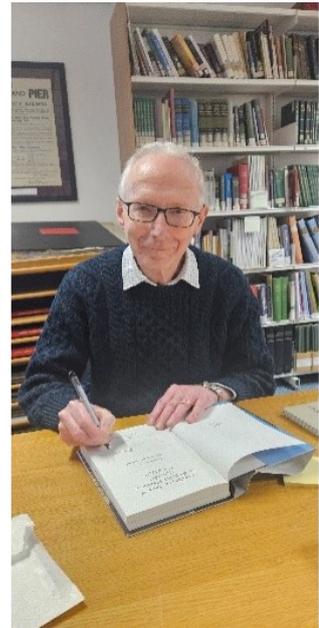
## LOCAL STUDIES

The Local Studies department at the County Library HQ specializes in providing information on a variety of topics, with a focus on local history, genealogy, and general reference queries. It serves as the primary repository for the library’s local history materials, which include books, newspapers, and maps.

The department plays a crucial role in preserving and providing access to information about the specific locality. Key functions include historical research, genealogy, community information, preservation, educational support, and digital access.

## AUTHOR VISIT TO LOCAL STUDIES

Author Dominic Rooney, who hails from Leitrim originally, visited the Local Studies section of Galway County Libraries on Thursday to present a copy of his excellent and most interesting book on the life and times of Sir Frederick Hamilton, a Scottish nobleman, who acquired a grant of land in Leitrim, in the plantation of 1620. The book, which is beautifully illustrated, describes Sir Fredericks life and adventures in Ireland, and his eventual return to Scotland, where he died a ruined man in 1647. The book gives a very good insight into life in Ireland during those troubled times. Dominic presented his Book to the County Librarian, Elizabeth Keane. Dominic also signed the copy.



Thug an t-údar Dominic Rooney, a bhfuil a bhunús i gContae Liatroma, cuairt ar rannóg na Staidéar Áitiúil de Leabharlanna Chontae na Gaillimhe Déardaoin chun cóip dá leabhar iontach agus an-suimiúil ar shaol agus aimsir Sir Frederick Hamilton, uasal Albanach, a fuair deontas talún i gContae Liatroma, i bplandáil 1620, a bhronnadh. Déanann an leabhar, atá maisithe go hálainn, cur síos ar shaol agus eachtraí Sir Frederick in Éirinn, agus a fhilleadh ar Albain, áit ar bhásaigh sé mar fhear scriosta i 1647. Tugann an leabhar léargas an-mhaith ar an saol in Éirinn le linn na dtréimhsí trioblóideacha sin. Bhronn Dominic a Leabhar ar an Leabharlannaí Contae, Elizabeth Keane. Shínigh Dominic an chóip freisin.

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

In early January we hosted the exhibition of Panels detailing the work of various social and community groups led by the city Social Prescriber Suzanne McKane.

This exhibition culminated in a busy afternoon on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of January when we



hosted an afternoon information session attended by Suzanne, Staff from local groups such as Cope, the Galway City Partnership, the local Drug and Alcohol Addiction support, Suicide Awareness and indeed

Ballybane library staff during which speakers gave information to local people on the different services available to them.

During January we are also exhibited the Positive Ageing Local Heroes Panels  
It is worth noting that five of the 13 local heroes are from the Eastside of the city, a source of great pride for our community.

We liaised with local Public Health Nurses, inviting new mothers to meetings in the Maker Space on the first three Tuesdays of each month. These sessions were well attended by local women.

Our Chat Circle offered a safe space for newcomers to practice their English. The ever-expanding Craft Group on Wednesdays provided two hours of companionship for local women to craft and chat and our Creative Writing Group, and two adult book clubs continued at pace, while our children's and teen book clubs thrived, all hosted and supported by library staff.

Our Friday morning Rhyme Time, run with the support of Music Generation Galway, was well attended.



Fusion Fridays, where library staff hosted creative art sessions with local children, were popular, and beautiful artworks were created and proudly taken home.

Our Saturday morning Story time and Feed the Fish has been a very popular and our Bi-lingual stories supported by our diverse community.

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#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:



**Family Coding Sessions:** Corrib Coding provided popular family coding sessions every Saturday in January.

**Centenary Celebrations:** Award-winning author Jonathon Creasy held a workshop for budding writers from Galway.

**HSCL Programme:** The HSCL programme encouraged parents from local DEIS schools to participate in community events, including relaxing yoga sessions every Thursday.

**Tech Classes:** Ruth Kelly from GRETB returned to run six free computer and smartphone classes for locals.

**Music Unveiled:** Galway Music Residency's 'Music Unveiled' session with Contempo on January 29th was a great success.

**St. Brigid's Day Crosses:** On January 29th, library staff hosted workshops for making St. Brigid's Day Crosses with reeds. Approximately 30 adults and 20 children attended, including members of the Brothers of Charity services and children from the ACE afterschool program run by Galway City Partnership.

**Memory Teddies:** Kitty's Memory Teddy workshop on Thursday mornings has been very popular. Participants bring clothing from a deceased loved one to incorporate into a teddy bear made from recycled materials. Due to high demand, another 6-week session is planned for late February. Ballybane library ran a successful competition in which local children were invited to present a piece of art expressing the magic they experience in their local library. Pictured below are prizewinners Alice and Zoe.



**Mentoring Programme:** Lastly, we are facilitating a mentoring programme between local poet and Ireland Reads Ambassador Rita Ann Higgins and one of our neighbouring Brothers of Charity service users, published poet Dan Doherty. Dan has received Creative Ireland funding for this project.

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library & Europe Direct Centre collaborates with several external groups in the town and surrounding areas. These groups have repeat bookings with us, some visiting 2-3 times a week, while others come once a week. The library offers them a free place of warmth and relaxation, with friendly and welcoming staff. The following groups continue to join us on a regular basis:

**HSE Brothers of Charity Service** The Brothers of Charity met in the library every Tuesday and Thursday in January. They created art and relaxed in our Reception Room, with 6-8 participants attending twice a week. They also had a weekly 40-minute Chair Yoga class, totaling 88 participants in January.

**Fáilte Isteach English Conversation Classes** The Fáilte Isteach English Conversation Classes with qualified tutors remained popular, with a total of 58 participants.

**The Crafty Girls** The Crafty Girls, a local ladies' group from Ballinasloe, met weekly on Wednesdays to knit, sew, and chat. This group includes women of all nationalities and abilities.

## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

### AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

Bhí ár gcéad Seisiún Scéalaíochta den bhliain againn ar an 18ú Eanáir. Léigh Tara dhá scéal leis na gasúir agus rinne Nuala ealaín leo tar éis sin. Rinne siad spioraid néata le boscaí uibheacha agus péint. Bhí sé dhuine dhéag againn san iomlán (9 ngasúir). Beidh an chéad seisiún scéalaíochta eile ar siúl ar an 15ú Feabhra.



Bhí an chéad cruinniú 2025 den Chlub Leabhar Ghaeilge againn chomh maith ar an 23ú Eanáir. Tháinig seisear chuig an gclub. Beidh an chéad cruinniú eile ar an 27ú Feabhra - an leabhar le cinntiú.

Bhí cuairteanna rialta againn ó na scoileanna áitiúil: an scoil náisiúnta Scoil Mhic Dara (Rang 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6), Scoil Speisialta Tigh Nan Dooley, agus an grúpa Suaimhneas ón meánscoil,



Scoil Chuimstheach Chiaráin. Ghlac grúpa ón Brothers of Charity cúpla cuairt orainn chomh maith, agus ghlac Scoil Mhuire, An Tuairín cuairt orainn freisin ag deireadh mí Eanáir. Bhain na grúpaí ó Tigh Nan Dooley, Brothers of Charity agus Suaimhneas ar fad úsáid as an bord céadfach freisin.

Bhí áthas orainn a bheith mar ais don phobal tar éis Stoirm Éowyn. Chuir muid tae, caife agus brioscaí ar fáil don té a bhí sé uathu, chomh maith le seirbhísí luchtaithe, priontáil agus idirlíon.

## GALWAY CITY LIBRARY

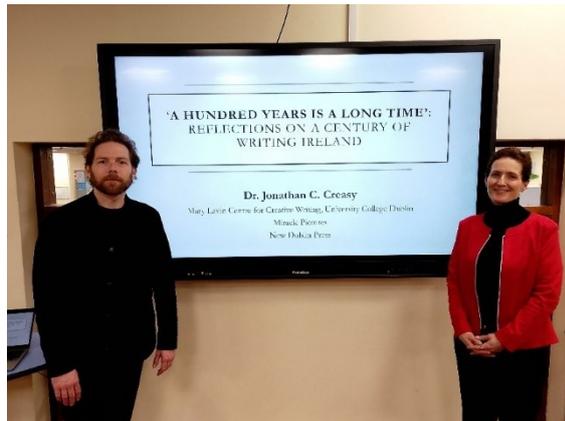


The monthly Foróige anime/manga session took place, with seven (7) young people taking part in the session, where they engaged in a series of artistic activities as shown in the photo opposite.



The monthly Foróige table-top gaming event for 13-18 year olds took place with eight (8) young people taking part.

Galway City Library hosted the annual Galway Advertiser Art Competition Awards ceremony. Eighty-two (82) people (parents and children) attended the event, which was opened by Mayor Peter Keane, with speeches from Declan Varley, editor of the Galway Advertiser, Tom Kenny of Kennys Bookshop and Art Gallery. The event was sponsored by Kenny's Bookshop and Art Gallery and Creagal Art. Photographs from the event were featured in the following week's Galway Advertiser.



Dr. Jonathan Creasey, founder of the New Dublin Press, and teacher on the Creative Writing faculty in University College Dublin at the Mary Lavin Centre for Creative Writing delivered a talk titled "A hundred years is a long time: Reflections on a Century of Writing Ireland". Twenty-two (22) people attended the event.

Artist Michelle Buckley exhibited her new collection of equine art at Galway City Library. Michelle is a radiation therapist, and she is currently studying painting at Jim Kavanagh's Art School in Annaghdown. This was her first time exhibiting at Galway City Library.



Traditional willow-weaver Sarah Jenkinson facilitated two St. Brigid's Cross workshops (one at 11am and one at 5:30pm), teaching participants to make both the modern 4-sided cross and the old pagan 3-sided cross and spoke about the history of each. These workshops were funded by Galway City Council and Creative Ireland.

Artist Caroline Coyne Concannon from Inishbofin opened a new art exhibition at Galway City Library. Her photographs capture the quiet beauty and lingering memories of island life and its forgotten spaces, where nature and time reclaim what was once filled with life.

Our monthly Classical Culture streaming performance took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Feedback was very positive from all who attended.

## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Loughrea Library has been very active, hosting a variety of events: we held Local craft group meetings on a weekly basis and monthly Toddler Storytime and Play-Doh Fun, book club meetings, and LEGO Free Play. The first LEGO Free Play on February 6<sup>th</sup> was attended by 15 children with their parents/guardians.

Loughrea Library hosted two class visits from St. Ita's National School for book exchanges and craft activities, with 46 students attending

## ORANMORE LIBRARY

Although the weather was bad it wasn't a deterrent to the teachers who brought their students for book exchanges to the library, we had 18 class visits from the local schools, 16 from primary and 2 from the local secondary school. The bi-monthly meeting of An Ciorcal Comhrá recommenced in January and is proving very popular. This initiative, which began last year, is in collaboration with Gaeilge Locha Riach.

The Poetry Group and Lego Free play were both well attended, and we hosted a wonderful exhibition to mark 100 years of Galway Public Libraries.

From January 7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, Oranmore Library hosted a wonderful exhibition to mark 100 years of Galway Public Libraries. The Staff of Oranmore Library presented an opportunity to all the children who visited the library from mid-January to help create a cloak for St.

Brigid. The concept involved each child decorating a square of paper which when pieced together would create a mosaic effect cloak. The response has been wonderful with lots of beautifully decorated

squares produced. Once the cloak is constructed, it will produce a beautiful display and represent a wonderful community effort to create something to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. The photo shows a work in progress!



## TUAM LIBRARY

We have been very busy with staff-led monthly book clubs. Attendance remains high for the three book clubs: Adult, Young Adult, and Audio. We are also pleased to have established a new craft group, which is quickly becoming popular.

The staff of Tuam Library continue to contribute a weekly 500-word article to the 'Library Corner' of the Tuam Herald. Topics include newly published books on local history and the latest science fiction releases.

We continue to host Rhyme Time every Wednesday at 11 am. In January, we held four sessions with 63 children attending. LEGO Free Play on Saturdays remains popular with all ages, benefiting the development of motor skills, creativity, and imagination.

Community Connects takes place every Friday from 11 am to 12 pm, offering an open session for the public to enjoy tea and conversation.

Trinity Primary School visits the library weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, with rotating classes. This initiative successfully introduces students to the library, with an average of 20 students plus teachers/SNAs attending each week.

Soundbites, a gathering of local musicians, storytellers, singers, and poets, occurs on the last Thursday of the month from 1 pm to 2 pm. Attendance averages between 40-50 people and includes a mix of those playing keyboards, guitars, violins, as well as singers and poetry reciters.

The Breastfeeding Group meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. All are welcome, and the group is facilitated by a local HSE public health nurse/midwife.

Artist Emer MacDermot and her daughter Maisie Gilpin's joint exhibition, exploring the relationship between generations, has garnered significant interest in the town.



## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

Westside Library continued to support a range of community activities, including the Ukrainian after-school family craft sessions (Galway City Partnership), Parents Health & Wellness Classes, the Speckled Eggs dance group, the Alzheimer's Support Group, and



Cuidiú breastfeeding support. These groups regularly utilized our auditorium space.

We also welcomed two new groups: the Community Choir and the newly established English Conversation Class, designed for language other than English (LOTE) speakers and run by Galway City Partnership. Both groups meet weekly at Westside Library.

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## LIBRARY LORE LAUNCH

The Library Lore project, celebrating the centenary of Galway Public Libraries, held its official launch. Members of the creative writing groups from Ballybane and Westside recited poems they had developed during the workshops. Renowned Poet Gerry Hanberry then presented the collaborative poems from each group, followed by the accomplished artist Hilary Morley unveiling the artwork created to accompany them. The event was a great success, attracting a large audience who enjoyed the poetry, which will eventually be displayed in the participating libraries.



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## WELLBEING CALENDAR LAUNCH

Galway City Partnership, in collaboration with local agencies, launched the 2025 Wellbeing Community Calendar at a special information session. This event provided the public with details on available activities, support groups, and resources within the Westside community



Bhí an-spraoi againn ag Leabharlann Inis Oírr 'ag bualadh' go leor leabhair gan na clúdaigh a fheiceáil. Bhuail roinnt léitheoirí le leabhar ar mhaith leo aithne níos fearr a chur air!

There was great fun at Inis Oírr Library 'meeting' a lot of new books without seeing their covers. Many readers met a book they would like to get to know better!

### HOUSING – RESPONSE TO STORM ÉOWYN

The Housing team met three days in advance of Storm Éowyn, to plan and enact precautionary measures to endeavour to minimise the impact on our vulnerable clients.

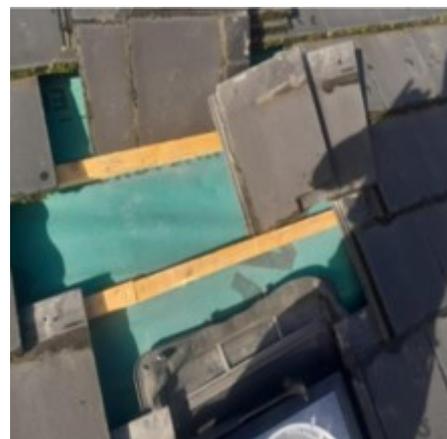
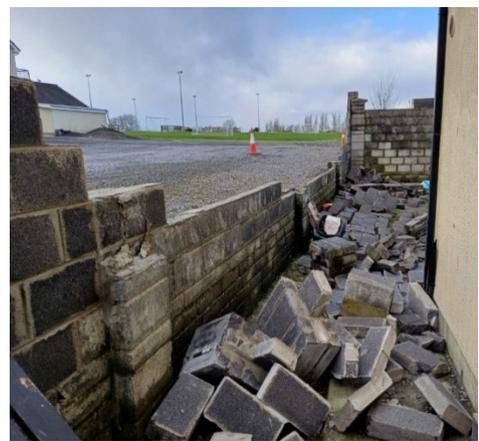
Preparatory action taken included:

- Implementing our Halting Site Evacuation Plan in collaboration with Brú Bríde and Galway Traveller Movement.
- Galway County Council Housing Liaison Officers and staff in Homeless Section contacted all occupants who were known to the Council who are residing in demountables, caravans or mobile homes across the County, approximately 40 households, and advised them to seek shelter in an alternative location in advance of storm Éowyn.
- In co-operation with the staff of Brú Bríde shelter was made available for the occupants of halting sites in the County area in Tuam town. The Homeless Section, with the assistance of COPE Galway, sourced short-term temporary accommodation for the most vulnerable clients who had limited supports available to them, to ensure their safety.
- The Housing Maintenance Team arranged for a clean-up operation involving the removal of debris and refuse at the halting sites to prevent any risk to occupants living in the sites.
- Preliminary arrangements were made by Housing Maintenance staff with contractors who committed to responding to repair needs identified by the Council after the storm.

Immediately in the aftermath of the storm, when it was safe to do so on Saturday morning, several Council housing staff commenced a comprehensive County-wide visual review of all Council properties to identify where repairs were required and the level of repairs required, this task was completed within a few days. Alongside this review, reports of damage to Council property from tenants was recorded and collated to enable a programme of works to be initiated. Storm related repairs were recorded as necessary in approximately 450 properties. Several contractors and Council staff commenced the task of repairing damage caused by the storm on Monday with work nearing completion and minimal disruption caused to tenants. The prompt action of the staff of the Housing Section has also ensured that Council owned assets were protected from more extensive damage. It is notable that Council tenants have been complimentary to Council housing staff and contractors regarding their rapid response to the situation.

The Council's housing section participated in the Community Response over a period of weeks alongside the Community Department. Practical support was provided to vulnerable Council tenants who were impacted by a power outage such as sourcing accommodation and linking in with other agencies and local organisations to provide supports dependent on the presenting needs of the tenants. Regular updates were provided to Galway County

Council's Crisis Management Team, which met daily for number of weeks, on the status of housing repairs and outlining responses to identified needs of tenants.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

44 affordable homes are under construction in Baile Chláir (Claregalway) and are being made available for sale by Galway County Council. The homes are amongst 61-housing units being delivered in the Garraí Na Gaoithe development, which is the first turnkey housing scheme to include affordable housing in County Galway under the Government's 'Housing for All' policy. The units also are amongst the first affordable homes to be developed in County Galway since 2013.

Applications for the 44 units, which comprise 2 two-bed, 27 three-bed and 15 four-bed houses, will be accepted via an online application portal from Monday 24th February 2025 at 10:00am until the deadline of Monday 17th March 2025 at 5:00pm. All applications will be initially prioritised in order of date and time received.

Located on the Lakeview Road, the Garraí Na Gaoithe scheme also features a crèche and is located close to local amenities in Baile Chláir.

Further Information on the scheme, including the Scheme of Priority, link to the application form, and support documentation required, is available at [www.galway.ie/affordable](http://www.galway.ie/affordable).



PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT, L-R: MR. JOHN WATERS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, HOUSING, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. KEVIN MCDONNELL, WHITECROFT DEVELOPMENTS, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY AND MS. KAREN O'DONNELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER.



L-R: CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AT THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT

L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY AT THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT



L-R: MR. MICHAEL OWENS, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY AND MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE KITCHEN OF ONE OF HOUSES AT THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT

L-R: MR. JOHN WATERS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, VIEWING THE A2 RATED AIR TO WATER HEATING SYSTEM IN ONE OF THE HOUSES IN GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE



COVERAGE OF PHASES 2 AND 3 OF THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TUAM HERALD

SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF PHASES 2 AND 3 OF THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT

A 'drop in' information evening on the Garrai Na Gaoithe development took place in the Claregalway Hotel on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The event was well attended by prospective home buyers who were provided with information on the application process for affordable housing scheme.



REPRESENTING GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATION EVENING IN CLAREGALWAY HOTEL WERE KAREN O'DONNELL, PATRICIA DELANEY, JOHN WATERS, LORRAINE GREALISH HARRINGTON, RACHEL DOOLEY AND LUCY MEANEY

ATTENDEES AT THE  
AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING  
INFORMATION  
EVENING IN  
CLAREGALWAY  
HOTEL.



## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

### PLANNING CONSENT (PART 8 APPROVAL) FOR PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT COSMONA, LOUGHREA

A Part 8 planning application (LA 08/24) was lodged on 18th October 2024 for a proposed new residential development at Cosmona, Loughrea consisting of:

The construction of 56 new housing units, comprising of: including 44 no. houses and 12 no. apartments, comprising of 44 no. houses, including:

- 16 no. 2 bedroom houses
- 25 no. 3 bedroom houses
- 2 no. 4 bedroom houses
- 1 no. 5 bedroom house

and 12 no. apartments, including:

- 6 no. 1 bedroom apartments
- 6 no. 2 bedroom apartments

Varied boundary treatments and landscaping works; all ancillary site development works and site services necessary to facilitate the proposed development including an Uisce Eireann pumping station and parking for the existing graveyard adjacent to the west of the site adjacent to a Burial Ground which is a national monument NIAH GA105-066

The consultation period concluded on 2nd December 2024. There were 9 submissions/observations (1 duplicate) received. One submission related to the confirmation of feasibility from Uisce Eireann. The other 8 submissions were from residents of the neighbouring Hazelwood including a petition signed by 63 residents. These submissions largely related to the proposed connectivity between the two estates, in particular, the anticipated traffic relating to the two new vehicular accesses from the new development onto the existing Hazelwood entrance/exit road.

All submissions were acknowledged and considered. A revised layout removing the two proposed vehicular connections was submitted by Housing to the Planning Department on 27th January 2025.

This revised layout was recommended for approval in the Part 8 Chief Executive's Report, which was brought before members of Loughrea M.D. at the February Meeting (10/02/2025).

Members of the Loughrea M.D. approved the Part 8 proposal subject to the following amendments:

- The proposed pedestrian connectivity between the proposed development and the existing Hazelwood estate is removed
- The boundary wall between the two estates will remain in-situ at its current height (and will not be replaced with a new lower boundary wall)

It was agreed that a revised drawing will be issued, to the members of the Loughrea M.D. and the planning Department, which illustrates the Part 8 with amendments, as adopted.

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## PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN ATHENRY - CULLIARBAUN AND GORT MHAOILIR UPDATE

An Architect Led Full Integrated Design Team was appointed in July 2024 to provide design consultancy services for the Provision of Social Housing Developments at both Cullairbaun and Gort Mhaoilir in Athenry, for delivery through the accelerated delivery programme Stages (i) to Stage (v) - delivery by Design and Build.

The successful Architect Lead was Studio PKA with an integrated design team comprising Mulcahy Mc Donough (QS), SDS Design Engineers (Civil & Structural Engineers), CBS Consulting Engineers (Mechanical & Electrical Engineers) and Fact Fire Consulting Engineers (Fire Engineering Services).

This integrated design team is in the process of compiling the Part 8 planning for both schemes. The proposed Cullairbaun scheme will comprise of the development of 10 housing new units and a community based residential facility suitable for 4 residents and a staff member. This Part 8 proposal is due to be lodged at the end of this month (Feb. 2025). The proposed Gort Mhaoilir scheme will comprise 43 new housing units and will be an extension of the existing Gort Mhaoilir estate. This Part 8 proposal will follow and is due to be lodged next month (March 2025).

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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEASE/LICENCE OF COMMUNITY BASED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY AT CULLIARBAUN ATHENRY

An expression of Interest 'seeking an organisation to lease/licence a new community based residential facility, in Athenry' was advertised on the local newspaper (Connacht Tribune 06/12/2024) and on e-Tenders with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

A subsequent evaluation took place on 17<sup>th</sup> January and the *Brothers of Charity Services Ireland* were determined to be the most suitable service provider.

Four housing applicants from the Galway County Council housing waiting list will be accommodated in this facility with all care, support and tenancy sustainment provided by the Brothers of Charity.

An agreement will be drawn up by legal teams and a lease/licence will be put in place between Galway County Council and Brothers of Charity Services Ireland/Peter Triest AHB

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#### STAGE 1 APPROVAL FOR PROPOSAL AT VICAR ST., TUAM

Galway County Council has identified a need to provide supported accommodation in the County of Galway for vulnerable people experiencing chronic homelessness. Short-term accommodation is necessary for people who have a history of rough sleeping and is particularly in demand during the Winter period. The provision of medium-term accommodation that is accessible is essential to provide for persons with complex, multiple issues, particularly those with a dual diagnosis of mental health with another issue. The proposed development at Vicar St., Tuam includes both a stand-alone Cold Weather Response Unit providing accommodation for 11 no. people and three self-contained Medium Term Accommodation Units providing accommodation for 8 no. people. By co-locating these units, it allows for a cost saving in staffing and management requirements. The proposal includes management facilities to accommodate the number of staff likely to be on duty at any time. It also includes a separate room for individual consultation and storage for bedding and linen. A private outdoor space is provided in a courtyard to the rear of the site which will be landscaped with a mix of hard and soft finishes. The proposal for this multi-purpose facility was developed in consultation with both the technical and homeless staff of Galway County Council with input from the regional lead - Galway City Council and two Non-Governmental Organisations providing homeless services in County Galway. Further to discussions with, and a Stage 1 submission to, the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, approval to proceed with this proposal was received on 7th February 2025.

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#### PURCHASE OF GROVE HOUSE, ENNIS ROAD, GORT

Galway County Council has acquired a property known as 'Grove House' from the Health Service Executive (HSE) Estates. The property is located on the Ennis Road in Gort. It comprises a detached residence which was originally two neighbouring semi-detached houses. It was converted into one residence for use as a care home but has lain vacant for approx. ten years.

The interior of the property is in a poor state of repair due to it being vacant for an extended period. It requires modernisation and refurbishment from a use, functionality and sustainability perspective.

There is a large back garden accessible through a concrete driveway to one side and the overall the site comprises 0.12 Hectares/0.3 acres.

An initial site visit was undertaken by the housing section and the feasibility of the property and associated site for development of social housing is currently being assessed.



PHOTO SHOWING FRONT OF PROPERTY

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### ROAD OPERATIONS

Roads crews have been extremely busy working on the clean up after Storm Éowyn. The immediate works in each MD involved removing trees from the road carriageways to facilitate immediate passage of traffic.

Communication was challenging due to the level of impact on telecoms infrastructure, but crews had been prepared in advance to expect significant damage. Crews moved out after the storm when the Red alert period had lapsed and, on a risk,-assessed basis. Crews and MD technical teams and Roads HQ teams worked throughout the weekend. The re-opening of routes was prioritised from National Roads through Regional and to Local Roads, reflecting the strategic nature of routes and the level of traffic. This then had to be balanced with the need to open blocked routes to facilitate people in getting access and egress to their homes. Whereas in previous weather events roads were affected by one or two falling trees, the MD crews were now experiencing multiple trees fallen across very short sections of road. The clearance therefore has taken much longer than we have experienced from storm events in recent years. The Roads teams continue to assess the broader scale of damage, boundary walls, public lighting, road edge damage, signage and surfacing.

The clean-up work in all MDs is continuing. All roads are now open but a second and third pass on many routes is required to complete full clearance, to pick up on damage signs etc. Our parks were also badly affected; particularly the Palace Grounds in Tuam, and the Cow Park in Clarinbridge. Work will continue for some time yet at these locations, as the scale of tree damage is very extensive.

Galway County Council will undertake a review report on the Storm Response and that report will also feed up to the National Review.



MINISTER DARA CALLEARY VISIT TO AN CHEATHRÚ RUA AND CARNA

Minister Dara Calleary visited the Conamara area on January 28<sup>th</sup> to meet with communities affected by Storm Éowyn.



L-R: CLLR. MÁIRTÍN LEE, MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, CATHAOIRLECH, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CLLR. GERRY KING, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. UINSINN FINN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES



MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM COMHARCHUMANN  
FORBARTHA CHONAMARA LÁIR

## ROADS CAPITAL (NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS)

The tender for the realignment of the R332 in Kilbannon was published on eTenders on 14<sup>th</sup> January with a return date of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The tender for the western section of the Athenry Northern Ring Road (elbow section) was published on eTenders on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with a return date of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

## ISLANDS GRANTS

In response to a query from Galway County Council Roads HQ, the Dept. of Rural and Community Development has indicated the Minor Works Grant scheme for our islands will be available again for 2025. The Council has compiled a draft list of projects it is seeking to address, and we look forward to the opportunity to make our case for the progression of these works.

## WINTER SERVICE VEHICLES UPDATE

As a first step in the move to pre-wet treatments TII provided funding for the acquisition of 2 number permanently mounted salt spreaders with brine spreading capability.

Procurement of these vehicles has been completed and they were delivered and brought into service in January 2025.

The trucks were supplied by Romaquip, based in Birr, Co. Offaly and the cost of just over €500,000 will be fully recouped from TII. The acquisition of these new purpose-built vehicles will be an important addition to the Winter Service fleet and the efforts to ensure strategic routes are kept open during cold weather events.

Permanently mounted Pre wet salt spreaders acquired by Galway County Council



## ROADS PROGRAMME 2025

The Department of Transport notified local authorities of their annual roads programme allocations on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Galway County Council has received an allocation of €43,650,160, which is an increase of €3,723,860, or almost 10%, on the 2024 allocation. The draft Roads Programme for 2025 will now be finalised on the basis of the allocations advised to us. This will be presented to Councillors for their consideration at the Municipal District Meetings in March, together with the other items that form the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

## TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target - 12 estates Taken in Charge and/or for Bond Release.

The Table A hereunder outlines output for 2025.

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

Table A – Taking in Charge

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

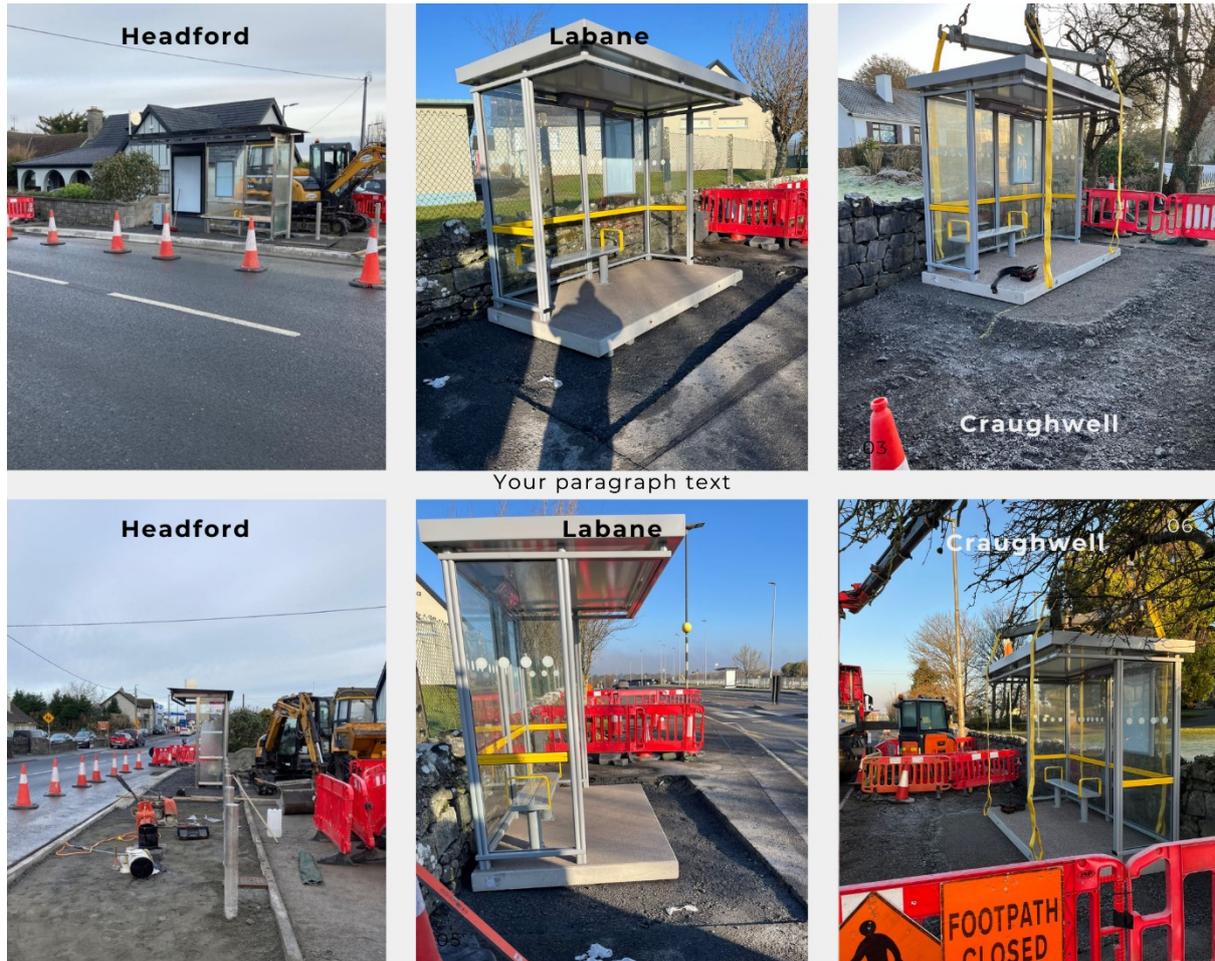
Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	1
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement or Signed Final Report	7
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand	15
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	36
Bond Claims -	2

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

## ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

### GCO/24/0001 BUS STOP & SHELTER UPGRADE PROGRAMME

Construction of Maigh Cuillin bus stops (2 no.) completed in December 2024. Headford bus stop (1 no.), Galway bound commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> January is substantially complete. The construction of Labane and Craughwell bus stop commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The works are to accommodate the installation of bus shelters



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

The schools are Calasanctius College, Oranmore, Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oranmore, Scoil Íosaif Naofa, Oranmore, Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry & Athenry Boys National School. Tender for consultancy services Phase 2-7 has closed and following tender assessment the Preferred Tenderer (Clandillon Civil Consulting) has been determined. Letters to successful/ unsuccessful tenderers have been issued through E-tenders. Proposed appointment date is 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025.

GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

At Phase 5 Detailed Design - deliverables uploaded to PRS including Gateway 5 Approval Request form to proceed to Phase 6 (construction). Awaiting NTA review.

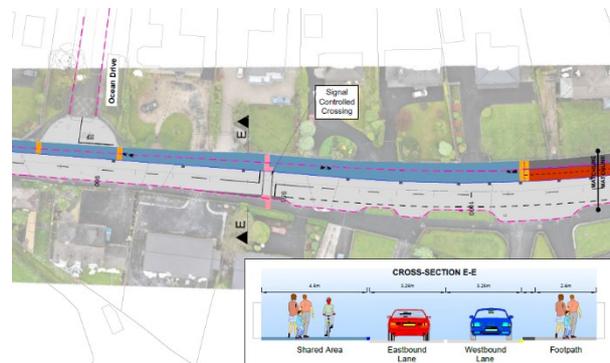
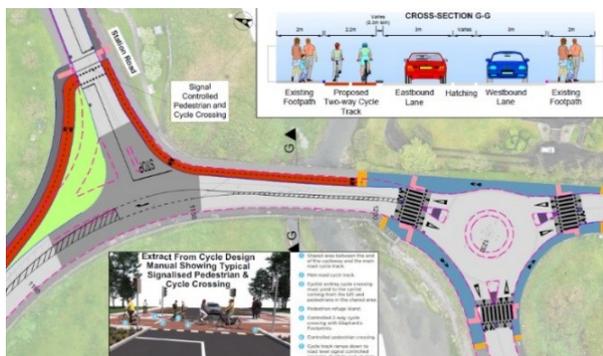
GCO/23/0020 BALLINASLOE R446 BRIDGE ST. JUNCTION TO HARRIS RD JUNCTION ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME



Non-Statutory public consultation was held between 22nd Nov-20th Dec. Preliminary Design workshop with NTA was held on 23/01/2024. GCO await NTA feedback regard Harris Road Junction design ahead of Phase 3 Gateway submission to NTA. Gateway 3 Preliminary Design is scheduled for end of February 2025. Plan to start Phase 4 Planning by Q2 2025

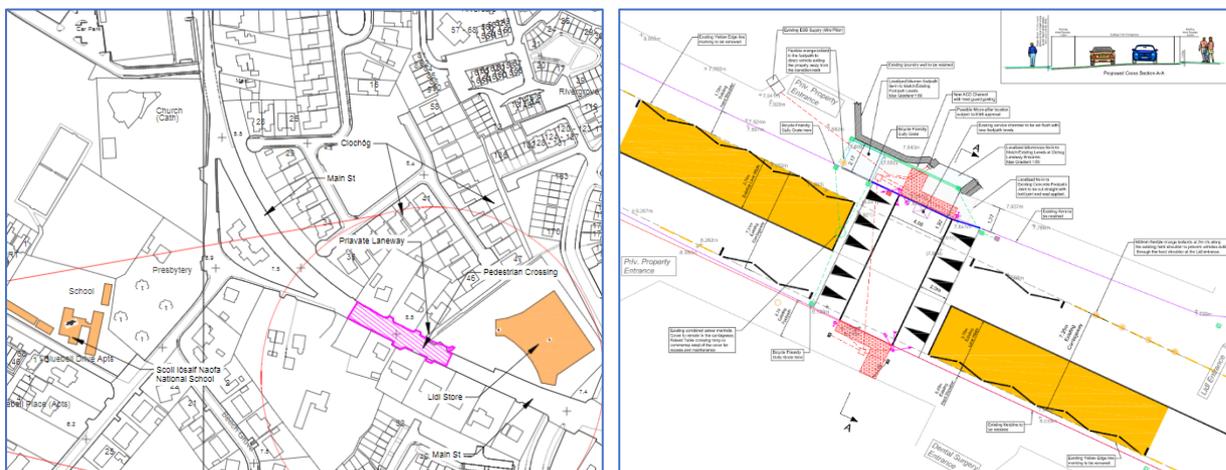
GCO/23/0013 ORANMORE TO THE TRAIN STATION ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT

Non-Statutory public consultation was held between 22nd Nov-20th Dec. Preliminary Design workshop with NTA was held on 23/01/2024. Environmental Screening Reports are due ahead of completion of Preliminary Design. Gateway 3 Preliminary Design is scheduled for end of February 2025. Plan to start Phase 4 Planning by Q2 2025.



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

Construction of the pedestrian crossing near Lidl on the Old Limerick Road in Oranmore - Tender closed 23rd Jan. Contract Award scheduled for mid-Feb. Tender assessment complete. Works plan to start end of Feb 2025. Anticipated duration of works 4-6 weeks.



## GCO/23/0012 BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME



1 location of commencement from Beechlawn Phase 2

At PAGs Phase 6 Construction Phase. Kenny Civils is the contractor. Works anticipated start date 3rd week in Feb 2025. Expected duration 4-6 weeks.

## BROADBAND OFFICE

### ARE YOU RECEIVING PUBLIC QUERIES ON DISRUPTION TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES?

Damage from Storm Éowyn continues to present a challenge to telecoms services and repairs by telecoms companies will be ongoing for some weeks yet to address matters. Outside of this unprecedented event, members of the public frequently have questions on the best way to resolve a particular telecoms issue affecting them and their family or business. With this in mind, the information below may be helpful.

[Commission for Communications regulation \(ComReg\) web site](#) advises persons affected by a telecommunications service outage should first contact their service provider to raise their complaint formally in line with their individual service providers 'Complaint Handling Code of Practice' and obtain a complaint reference number from their service provider.

The service provider will then have 10 working days to contact their customer and provide a resolution, otherwise, if this does not occur or if the customer is not satisfied with their service provider's response, the customer can then contact ComReg's Consumer Team who are available via the details below between 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday (excluding public holidays).

**Telephone:** 01 8049668 for consumer queries and 01 8049707 for business consumer queries.

**Email:**

[consumerline@comreg.ie](mailto:consumerline@comreg.ie) for consumer queries and  
[businessconsumers@comreg.ie](mailto:businessconsumers@comreg.ie) for business queries

**Text:** Text COMREG to 51500 (standard SMS rates apply) to receive a call back.

Where their complaint remains unresolved after 10 working days, they can then request ComReg's assistance in resolving the complaint. ComReg will:

- Escalate the complaint formally with the service provider.
- Actively monitor and track the progress of the complaint to resolution, ensuring that the customer receive regular updates from their service provider.
- Review the service provider's resolution of the complaint in the context of its regulatory obligations.

If you need to report fallen poles and/or cables on the **Open Eir network**, this can be done by calling 1800 245 245, please see [Open Eir's Website](#) for further details.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### CLIMATE ACTION TRAINING



Galway County Climate Action Unit in partnership with Roscommon County Council and GRETB have organised a free online Local Climate Action Course for community and voluntary groups. This free online 6-week course will cover topics on Biodiversity, Energy, Food & Waste, Recycling and Transport. Denise Feeney, the Community Climate Action Officer, will also be talking about the Climate Action Fund and will give guidance to community groups on how to apply and what to apply for. The course started on the 29th January from 7.30pm – 9pm and will take place online every Wednesday for 6 weeks.

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## MOUNT LUCAS RETROFITTING RIG

Galway City Council and Galway County Council, in collaboration with Mount Lucas Construction Training Campus, will welcome the arrival of an innovative training facility from the 17th of February to the 7th of March 2025. The rig will visit three locations across County Galway, providing training and information sessions on energy efficiency upgrades to in Shantalla, Ballinasloe, and the University of Galway Campus. The rig offers a hands-on approach to training on nearly zero-energy building standards and retrofitting techniques. The initiative will include NZEB Fundamental Awareness, Retrofit for Households, and the Retrofit for Schools Programme, which expert tutors will deliver. It provides a unique opportunity for members of the local community to access accredited training and practical demonstrations right on their doorstep.

Improving building energy efficiency is critical to addressing climate change, and initiatives like this not only equip people with essential skills but also demonstrate the practical benefits of retrofitting in increasing home comfort and reducing carbon emissions. The rig showcases cutting-edge technology, is powered by solar PV panels and is equipped with a working heat pump and ventilation system, making it entirely self-sufficient. Its design lets participants see first-hand how emerging technologies are installed and function in real-world settings.

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## YOUTH CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

In conjunction with Youth Work Ireland Galway, we will be hosting our 2nd Youth Climate Assembly on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February in Athenry. Our 1st Assembly, which was held in May 2023, was one of the first events of its kind to happen at a local level in Ireland. These assemblies provide a space for young people from secondary schools and youth organisations across the county to gather to discuss Climate Action. The participants will be introduced to policies, projects and research being undertaken in County Galway to tackle the Climate and Biodiversity Crises and will be encouraged to initiate positive change through their school/youth group/community.

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## SUPPORT FOR ENERGY MASTERPLANS

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) programme supports communities in the transition to a low carbon society. Communities are provided with a range of supports as they develop along SEAI's three-stage journey of "Learn- Plan -Do". The "Plan" stage is the development of local Energy Master Plans (EMP). The EMP grant allows communities to undertake a baseline assessment of their energy use, carry out energy audits of a number of homes / community buildings / local businesses, and helps them to identify the most suitable renewable energy solutions for them. This information supports applications for projects under various funding streams including the GCC Community Climate Action Fund. GCC supports the completion of the EMP including through the provision of Bridging Finance and procurement support to SECs. The EMP grant is 100% funded by SEAI but it is a

retrospective grant once the Energy Master Plan is completed. The provision of Bridging Finance removes the financial barrier for communities.

A list of the communities supported to date is set out below:

SEC	Consultant	Cost of EMP	Status
Dunmore	Plan Energy	€14,145.00	Completed
Milltown	Plan Energy	€14,145.00	Completed
Headford	Plan Energy	€14,145.00	Completed
Athenry	Plan Energy	€14,145.00	Completed
Ballinasloe	Plan Energy	€14,145.00	Completed
Clifden Glen	O'Reilly Consulting	€9,815.40	Ongoing (Launch 29/03/2025)
Kinvara	O'Reilly Consulting	€14,869.00	Completed
Galway County PPN	XD Sustainable Energy	€24,999.75	Completed
Kilcolgan / Clarinbridge	O'Reilly Consulting	€19,606.00	Ongoing (Launch April 2025 tbc)
Doon East	Celtic Dynamics	€14,999.75	Audits Completed

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### OPERATIONS

The information below is based on January data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 255 turnouts to 215 Incidents. That is an increase of 56 incidents on 159 the previous month. 73 were fire incidents, 132 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 10 were standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 40% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 37.44% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 22.56% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.3 minutes and for county retained stations was 7.37 minutes.

There was a significant increase in incidents and turnouts in January by comparison to December 2024. This increase is due to 2 significant events in the latter part of January – Storm Éowyn and the fire/incident at Xerotech in Baile Chláir. During Storm Éowyn, in the interest of the safety of our firefighters, all personnel were brought into station on standby from an hour before to an hour after the Red Weather Warning for wind. Post the storm, there were a significant number of special service incidents, primarily water supply of critical infrastructure (hospital, nursing homes, etc.)

In the context of the incident at Xerotech in Baile Chláir, the incident ran from 0700hrs on the 29th January to 1715hrs on the 31st January. Over the course of the incident there were attendances of crews from Galway City, Athenry, Gort, Loughrea, Tuam and An Cheathrú Rua, with on occasion Gort, Loughrea, and/or Portumna providing standby services in central locations around the county due to the significant amount of resources deployed at the incident.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Following Senior Management Team approval, the revised application under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations for the proposed Loughrea Fire Station was submitted for publication on the 11th October 2024. The public consultation process ended on the 22 November 2024. The Chief Executive's report was submitted to the Loughrea Municipal District meeting On the 09 December 2024 and the Part 8 application was passed



by the elected members. The final design will now be completed, and it is hoped to tender for the main contractor in early 2025.

PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION  
LOUGHREA

### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

A Request for Tender for the Design Team has completed and was received on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The tender assessment board met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 to consider submissions, and the Most Economically Advantageous Tender has been identified. All required information has been submitted by the preferred tenderer, and the Design Team Contract is scheduled to be signed by mid-February 2025.

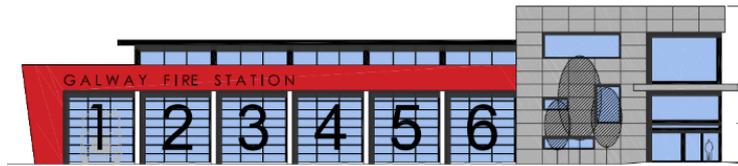


(Indicative Only)

PROPOSED NEW  
BRIGADE  
MECHANICS  
WORKSHOP  
ATHENRY

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

The preferred site has been identified with Galway City Council. An initial independent planning and flood risk assessment is underway, and it is hoped that this will be completed presently. The capital appraisal is 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is confirmed.



(INDICATIVE ONLY)

PROPOSED NEW  
HEADQUARTERS AND CENTRAL  
FIRE STATION GALWAY CITY

## TRAINING

One new firefighter recruit has commenced the Initial Training Firefighting Skills course in Carnmore Training Centre and commenced the training on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The newly trained recruit, once successful, will be stationed at Loughrea Fire Station.

The following training occurred recently:

Remotely Operated Vehicle Operator Course, 13-15 January 2025, Carnmore Training Centre.

Urban Search & Rescue Shoring Course, 21 -23 January 2025, Abbeyleix Co Laois.

Urban Search & Rescue Shoring Course, 28 -30 January 2025, Abbeyleix Co Laois.

Remotely Operated Vehicle Operator Course, 04-06 February 2025, Carnmore Training Centre.

## MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Colas (CBE West) Oranmore

A multi-Principal Response Agency review commenced of the Upper Tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Site at Colas in Oranmore, with a Principal Response Agency & relevant stakeholder meeting early in April. The required statutory exercise was conducted on the 23 May 2024 in Oranmore and led by Galway FRS. The updated External Emergency Plan was advertised for Public Consultation on the 11th October 2024 and latest date for

submissions is the 15 November 2024. As there were no submissions the EEP has now been adopted and was signed and circulated by the PRAs at the end of December 2024. A further blind mobilisation test is scheduled for the site in early 2025 and will further test the response of the Local Competent Authorities and GFRS.



**An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Galway County Council**

**Public Notice under S.I. No. 209/2015 - Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015**

An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Galway County Council are each required by the above mentioned regulations to prepare plans to deal with effects off-site and to assist, where relevant, with the emergency response on-site in the event of a major accident at the Upper Tier COMAH Site:

**CBE West Ltd. (Colas), Deerpark Industrial Estate, Oranmore, Co. Galway**

A draft copy of the External Emergency Plan for CBE West Ltd. (Colas) is available for examination for a period of 4 weeks between 10:00am - 12:30pm and between 2:30pm - 4:00pm from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 excluding weekends and bank holidays at the following locations:

- Galway Fire Station, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway. H91 P306  
Phone 091-509070
- Regional Emergency Management Office, HSE West, Clinical & Administration Block A, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway. H91 N973  
Phone 091-775933
- Oranmore Garda Station, Coast Road, Oranmore, Co. Galway. H91 D562  
Phone 091-388080

Viewing is **strictly by appointment** only. Appointments can be arranged by calling one of the aforementioned phone numbers or by emailing [fireservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:fireservices@galwaycoco.ie) and including your preferred viewing location.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed external emergency plan may be made in writing **only** to the COMAH Planning Group, Galway Fire Station, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway or by emailing [fireservices@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:fireservices@galwaycoco.ie) not later than **4:30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024**.

## CBE WEST EXTERNAL EMERGENCY PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

## TYNAGH ENERGY / TYNAGH POWER STATION

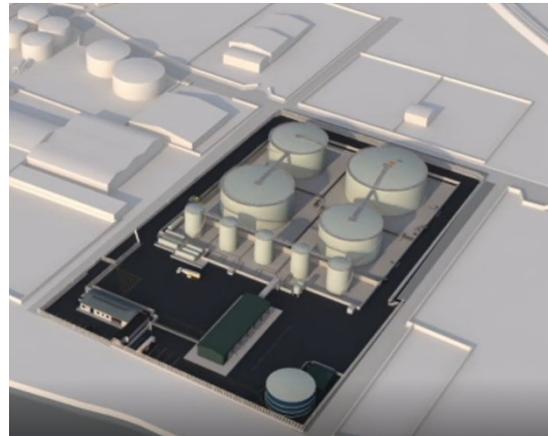
Tynagh Power Station is a lower tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site. Work is continuing on the finalisation of the external emergency plan and a preliminary site meeting was held on the 06 November 2024. An inter-agency training session on-site was conducted on the 19 December 2024 with a multi-agency exercise scheduled for early in 2025.



TYNAGH ENERGY LOWER TIER COMAH SITE – TYNAGH, CO GALWAY

## CIRCLE K FUEL TERMINAL – GALWAY PORT

The Circle K terminal is an upper tier COMAH site. Work has commenced on the review of the external emergency plan which must be completed by 2025. An initial inter-agency meeting led by Galway FRS was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. It is planned to hold a table-top exercise and a large practical exercise in February / March 2025.



## CIRCLE K UPPER TIER COMAH SITE - GALWAY HARBOUR

### ISLAND RESPONSE PLAN AND AER ARAN EXERCISE

A multi-Principal Response Agency review commenced of the Offshore Island and Island Airport Response Plan, with a Principal Response Agency & relevant stakeholder meeting early in September. The required statutory exercise was conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 in the dual locations of Connemara Airport, Indreabhán and Inis Mór Airport. The draft exercise report was circulated Dec 2024 to each PRA for consultation and will be signed early 2025.

## CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGICAL NUCLEAR & EXPOLOSIVE MATERIALS EXERCISE (CBRNE)

A CBRNE exercise led by An Garda Síochána and Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) was conducted at Galway airport on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The exercise was designed to test response to a large CBRNE event in a large shopping centre and to test GFRS remote capability and GFRS / National Ambulance Service (NAS) decontamination procedures. Participants included the HSE /NAS, Defence Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal and An Garda Síochána Emergency Response Unit. Further inter-agency discussions and additional exercises will be conducted in Quarter 1 2025.

## NUROP AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Work continues on the NUROP (National Unified Risk Operating Platform) and SWEMS (Severe Weather Event Management System). A new NUROP Manager Application has been released which includes risk scores for every domestic and non-domestic building in the county. SWEMS has recently been extended to Galway City Council. SWEMS was successfully used in Galway County Council for recent numerous storms.



## PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the January 2025 figures. The Fire Authority received 18 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 7 applications. 3 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 5 applications. 1 new licence was issued in January and 23 inspections were conducted.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

In the New Year, the country was faced with Severe Weather Alerts ranging from Orange to Yellow for severe cold and potential snow covering various counties. Galway Civil Defence were notified by the HSE through the HSE Emergency Management Office to provide standby assistance to HSE Public Health Nursing and Palliative Care Nursing from Galway Hospice getting to visit vulnerable and critical patient who needed care during the weather alert. Also, for the transportation of patients to hospital appointments and home by Civil Defence Ambulance crews.

Members were tasked over a 4 day period to Glenamaddy, Dunmore, Loughrea, Woodford and Portumna. Members also provided assistance to Tipperary Civil Defence collecting a dialysis patient from Nenagh to UHL in Limerick for vital treatment. A Public Health Nurse

was also taken to meet the ferry at Cleggan from a location in Tuam to visit Inishbofin. Assistance was also provided in delivering meals to Ballinasloe Social Services. The Civil Defence Officer (CDO) and Assistant Civil Defence Officer (ACDO) attended Severe Weather Crisis Management Team (CMT) Meeting to keep updated on events and further potential requests from various agencies.

In the second week of January 2025 training resumed in all units continuing with their training development

On the 19th January 2025, the ACDO was alerted by An Garda Síochána for assistance in searching for a missing person on the Indreabhán Coastal area. A drone crew responded and as stood down later the evening.

On the 22nd January 2025, the CDO and ACDO attended a National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) CMT meeting with the risk of a potential storm tracking towards the country.

On the 24th January 2025 the country was put on Red level Alert for Storm Éowyn. Civil Defence was put on standby to assist any request resulting from the extreme damage caused by the event.

Assistance was provided to the HSE in transporting vulnerable persons to respite care. Assistance was provided to Galway County Councils CMT in collecting and delivering generators and transporting families to hotels and return journeys as requested.

The CDO is also a member of the Galway County Council Community Response Forum which have met daily since activated.

On the 30th January 2025 Galway Civil Defence were requested to provide support to Galway Fire and Rescue Service at an industrial incident in Baile Chláir. 1 ambulance, 1 minibus, 1 Control Unit, 1 drone and 1 \* 4x4 vehicle responded with 10 members.

Members remained onsite to provide vital assistance to the Fire Service until 22.40hrs that night.

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

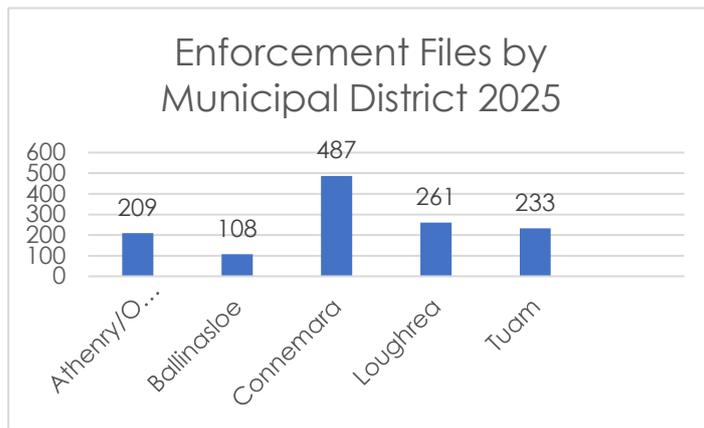
### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

Key Statistics: 1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	114/103
Granted	120
Grant Rate	83%
Refused	24
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (2)	
Permission (95)	
Retention (20)	
Permission Consequent (1)	

Extension of Duration (2)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	86%
Stage 1LRD	0
Stage 2 LRD	0
Major Meetings	3
SID Meetings	0
Commencements and Completions 1st JANUARY – 31st January 2025 NOVEMBER 2024	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	37
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	1

Pre-Planning Meetings per MD per Month	January
Ath/Ora	3
Ballinasloe	2
Connemara	3
Loughrea	8
Tuam	1
Total per Month	17

EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025 – 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications Received	10
Exempted	2
Not Exempted	
Further Information	
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	8
Appealed	



DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 28 WARNING LETTERS AND 4 ENFORCEMENT NOTICES HAVE BEEN SERVED.

## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

### SCAIRDE ROCKS OFFSHORE WIND FARM

An application for permission under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on 17/01/2025 for Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm. The Strategic Infrastructure Development will be presented to the Connemara MD Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February and to the Plenary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March. In accordance with Section 291(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority are required to submit to the Board a report setting out the views of the authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, by the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Submissions or Observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (“the Board”) 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or online. Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### CARTRON AND GARRAUN SOUTH ORANMORE

Large-scale residential development consisting of 171 residential units and a creche, together with all associated site development works. Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application

Granted by An Bord Pleanala on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN



Gort Draft LAP and LTP published on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Closing date for submissions is 4pm Thursday 20 Feb 2025. Public consultation event took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2:30-7:30pm in the Lady Gregory Hotel with 42 registered attendees. Webinar event will take place on 12<sup>th</sup>

February 6-7pm. Registration details are published on the Council's websites and on social media. (See photos).




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### JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

First draft of the JRS has been reviewed by both Galway City and County Council's. Work underway to review same by consultants. Bi-weekly meetings are ongoing.

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### URDF

Contract for design of local centre, eco park and density typology study to be signed in coming week. Other works associated include design of local/nodal centre at Briarhill. Planning application due for decision on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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### RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

The Residential Zoned Land Tax aimed at increasing housing supply came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

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

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### THE ANNUAL FINAL MAP -PUBLISHED ON THE 31/01/2025

Scoped-in sites mapped in the annual final map will be liable for RZLT **from the 1st of February 2025**. The annual final maps include the areas outlined below:

Baile Chláir	Clifden
Bearna	Maigh Cuilinn
Oranmore	Oughterard
Garraun	Portumna
Briarhill	Headford
Ballinasloe	An Cheathrú Rua
Tuam	An Spidéal
Gort	Ballygar
Dunmore	Glenamaddy
Kinvara	Moylough

(As the previous Gort LAP has expired and the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 is being reviewed presently, Gort has been removed from the Final Map 2025 and will not be liable

for the tax in 2025. Assuming the Gort LAP is adopted during 2025, it will go on the draft annual map to be published on the 1st of February 2026.)

These scoped in land parcels identified on the Annual Final Maps 2025 will be charged as of the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2025**. Landowners liable for RZLT, will be able to register with Revenue from January 2025. Landowners will be required to make an annual return to Revenue and pay any **RZLT liable** by the **23<sup>rd</sup> of May of each year, beginning 2025**.

For more information on the payment of the tax please see revenues website- <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/residential-zoned-land/registering.aspx>

## REZONING REQUESTS

If the landowner feels the economic activity that is taking place on their land does not reflect the current zoning, they may seek a rezoning of their lands. Such requests must be made to Galway County Council between **1<sup>st</sup> of February to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025**. Rezoning requests provide an opportunity for an exemption from the RZLT on Final Map.

## THE ANNUAL DRAFT MAP - PUBLISHED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

The Draft Annual Maps 2025 includes only two settlements, **Athenry and Loughrea** as both plans were reviewed and agreed in 2024. Athenry and Loughrea scoped-in sites **will not** be liable for **RZLT until 2026**.

Submission can be made on the annual draft map to exclude or include parcels from being liable to RZLT for 2026 by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**.

**Submissions on the Annual Draft Map may be made as follows, no later than 1 April 2025:**

- In writing and addressed to: “RZLT”, The Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91H6KX  
**or**
- By email to: [rzlt@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:rzlt@galwaycoco.ie)  
**or**
- Online by visiting: <https://consult.galway.ie>

## TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RZLT

31 January 2025	GCC publish Final Map of land in scope for the tax for 2025
01 February 2025	GCC publish Draft Annual Map of land in scope for the tax for 2026 First liability & filing date for land identified on annual final maps for 2025 as being zoned for residential use and serviced on 1 Jan 2022 and land which became zoned and serviced in the course of 2022.
01 April 2025	Deadline for change of zoning requests to Galway County Council in respect of land included on the Annual Final Map for 2025 published on 31 January 2025. Deadline for criteria-based submissions in respect of the Annual Draft Map for 2026 published on 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2025

	for inclusion or exclusion of relevant land from the annual RZLT map for 2026.
11 April 2025	Publication of submissions received on draft Annual Map by GCC Publication of rezoning requests received on Final Map by GCC
30 April 2025	A rezoning request acknowledgement letter containing details of the recent planning history of the land will be issued by 30 April from the local authority to the landowner.
23 May 2025	First payment and filing date (with Revenue) for land identified on maps as being zoned for residential use and serviced on 1 Jan 2025.
30 June 2025	Local Authorities will notify landowner of its decision on rezoning requests (No appeal mechanism for this).
1 July 2025	Local Authorities will notify the landowner of retention or removal from maps. Landowners can appeal to An Bord Pleanala on or before 1 August 2025 if they disagree with decision.
1 August 2025	Final date for appeals of LA decision on submissions to An Bord Pleanala

## 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.

##### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

11 <sup>th</sup> February	Beginners Guide to social media.
12 <sup>th</sup> February	How to master your VAT return.
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Business Model Canvas.

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February  
27<sup>th</sup> February  
28<sup>th</sup> February

Marketing Techniques for your Business.  
Employing for the first time - what you need to know.  
AI Tools For Business.



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### BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC

Our business advisory sessions enable clients to speak with one of our business advisors who will offer general advice to help on starting a new business or expanding on an existing business.

Our advisor will discuss LEO related supports, training, mentoring and any other relevant services that may be available to aspiring or existing business promoters.



A business advisory is a free 30-minute consultation and runs weekly throughout the year. Please keep an eye on our website for the next upcoming available dates.

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### MENTORING

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



The Mentor Programme is open to both new and existing businesses located within the Galway region. Areas of mentoring include business strategy, financial planning, market research, marketing & promotion, distribution, exporting, production planning, social media. A mentoring session consists of 3 hours support from the mentor.

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### DIGITAL FOR BUSINESS

For the Digital for Business, our expert digital consultants assist through the analysis of existing digital systems in the business and to identify potential gaps in meeting business

needs. They also explore opportunities to optimise existing systems and to integrate with new solutions to enhance business operations and provide guidance on the implementation of new or enhanced digital solutions.

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

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



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### GROW DIGITAL: A NEW ERA OF SUPPORT

Join our free online briefing on Tuesday 18th February 2025 designed to give small businesses a clear understanding of how digital tools can help streamline their operations, improve efficiency, and drive growth in key business areas.

Hosted by Michael FitzGerald founder and CEO of OnePageCRM. A multidisciplinary engineer by profession and a product guy at heart, Michael works closely with all stakeholders, from users to developers, making sure the operations stay agile and the product effective. Before several entrepreneurial ventures, Michael worked in various roles, starting as a Sports Science Technologist in an Olympic Athlete Test Centre, to Sports Product Design (SRAM), to Snr Research Engineer in a Medical Device Company Bio Medical Research.

Our goal is to support you with actionable steps to move forward on your digital journey.

# GROW DIGITAL

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### WHAT TO EXPECT

An overview of the digital supports available from the LEO, aligned to improved internal processes/operations

Eligibility for the €5,000 Grow Digital Voucher

The next best step for your business on its digital journey

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### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The February SYOB evening programme commenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 and will run until the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2025. The February day programme commenced

on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February and will run until the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. Please keep an eye on our website for the next upcoming SYOB course.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### LEAN LAUNCH

LEO Galway is currently running an Autumn Lean Launch programme which commenced on 14th October 2024 and will run until 10th March 2025.

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

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

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### DESIGN MINGLE WITH JOACHIM DAVY

Joachim Davy will speak about his inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 21st



February at 10.30am.

Joachim Davy is a seasoned creative leader and media specialist with over a decade of experience in video production, content strategy, live event

production, and visual design, primarily within the sports industry.

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

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## LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

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### PAST EVENTS

#### Monday March 3rd

Growth & Networking Lunch and learn: Spotlight on LEO Supports <b>Clifden</b>	12.45pm at the Alcock & Brown Hotel	<a href="#">Book Here</a>
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#### Tuesday March 4th

How to Start a Podcast	10am - 1pm (Online)	<a href="#">Book Here</a>
Growth & Networking Lunch and Learn <b>BALLINASLOE</b>	12.45pm at Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, Society Street, Ballinasloe	<a href="#">Book Here</a>

#### Wednesday March 5th

Grant Aid and Funding	Online, 10am to 1pm	<a href="#">Book Here</a>
AI Advantage: Transforming Challenges for Startups and SMEs - in partnership with BIA Innovator, Portershed and EEN	11.45pm at BIA Innovator Campus Athenry	<a href="#">Book Here</a>
Business Advice Clinic <b>GORT</b>	All day at the Lady Gregory Hotel	<a href="#">Book Here</a>



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### ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK (EEN) EVENT

Caroline McDonagh, Head of Enterprise recently attended an event held by EEN on January 31st, in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. This was an insightful event with guest speakers such as Susan Hayes Culleton.

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the world's largest support network for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) has in place a new partnership with 31 Local Enterprise Offices in Ireland. This means that there is free access for Irish companies to Europe's largest database with up to 10,000 new business and technology opportunities in the EU and many other major global markets.

The Enterprise Europe Network in Ireland is a joint partnership between Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices, Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber of Commerce. The Network is co-financed under 'COSME', the EU funding programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs. The services are tailored for SMEs but are also available to all other businesses, universities and research centers.



MS. SUSAN HAYES CULLETON,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, HAYES  
CULLETON GROUP AND 'THE POSITIVE  
ECONOMIST, MS. EMILY GALLEN,  
ENTERPRISE IRELAND AND MS. CAROLINE  
MCDONAGH, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE  
GALWAY

## SHOWCASE

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design and the Showcase trade fair is the international launchpad for so many Irish makers to achieve this recognition. Showcase celebrated its 50-year anniversary on the January 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 in the RDS, Dublin.

With more than 380 exhibitors at the show across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day trade fair welcomed more than 4,000 registered trade buyers from Ireland and UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network had 105 stands, and LEO Galway had six clients taking part.

These included:



THE WONKY WOOLINS

WILD ATLANTIC WICKS





MY TRIBE

DOBOS CERAMICS



GALWAY FAIRYTALES

ÚNA HEANEY DESIGNS



## LEAN FOR BUSINESS WORKSHOP

LEO Galway hosted a Lean for Business workshop in the Menlo Park Hotel, Galway on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The workshop was aimed at people interested in taking part in the Lean for Business programme. The workshop was facilitated by Paula McNicholas and gave an

insight into the concept of Lean in business, applying these principles and gaining positive results.

The LEO Lean for Business Programme helps to:

- Identify issues and potential improvement areas.
- Provide support to implement.
- Achieve savings and improvements in capability and capacity to deliver.



Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses, building the capability of their people to identify issues and improve their operations.

Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase competitiveness.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

### Facebook:

7.3k likes

Reach year-to-date: 19.3k

### Instagram:

3237 followers

Reach year-to-date: 5.5k

### LinkedIn:

1232 followers

Reach year-to-date: 3.2k

### X (Twitter):

5951 followers

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## REGENERATION SCHEMES

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### ATHENRY

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#### TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF)

The Athenry Town team have been working closely with the TRO and Consultants LUC in the initial stages of evidence gathering for the TCF plan. An online survey has been published and can be accessed on <https://athenry-town-centre-first-plan.com/>. A further team meeting and workshops are to be arranged.

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#### RRDF PROJECT

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

project with the appointment of consultants for the Public Realm project. Current programming forecasts construction to commence late-2025. As part of the contract a Community Liaison Officer will be appointed to manage engagement with local stakeholders both prior to and during works. A tender has been prepared for the appointment of consultants to deliver the construction of the Somers House redevelopment; tenders are due to be returned by 07/02/25. Once appointed the design team will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases.

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## LOUGHREA

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### LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

After securing additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development, Galway County Council has appointed Finna Construction to undertake the works. A formal contract signing took place in the Loughrea area office on Monday the 13th of January. Works have commenced on site. Finna Construction are in ongoing discussions with the adjoining landowner in relation to gaining access to the rear of the building. The situation remains unresolved.



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THE EXISTING ACCESS  
ISSUE

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### LONG POINT

The Regeneration team are working with Consultants Helena McElmeel Architects to deliver the redesign of the Long Point swimming area in Loughrea Town. An Bord Pleanála have issued a request for further information. The consultants have issued the Regeneration Team a revised fee proposal to undertake this work. Approval is to be sought for this cost



uplift. An Bord Pleanála have granted an extension until May 2025 to respond to further information request.

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE LONG POINT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCLUDING THE VIEWING PLATFORM

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## CLIFDEN

A Part 10 planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the Public Realm project for Clifden Town Centre, Harbour Park and Beach Road Quay. Plans and particulars can be viewed online at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/clifden-public-realm-enhancement-scheme>. The deadline for observations has now passed and 43 submissions were received. Case is due to be decided by 01/05/2025. To date there has not been a request for further information.



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BEACH ROAD QUAY

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## MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET STREET



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## PORTUMNA

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### TOWN TRAIL

OBFA architects Ltd are progressing with the development of the Town Trail Strategy. A Co-design workshop took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2025 to receive feedback from the public and identify high level Design Principles for the trail. The event was well attended and

brought to light several concerns of the local community such as the need for consistent signage and universal access. OBFA architects will continue with the design.



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## PHOTOS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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### PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Works are currently progressing ahead of programme at Portumna Courthouse. Issues getting the ESB to site for the new connection will possibly affect the hand over date. An Expression of Interest for operators of the Café in the Courthouse was published mid-October, with formal tender documents issued at the end of January. Funding is in place through the DRCD for the appointment of a 3-year temporary post of Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility. This post has now been advertised with a closing date of the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. This post will also manage the Loughrea Town Hall and Tuam Town Hall once completed.

#### Portumna Public Realm

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

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

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### GORT

#### GORT PUBLIC REALM

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

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#### GORT TOWN HALL:

The proposal for further renovation of the Town Hall including roof repairs and interior works to support the community activities was one of the proposals listed in the Town Centre First plan for Gort. The Town Regeneration Officer liaised with the Town Team to secure funding under the Historic Structures Fund from the Heritage Council. Consultants were appointed to work with the Gort Town Hall Management Committee to get all necessary drawings and statutory consents in place for the renovation of the Gort

Town Hall. This phase of the project is now completed, and the building is ready for a capital funding application next year.

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## TUAM

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### TOWN HALL

The Regeneration Team has completed the first stage of the tender process for Tuam Town Hall. Two tender responses have been received and initial evaluation has taken place. Once appointed the design team will deliver the process through detailed design, tender and construction phases.

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### STATION QUARTER THRIVE FUNDING

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann and to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been formally appointed to develop the masterplan. The design objectives for the Tuam Station Quarter are centred around transforming a derelict area into a vibrant, mixed-use development with a strong sense of place and local identity. The first public consultation has taken place and will inform the design process as we progress with this project.



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### PHOTOS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

#### TUAM STATION BUILDING: REPURPOSING, RENOVATION AND EXTENSION

The renovation and extension of the Tuam Station Building has been designed inhouse by the Regeneration Team with a view of submitting a part 8 planning application in March 2025. This has been presented to the MD members and showcased at the public consultation event. Capital funding will be applied for the Tuam Station House project in May 2025 through a final round of THRIVE funding.



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## THE PURPOSED DESIGN



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## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN

The Regeneration team is working in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Town team and wider Local community to deliver a Town Centre First Plan for An Cheathrú Rua. Allies and Morrison have been appointed and the inception meeting has taken place on site.

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## BALLINASLOE

Following on from the successful funding application by the Regeneration team under THRIVE funding to the Northwest Regional Assembly to fund the delivery of a dedicated Town Centre First Plan focusing on the historic core and Fair Green identifying potential projects for future funding applications. The tendering process is now complete, and the Regeneration Team have appointed The Paul Hogarth Company (Ireland) limited to work with the Town Regeneration Officer, the Town Team and local community to progress the plan process. A Pop-up event was held on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 1pm - 7pm at Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub. This first phase of consultation will close this Sunday, February 16. Information is available on the Galway County Councils website:

<https://consult.galway.ie/>



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## PHOTOS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

## HERITAGE OFFICE

Funding available now for heritage projects in Galway

### THE HERITAGE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME IS NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The Heritage Council is now accepting applications from voluntary or community groups and not for profit non-governmental organisations in County Galway for its [Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025](#).

In 2024, the scheme funded several projects in County Galway including the following:



**Take your project to the top.**

**Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025**  
Applications now open



Ballinderreen Community Centre to preserve the rich history and heritage of Ballinderreen GAA through the stories past and present, provided support to the Roundstone Community Development Council to produce a bilingual exhibition and a digital heritage trail on the history and heritage of Roundstone and Ballygar Tidy Towns for their Conservation works to the orchard walls and outbuildings at the Castle Kelly estate in Ballygar; Glinsk community Development Society Limited for Ballinakill Abbey

Conservation Project; Donaghpatrick Kilcoona Heritage Society for a A LiDAR survey of Knockma's unstudied archaeological landscape, largely hidden by tree canopy; Milltown Community Council for an Energy audit of the lighting and the purchase of exhibition and interpretation materials for their museum and Friends of Tuam Heritage for Digital recording of St Mary's Church of Ireland Graveyard Tuam & community workshops.

This year a broad range of project types are eligible for funding under the scheme including:

- Conservation works to collections, objects or places, including natural heritage projects e.g. control of invasive species or habitat restoration works; conservation works to buildings, including churches; stabilisation works to ruined structures;
- Surveys, reports, plans, and audits to inform the future management of buildings and monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.
- Accessibility projects that make heritage activities more accessible for people with disabilities e.g. building ramps, automatic doors, handrails, tactile interpretation
- Projects that help people engage more with their heritage e.g. interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, podcasts, websites
- Purchase of specialised equipment e.g archival boxing for vulnerable documents, monitoring equipment for humidity or light, interpretation/multimedia equipment, specialised software

- Projects that address the heritage of minority groups e.g an oral history project documenting Traveller heritage
- Training in traditional skills and crafts e.g. workshops on skills such as roofing, thatch, dry stone walling etc.
- Citizen science projects on environmental conservation

The minimum grant that can be requested through the scheme is €500. The maximum is €25,000.

The variety of applicants who successfully secured funding in 2024 demonstrates the positive impact the scheme has across the heritage spectrum. A full list of projects funded last year is available from below:

[https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/2024\\_Community\\_Grants\\_Offer.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/2024_Community_Grants_Offer.pdf)

A full overview of eligibility criteria and other relevant details are available from the Heritage Council's website below:

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2>

The closing date for applications is **Friday, 14th of March 2025 at 11pm**. Applications must be made via the Heritage Council's [online grants management system](#). Funded projects must be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.

The Heritage Council will host a Zoom information webinar on the scheme at 12 noon on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February with general application advice followed by a question and answers session. The event will be recorded and available on our website for viewing afterwards. Registration details are available [here](#)

## TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS GRANT SCHEME



The Heritage Council, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, manages the Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme. The scheme's principal objective is to ensure that traditional farm buildings and other related structures that contribute to the character of the landscape and are of significant heritage value are conserved in active agricultural use as well as other related structures such as walls, cobbled yard surfaces, walled orchards, dungsteads, millraces, gate pillars and gates.

The 2025 Traditional Farm Buildings grant scheme will open for applications on 30 January 2025. Applicants must apply online for this grant scheme via the Heritage Council's online grant system. They do not provide or accept paper forms.

The closing date for receipt of completed online applications is **5pm Monday 10th March 2025**.

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## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHEME IN 2025?

The Scheme is only open to farmers in the Republic of Ireland participating in and accepted into one of the following Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine schemes: Approved participants in ACRES. The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine have confirmed those awaiting confirmation on their ACRES application can apply pending approval.

Participants in EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Calls 1, 2 and 3, Hen Harrier and Pearl Mussel Projects and The Burren Programme who were an active participant as of 31st December 2022 or had completed the full term of the contract for the relevant EIP, or have completed a five-year contract, as appropriate.

Approved participants of the Organic Farming Scheme.

and

Are the owner of the building/other related structure for which funding is sought or are acting with the permission of the owner (in which case the owner must provide consent).

### **What works are funded under this scheme**

The grant supports

the conservation of traditional farm outbuildings, including roofs, walls, structural repairs, windows, and doors.

the repair of \*other traditional farming structures such as walls, gate pillars and gates, walled orchards, cobbled yards and masonry dungsteads.

\*You do not have to apply for a building. In 2025, the Heritage Council particularly encourage applications for the repair of traditional farming structures other than buildings. To support this effort, it is intended that €500,000 be specifically allocated this year for the repair of these other related farm structures.

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## IRISH COMMUNITY ARCHIVE NETWORK (ICAN)

The following is a listing of iCAN Galway County Group members who have received funding under the iCAN Community Funding (only open to iCAN Members). The funding is provided by the Heritage Council and is administered by the National Museum of Ireland, Castlebar and Galway County Council Heritage Office (for Galway County).

**Name of Group:** **Abbey & District Heritage Group  
(Abbey Community Development Association)**  
Grant Amount: €700  
Grant Purpose: Purchase of 2 x Exhibition Stand

**Name of Group:** **Claregalway Historical & Cultural Society**  
Grant Amount: €1500  
Grant Purpose: eBook on Wells & Village Pumps, print of hardcopy run and promotion

**Name of Group:** **Milltown Heritage Group (Milltown Development Company)**  
Grant Amount: €983

Grant Purpose: Digitisation of VHS tapes

**Name of Group: Moycullen Heritage**

Grant Amount: €1133

Grant Purpose: eBook, subscriptions & 3 x banners.

Access to Ancestry provided through iCAN Account

**Name of Group: Moylough Community Resource, Cultural & Heritage Group**

Grant Amount: €1232

Grant Purpose: Purchase of printer, speaker & power bank

**Name of Group: Oughterard Culture & Heritage Group**

Grant Amount: €1437

Grant Purpose: Laptop, monitor & Roots Ireland subscription

**Name of Group: Skehana & District Heritage Group**

Grant Amount: €1500

Grant Purpose: Amplifier, speaker & projector



LAUNCH OF GARDA CHILDREN'S  
WORKBOOK FOR 5TH AND 6TH  
CLASS CHILDREN IN GALWAY – 15TH  
JANUARY 2025

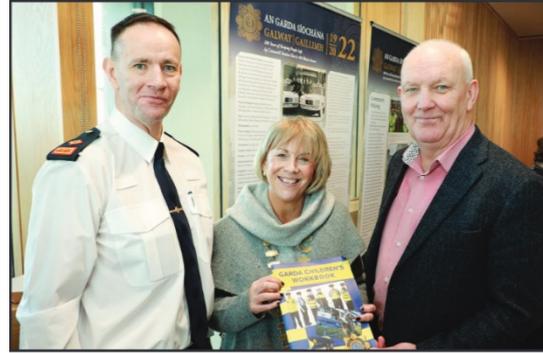
(TAKEN FROM THE GALWAY  
ADVERTISER, 24 JANUARY 2025)

At the Launch of Garda Children's Workbook L-R Michael Owens (Director of Services Housing, Galway County Council), Galway County Mayor Cllr. Martina Kinnane, An Garda Síochána Assistant Commissioner Cliona Richardson, Marie Mannion (Heritage Officer, Galway County Council) and Liam Hanrahan (Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning, Galway County Council).  
Photo Sean Lydon

An Garda Síochána Gaillimh Division has launched a new bilingual workbook for 5th and 6th Class children which offers an educational and colourful insight into the foundation and development of the organisation. Produced in partnership with Galway County Council, the 'Garda Children's Workbook' was officially launched at the Garda North Western Region Headquarters in Galway by Assistant Commissioner Cliona Richardson, on Wednesday, 15th

January, 2025. In attendance at the launch were pupils from Oughterard National School, Barnaderg National School, Kiltiernan National School, Moylough National School, Gaelscoil d hÍde, Uarán Mór and Radharc na Mara School, Galway.

(TAKEN FROM THE GALWAY ADVERTISER, 24 JANUARY 2025)



At the launch of the Garda Children's Workbook were Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Galway County Mayor Cllr. Martina Kinnane and Gerry Glynn (KPW Printers). Photo Sean Lydon

Gardaí, members of the Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association and representatives from Galway County Council, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Oughterard Heritage and Moylough Heritage were also in attendance, along with local historian William Henry.

Speaking at the launch, Assistant Commissioner Cliona Richardson, Garda Northwestern Region, said: "We are from the community. We are of the community and while we have had to over the years adapt and adjust to police a rapidly changing society; we have never

lost sight of that relationship that exists between An Garda Síochána and the Irish people.

"It is this relationship that marks us out from other police forces around the world and it is my wish that we will continue to hold this special relationship with Irish Society for at least the next 100 years. Our workbook was created in bilingual format for 5th and 6th classes, and it provides an insight into the founding of the Force in 1922 and as to how those first Gardaí helped develop a style of policing which eventually led to them being accepted and trusted by the communities they served.

"Our workbook gives an overview of our formative years and goes on to set out some of the key

COMMENTARY  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

NEWS 3

## Primary pupils are all 'booked' by the Gardaí!

Launch of Garda Children's Workbook for Galway's Fifth and Sixth Classes

GALWAY'S primary school children are all 'booked' by the Gardaí. A new bilingual workbook is being launched today in Galway, designed to help children understand the role of the Garda Síochána and the importance of community safety.

The workbook, titled 'An Garda Síochána Galway Children's Workbook', is a bilingual resource for 5th and 6th class children. It provides an insight into the founding of the Force in 1922 and as to how those first Gardaí helped develop a style of policing which eventually led to them being accepted and trusted by the communities they served.

The workbook gives an overview of our formative years and goes on to set out some of the key events and developments across the decades that followed such as changes in deployment, training, rank structure, uniform, equipment and transport.

"It also explains the work that An Garda Síochána do today on a daily basis across the country in ensuring that we keep people safe. This work in some cases is carried out by specially trained Gardaí in a wide variety of roles and disciplines who deal with the many different crimes and issues that arise in a modern society, such as the Dog Unit, Mounted Unit, Air Support Unit and Armed Support Units but it also includes the vitally important work carried out every day by local uniformed Gardaí in our communities.

At the launch, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Galway County Mayor Cllr. Martina Kinnane and Gerry Glynn (KPW Printers) were present. Other attendees included representatives from Galway County Council, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Oughterard Heritage and Moylough Heritage, and local historian William Henry.

Assistant Commissioner Cliona Richardson, Garda Northwestern Region, spoke at the launch, highlighting the importance of the workbook in fostering a positive relationship between the Garda Síochána and the community.

The workbook is available for free to all primary schools in Galway. It can be ordered from the Garda Síochána's Community Relations Unit.

"Finally, the activities section in the workbook will give you an opportunity to work together with your classmates and test your knowledge and understanding of the role of An Garda Síochána, which hopefully you will find both interesting and beneficial," said Assistant Commissioner Richardson.

Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche said the Galway Garda Division covers the city and county, including the largest Gaeltacht area in the country and is responsible for the only offshore islands with a permanent Garda presence. All of the Gaeltacht areas, including the islands, are served by Irish-speaking Gardaí, he said.

"We will continue to police with the support of the people of Galway, which has been the case since the first Gardaí arrived in 1922. Community Policing is at the core of our work in this Division, and initiatives such as this Children's Workbook are at the core of Community Policing.

Editor and Project Manager, Superintendent Damian Flanagan, said he hoped the workbook would generate an interest in history and in the Irish language among schoolchildren. He praised the Joint Editor and Project Manager, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council.

Ms Mannion said they had worked closely with teachers to ensure the workbook meets the standards for 5th and 6th Class pupils and aligns with the curriculum.

"The whole idea for this is for pupils to understand the rich history of AGS in Ireland, where they came from, what they do and what it means to all of our lives," she said, thanking the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for funding the project.

Councillor Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway said: "This bilingual workbook not only traces the rich history of An Garda Síochána but also highlights the invaluable work they do in our communities. This resource aims to empower you with knowledge and appreciation for our national police service, fostering a deeper understanding of its role in maintaining safety and justice. "As you know, the Garda Síochána plays a crucial role in keeping our communities safe and secure. This workbook is an opportunity for you to discover more about their work in a fun and engaging way. Through this workbook, we hope to embrace our cultural legacy while building a more inclusive and understanding society."

The workbook is being delivered to schools around Galway City and County by Community Gardaí, and is also available to download from

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/topics/an-garda-siochana-galway-gaillimh-1922-2022/gardas-children-workbook> or [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)



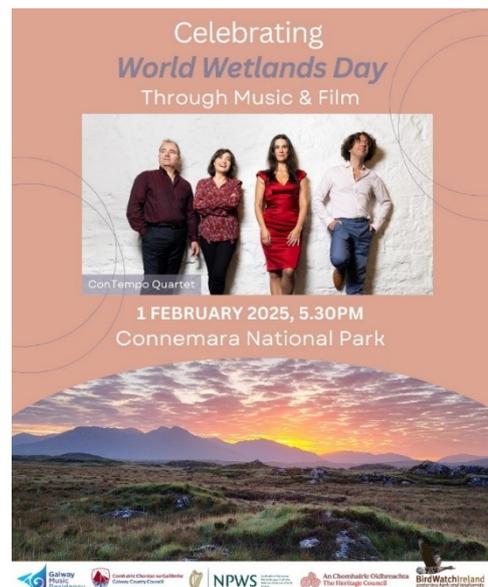
WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2025



World Wetlands Day is an annual event dedicated to highlighting the significance of wetlands and raising awareness about their importance. Celebrating World Wetlands Day encourages conservation efforts and sustainable management of these precious ecosystem and reminds us of the need to protect wetlands for their ecological, economic and social benefits. Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer, appeared on Connemara Community Radio to raise awareness about campaign and inform the public about the various events happening around the county.

Protection wetlands for our common future requires collaboration and with that in

mind, Galway County Council led on an event to mark the occasion. Through a celebration of music and film, the Biodiversity Office, BirdWatch Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Galway Ensemble-in-Residence ConTempo Quartet and the Heritage Council joined the together at the Connemara National Park, with the premiere of the new short film *Wildlife on Roundstone Bog* coupled with a performance of a wetland themed programme by ConTempo String Quartet. The Haydn’s Op. 50, No 6 in D major, ‘*The Frog*’, Judith Ring’s *Of Woods and Water* and Folk Songs arranged by The Danish String Quartet *The Topped Hen / The Peat Dance*.



WILDLIFE ON ROUNDSTONE BOG FILM

A beautiful new short film, *Wildlife on Roundstone Bog*, produced by BirdWatch Ireland, was released online following the premiere at Connemara National Park. The feature was commissioned by Galway County Council through support from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the National



Parks and Wildlife Service and includes well-known wildlife experts Dermot Breen and John Lusby. The film can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJLUUH3ZvOs&t=235s> and has already amassed over 1300 views in two weeks and has featured in a campaign by The Heritage Council promoting the work of the Local Authority Biodiversity Officer Network.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

#### ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025

##### 1. Restoration Improvement –2025 Contract planned works

- a. Old Church St, Athenry (2024) – Delayed due to archaeological issues drainage works complete
- b. R347 Laraghmore SO - DBM & SD (Warm Mix)
- c. R348 Derrydonnell More SO - DBM & SD
- d. L4105 Millplot (Station Road) SO - DBM & SMA (warm Mix)
- e. L3106 Ballinvoher SO - DBM & SD (warm Mix)
- f. L2129 Drumgriffin/Tonegurraun SO - DBM & SD
- g. L3107 Tisaxon (Monivea Rd) SO - DBM & SD
- h. L2119 Cloghaun/Baunmore SO - DBM & SD
- i. L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan SO - DBM & SD
- j. L3117 Cormacuagh SO - CI 804 & SD
- k. L6195 Liscananaun SO - CI 804 & SD
- l. L6117 Castlecreevy SO - CI 804 & SD
- m. L7115 Carheenlea SO - CI 804 & SD
- n. L31026Moor SO - CI 804 & SD
- o. L71102Carnmore EastSO - CI 804 & SD
- p. L81031Rinn SO - CI 804 & SD
- q. L71523Toorkeel SO - CI 804 & SD
- r. L31078Carrantarramud SO - CI 804 & SD

##### 2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. **Surface dressing** –  
2025 Roads Programme under review
- b. **Recycling Contract** – Planning works for September  
2025 Roads Programme under review

##### 3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Contractor completed Tarmac works removing Slip-Lane to be Completed in February, Line marking and other works to be completed when temperatures increase

- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Tarmac completed – Line marking and other works to be completed when temperatures increase

**4. Climate Change**

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

**5. Community Involvement Scheme**

Maree Road @ Church – - Complete

New Line Junction Crossing – Contractor has confirmed they are starting As soon as possible.

Ryehill Church – Road widening – Complete

Coolarne no 1 – Road widening ongoing

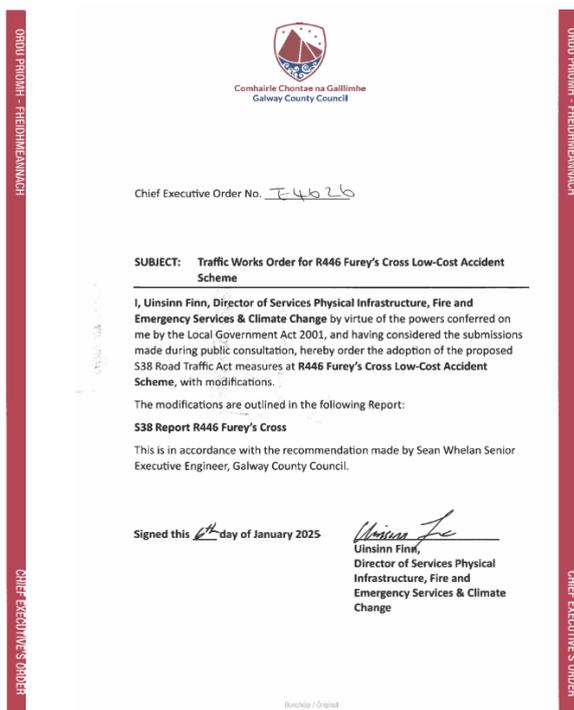
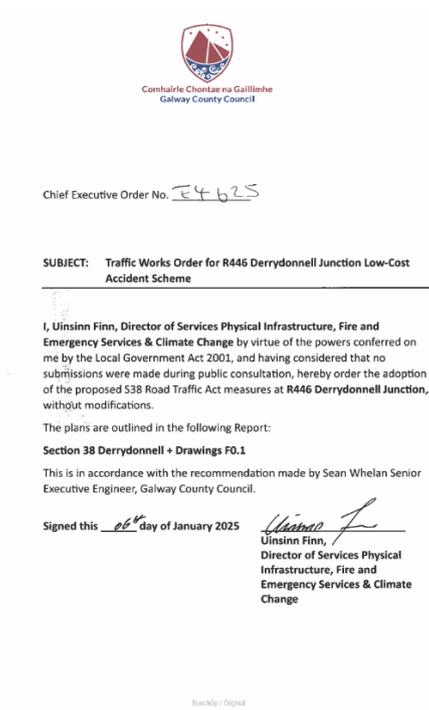
Caraun – Road bend - Complete

Ballyboggin – Edge drainage - Complete

**6. Other Items**

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Landowner planning consent letters issued to all landowners. All received except one landowner discussions required to reach agreement
Hydrological study Clarin River	Application made for Further funding to progress to Phase 1 consultation requirements OPW requested further information
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Tender awarded pre-start meeting held with contractor. Items with long lead time to be ordered

**7. Section 38 roads orders for works on Low-cost accident schemes at Derrydonnell and Furey's cross**



## 8. Figures and Pictures

CARAUN CIS



STORM CLEAN UP

CARNMORE LIGHTS REPAIR



DAMAGED EIR NETWORK

## STORM CLEAN UP



## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During January 2025, the Draft Annual Roads Programme and Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) Programme (2025-2027) was presented to the elected members at the MD Monthly meeting and agreed in principle. During the first two weeks of 2025, MD crews were focused on maintenance of public roads in terms of drainage, pothole repair, signage repair, hedge and verge cutting, and minor improvement works. This also include a period of low temperatures where extensive salting operation were required. Separately, crews in Ballinasloe MD were involved with the preparatory work in storage and distribution of the poles and signage for the local road speed limit reduction plan.

Ballinasloe Cycling Club held the Cyclocross National Championships at the Fair Green in Ballinasloe. Assistance was provided by Ballinasloe crews in the setup for the event, which was ran off very successfully.

In the later weeks of January, roads crews have been primarily dealing the preparation for, and the aftermath cleanup following Storm Éowyn. Crews were tasked with immediate emergency works where blocked roads required clearance and have been assisted by specialist contractors where required. The scale of the damage caused, and extents of repairs required is still being measured.

Below are examples of the activities throughout the MD, as described.



STORM ÉOWYN – BALLINASLOE MD





CYCLOCROSS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE FAIR GREEN IN BALLINASLOE

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

In early January the Conamara MD focused on road maintenance works. Priorities included road drainage works such as opening water tables, cleaning gullies and upsizing culverts where there were capacity issues. Other maintenance works include hedge trimming, gritting roads during prolonged winter weather, sign maintenance. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the Conamara MD was hit by Storm Éowyn. This resulted in several road closures due to fallen trees, Eir and ESB poles and cables falling across roads. The Conamara MD outdoor staff are dealing with the aftermath with the clean-up expected to last well into March.



L5326 DRUMSNAUV  
AFTER STORM ÉOWYN





R341  
ROUNDSTONE  
AFTER STORM  
ÉOWYN



N59 CLAREMOUNT  
OUGHTERARD  
LIVE ELECTRIC  
WIRES AFTER  
STORM ÉOWYN

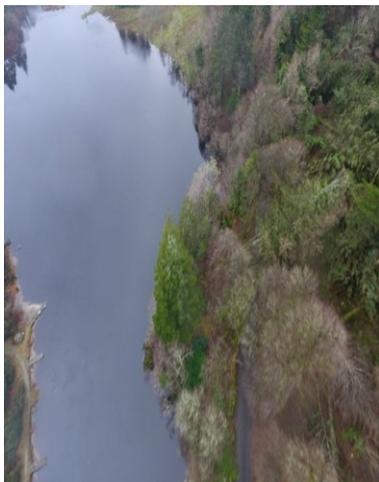


N59 MAIGH  
CUILINN TO  
OUGHTERARD  
AFTER STORM  
ÉOWYN



L5137 BALLYNAHINCH  
AFTER STORM

ÉOWYN



L13043  
CRUACHROIM  
/ARD NA  
GAOITHE  
AFTER STORM  
ÉOWYN

## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

The last few weeks have been devoted almost entirely to preparation in advance of Storm Éowyn and, unfortunately, repair and clean-up in the aftermath of the devastation that was

wrought by this historic weather event. The time allocated to preparing for this event was time well spent with crews being well positioned to address the National and Regional Road network almost immediately on the passing of the red wind warning. Within days, the local road network was also passable. The Gort, Loughrea and Portumna Area Office staff and outdoor crew have done fantastic work over the last two weeks, but the clean-up efforts will continue for some time to come, as the full scale of the damage caused to our public parks, roads, rivers, bridges, public lighting, traffic control systems etc. slowly become apparent. Examples of the damage caused, and significant work undertaken is evident in the photographs below.

As previously noted, the 2025 Roads Programme and Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) Programme (2025-2027) was presented to the elected members in January and agreed in principle.

Early start roads have been identified and works have already commenced where appropriate.

We are awaiting confirmation of Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations later this year and any changes required at that point will be incorporated within the current 2025 Road Programme.

A high-level overview of the 2025 Programme is as follows:

41 RIG projects to be completed at an anticipated budget of approximately €6,061,931.

22 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects to be completed at an anticipated budget of approximately €1,554,211.

8 Local Tertiary Roads with an anticipated budget of €244,109.

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## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY STORM ÉOWYN











REPAIR OF COLLAPSED  
CULVERT AT HOLLYMOUNT,  
PETERSWELL



IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES IN CRAUGHWELL VILLAGE





DRAINAGE  
WORKS IN  
CLARINBRIDGE



BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
ROAD REPAIRS ON THE L-4509 FOLLOWING THE  
FAILURE OF A RETAINING WALL STRUCTURE



WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

STORM EOWYN

Storm Eowyn was an extremely powerful and record-breaking extratropical cyclone which hit Ireland, on 24 January 2025 and Norway on the night of 24 January into 25 January 2025. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> storm of the 2024–25 windstorm season

Widespread red weather warnings were issued across Ireland ahead of the rapidly strengthening storm. It was the most powerful and severe to hit Ireland since Hurricane Debbie in 1961 with wind records breaking an 80-year-old record for the country. By 9am on 25<sup>th</sup> January most of the Tuam MD district was suffering from power and communication outages and most roads blocked by fallen trees, poles and debris on an unprecedented scale. Significant damage was caused to many properties around the district. By the time the last red weather warning for Storm Éowyn had been lifted on 24 January our roads crews along with technical staff commenced the clean-up operation and gather information on the scope of the widescale damage. Tuam MD had up to 60 personnel in operation during the cleanup over the following 2 weeks including direct labour staff, technical and administration staff and contractors. Upwards of over 2000 fallen trees, poles and debris sites were estimated across the MD.

The cleanup operation was based on a priority measure with the national routes, important infrastructure routes cleared and opened by the evening of Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. Regional road operations commenced on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> which took up to 5 days to complete. Local roads were cleared during the first 5 days. Utility companies including the ESB and Eir worked alongside the roads crews to remove downed lines and poles in order to get the roads reopened.

Clean-up efforts continued into the first two weeks in February with crews removing weakened trees along all routes, removal of debris and fallen trees at the edges of roads. There was significant loss of trees in the Palace Grounds in Tuam with over 120 trees fallen. Contractors are to commence operations in the park in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February.







Mise, le meas,

Handwritten signature of Liane Conneally.

**Chief Executive  
Galway County Council**

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**