



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Bealtaine 2025

May 2025



### LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

#### LCDC COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY – HELP US TO IMPROVE HOW LCDC'S CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Department of Rural and Community Development has engaged Match Marketing to enhance the awareness and understanding of the work of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) with the development of a communications campaign to run later this year. They are currently in the initial 'discovery phase' of this project, which will gather insights, through engagement, from key stakeholders.

By defining clear priorities and aligning them with community needs, the discovery phase will provide actionable insights that guide the development of effective communication strategies and training programmes, ensuring LCDCs achieve their objectives and resonate with the communities they serve.

**Survey Link** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DHPJ9W5>

### HEALTHY IRELAND

#### DEMENTIA CAFÉ INITIATIVE IN CONNEMARA



The Dementia Café Initiative was launched in Connemara on Wednesday, May 7th, in An Cheathrú Rua, and it was a great success. This is to be followed by the launch of our Clifden social club on Monday, May 12th, and the Dementia Café in Leitir Mealláin on Wednesday, May 21st.

The event began with a Meet and Greet, followed by an information and support session from the

Alzheimer's Society of Ireland. Carers Ireland were also present to support the opening of the café, along with local volunteers. Information on the supports available for people with dementia and their carers were also provided by Carers Ireland and the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland.



Additionally, Healthy County Galway funded tailored dementia-specific activity packs, which will be available at both dementia cafés and the social club in Connemara. These packs include arts and crafts activities, board games, and interactive games such as musical bingo and playing cards.



A scheduled plan of talks and activities has been coordinated for the coming months. In June, we welcome Nicola O'Malley, who will give a talk on the benefits of aromatherapy for memory recall and engagement in dementia patients. To support this, we have added an aromatherapy kit to each of the activity packs. Aromatherapy can help reduce anxiety and agitation in dementia patients, promoting a sense of calm. It can also improve sleep quality, leading to better cognitive function during the day, and uplifting scents like lemon and grapefruit can elevate mood and reduce feelings of depression.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARDS

The Community Health and Wellbeing Board initiative continues to raise awareness of local and national supports and services available to County Galway residents through the Health and Wellbeing Boards. This month, several boards were delivered to different localities to



specifically highlight these supports and services, as well as to promote the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give. These are five simple, evidence-based actions that we can all incorporate into our daily lives to enhance our wellbeing.

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





## CLIFDEN MEN'S SHED CELEBRATES WELLNESS JOURNEY

Clifden Men's Shed recently concluded an 8-week Tai Chi and Mindfulness course with a Presentation of Certificates Ceremony, followed by a course evaluation and refreshments.



Congratulations to the 21 shedders and family carers who completed the course at Clifden District Hospital. This initiative, organized by the HSE Carers Department and funded by the Healthy County Galway programme, was a wonderful journey towards wellness and mindfulness. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this journey towards wellness and mindfulness.

## TAKING STOCK FARMERS PROGRAMME: CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Following the launch of the 'Taking Stock' farmers programme in March 2025, we are excited to extend our outreach through a series of informative flyers. These flyers cover crucial topics such as cardiovascular health, work-life balance, financial planning, and farm succession. Our goal is to provide farmers with key information to support their health and wellbeing, promoting a

balanced lifestyle.

The flyers will be distributed to Teagasc offices, marts and agricultural consultants throughout Galway County to reach farmers across the area. Healthy Ireland HSE, County Galway, Mayo and Roscommon aim to raise awareness about the importance of farmers' health and encourage active participation in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

### AFRICA DAY 2025

Preparations are being finalised for Africa Day 2025 which will be celebrated in the Palace Grounds in Tuam on the 17th May.

Africa Day is the annual celebration of the people, cultures, and potential of the African continent. The event will feature African Irish culture, music and dance and African food. Ireland has growing trade, political and cultural links across the continent of Africa. This day is an opportunity to promote those links and learn more about African cultures.



SOME MEMBERS OF  
THE GALWAY COUNTY  
AFRICA DAY  
COMMITTEE,  
INCLUDING THE  
GALWAY COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
INTEGRATION TEAM.

### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

#### GALWAY COUNTY OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL AGM

The AGM of the Galway County Older People's Council took place in the Council Chamber on Thursday 17th April 2025. The purpose of the AGM was to elect a new Executive Committee of the Older People's Council who will act as the voice of older people in the identification of issues affecting older people, and solutions or initiatives to these issues through the Age Friendly Alliance which is the interagency forum to address the challenges associated with our ageing population. Nominations were invited from a range of groups committed to improving the quality of life for older people, and a total of 18 people signed up to be part of the new Executive Committee with representatives from Active Age Groups, Men's Sheds, Heritage Groups, Community Development Groups, and older individuals. Following a round-table discussion at this initial meeting, 2 priority areas emerged as the primary concerns for the group, which will be address in further focus groups over the coming months:

- The provision of social and leisure opportunities to combat social isolation and loneliness
- The provision of a range of housing options for older people, particularly town centre housing.



MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOR COUNTY GALWAY WITH MARY MCGANN, AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME MANAGER

## NATIONAL OLDER PEOPLE'S CONVENTION

The National Older People's Convention took place in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, on 7th – 9th May 2025. Members of every Older People's Council attend the Convention with Age Friendly Programme Managers to hear about age friendly developments at national level, in addition to taking part in workshops to visit age friendly developments in the host local



authority and network with other local authority areas.

MEMBERS OF GALWAY CITY AND COUNTY OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND STAFF ATTENDING THE CONVENTION, WITH AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND REGIONAL MANAGER DARA MCGUIGAN

## NATIONAL AGE FRIENDLY RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025

The annual Awards are being hosted by the Galway Age Friendly Programme in 2025 and will take place at the Galmont Hotel on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025. Age Friendly Ireland are now inviting nominations for the award categories which recognise innovative projects across the range of areas that have a real impact on the lives of older people and have potential to be showcased and replicated. Applications are now invited via the online form at [Application Form](#) under the following awards categories:

- Age Friendly Housing
- Age Friendly Transport Initiatives
- Active & Healthy Ageing Initiatives
- Business Innovation
- Safety & Security Initiatives
- Communications
- Environment



- Community Innovation

Further information on the Awards is available on the national website at [National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards](#) and we warmly welcome initiatives and projects from Galway County, particularly in light of the Awards being hosted by the Galway City & County Age Friendly Programme.

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

### CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS 2025

The Cathaoirleach's Awards take place at the Raheen Woods Hotel on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025, and this year, have reverted to a separate event where all shortlisted nominees are invited



to the Awards Ceremony and the winners will be announced on the night. Over 90 nomination forms were received for the 7 award categories which are open to public nomination and in addition, Cathaoirleach Kinane will present 2 Special Recognition Awards, to an Individual and Group. The Awards will also recognise the special achievement of a Tidy Towns Group in the national competition and recognise the 2 groups selected to represent our County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition 2025.

CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, AN CATHAOIRLEACH

### ALL-ISLAND PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2025

Each year, Galway County Council selects 2 communities to represent the County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition and this year, we have selected the following projects:

Clarinbridge Tidy Towns will coordinate efforts on behalf of their community in the population Award Category 300-1000 and showcase all their facilities and amenities which impact on quality of life for residents and visitors.

CLARINBRIDGE EVENTS AND FACILITIES





Marconi Men's Shed will enter the Community Wellbeing Award Category to showcase the inter-agency collaboration through the establishment and development of this Men's Shed. It was established exclusively by male family carers, and who have benefited from ongoing partnership projects between the HSE Carers Department, Forum Connemara CLG, and



Galway County Council through Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland funding.

THE FAMILY CARERS WHO FORMED THE SHED AFTER TAKING PART IN A CREATIVE IRELAND PROJECT

## ARTS OFFICE

### GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL 2025

Galway Theatre Festival took place from 02 – 10 May. Later this year, the festival will create an Artist Residency Week, a week-long intensive in Autumn 2025, delivered in partnership with Fishamble, and supported by the Arts Council, Galway City Council and Galway County Council. This will provide mentorship, professional development, and dedicated creative space for artists to refine their work.

Alongside this residency week, the Arts Office is proud to partner with Galway Theatre Festival in 2025 to support Galway County artists through direct funding and residency opportunities, strengthening artistic connections and fostering new creative voices.

Playwright and actor Rena Bryson, whose work explores mental health and sexuality through a Queer lens, will receive support to develop her practice. Rena co-founded Eva's



Echo Theatre and has written, produced, and performed in over ten productions. Also supported is playwright, performer, and sound designer Jenni Nikinmaa, a Finland- born artist based on Inishmore. Jenni's work blends dark comedy and poetic storytelling, exploring themes of hurt and healing. A former Druid FUEL artist, she is currently developing *Sheep!*, a play about flocks, survival, and assault.

PERFORMING ARTS FORUM DIRECTOR IRMA MCLOUGHLIN AND ARTS OFFICER SHARON O'GRADY AT THE PROGRAMME LAUNCH OF GALWAY THEATRE FESTIVAL

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## WRAP FUND - FÍS GAMES SUMMIT

FÍS Games Summit 2025 was held on 11 April. The goal of the Summit was to help foster growth and success in the Irish games development community by providing developers on the island of Ireland with a unique opportunity to engage with talks and presentations that will help them in their own careers.



This event was hosted by Ardán, supported by Screen Ireland, Gréasán na Meán Skillnet, IMIRT, TG4, WRAP, Creative Europe Media Desk Ireland, ATU Galway, University of Galway, Northern Ireland Screen and Game Workers United Ireland.

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ARDÁN TEAM AND ARTS OFFICER  
SHARON O'GRADY

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## GALWAY CITY OF FILM

Ardán and Galway County Council are delighted to announce that applications are now open for the Ceantar Scannán Short Documentary Bursary 2025, the annual documentary funding and mentorship scheme for filmmakers in Galway City and County.

We are looking for up-and-coming filmmakers to apply for this bursary to help them make one of their first steps in their filmmaking career.

Successful applicants will be given a bursary of €3,000 to help them make a short documentary of between five and fifteen minutes in duration. The deadline for applications was **29 May**.

Previous recipients of this bursary have gone on to have their films screened at the Galway Film Fleadh, as well as other local, national and international film festivals.

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GALWAY CITY OF FILM  
DOCUMENTARY BURSARY OPEN  
CALL

**NOW OPEN**

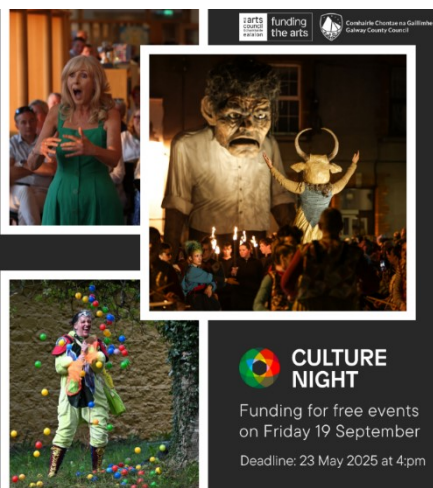
**Galway**  
CITY OF FILM  
CEANTAR SCANNÁN

**Short Doc  
Bursary  
2025**

**Info Day: CREW Building, May 15th, 2 pm**  
**Application Deadline: May 29th, 12 noon**

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## CULTURE NIGHT



Culture Night will take place on Friday 19th September 2025, 4 p.m. - 12 midnight. Galway County Council invited individuals, groups and organisations to submit funding applications for free events taking place in County Galway.

Event organisers could apply to pay for artist fees and production costs for in person events. The minimum contribution available was €250 and the maximum €500. The deadline for applications was **23 May**.

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### CULTURE NIGHT OPEN CALL

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME – ARTS ACT GRANTS

Community groups, artists and arts organisations across the county have been busy delivering arts and culture projects through our Community Support Scheme. Here's a taste of what was funded between February and April.

- Gort Arts, 01 February: Community workshops and gathering to celebrate Brigid's day including choir, céilí dancing, trad music, storytelling and procession.
- Menlough Drama Society, 07 & 08 March: Production of Lucky Numbers.
- Clonbur Cloghbrack Community Council, 14 March: Sean-Nós Nua, an evening of dance, music and fire spectacle to warm up to St. Patrick's weekend festivities.
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Tuam, 17 March: St. Patrick's Day parade performance.
- Ballinasloe Musical Society, 19-22 March: Disney's The Little Mermaid performances.
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Craomh Dhuiche Sheoigheach, 29 March: Fiddle workshops with Cathal Ó Curráin and showcase.
- Ballinderreen Community Centre, March: Ceoltóirí an Doirín concert series.
- The Glenamaddy Players, 18 & 21 April, 01 May: Performances of Class.



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BRIGID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS BY  
GORT ARTS



### LIVE MUSIC IN RESIDENTIAL HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

Galway County Council has secured additional funding of €25,000 from Creative Ireland to run a series of concerts in Nursing Homes over the course of the summer. This is a collaborative project with Galway City Council and will consist of visits to 8 Nursing Homes in total, 4 in the County and 4 in the City with each site receiving 4 visits.

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year running this highly popular project, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that we have received additional funding for its delivery. This year the focus area for Galway County is Connemara, with the star attraction being the new healthcare facility on Inis Mór. The musician visiting this site is local singer/songwriter Pádraig Jack who has recorded and released a number of songs as Gaeilge about life on the island.



### CRUINNÍÚ NA NÓG 2025

We are into the final weeks of planning Cruinniú na nÓg 2025. Following on from the success of last year's programme, this year is set to be the biggest Cruinniú yet! On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, Minister Patrick O'Donovan launched Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 at King John's Castle in Limerick. In attendance were a number of Youth Ambassadors from all over the country, including our very own Brendán and Niamh from Inis Oírr who were selected to be the National Youth Ambassadors for Gaeltacht Communities.



The programme for this year features a wide variety of workshops, performances, classes, exhibitions, and so much more. Some of the highlights of this year's programme are listed below.

2025 sees the return of Gliondar's 1 Day Festival in the grounds of Athenry Heritage Centre. Sing Along Social's 'Disco in a Day' workshops and showcase which will see older teens learn how to work the decks and then putting on a gig for their friends and family in a Nighttime Economy funded event. Muintearas Teo will host

workshops in the run up to Cruinniú in which they will create a stop motion animation which



will be screened on the day itself. There are many more and details can be found on the Cruinniú na nÓg website [Cruinniú na nÓg - A day of free creativity for children and young people](#) .

As always, we cannot run Cruinniú na nÓg without the incredible support of the Library Service who will be hosting a wide variety of events throughout the day. Art forms covered include cooking, origami, music, storytelling, and so much more.

Once again, we are bringing Cruinniú na nÓg to the Aran Islands with a programme as Gaeilge including Branar's imagination playground, a silent disco, creative workshops, circus performances and group drumming with Drumadore. Our entire programme this year is set to be about 50% as Gaeilge.

## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

### INTERPROVINCIAL WHEELCHAIR HURLING

Galway Sports Partnership were delighted to support Round 1 of the Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling Event that took place in Clarin College, Athenry on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The event was a huge success with teams travelling from Ulster, Munster and Leinster to take part on the day.



FRONT ROW L-R: TIM HYNES, PAT CARTY, MATTIE KILROY, TOMMY KELLY, DENIS O'BOYLE, ANDREW MCBRIDE, GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP, ELLIE SHEEHY

BACK ROW L-R: DAMIEN COLEMAN, DAVID BLAKE, TONY WATENE, DAVID CUNNINGHAM, MAEVE MURRAY, EADHMANN MAC SUIBHNE (REFEREE), AOIFE KELLY (MATCH UMPIRE), PAT LYNAGH, PAUL CALLAGHAN, GERRY MCNAMARA

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## FITSTICK TRAILS

Through the support of Healthy Galway County, Galway Sports Partnership has installed Fitstick Trail Signage at Kilcornan Woods along with improved signage on the existing trails. We are also delighted to announce we have three more Fitstick trails due to be installed in the coming weeks in Corribdale Park, Gort Riverwalk and Lawrencetown. These

will add to the first Galway Fitstick Trail which was installed in 2024.

Galway Sports Partnership will be providing programmes at each of these locations to encourage usage.



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## INCLUSIVE LEARN TO CYCLE CAMP

Galway Sports Partnerships assisted HSE Children's Disability Network's Learn to Cycle Camp in Ballinasloe. The camp was held for 3 days on the grounds of Ard Scoil Mhuire where there is both an indoor and outdoor facility for teaching children to cycle. The camp was attended by 20 children between the ages of 3 and 15 all with varying levels of disabilities.



This program gives children with additional needs the opportunity to learn to cycle in a fun and safe environment. The aim of the program is to get children cycling independently by setting

small achievable goals which eventually lead to them cycling independently.

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## GROUP VISITS

A key element of Galway Sports Partnerships work is around information sharing and supporting people and groups to be active. Through our work with Older Adults, we regularly do visits to these groups to provide them with various programmes we can support them with, identify programmes/activities that they would be interested in and providing demonstrations. We recently visited Killimordaly Women's Group, Mountbellew Men's Shed and through these visits we will continue to support these groups with equipment loans, programmes and linking them into existing activities in their area while also making them aware of various supports that are available for example grant schemes.



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## ACTIVE ISLANDS

At the end of 2024, Galway Sports Partnership along with Basketball Ireland supported the startup of the Inishmore Celts through the Club Innovation Grant. This grant helps newly formed clubs in their first year of development, providing resources and guidance. The Inishmore Celts are the first basketball club established on the Aran Islands and club coaches are currently achieving and developing their coaching qualifications with Basketball Ireland which will enable the entire community, the opportunity to get involved.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> May Galway Sports Partnership and Basketball Ireland travelled out to Inis Mór bringing basketballs and equipment to the newly formed club. We also visited the local schools where every student received their very own basketball and enjoyed a fun basketball session with Basketball Ireland's Development Officer Mike Murray.

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## NAVIGATING THE TEENAGE YEARS: A SPORTS PERSPECTIVE

Galway Sports Partnership hosted its third inspiring webinar in the series focused on empowering young women in sport. Titled "Navigating the Teenage Years: A Sports Perspective", the session featured guest speaker Orna Murray, co-founder of Move2B, a platform dedicated to supporting teenage girls in maintaining engagement with sport and physical activity. A total of 117 participants registered for the webinar, which was aimed at teenage girls aged 12–15, along with their parents, teachers, and coaches



The webinar provided a valuable platform for teenage girls and their support networks to explore the emotional and physiological changes of adolescence through the lens of sport. With Orna Murray's guidance, participants gained practical tools and inspiration to stay active, confident, and connected.

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### LITTLE WANDERERS HIKE AND CRAFT

The Little Wanderers Hike & Craft event took place on 01<sup>st</sup> May. The programme offers a nurturing outdoor experience for mums and their little ones. Nestled in the historic and folklore-rich woodland of Knockma Hill, the event was crafted to help mothers connect in a supportive atmosphere—with nature, their children, and one another—through a gentle hike and creative nature-inspired activities.

Fitness and wellbeing are also at the heart of these hikes, and participants report that they enjoy the encouragement in getting outdoors, and how it has not only benefited their physical but also their mental wellbeing.

“The course instructors and leaders were very welcoming and supportive of all ages and very willing to lend a hand in keeping an eye on wandering children. It helped to make what could be a stressful outing very relaxed and enjoyable”



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### BUGGY BUDDIES



Buggy Buddies aims to support parents of small babies to make time for exercise in a safe and social environment. This 6-week programme, led by a qualified instructor, offers gentle, postnatal-friendly workouts held either indoors or outdoors, depending on the location and time of year.

May dates for Buggy Buddies Programmes.

- Ballinasloe (starts 20<sup>th</sup> May) Buggy Buddies + a toddler at the Shear Fitness
- Ballybane (starts May 12<sup>th</sup>) with Airike Monahan and Ard Family Resource Centre
- An Spidéal (starts 28<sup>th</sup> May) with Sinead McKiernan and Galway Sports Partnership



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## GUARDIAN GIRLS

The Guardian Girls self-defence programme was successfully delivered in Westside and Tuam, Galway, under the instruction of Eimear Porter. This initiative, organised in collaboration with Galway Sports Partnership and supported by Sport Ireland, was strategically aligned with Women in Sport Week to empower teenage girls aged 13–17 with essential self-defence skills and awareness.

The programme commenced with a four-week series in Westside, Galway, followed by a taster session in Tuam. Eimear Porter introduced the sessions with a discussion on the importance of self-defence and the mission of the Guardian Girls initiative. A key



component of the programme was addressing gender-based violence, during which participants shared personal experiences, fostering a supportive and open environment

Over 30 teenage girls took part in the programme, with attendance caps in place to ensure quality instruction. The high demand highlighted the strong interest and need for such initiatives in the community.

“The programme was done in a fun way and the instructor was super friendly, led the class in an easy way to follow along and helped with any questions”

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## NATIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER CONFERENCE 2025

Galway Sports Partnership staff attended the Sport Development Conference at Sport Ireland campus in Dublin on May 27-28<sup>th</sup>. The conference brings together development officers from Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and other funded bodies within the Irish sporting community. This year's theme is “Unlocking Potential” with a two-day programme designed to enhance learning and development



through collaborative workshops and expert insights.

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DR UNA MAY, CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SPORT  
IRELAND

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## BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

Easter brought Games on the Green to the families of St. Teresa's and St. Anne's Park, St. Grellan's Terrace, Hymany and Curragh Park in Ballinasloe on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April thanks to a great collaboration between Galway Sports Partnership, Galway Rural Development's Empowering Communities, JK Fitness and Michael Callaghan. Approximately 30-40 Children on both days got in involved in a colouring competition and had the opportunity to try lots of physical activities like tug of war, basketball, obstacle course, gymnastics, soccer, parachute games and much more while their parents enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat.



ST. GRELLAN'S  
TERRACE  
GREEN

HYMANY PARK  
GREEN



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## INCLUSIVE RUGBY CAMP

A brilliant 3-day Inclusive Easter Camp from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April was ran by Ballinasloe Rugby Club in collaboration with Connacht Rugby and Galway Sports Partnership. The camp gave 8 children with varying challenges and needs the opportunity to try multiple rugby skills and activities through the guidance of Godfrey Gibbons Connacht Rugby Development Officer, the club senior and transition year coaches. Parents were in attendance to support their children and all fully took part in the camp.





Feedback from parents on the camp included “My son now has “HIS” own camp to go to and is part of something” and “we all had a go”!!

## INTEGRATION

We continued to support Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, International Protection Applicants and Persons with Status across the County, with individual clinics and information sessions, as well as a range of community events to engage residents of



accommodation centres with residents in the locality to share cultural insights and to bring people together.

The Integration Team worked with Creative Ireland to facilitate an Art Therapy workshop in Loughrea Library with Ukrainians and locals.

We also facilitated a Ukrainian – Irish Céili in An Spidéal to share Irish and Ukrainian cultures



**Come and join us for a morning of craft, chat, and coffee!**

The One Million Stars Project is an international project highlighting domestic abuse, and the focus is on making stars and displaying them in a unique and creative way.



**Starting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May for 4 weeks**  
10:00am-12:30pm  
**Ballinasloe Library, H53 T320**

Facilitated in English and Ukrainian by Tetiana Horobets from Galway Volunteer Centre



To book your place, please contact [integration@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:integration@galwaycoco.ie) or call TJ on 087 178 8691

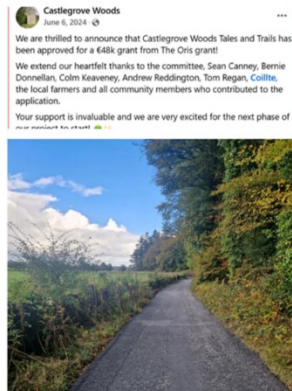


We are providing One million Stars workshops with Galway Volunteer Centre & FORUM Connemara in An Cheathrú Rua & Ballinasloe funded by Creative Ireland to highlight awareness of domestic violence:

## OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

ORIS Funding	Castlegrove Woods Tales & Trails Signage and resurfacing of Entrance Road to Castlegrove Woods Estate Trails to Bring to National Trails Standard.	€47,821.00
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Works are continuing at Castlegrove Woods in Kilconly, Tuam as part of the Castlegrove Tales & Trails project which was awarded €47,821.00 through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS Measure 2 Funding in 2023).



The entrance road, car park and trail have been re-surfaced and new signage and information boards are due to be installed this year. Coillte carried works to the internal trails to the value of €115,000. By working in tandem with

Coillte, the entrance road is now accessible, which complements this impressive recreational amenity.



SITE MEETING WITH JAMES GREANEY – MEMBER OF THE TALES AND TRAILS COMMITTEE. TREVOR COLEMAN AND BERNIE DONNELLAN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL





Co-funded by  
the European Union



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimh  
Galway County Council

### COOP4RURALGOV, COOPERATION FOR RURAL GOVERNANCE

RURAL PROOFING. COOPERATION FOR BETTER SPARSELY POPULATED RURAL, COASTAL AND MOUNTAIN FOCUSED GOVERNANCE.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Rural Proofing, Cooperation for better governance with a rural approach, will foster inter-regional cooperation and exchange between 7 public and private organisations from Spain, Estonia, Ireland and Bulgaria to improve their governance' capacities for co-design and to make the regional impact assessment, Rural Proofing, a routine part of the decision-making process of officials and policies, programmes and initiatives approved by legislative bodies in sparsely populated rural, coastal and mountain areas (hereinafter referred to as rural areas).



PROJECT LEAD –  
SPAIN – PARTNERS  
IRELAND (GALWAY  
CO. CO.), ESTONIA  
& BULGARIA.



***#G30Rural Proofing Castilla-La Mancha. Monitoring and impact evaluation***

**Face-to-face workshop in Cuenca, Castilla-La Mancha 10 May 2025**

**The region of Castilla-La Mancha has been a pioneer in Spain in the implementation of a “rural proofing” mechanism.** As of 2022, all regulations, laws, plans and programs prepared in Castilla-La Mancha include a demographic impact report to identify and assess the effects and impacts of these regulations in sparsely populated areas at risk of depopulation. Among all the Spanish and European actors that are working on rural proofing from different angles, and the leadership of Castilla-La Mancha, we can go further and work in a connected and coordinated way, sharing knowledge, and accompanying the pioneering process of rural proofing of Castilla-La Mancha, learning from it, feeding it back, strengthening it and evaluating it with the final objective of making it a more powerful tool, not only for the repopulation of Castilla-La Mancha, but of other territories

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

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The G30 is an original methodological model of El Hueco and Cives Mundi are using collective intelligence and co-creation, aims to devise and implement actions, projects and programs that contribute to rural repopulation and the construction of a new rurality, on the basis of social innovation and cooperation.

Since its launch, 6 editions of processes have been carried out with this methodology, which have been a success, both for their results and for the impact generated in the political decision-making bodies, in the media and in civil society.

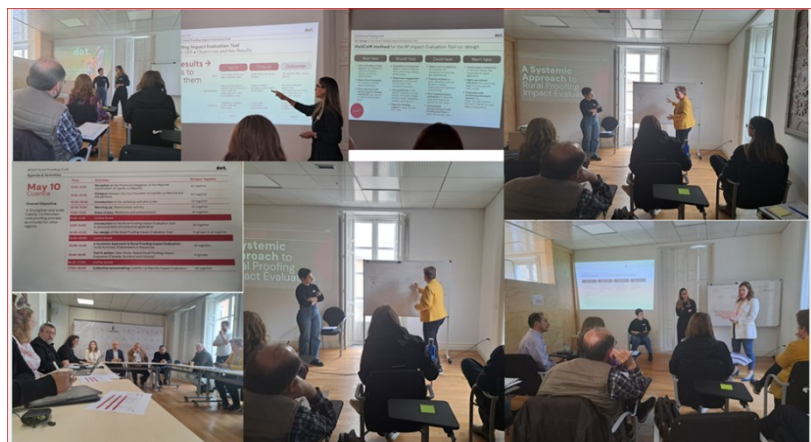
The G30 (G100) has become an avant-garde think tank and work group, generating a current of innovative and positive thinking around the challenge of rural repopulation in Spain. In 2021, a project called G100-RuralProofing, set out to identify all those aspects of the regulatory framework that, having been created from an exclusively urban perspective, do not favour or directly harm rural environments ([www.ruralproofing.com](http://www.ruralproofing.com)).

Since 2023, Cives Mundi (Lead Partner) participates in the Interreg Europe project Coop4RURALGov, Cooperation for a better governance with a rural approach ([www.interregeurope.eu/coop4ruralgov](http://www.interregeurope.eu/coop4ruralgov)). The 4-year project proposes collaborative work and exchange of experiences between 7 public and private organizations from Spain, Estonia, Ireland and Bulgaria to improve the governance processes of their public bodies by taking advantage of new forms of social innovation that allow the creation of a toolbox (Rural Proofing) adapted to each region that reviews the impact on rural areas of legislation, sectoral, social and economic policies and proposes a SMART and innovative methodology that allows the systematic review of relevant policies with a rural approach from the beginning of the policy making process.



INTRODUCTION TO RURAL PROOFING IN CASTILLA LA MANCHA. DIALOGUE BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT JOSÉ LUIS MARTÍNEZ GUIJARRO AND MEMBERS OF THE #G30 ATTENDING THE MEETING.

REPS FROM CANADA, SCOTLAND, PORTUGAL ALSO ATTENDED THIS MEETING, SHARING LIVED EXPERIENCES OF RURAL PROOFING.



#G30 Rural Proofing CLM Co-design of the Rural Proofing Impact Evaluation Tool			
MoSCoW method for the RP Impact Evaluation Tool co-design			
Must have	Should have	Could have	Won't have
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Clear indicators of rural impacts (e.g. population retention, access to services, economic opportunities).</li> <li>→ Data-driven framework for assessing rural and regional disparities.</li> <li>→ Clear alignment with existing legal or strategic frameworks (e.g. regional or national development plans).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Flexibility in assessment tools to adapt to different rural contexts (e.g. islands, border areas).</li> <li>→ Stakeholder engagement protocols (involving rural communities in the assessment process).</li> <li>→ Clear guidelines for the specific integration of rural impacts into various stages of policy design (legislation, strategic planning, etc.).</li> <li>→ Capacity-building support to apply the tool effectively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Digital tools or platforms to streamline the assessment process (e.g. data dashboards).</li> <li>→ Training modules for policy designers and civil servants to better understand and implement rural proofing.</li> <li>→ Post-implementation evaluations to track the long-term impacts of policies on rural areas.</li> <li>→ International benchmarking of rural proofing practices to refine the tool over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Unnecessary complexity in the tool's design that could obstruct quick application.</li> <li>→ Highly specialized indicators that would only apply to a very specific rural context.</li> <li>→ Integration with unrelated government systems (urban-focused systems that aren't relevant to rural impact assessment).</li> </ul>

The Focus of this workshop was Impact and Evaluation tools.



## Attending the G30 Face-to-face workshop in Cuenca, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain on 10 May 2025



L TO R: DR. HEATHER M. HALL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, ONTARIO IS ONE OF THE LEADING SCHOLARS ON INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS IN CANADA.

MIDDLE -DANIKA HAMMOND, POLICY ANALYST, RURAL POLICY AND PROGRAMS BRANCH AT BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC SERVICE, CANADA.

BERNIE DONNELLAN, AO RURAL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INTEGRATION (RURAL PROOFING) GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.

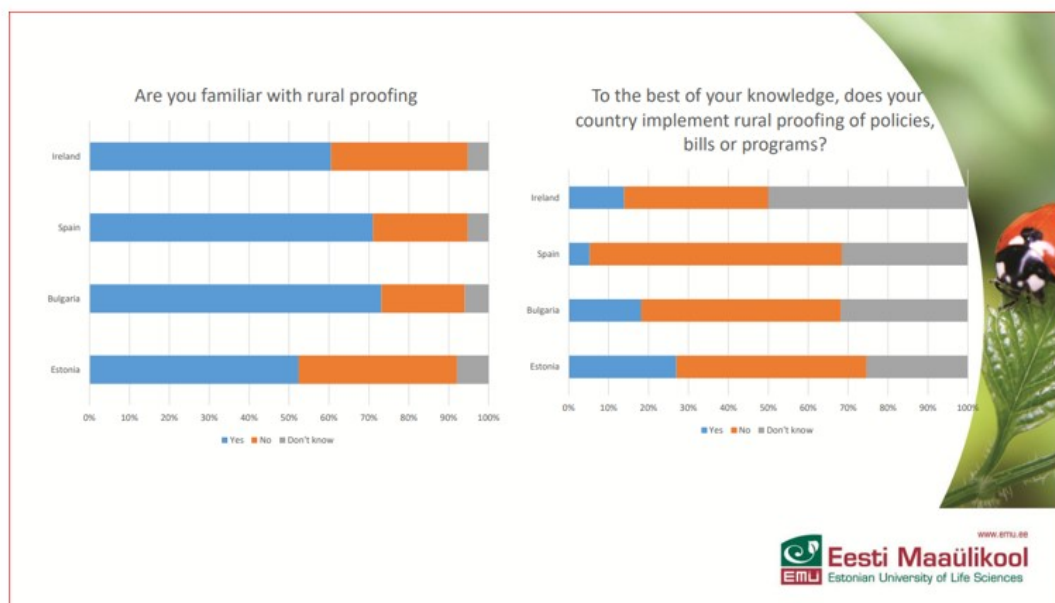
### SOME LOCAL SPANISH MEDIA.

<https://www.cmmedia.es/noticias/castilla-la-mancha/cuenca/expertos-paises-debaten-cuenca-sobre-politicas-publicas-inciden-lucha-despoblacion.html>



A questionnaire was circulated in each Country, with results below in relation to the awareness of Rural Proofing.





### Next Steps: Focus groups plan -

A focus group will be carried out in each country, in relation to experiences with rural proofing and what could work or not work in each country context. Questions for all policy makers.

### Three main topics:

- Stakeholders' experience in considering rural impacts on policies, programs, strategies
- Barriers
- Adoption – what could work, what could be next steps

### Barriers

- What are the barriers for rural proofing of policies and strategies in your country?
- Including are there specific institutional, legislative gaps for implementing rural proofing?

### Adoption of rural proofing

- What steps should be taken to better consider the needs of rural areas?
- How feasible in your opinion is a wide-scale adoption of rural proofing in your country at different level?
- Should it be mandatory/voluntary?
- At what level (national, regional, local)?
- Who should be responsible for promoting rural proofing?
- Which formats could it take- checklist, stakeholder engagement?
- What kind tools and knowledge are needed?

As a culmination of the #G30 work process, the results and the final product of the collective process of defining an original methodology for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the rural proofing process that is systematic, flexible, transparent and efficient.

***Link – to Rural Proofing Proofing-Model proposals – Ireland.***

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development/collections/rural-proofing-proposals-for-a-rural-proofing-model-for-ireland/>

- **Interregional Visit by Partners to Galway will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## TOURISM

### DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EAST GALWAY) NETWORKING EVENT.



A highly successful DEDP Networking Event for East Galway was hosted at the beautiful Clan Colla restaurant in Ahascragh. This gathering brought together a dynamic group of businesses and individuals, all eager to collaborate and grow the East Galway visitor experience.

Our guest speaker, Margaret Atala from Ballyhoura Development CLG, shared stories and insights that really resonated

with the audience, offering inspiration and practical guidance drawn from her own experiences.

to promote a region. It also highlighted the strong appetite for networking within East Galway, with clear leaders emerging to support the formation of a regional tourism network.

The JTF Activator looks forward to building on this momentum and creating further opportunities for connection and collaboration across East Galway.

### CALENDAR OF FESTIVAL AND EVENTS 2025

The Tourism Department is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County that will provide a great visitor experience and support the social and economic contribution of tourism to the County.

In 2025, The Community Support Scheme will be facilitating festivals and community groups with an overall funding allocation of €87,250. This was co-funded by Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants (€69,250) and Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events grants valued at €18,000. A total of 63 communities were granted support through this scheme in 2025.

For any event/festival that is not on this calendar, details can be emailed to [tourism@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:tourism@galwaycoco.ie)

TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>
22nd - 28th Slaneceadilly 63rd Annual Theatre Festival	Aug 23rd - Aug 25th Ballygar Carnival
<b>APRIL</b>	1st - 10th Dunmore Annual Festival
15th - 21st Newbridge Easter weekend Festival	1st - 10th Festival of the Sea, Craggan & Cuddaghshult
24th - 27th C. Widen Traditional Music Festival	24 - 26th Cathel Together
<b>MAY</b>	22nd - 24th Féile an tSúchlainn
2nd - 4th Inishbuirín Arts Festival 2025	23rd - 25th Connemara Pony Show
2nd - 4th Connemara Mountain Walking Festival	22 - 24 June Féile Bua Mairé / Cool TradFéilte
2nd - 30th Heathside Garden	23rd - 31st The Desmond O'Malley Music Weekend
2nd - 30th Féile na Cúige 2025	1st Abbey Village Fair
27th - 28th Galway County Fleadh 2025	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
22nd R.A.S. Tallancon - Clonlara (Stage Fleadh)	4th - 7th Féile Cheol Lary Reynolds
<b>JUNE</b>	24th - 26th Carna Walking Festival - Féile Stáidíocht na hEanáir
10th May - June 1st Headfest	2nd Clonlara Market Day
10th May - June 1st Shearfest 2025 - European Sheep Shearing & Wool Handling Championship	13th - 14th Craggan Fringe Festival
10th May - June 2nd Kinsara Plain Arts Festival 2025	13th - 20th Clonlara Arts Festival
13th - 18th C. Widen Summer Fair	21st - 23rd Athliffe MAD Festival 2025
25th - 30th July Connacht Fleadh, Ballinacree	23rd Sept - 12 Oct Galway F'n Up Theatre Festival
<b>JULY</b>	10th - 19th Westerville Set Dancing & Trail Weekend
10th & 11th Galway Garden Festival	<b>OCTOBER</b>
10th - 12th Galway Film Fleadh	1st - 5th Eggar Days Breg 2025
13th - 13th South Galway Bay Music Festival	10th Galway Cartoon Festival Tearing Eiríowalga (Anas Eanáir Arts Centre, Inis Oir)
16th - 18th Diamond Hill Music Festival	11th Hear at the Moon 2025 - Night Walk Experience
June & July Summertime Movies On The Green	15th - 19th Bakery International Arts Festival for Children
10th, 18th, 20th Jul C. Widen Fleadh Mhic Dána	17 - 18th Cathliffe Arts & Culture Community Centre - Celebrating 30 Years Of Community
	24th - 27th Craggan Harvest Festival
	23rd - 27th Connemara Sea Week Festival 2025
	24th - 27th Cooley Culture Traditional Music Festival
	<b>DECEMBER</b>
	1st Widen Christmas Fair & Santa Experience

## LAUNCH OF SHEEPSHEERING FESTIVAL MOUNTBELLEW

The launch night for the 2025 European and Connacht Sheep Shearing and Wool Handling Championships took place on May 9<sup>th</sup> at The Malt House, Mountbellew. This event will bring competitors and visitors from 12 European countries to Mountbellew. With large crowds expected and strong local support, visitors will benefit local hospitality while also showcasing Mountbellew rich agricultural heritage and warm community spirit. This is a great opportunity to promote rural tourism and position Mountbellew as a destination in East Galway.



Galway County Council is proud to support this event under the Community Support Scheme.



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## TIMMY MALLETTS WILD ATLANTIC WAY JOURNEY



British TV Personality and Artist Timmy Mallett passed through Connemara on his epic bike journey of the Wild Atlantic Way. His Social Media Posts gained massive traction and despite being introduced to the full onslaught of aimsir Chonamara ...báisteach agus níos mó báisteach, he remained good-humoured

throughout!

His Connemara clips posted on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and Tiktok had received more than **1,959,706 views by the 25<sup>th</sup> April** and that doesn't take into account his stories/likes and shares and his YouTube channel

## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

### ENVIRONMENT

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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## RELOVE FASHION COMPETITION 2025



Relove Fashion is a sustainable fashion competition open to young people of secondary school age in Ireland. Galway County Council part funded this competition in 2024/2025 school year and Gort Community School won the Best Research prize in the Connaught-Ulster Waste region.

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## GREEN SCHOOLS

2 schools in Co. Galway were awarded their Green flag for the first time, and 35 schools renewed their green flag in 2024/25. All schools in Co. Galway are invited to register for the Green Schools Programme. The Green Schools Programme is managed by An Taisce and supported by Galway County Council in the Galway County Council functional area.



Green Schools is an international project designed to encourage and acknowledge whole school action for the environment. This process will help pupils recognise the importance of environmental issues and integrate them into their school and home lives. Green Schools is both a programme and an award scheme. The programme can be adopted by any school using certain guidelines. The award will be given to schools that complete the seven steps of the programme.

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## FARM PLASTIC COLLECTIONS



The Irish Farm Film Producers' Group, (IFFPG) have arranged collection days for farm plastics in Co. Galway as outlined below.

<b>Headford Mart</b>	<b>Tues 13th May</b>
<b>Tuam Mart</b>	<b>Thur/Fri 5th &amp; 6th June</b>
<b>Gort Mart</b>	<b>Tues 10th June</b>
<b>Athenry Mart</b>	<b>Fri 13th June</b>
<b>Loughrea Mart</b>	<b>Tues 17th June</b>
<b>Portumna Mart</b>	<b>Thurs 19th June</b>
<b>Ballinasloe Mart</b>	<b>Tues 24th June</b>
<b>Mountbellew Mart</b>	<b>Thurs 26th June</b>
<b>Maam Cross Mart</b>	<b>Tues 22nd July (Hrs 9am – 12pm)</b>
<b>Clifden Mart</b>	<b>Tues 22nd July (Hrs 2pm – 4pm)</b>

Full details at <https://farmplastics.ie/>

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## NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN



Galway County Council supported National Spring Clean in April 2025, and 174 groups registered to participate.

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## MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN –ILLEGAL DUMPING AT BRING BANKS



A bilingual multi-media campaign was run on social media, local papers, website and local radio in relation to illegal dumping at Bring Banks.



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## ILLEGAL DUMPING AT BRING BANKS - PLEASE RESPECT THIS SERVICE

Bring Banks and Household Textile Banks are a very important resource in helping Galway County do its part for the environment.

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in illegal dumping at these locations across the county of late and we appeal to all users of the banks not to abuse these facilities by leaving rubbish or waste at them.

There is particular pressure on the textile bank service at present, and we continue to see misuse of the service with unsuitable bulky items being regularly placed in these banks blocking the chute mechanism or dumped beside them. Often the Council area staff find that banks are not near full capacity but blocked due to the type of waste inserted into them.

Littering is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act and liable to an on-the-spot fine of €150 and/or prosecution. Please bring your bags/boxes home with you and reuse them again.

Bring Bank sites across the county will continue to be monitored by Galway County Council mobile patrols in an effort to catch businesses or individuals who are dumping at these sites. Even when banks are full, it is illegal to leave your items beside the bank - go to another site or return when the banks have been emptied.



If any bring bank is full please contact Galway County Council on 091-509510 or [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie)

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## BURIAL GROUNDS

We will be advertising the burial ground maintenance grants at the end of May, with a closing date of mid-August 2025. Forms will be sent out to all groups who availed of the grant in 2024. This grant will assist the groups to maintain our burial grounds throughout the County.

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## DOG CONTROL

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### DOG WARDEN SERVICE

664 dog licences were purchased during the month of April, 444 of which were purchased at the local post office. Licencing compliance is up 2.5% year to date from this stage in 2024.

Galway County Council's dog warden section assisted the Council's Housing's tenancy and estate management team in carrying door to door inspections in Council estates in the Ballinasloe area during the month of April. Licencing campaigns were also carried out by the dog warden service in Maigh Cuilinn and Dunmore areas.

4 fixed penalty notices were issued to dog owners for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 during the month of April.

30 fixed penalty notices have been issued to dog owners under the Control of Dogs Act year to date.

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## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

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### CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Investigative work commenced in the Truskey Stream waterbody in Barna with one day of in-stream assessments to identify any sources of pollution in the different tributaries and a second day of chemical and bacteriological sampling. A further day of sampling is proposed after a period of dry weather to establish if levels are different compared to wetter conditions.



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### IN-STREAM SURVEY OF TRUSKEY STREAM

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## NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN FOR DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Between 31<sup>st</sup> March and the end of April, 75 inspections under the NIP programme were carried out in the following waterbodies:

- BALLYCUIRKE\_010
- ABBERT\_040
- SHIVEN (SOUTH)\_010
- BALLINURE\_020
- KILCOLGAN\_040

35 inspections were compliant, 40 inspections failed. This gives a failure rate of 53%.



OUTFLOW PIPE FROM SEPTIC TANK DISCONNECTED FROM PERCOLATION AREA

INADEQUATE PERCOLATION CAUSING EFFLUENT TO BACK UP IN SYSTEM



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## COMPLAINTS

A file was sent to the law agents to commence legal proceedings against an unauthorized garage for non-compliance with a Section 12 Notice under the Water Pollution Act and for breaches of the European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012.



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### UNAUTHORISED GARAGE

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## AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

Staff from the Environment Department attended 2 public meetings with LAWPRO in na Forbacha and Letterfrack in relation to Areas for Action. This is to cover the Connemara Municipal District. LAWPRO gave a short presentation which was followed by a questions and answers session. Attendees were able to visit stands from Galway County Council, ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme), ACRES and LAWPRO. Agriculture is one of the main pressures in many of the Areas for Action, resulting in our Agriculture Inspector in attendance at these meetings.

Our inspector also attended a working group meeting in relation to recording of slurry movements and Galway County Council is to pilot different methods to gather info in relation to this.

A detailed spreadsheet was submitted to the EPA in relation to all farm inspections carried out in Q1 2025.

Preparations were also made in relation to farmer information days that will be run in May in conjunction with Teagasc.

## WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

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### DECO PAINTS REGULATIONS

A complaint is being investigated of an unauthorized garage in Athenry area. Local residents are concerned about noxious fumes emanating from premises and of the general suitability of building for this type of activity. Documentation was left on-site outlining what steps they need to do in order to comply with the regulations. A follow-up inspection is planned in due course.





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## CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

One unauthorized C&D waste site was cleared prior to a court hearing in April. The case was dismissed.

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## WASTE PRESENTATION BYE LAW INSPECTIONS

Environment and Housing staff conducted joint estate management inspections in the Ballinasloe area in April. We were able to check on properties that were previously not compliant with the waste presentation bye-laws.

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## WERLA

Staff attended the quarterly WERLA meeting in Carrack on Shannon.

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## LITTER

1 litter fine issued by the Council's community warden service during the month of April.

2 files sent to the Law Agent to commence legal proceedings for nonpayment of fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 As Amended.

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## CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, CITY & COUNTY LIBRARIES

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### CORPORATE SERVICES

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## GRADAIM AN CHATHAOIRLIGH 2025/THE CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS 2025

The Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025 took place in the Raheen Woods Hotel on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. 34 clubs/individuals were recognised for their hard work and dedication throughout the County. There were 10 winners announced on the night along with 2 special recognition awards from the Cathaoirleach Martina Kinane. All the groups/individuals present on the night were awarded with a Highly Commended certificate.

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### ARTS & CULTURE WINNER

Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds

Is féile ceithre lá í Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe, a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar cheol, oidhreacht agus cultúr traidisiúnta na hÉireann.

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### BEST CONTRIBUTION TO HERITAGE AWARD WINNER

Katie Duane

Now in her 96th year, Katie Duane has been the inspiration in her local community for the last 40 years, in the pursuit of the restoration of her beloved Kilboght Graveyard.

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#### HERITAGE PUBLICATION WINNER

Michael J Hurley

Michael J. Hurley has lived in the village of Lackagh since 2008 and joined the Committee of Lackagh Museum and Community Development Association in 2014. Since then, he has voluntarily researched, written, and published at least one book per year, which now amounts to 15 books documenting Lackagh parish history and heritage

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#### BEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE WINNER

Fóram Um Pleanáil Teanga Chois Fharraige

The Fóram Chois Fharraige Pleanáil Teanga plays a vital role in supporting the local community across all aspects of life, from entertainment and business to education, Environment, and care for the elderly, working to strengthen and promote Irish as both a family and community language.

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#### ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION WINNER

Jacinta Barrins

Jacinta passionately advocates that 'tackling climate change is not just for the young' and has dedicated her post-retirement years to climate education and activism, especially among older generations.

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#### SOCIAL INCLUSION WINNER

Sarah Ann Buday

Sarah Ann Buday is a third-year student at High Cross College in Tuam. Sarah Ann has first-hand experience of life as a young carer, and for the last 3 years has been a passionate advocate for all young carers at local and national level.

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#### SPORTS WINNER

South Galway Lakers Special Olympics Club.

South Galway Lakers are a volunteer-run club under the umbrella of Special Olympics Ireland. They now have 2 clubs in Loughrea and Gort with numbers continuing to grow.

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#### TIDY TOWNS RECOGNITION AWARD

Tuam Tidy Towns

Tuam Tidy Towns became the first in County Galway to be awarded Medal status in the large town category of the National Tidy Towns Competition, receiving a Bronze Medal in 2024 in recognition of all their ongoing efforts over the last number of years across the broad-ranging competition categories.

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## PRIDE OF PLACE WINNERS

### Clarinbridge Tidy Towns

Clarinbridge has been selected by Galway County Council to represent the County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition in the population categories and will be entered in the 300-1000 Category. The entry and judging process will be coordinated by Clarinbridge Tidy Towns on behalf of the community.

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### MARCONI MEN'S SHED

Marconi Men's Shed has been selected by Galway County Council to represent the County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition in the thematic categories and will be entered in the Community Wellbeing Category.

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## CATHAOIRLEACH'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

### BERNIE ROGERS

Originally from Glenamaddy, Bernie has been living in Oranmore since 1988 and is a driving force in local voluntary sports and outdoor activities. Her genuine kindness, sense of fun, and tireless commitment to volunteerism have made a lasting impact on quality of life, and she is the heart and soul of inclusive sports and wellbeing in Oranmore.

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### MOYNE VILLA F.C.

Moyne Villa Football Club is based in Headford and primarily serves Headford Town and the surrounding areas, including parts of County Mayo. Moyne Villa is a leading grassroots sports organisation, offering inclusive community-based football and physical activity opportunities for all ages and abilities.



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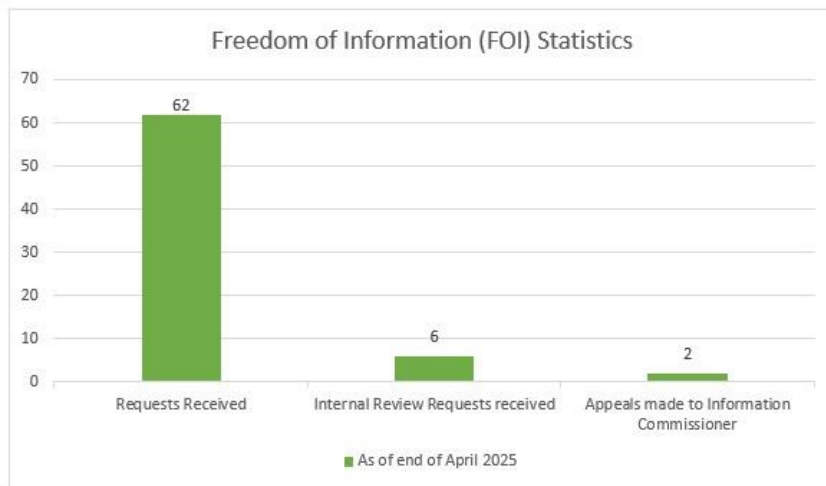
AWARD RECIPIENTS  
WITH CLLR. MARTINA  
KINANE,  
CATHAOIRLEACH OF  
COUNTY GALWAY  
AND MR. LIAM  
CONNEALLY, CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE,  
GALWAY COUNTY  
COUNCIL



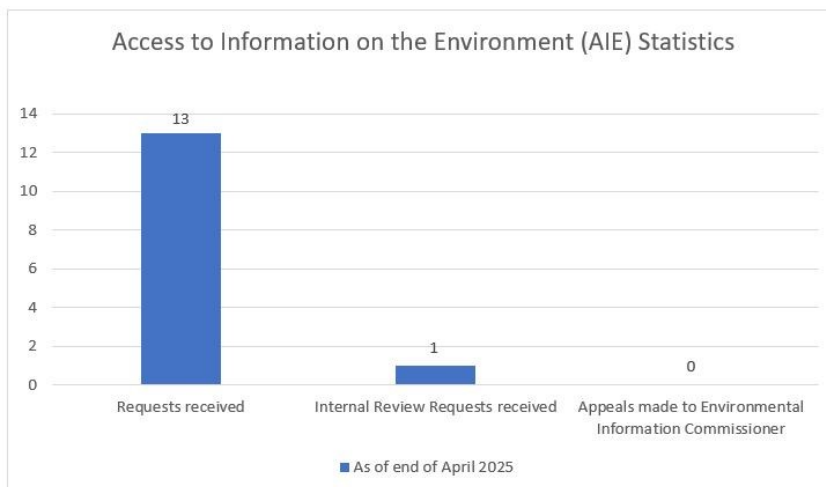
## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2025 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 30.04.2025

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



### ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



### DATA PROTECTION

- 7 Data Access Requests:
  - 6 Data Subject Access Requests
  - 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g. An Garda Síochána
- GDPR/Data Protection Training:
  - Online Induction Training issued to all new Staff
  - Online GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff
  - Online Training on Cyber Security issued to all new Staff
- Data Protection Awareness Newsletter circulated to all Staff

## RECREATION AND AMENITIES

### WATER SAFETY

It's that time of year! All hands are on deck in the lead up to the commencement of our Lifeguard Service within our County and City Designated Bathing Areas.



The Lifeguard candidates have submitted their resumes, pool and fitness tests have been completed and interviews wrapped up.

A very expansive Lifeguard Induction Program took place Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of our WSDO and opened by our Chief Executive - paying dividend to the immense importance of our Lifeguard Services both in Galway County & City. Our Lifeguard Service is recognised in recent years, to be one of the leading Lifeguard Services in the Country.

The May 12th induction program was both targeted and tailored for this most front facing of Local Authority service roles, covering the following: Child Protection, GDPR, Role of the Beach Lifeguard, Manual Handling, First Aid, Customer Service, Council HR Policy, Health and Safety.

We are very much looking forward to the commencement of the Lifeguard Service for the 2025 Bathing Season June – September.

### AN SPIDÉAL PIER



The refurbishment of An Spidéal Pier bathing area has been successfully completed, significantly enhancing the site's accessibility and convenience. The project included the construction of a new ramp for beach access and a footpath extending from the lifeguard hut. Additionally, the area now boasts dedicated wheelchair parking and an outdoor shower, ensuring a more inclusive experience for all visitors.



## RENVYLE SPORTS GROUND DEVELOPMENT

On May 14th, the Chief Executive attended a breakfast meeting at the Galway Bay Golf Resort, where an update on the Renvyle Sports Ground development was provided.



During the event, the naming rights sponsorship was also announced. Chubb will be the naming sponsor for the next five years, supporting the club in establishing the Chubb Renville Gaelic Grounds as the home of Oranmore Maree GAA One Club.

L-R: MR. PADRAIC JOYCE, GALWAY SENIOR FOOTBALL MANAGER, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH, GALWAY COUNTY, AND MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL







WALK AROUND THE SITE AFTER THE BREAKFAST MEETING



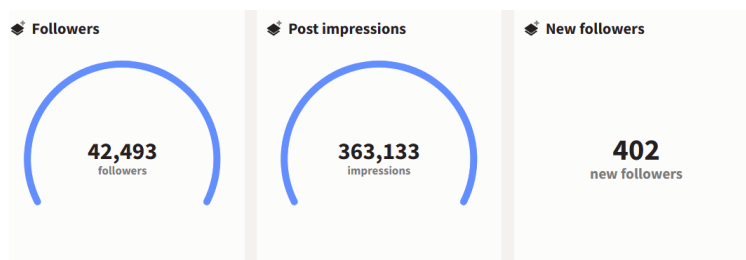
## SOCIAL MEDIA

### OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

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






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

This dedication is reflected in the growth of our social media platforms, with an additional 6,000 followers since April 2024!!



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

### APRIL'S OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

Social Media Audience Metrics	Number of Posts	Monthly Post Impressions
 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty">www.facebook.com/galwaycounty</a>	125	292,523
 <a href="https://www.x.com/galwaycoco">www.x.com/galwaycoco</a>	73	19,646
 <a href="https://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil">www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil</a>	122	49,539
 <a href="https://www.linkedin/galwaycoco">www.linkedin/galwaycoco</a>	6	1,425
<b>Total Number of Posts</b>	326 (106 posts in Irish – 32%)	
<b>Fans &amp; Followers across Social Media Platforms</b>	<b>42,493</b>  0.9% from 42,094 Fans & Followers	

## FACEBOOK

### FACEBOOK TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**

**Galway County Council**  
Apr 01, 15:15

Discover Nature with Galway's ESKER Boxes! Did you know Galway has two ESKER (Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording) boxes? These kits are packed with everything you and your community group

**71** likes and reactions

**Galway County Council**  
Apr 14, 15:50

We are delighted to announce the launch of Three Dementia Cafés in Connemara; Carraroe, Clifden and Lettermullen, starting in May. The schedule will be as follows: Carraroe - 1st Wednesday of the month, 11am-

**59** likes and reactions

**Galway County Council**  
Apr 22, 15:20

The Cathaoirleach of the County Galway, Councillor Martina Kinane has opened a Book of Condolences for His Holiness Pope Francis (RIP), which you are welcome to sign in person at the offices of Galway County Council,

**35** likes and reactions

## X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

### APRIL'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top tweets**

**@GalwayCoCo**  
Apr 11, 13:55

https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1910693140647797133/photo/1

**@GalwayCoCo**  
Apr 04, 11:05

https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1908113626746982854/photo/1

**@GalwayCoCo**  
Apr 28, 15:00

https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1916870246582931903/photo/1

## INSTAGRAM

### APRIL'S TOP THREE POSTS

**Top posts**

**galwaycountycouncil**  
Apr 28, 09:29

Illegal Dumping at Bringbanks - Please Respect This Service Bring Banks and Household Textile banks are a very important resource in helping Galway County do its part for the environment.

**galwaycountycouncil**  
Apr 22, 15:20

The Cathaoirleach of the County Galway, Councillor Martina Kinane has opened a Book of Condolences for His Holiness Pope Francis (RIP), which you are welcome to sign in person at the offices of Galway

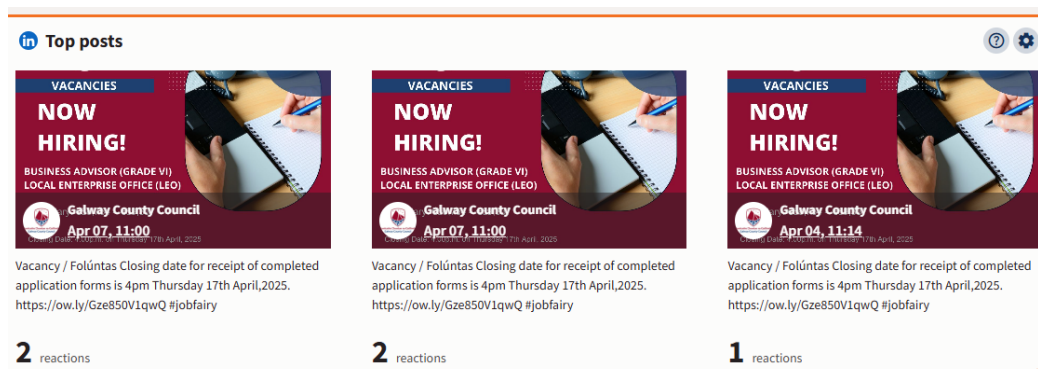
**galwaycountycouncil**  
Apr 30, 10:43

Open call for Galway County artists to apply for August artist residency at @araseanna on Inis Oírr. Deadline: 5pm Thurs 08 May. What's included? Accommodation, return ferry, studio space, access



## LINKEDIN

### APRIL'S TOP THREE POSTS



## CUSTOMER SERVICES

### YOUR COUNCIL DAY - FRIDAY JUNE 27TH!!!

“Your Council Day” is a National Campaign aimed at generating awareness of Local Authority services.

It highlights, promotes and celebrates the role of County and City Councils right across the nation. While the campaign is co-ordinated by the LGMA, it is implemented on the ground by local authorities in their respective Counties and Cities.

Your Council Day offers Galway County Council a wonderful opportunity to showcase our services and our achievements.

It further enables us to pay dividend, to the collective hard work and commitment, of local authority staff and elected members.

Building Stronger Communities is the theme for 2025.



Day in - Day Out, Galway County Council endeavours to create environments where people feel connected, supported, and empowered to thrive together. For Your Council Day 2025, Galway County Council will be posting across our social media platforms using #YourCouncilDay / #DoLáSaChomhairle to introduce people to our staff and share our services and amenities with them, as well as promoting any upcoming events. We are very excited to get our message out there to the Public at large.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

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.



Key elements include extensive lending services to adults and children, PC access, printing, scanning, national book request service, study spaces, newspapers, and magazines.

It provides activity and event spaces for community groups, schools, local NGO's, arts and creative groups and various County Council departments. It works in collaboration with various organisations to deliver workshops and programmes to upskill and better inform communities about issues that are relevant to them.

It also provides a selection of online resources that are available free to registered library members. These online resources allow 24/7 access to a virtual library along with software and educational supports for those with additional needs. These include: Borrowbox for online eBooks and eAudiobooks, Comics Plus, Universal class for courses, Transparent Language online, LOTE for kids, Medici TV, TTRS and Nessy for online learning support.

## NATIONAL INITIATIVE: SPRING INTO STORYTIME



Spring Into Storytime took place in April and saw special storytimes and events take place in our libraries. Our theme for children's activities this year is "Grow Your Imagination" and 15 libraries hosted sunflower planting activities for children and their families along with additional events and activities all with the focus of encouraging and celebrating reading.

## SUNFLOWER PLANTING IN BALLYBAR LIBRARY WITH THE CHILDREN FROM BALLYGAR COMMUNITY PLAYSCHOOL



## LOCAL STUDIES

### DROP-IN VISITORS

10 visitors dropped in to the local studies section with a variety of queries. These ranged from a request to view a map of Munga in Connemara, a request for a map of the route of the old Galway to Clifden railway, an enquiry about the burial records book for Forthill Cemetery, and the history of Galway fisheries, including reports and photos, and any news items, and an enquiry about the Young Ireland Rebellion of 1848. Some visitors were enquiring about access to the British News Archive, which we have recently subscribed to. Two visitors also called to access the 1995 edition of the Connacht Tribune on microfilm, as the particular information that they required regarding a property sale was not available on the Irish News Archive, but they located the missing piece on the microfilm.

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### PHONE QUERIES

Several phone calls, which included a request for information on landlords in the Kilkerrin/Clonberne area, the Vesey family, and the sale of their estate, which was not in the Encumbered Estates Court sales of the late 1800s, and the client required some extra information to what she had already accessed on the Landed Estates Database. We suggested a search on the British News Archive to the client, who later made an appointment to view same, and she later said that she was delighted with the information she obtained. The estate was actually sold much later, around 1914, and a lot of details were recorded in the BNA. There was a phone enquiry about the Gort and Kilmacduagh areas, and what resources were available, and some enquiries about the photographic collection and place names.

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### APPOINTMENTS

3 appointments for microfilm access, 5 for the Irish News Archive online, 3 for the British News Archive, and study appointments to view a history by William Nolan, and two researchers who required access to Halliday Sutherland's 1956 guidebook to Ireland, which is important in that Mr. Sutherland visited both the Tuam Mother and Baby Home, and the Magdalen Laundry in Galway, and gives excellent first-hand accounts, and an insight into the unfavorable light in which the unfortunate residents of these homes were viewed at the time. Mr. Sutherland was sympathetic to their plight himself. His interview with the Bishop of Galway, Michael Brown, is very revealing of social attitudes of the time. There was an appointment to view the graveyard records book for Killeely Cemetery, Clarinbridge.

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### EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Over 30 email queries answered, including an email from the USA looking for information on a relative who emigrated from Headford in 1838, before civil records began. Enquiry from Beverly in Australia, whose husband was descended from a Hubert Connaughton from Tuam who passed away in 1853. Information provided on all the possible resources available. Email enquiries about Knocknagur and Lehid areas, and another family history query from

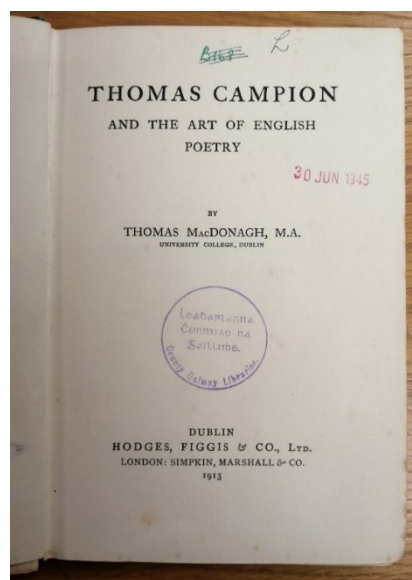


Mr. Farrell in the USA. Queries about Findmypast, and the photographic collection of Galway Public Libraries, amongst others. Email query on graveyard books available in local studies.

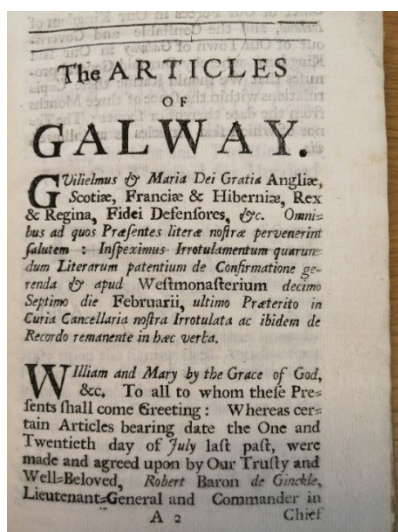


As the annual commemoration of 1916 took place in April, the Local Studies section of Galway Public Libraries would like to highlight one very unique item in our collections. This is a signed copy of "Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry", written as a thesis for an MA degree in 1911 by Thomas MacDonagh, one of the signatories of the 1916 proclamation, and published by Hodges Figgis in 1913. MacDonagh was an accomplished academic and poet who was an assistant Headmaster at Patrick Pearses' bilingual Scoil Éanna and later lectured in English at U.C.D.

He was part of the group who fought at Boland's Biscuit factory, and as a signatory to the proclamation, he was court martialled and executed by firing squad on 3rd May, 1916, at just 38 years of age. His wife Muriel Gifford died the following year in a drowning accident, leaving their two young children orphans. Thomas presented this copy of his thesis to his friend, Professor Seaghan Mac Énrí, who was Lecturer in modern Irish at University College Galway, and a friend of his, through their mutual love of the Irish Language. Thomas has written his signature in Irish on this copy, with the date 1913.



This document dated 1691, and of unknown provenance is one of the rare items held by the



Local studies section of Galway Public Libraries, and it dictates the terms of surrender of the population of Galway to the army of General Ginckle, one of the Generals who fought for the Williamites during the battles of the Boyne, and Aughrim. Galway capitulated to Ginckle's forces; its garrison was permitted to retire to Limerick. Ginckle, a Dutch General, was rewarded for his services by the English King, being made 1st Earl of Athlone, and Baron of Aughrim, and given large estates also, once the conquest of Ireland was complete. This unique document gives insight into this sad chapter in the history of Galway City.

## RIGHT TO READ

### Little Library Bags.



The popular Little Library Bag scheme is running again this year, with a brand-new selection of books in English and Irish for each child starting primary school in September 2025. Parents have been invited through Early Learning Centres across Galway to take their child to their local library to collect their very own Little Library Bag with books to help them make the big step into primary school.

The bags have been distributed across the county and we're ready to welcome lots of new little library users and their families to our branches!

## ACQUISITIONS AND STOCK DEVELOPMENT

The acquisitions team have purchased and processed over 2,500 books this year to date to be sent out to our branches. These include titles in English and Irish for children and adults, adult literacy materials and titles of local interest. Purchase requests are sent in from staff in branches as well as patrons. Recent purchases include new works by Galway-based authors Elaine Feeney, Lucy O'Callaghan, Courtney Smyth, David Green and Claire-Lise Kieff

## BALLYBANE LIBRARY

In collaboration with Local Eastside Charity HopeSpace the library hosted Galway author Lorcán Mannion who read his newly published poetry book to a crowd of over 80 people.



The proceeds of the book sales were being donated to the local charity "Hope Space".

The event was attended by 85 people.

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### POET LORCÁN MANNION ALONGSIDE HIS FAMILY

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## EASTER ACTIVITIES

A friend of Ballybane library and a local hero Bernadette Colgan facilitated a games afternoon where local children enjoyed learning a variety of games including Chess, Scrabble and Ludo.

We hosted some lively Lego sessions which were attended by 35 children.

We hosted a successful collage workshop where 13 children learned how to recycle old books and magazines to create beautiful works of art.

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## TEXTILE CREATIVITY

Local artist Helen Flynn began her series of interactive workshops with 16 local ladies all creating their own pieces of Textile art which will be put together to form a series of Banners to be displayed at a later date.

This project is funded by Creative Ireland City.



The library is hosting the workshops and a group of approx. 20 local women are involved.

They will meet to work on this project in the library for 12 weeks on a Tuesday.

The resulting pieces of work will be showcased at the Eastside Arts Festival in October.

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## POETRY READING



Poets who are also service users with the city and county Brothers of Charity held a combined poetry reading in the library on Thursday the 1st of May.

There were approximately 40 people in attendance on the day.

Staff member, Zara, chaired the event which was held to coincide with Poetry Day.



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## CLASS VISIT

We hosted a class visit from Bawnmore school, Baile Chláir, on Wednesday 7th of May.

20 children came along with teaching staff and enjoyed an hour of storytelling and an introductory talk about the library.

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

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### EASTER BOOK DISPLAY

During the Easter break, Ballinasloe staff set up an incredible eye-catching Easter themed book display just inside the front door.



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### SEED PLANTING & STORYTIME EVENT



On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April we had a sunflower seed planting event with a storytime in the library courtyard.

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### READ, PLAY, & CREATE – ART SENSORY WORKSHOPS

We had 3 art sensory workshops facilitated by Kate Kelly from Art Room 109, for toddlers during the month of April.

**Attendees: 36**

**ART ROOM 109**

**READ, PLAY & CREATE**

**SENSORY ART WORKSHOP**  
FOR PARENTS & TODDLERS  
AGES 1-5

**WHAT IS READ, PLAY & CREATE?**  
A fun and interactive child-led sensory art workshop focusing on play-based learning, exploratory reading and creativity.

The workshops will:  
• Inspire a love of reading  
• Enhance sensory development  
• Promote fine motor skills  
• Strengthen parent-child bond  
• Foster social interaction

**DRESS FOR MESS!**  
WEAR CLOTHES YOU DON'T MIND GETTING DIRTY!

**BALLINASLOE LIBRARY**  
Time: 10am - 11am  
Day: Tuesday  
Dates: 15th, 22nd & 29th April

**FREE EVENT! BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.**  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
ballinasloe@dundrumlibrary.ie  
019 509551

## SPRING INTO STORYTIME – CRAFT & STORYTIME EVENT



Staff member Brid led the Senior Infants class from Scoil Chroi Naofa in a Hungry Caterpillar craft session – then she followed it up with a wonderful Hungry Caterpillar storytime.



## BALLINASLOE EUROPE DIRECT CENTRE

### FIGHTING FAKE NEWS

Ciaran O'Connor from the Institute of Strategic Dialogue gave a special talk on tackling misinformation and fake news. He gave the talk early in the day at Ballinasloe Library, then repeated the talk at Galway City Library in the afternoon. This was a Europe Direct event.



### AN CEART CHUN LÉAMH: 2 ÓCÁID (13 RANPHÁIRTITHE AR FAD)

Bhí dhá ócáid an-deas againn do ghasúir an mhí seo. Tháinig Julie-Anne De Brún isteach againn ar an 12ú Aibreán le ceardlann álainn a dhéanamh le ghasúir idir aois 3 - 9 mbliana. Shníomh sí teicnící amhránaíochta agus scéalaíochta le chéile agus bhí deis ag na gasúir breathnú ar réimse mór pictiúir leabhair. Bhí sé seo mar chuid den tsraith Spreag Isteach Sa Scéal. Mar chuid den sraith seo chomh maith bhí ár seisiún Scéalaíochta agus Ealaíne fhéin againn ar an 26ú Aibreán. Léigh muid scéilín beag as Gaeilge agus ansin, chun an t-Earrach a cheiliúradh, bhí ceardlann againn ar conas le Lus na Gréine a chur sa mbaile. Bhí deis ag chuile dhuine a thóg páirt pota beag a réiteach agus a thabhairt abhaile leo.

### CLUB LEABHAR (6 RANPHÁIRTITHE) /CUAIRTEANNA Ó SCOILEANNA & GRÚPAÍ (144 GASÚIR/DUINE FÁSTA) & FÓGAIRT AR LUAL

Bhí an cruinniú deiridh den Club Leabhar i mbliana ar an gcéad lá de Bealtaine. In éindí leis sin bhí cuairteanna rialta againn ó Scoil Mhic Dara, ó Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, Tigh Nan Dooley agus grúpaí éagsúla ó Bráithre na Carthanachta. Freisin rinne muid fógraíocht chun fáilte speisialta a ghúigh ar dhaoine ar Aoine an 11 Aibreán, i gcomhar LUAL, nó Leag Uait agus Léigh, ócáid náisiúnta chun daoine a spreagadh le léamh.

### RIGHT TO READ: 2 EVENTS (13 PARTICIPANTS IN TOTAL)

We had two great events for children in Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua this month. Julie-Anne de Brún led a lovely workshop for children on 12<sup>th</sup> April. She wove together storytelling and singing techniques, and the children were introduced to a wide range of Irish language picture books. Julie-Anne's event was a part of our Spring into Storytime series of events, as was our Storytime and Art workshop for young children on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.



We read an engaging Irish language book and then we ran a follow-up activity, planting sunflowers to celebrate Spring. Every participant got to prepare and take home a planted seed pot.

JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN AGUS NA GASÚIR AG CLEACHTADH AMHRÁIN SPLEODRACHA!

JULIE ANNE DE BRÚN AND THE CHILDREN PRACTICING SOME LIVELY SONGS!



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## VISITS FROM SCHOOLS & GROUPS (144 CHILDREN/ADULTS IN TOTAL) & PROMOTING THE DEAR INITIATIVE

The last meeting of the Bookclub this year was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. In addition to this we had visits from the local Primary School, Scoil Mhic Dara, from the Secondary School (Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiarán), Tigh Nan Dooley, and groups from the Brothers of Charity. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April we extended a special welcome to library patrons as part of Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), a nationwide event to encourage people to re-engage with reading again.

### ORANMORE LIBRARY

In the period April 8<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup> there were 3597 people through our doors at Oranmore Library.

These people attended events, exchanged books, used the computers/printers, sat down to study/read/take timeout/read the newspaper, get help with online apps, get assistance with the computers, join the library, renew membership, request items, get recommendations, join Bookclubs, make deliveries, enquire about other services in the area, spend time reading/playing games/colouring with their children or just “be” in an inviting space where the air is free.

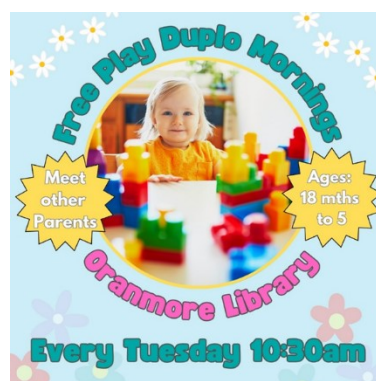
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#### TUESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>

DUPLO morning for early years children

Hosted a visit from Scoil Íosa Resource Class

Hosted a visit from the Transition Year Class at Calasancius College



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#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>

Hosted 3 class visits from Scoil Íosa (79 students)

Hosted 1 class visit from Gaelscoil de hÍde (25 students)

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#### THURSDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

Hosted 2 class visits from Scoil Íosa (58 students)

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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>: SPRING INTO STORYTIME EVENT.

Oranmore Library hosted an Easter Craft Session for 25 children for Spring Into Storytime.



The children made paper chickens hatching from their eggs and coloured pictures to add to our beehive on our “Bee a Reader” wall created by staff member Jayme.



## TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH

DUPLO morning for early years children

Hosted a visit from the Calasanctius College Transition Year class (15 students)

## TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND

DUPLO morning for early years children

Hosted a visit from the Calasanctius College Transition Year class (15 students)

## THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH

Evening Book Club: 12 attended.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH: SPRING INTO STORYTIME EVENT.



Storytime and colouring with Anne Marie.

Staff member Mary created a display of our Maritime books reminding visitors of our wonderful Galway Public Libraries Maritime Collection housed at Oranmore Library.



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## TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH

DUPLO morning

Hosted a visit from the Calasanctius College Transition Year class (15 students)

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## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH

Visit from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class from Scoil Íosa, 27 students.

### TUAM LIBRARY

Our weekly craft group continues each Tuesday morning from 11am.

Staff of Tuam Library continue to contribute a weekly article to the 'Library Corner' of the Tuam Herald. The articles are 500 words, on a topic that library members find interesting. For the March 26<sup>th</sup> edition a piece outlining the events held in the library was prepared, along with information on how to join the library.

Rhyme time – every Wednesday morning @11am. 4 sessions were held with children attending. Branch Librarian, Caroline facilitates. There were two young children with hearing impairment at the March 26<sup>th</sup> event so Caroline added sign language to her rhyme time, it was very much appreciated by the parents. Caroline is happy for sign language to be a regular element every week. Great fun every week, no booking required, and all are welcome.

LEGO is available every Saturday in the children's area for free play all day. It is very popular with all ages and is of benefit in the development of gross and fine motor skills, creativity and imagination.

Community Connects – every Friday 11-12pm. This is an open session for members of the public to come in, have a cup of tea and a chat. It is overseen by staff. The numbers attending vary but averages 4-8 each week. This is a lovely opportunity for those who experience limited socializing to come in and meet others.

Trinity Primary School – a weekly class visit is facilitated each Wednesday morning 9.30-10.30am, with classes rotating their visits. It has proved very successful in introducing primary students of all ages from this large school to the library and all we offer. An average of 20 students + teachers/SNAs come each week.

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## MONTHLY

Adult Book Club – meets the last Friday of each month, facilitated by Branch Librarian, Margaret. There are 12 members in the book club. The April meeting took place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, with 11 members attending to discuss 'Convenience Store Woman' by Sayaka Murata

Second Adult Book Club – meets the first Thursday of each month, facilitated by Branch Librarian Caroline Greisbach Moran. There are 7 members in the book club. The April meeting took place on May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss ‘The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo’ by Taylor Jenkins-Reid

Young Adult Book Club – meets the first Saturday of the month, facilitated by Assistant Librarian, Moira. There are 6 members in the book club. The May meeting will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup>. They are an engaged group of teenagers.

Soundbites – a gathering of local musicians, storytellers, singers and poets gather from 1-2pm on the last Thursday of the month for a lunchtime session. All are welcome, a member of staff remains to oversee. The numbers attending vary but average about 30 each month. This is a very special event in Tuam. For February the event took place on April 24<sup>th</sup> with 24 people attending. We had keyboards, a violin, guitars, singers and poetry reciters.

Breast Feeding group – meet on the second Thursday of the month 10.30-11.30am. All are welcome to join, and the group manage themselves; they just require the space. It is facilitated by a local HSE public health nurse/midwife. The group met on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a beneficial time for new mothers to get expert advice from a midwife. The most recent meeting took place on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

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## STANDALONE EVENTS



Artist Urs Harttung installed a mixed media art exhibition of papercut and photographs.

Fifth year students from High Cross College, Tuam installed an exhibition of their art from their workshops with local artist Kathy Ross. They produced print works which are all different and very beautiful.





A Healthy Ireland talk was held on April 12<sup>th</sup> entitled 'Taking care of your feet'. The speaker was podiatrist Marie Hegarty.

On Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> the library was closed to facilitate staff training in the Radisson Red hotel in Galway. It was a very enjoyable and informative day for all.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> Creative Ireland funding led to two excellent workshops facilitated by Gareth Chapman and illustrator Andrea Rossi. The children came from Trinity Primary school, Tuam, with 22 children in each group. Gareth Chapman published his children's book 'Albert the Dragon'



in 2019 and in 2023 it was the children's book of the year in the

2023 Irish CAP Awards. For the workshops Gareth read the book, encouraging comments and questions from the children. Andrea then invited the children to make a dragon, dragon themed bookmark and taught them how to draw a mouse



using triangles and circles. Both workshops were well run, the children remained engaged throughout. Creative Ireland funded the first session; Trinity Primary School funded the second session.

Branch Librarian Caroline held two further sign language story times for Trinity Primary school first classes on April 30<sup>th</sup> & May 1<sup>st</sup>. They were both a great success, with the children very engaged.

Bealtaine is being celebrated in Tuam Library with a series of 4 workshops facilitated by milliner and artist Marie Reilly from Loughrea. The first session took place on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> with 12 people attending. They started making a friendship doll and will move on to worry worms over the coming weeks.

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## MICROFILM USE

Visits to use microfilm so far in 2025 – 12.

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## HOME BOOK DROPS

Margaret has continued to provide the amazing book drop service. To date she has completed 11 book drops since the start of the year.

## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

### BRIDGE PROJECT



We were also delighted to host the Bridge Project with an information session about Irish Drivers' Licenses. The talk was facilitated by Cathy, Amina and Mika from The Bridge Project at Galway City Partnership and members of An Garda Síochána. Featured speakers included Garda Alma Maughan and Sgt. Dermot

Hardiman. It was a very popular session with over 50 people in attendance. The Bridge Project, under the auspices of Galway City Partnership, seeks to promote the effective delivery of reception and integration support to asylum seekers and third country nationals in Galway.



### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

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

### CLASS VISITS

We had a visit from 1<sup>st</sup> class from Scoil Bhríde for a lovely storytime and book swap. The children loved the story "The Secret of Black Rock" by Joe Todd-Stanton.



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## MUSIC UNVEILED

We were delighted to host Galway Music Residency for the last “Music Unveiled” session of their Spring Programme. The ‘*For the Birds*’ programme deconstructed Haydn's 'The Lark' Quartet & Nick Roth's 'Flocking III', with contributions from Dr Aidan Thomson, Head of Music at University of Galway, Irish-based composer Nick Roth and ConTempo Quartet. The session will soon be available to view online.



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## EASTER CRAFT EVENT



Over 30 children and their parents attended the staff-led Easter Craft Event. They created amazing Easter Bunny portraits to bring home.

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## ART COMPETITION

An Art Competition with the topic “Grow your imagination” proved to be very popular and we got plenty of wonderful entries. The winner and two runners-up will get to collect a prize, and the winner will be displayed in the children’s library cozy corner.



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## SATURDAY STORY TIME

To celebrate “Spring into Storytime” we hosted an additional Storytime on Saturday to give families that can’t make it in during our regular Tuesday and Friday afternoon sessions a chance to attend.

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## POETRY DAY IRELAND



To mark Poetry Day Ireland on May 1<sup>st</sup> library staff created some lovely Poetry Book displays.

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## ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

For the reporting time frame, we had 554 Events, 23 Class visits, and 41 Sensory room bookings.

### GORT LIBRARY

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#### WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Morning Book Club in Gort Library

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#### THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Evening Book Club in Gort Library

Our chosen book was "Longlines" by Caoilte Breathnach, and we were delighted that he agreed to attend our meeting. He read from his book and answered questions from the group.

### MOBILE LIBRARY AND OUTREACH

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#### MONTHLY REPORT FOR MOBILE LIBRARY APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

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#### OUTREACH EVENTS

This month the outreach team delivered two evening talks to groups in the Conamara and Loughrea Municipal Districts. The first talk was to the Maigh Cuilinn Ladies Shed on 9<sup>th</sup> April and the second talk on 27<sup>th</sup> April to the Clonberne Active Retirement Group.



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## MAIGH CUILINN LADIES SHED



We had a great turnout of 21 ladies for the library talk on Wednesday evening at 7pm. Colette and Dee had a very interactive presentation with the ladies. There was astonishment at the variety of online

services available through the library membership, Medici TV and the BorrowBox app were of particular interest, we gave demonstrations on how to access and download to their devices.

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## CLONBERNE ACTIVE RETIREMENT



Colette promoted the Galway Library services with an outreach talk to the Clonberne Active Retirement group on 9<sup>th</sup> April. This included a presentation on all services available across the library network along with the Mobile Library route stops and services available. It was enjoyed by all with an audience of 13 in attendance, with 9 new registrations.

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## SPRING INTO STORYTIME

The month of April is officially the month to Spring Into Storytime! This is one of the national reading initiatives under the Right to Read programme. The Galway Mobile Library was included in the funding this year for events. We held five successful events during the month and finished up with a large story telling session on May 7th with Scoil Bhríde in Lackagh.

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## GROW YOUR IMAGINATION – APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, DEE COLLINS, LITTLE STARS PRESCHOOL, MAIGH CUILINN

We had great fun reading all about Katies' adventures in the Art Gallery and all the wonderful famous art paintings she got to view. We got our hands dirty at a "Grow Your Imagination" activity afterwards and planted sunflower seeds for the children to take home.



## SPRING INTO STORYTIME

APRIL 29TH, FIONA DOWLING, NEWTOWN KIDS CLUB, ABBEYKNOCKMOY

Fiona enthralled the children with stories from far and wide and held an outdoor story time in the Childcare Garden. The children were fascinated with the workings of her musical instrument the Mbira, from Zimbabwe. They all got to have a fun trial at making sounds with the Mbira.







SPRING INTO STORYTIME – APRIL 29TH,  
FIONA DOWLING, KILKERRIN COMMUNITY  
PLAYSCHOOL



SPRING INTO STORYTIME – MAY 7TH,  
FIONA DOWLING, SCOIL BHRIDE N.S,  
LACKAGH

## DOUGHTERARD LIBRARY



Loads of fun was had in Oughterard Library on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> April for Sunflower Storytime. We read some stories with Springtime themes and sowed some sunflower seeds in special sustainable flowerpots. Hugely popular with over 40 attendees. Lots of updates since from children with little sunflowers sprouting up on windowsills!

Class Visits: Visit from the SEN group at St Annin's National School, Killannin. 25 attendees.

## PORTUMNA LIBRARY



Portumna hosted Irish Conversation sessions, book clubs and facilitated events as part of Spring into Storytime with Author visit from Mary Murphy and Workshops with Laurie Le Grande. Lego sessions and puzzle time continues to be popular along with the regular class visits from the Portumna Community School.

The special Spring into Storytime event involved the Portumna Castle Head Gardener assisting with the seed planting sessions.  
For the reporting time frame over 161 children and adults participated in these planned events.

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#### IRISH LANGUAGE CLASS IN PORTUMNA LIBRARY



#### LOUGHREA LIBRARY

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##### RIGHT TO READ

Loughrea facilitated several class visits throughout the reporting time frame from both St. Ita's NS and St. Brendan's Boys NS. 173 children participated in these activities were staff assisted with picking books, showcasing the online services and the ability to request books from all over the country.

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##### SPRING INTO STORYTIME



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – St Ita's NS Junior & Senior Infant classes library Storytime visit  
(35 children).

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##### ST ITA'S NS JUNIOR & SENIOR INFANT CLASSES

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Loughrea Community Preschool Library Storytime & Play visit (15 children)

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##### LOUGHREA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL







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## TODDLER STORYTIME & PLAY-DOH FUN

## HOUSING

### VACANT HOMES

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#### CROÍ CONAITHE SCHEME

There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme. Galway County Council has received 564 applications since the start of the scheme with 352 approved to a value in excess of 19 million euros, a further 75 applications are in progress with the balance having been withdrawn or rejected due to ineligibility for the scheme. 31 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants, with a total value of €1,705,392.55 have been paid to date.

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#### REPAIR AND LEASE

Owners of vacant properties in need of repair can submit expressions of interest to lease their properties to Galway County Council for social housing. Galway County Council is interested in properties close to villages and towns where schools, amenities and services are readily available. If the property / properties are deemed to be suitable for social housing and in an area where there is demand for social housing, Galway County Council can arrange for a site visit of the property to determine the condition of the property and assess the levels of repairs that may be required to bring the property to the required standard.

The cost of the repairs would be paid for by Galway County Council (upfront loan of up to €80,000 per unit (incl. VAT)) and the property would then be leased to Galway County Council for social housing. There would be an agreed rental payment, and the value of the repairs would be gradually offset against this rental payment over the duration of the lease. Galway County Council has received 21 expressions of interest for the Repair and Leasing scheme throughout 2024 and 2025 to date. 8 properties have been deemed unsuitable due

to the properties not meeting a social housing demand for the area and due to the properties not meeting the minimum requirements as per the design guidelines for social housing. 13 properties are under consideration with further information requested.

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## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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### SITE VISIT BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING, JOHN CUMMINS, T.D

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, John Cummins, T.D., met with Galway County Council officials at Áras an Chontae on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss their strategies for rolling out new social and affordable housing initiatives throughout County Galway.

During his visit, Minister Cummins toured the site of a new affordable housing scheme at Baile Chláir (Claregalway). The initial residents of the three-phase project are set to move into their new homes over the coming weeks. The 17 homes form part of the 61-unit Garraí Na Gaoithe development, marking the first turnkey housing project in County Galway to

incorporate affordable housing under the Government's 'Housing for All' policy.



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PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE GARRAÍ NA GAOITHE DEVELOPMENT. L-R: MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MINISTER JOHN CUMMINS, T.D., SENATOR SEÁN KYNE, MINISTER, HILDEGARDE NAUGHTON, T.D., MINISTER NOEL GREALISH, T.D. AND CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY

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## 44 NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES ANNOUNCED FOR ATHENRY

Contracts for architect-led integrated design services have been signed with Studio PKA (Paul Keogh Architects) for the design of the two affordable housing schemes in Athenry. They include 28 homes at Raheen and 16 at Páirc na hAbhainn. The next steps involve carrying out site survey and topology reports, design and planning preparation and environmental impact assessment. The planning documents are expected to be submitted under Part 8 or similar planning application at the end of July. These units are expected to be completed in Q4 2026 or Q1 2027.



PICTURED AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE FOR THE CONTRACT SIGNING FOR THE DESIGN OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES IN ATHENRY, L-R: MR. JAMES FARRELL, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CLLR. MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, AND MR. PAUL KEOGH, STUDIO PKA.

## SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

### ENERGY RETRO PROGRAMME

Galway County Council received funding approval from the Department of Housing for the to the value of €2,278,000 with a target of 67 units. This equates to €34,000 per unit and include VAT. As a result, Galway County Council provides additional funding to implement this programme, and the Housing Unit are implementing this programme at the following locations.

- Crowe Street in Gort
- Cullairbaun Estate in Athenry
- Hymany Park in Ballinasloe
- St Brigids Rd in Portumna
- Woodview Estate in Woodford
- Tullyvoheen Estate in Clifden.

Works to the units may include removal of chimney(s), external insulation, new windows and external doors to achieve maximum Building Energy Rating (BER).

Where funding permits, retro fitting works under this initiative are also carried out on voids as they are turnover for re-tenanting.

### SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK:

The following web page contains Galway County Council's live statistics for 'Housing Supply' and 'Housing Demand'.

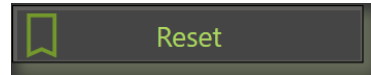
<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/>

Both dashboards are completely interactive and can be filtered in many ways to get the required information. This information is updated daily.





Don't forget to hold the CTRL key on your keyboard when selecting multiple filters and use the reset button when you want to do a new search.



## Supply

On the supply side, you can search by: -

- Municipal District
- No. of bedrooms
- Property status
- New/casual vacancy
- Social housing type

This dashboard includes Local Authority properties, Approved Housing Body properties, RAS properties, and Traveller accommodation units

## Demand

On the demand side, you can search by

- Applicant's area of choice
- No. of bedrooms required by the applicant
- Applicant's time on the waiting list
- Basis of need of the applicant's household
- Applicants currently accommodated via the HAP scheme

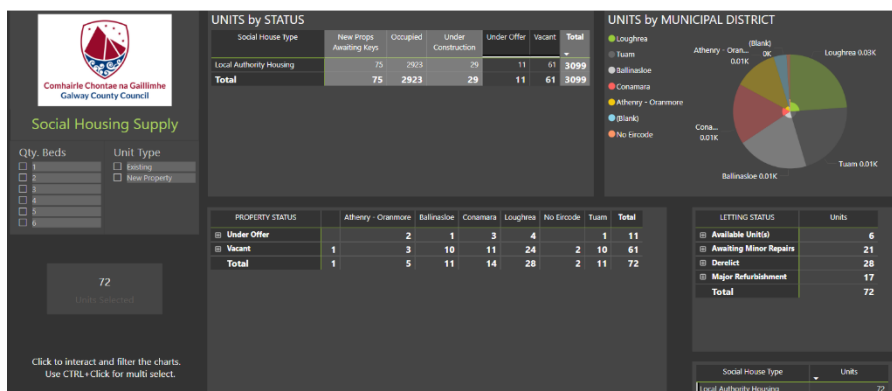
Please remember to hold the Ctrl key while you are selecting multiple



filters.

This data updates daily.

Current stock status using the following filters, (Social housing Type - Local Authority



Housing, Units by Status - Vacant & Under Offer) (6 Actual vacant units that we could currently let. The remaining 66 are at other statuses. See below)

## Summary of Current Vacant Stock

1. **Combined Vacant Units:**
  - a. **Available For Letting:** 6 units (0.17% of total stock)
  - b. **Awaiting Minor Repairs:** 21 units (0.70% of total stock)
  - c. **Major Refurbishment:** 17 units (0.57% of total stock)
  - d. **Derelict:** 28 units (0.93% of total stock)
2. **Occupied Stock:** 2923 units (97.6% of total stock)
3. **Total Vacant Stock:** 72 units (2.4% of total stock)
4. **Total Stock:** 2995 units

## Sub analysis of Vacant Units Under Offer

5. **Available For Letting:** 2 units (0.07% of total stock)
6. **Awaiting Minor Repairs:** 6 units (0.20% of total stock)
7. **Major Refurbishment:** 3 units (0.10% of total stock)
8. **Total:** 11 units (0.4% of total stock)

## Sub analysis of Vacant Units

9. **Available For Letting:** 4 units (0.13% of total stock)
10. **Awaiting Minor Repairs:** 15 units (0.50% of total stock)
11. **Derelict:** 28 units (0.93% of total stock)
12. **Major Refurbishment:** 14 units (0.47% of total stock)
13. **Total:** 61 units (2.00% of total stock)

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## THE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS 2024

The Social Housing Assessment is a process carried out by local authorities to determine whether a household qualifies for social housing support. It identifies households whose housing needs are not currently being met and who are eligible for assistance.

### Social Housing Assessment Summary for Galway County Council 2024:

- Total Number of Applications: 2,799
- Total Number of Persons: 6,219
- New Applications Since Last Assessment: 553
- Fully Completed Assessments: 1,684
  - Qualified for Social Housing Support: 1,240
  - Not Qualified: 444
- Assessments Not Completed or No Decision Made: 164

SSHA 4-year snap shop

SSHA Galway County Council Year	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number of Applications	2799	2987	3051	3472
Number of Persons	6219	6758	6761	7594
Number of new applications since the last assessment	553	610	313	651
Households subjected to a fully completed assessment to determine their qualification for housing support	1684	800	603	990
Households subjected to fully completed assessment and are deemed qualified for social housing support	1240	1260	1318	1661
Households where an assessment for qualification for support has been completed and are deemed not to qualify	444	198	288	133
Households where an assessment was not completed or no decision as to their qualification has been made	164	250	277	182

## TENANT AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

### ACTIVITIES IN QUARTER 1, 2025

- Scheduled Visits: Conducted in Ballinasloe MD, including Eiskir Riada, Bothair Eiskir Riada, and An Tobar Mhuire Ahascragh.
- Findings: Identified issues such as non-compliance with household waste management, unlicensed domestic pets, restricted breeds, unlawful occupants, and additions to tenancies.
- Referrals: Forwarded to social work and tenancy sustainment officers for further exploration and intervention.

### COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

- Interdepartmental Visits: Continued estate and tenancy management visits with various departments and agencies, including the Gardaí, dog warden service, waste enforcement, maintenance staff, traveller liaison officers, housing liaison officers, community wardens, and tenancy enforcement officers.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Residents' Associations: Exploring the establishment of a residents' association in An Tobar Mhuire Ahascragh.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: Ongoing engagement with the Gardaí to address anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreements.

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## CCTV INITIATIVES

- Current Schemes: Installed in Tirboy, Gilmartin Rd, Parkmore, Tuam, and Crowe Street, Gort.
- Mobile CCTV: Deployed in St. Grellan's estate, resulting in relative calm.
- Future Plans: Site surveys completed for permanent CCTV installations in Fana Bhui, Tuam, Eisker Riada, and St. Grellan's, Ballinasloe.

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## COMPLAINTS AND ORDERS

- TEM Tracker Complaints: 30 complaints received from January to March 2025; 13 closed, 17 under investigation.
- Possession Orders: Successful possession order obtained for a dwelling in Tirboy, Tuam.
- Abandoned Dwellings: One dwelling in Pairc An Traintain, Loughrea, brought back into stock.

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## CONTROL OF HORSES

- Activities: Continued implementation of the control protocol with the Gardaí.
- Legislation Review: National review of the Control of Horses Act underway.
- Proposals for 2025: Continued collaboration with the Gardaí and redrafting of bye-laws post-legislation changes.

## PRIVATE HOUSING GRANTS

Notification was received on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 of the capital allocation to Galway County Council for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People scheme for private homes. An allocation has been received of €3,666,644 (85%) which requires a minimum contribution of matching funding from Galway County Council of €647,055 (15%). The combined capital allocation is €4,313,699 (100%). The Department contribution has increased from 80% to 85%.

Private Housing Grant applications are prioritised based on the medical needs of the applicant.

To date, in 2025, grants issued by Galway County Council are as follows:

Grant Type	No of Grants issued	Amount of Payments issued	Department Contribution	Galway County Council Contribution
Housing Aid for Older People	162	€861,056	€731,898	€129,158
Mobility Aid Grant	52	€254,090	€215,976	€38,114



Housing Aid Grant	30	€230,308	€195,762	€34,546
		<b>€1,345,454</b>	<b>€1,143,636</b>	<b>€201,818</b>

323 applications have been received in 2025 for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People.

Inspections have been completed on 306 applications in 2025.

#### LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOANS

- 17 applications for a housing loan from Galway County Council have been processed to date in 2025
- 2 applications have been Approved in Principle
- 5 applicants have been requested to provide further information
- 8 applications were deemed invalid (savings, income etc)
- 4 applications are currently under consideration waiting for credit committee decision (2 last year's final loan offers)

#### HOUSING ACQUISITIONS

Circular: Housing 11/2025 which outlines the arrangements for the acquisition of second-hand social housing by local authorities in 2025 introduced revised eligibility criteria. The Housing Department has reviewed existing applications and is actively liaising with clients and property owners to progress acquisitions under these new criteria. This review is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that housing support is delivered in a needs-based manner and that each acquisition aligns with departmental priorities, criteria and in accordance with funding allocation.

Properties throughout the county are being acquired using the "Tenant in Situ" scheme, where valid NTQs have been received. The Council had anticipated acquiring approximately 15 additional properties in 2024, however of those, thirteen tenant-in-situ applications were paused until 2025 capital allocation was confirmed, and of those thirteen, ten applications will potentially progress. 3 no. applications will not now proceed due to the change in 2025 criteria.

#### HOUSING SUITABLE FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR THE ELDERLY

The guidance for acquiring housing suitable for persons with a disability or the elderly, particularly where urgent or emergency needs arises, recognizes that while the preferred approach is to deliver new housing through build programmes, certain situations may necessitate the targeted acquisition of properties to meet specific client needs.

Where such acquisitions are necessary, Local authorities are advised to provide clear justification including:

- The nature of the emergency or urgent situation.
- The suitability of the property for the intended tenant(s), especially regarding necessary disability or age-related adaptations.
- Confirmation that support services (e.g. from the HSE) are in place or will be arranged.

The guidance highlights that when a tenant's situation is urgent, authorities should ensure rapid turnaround and only proceed once all support and property suitability are confirmed.

In cases involving disabled or elderly tenants, the all-in cost (purchase price, legal/valuation fees, and essential refurbishment/adaptation works) must be within the ACG (Acquisition Cost Guidelines).

The Housing Department is reviewing existing applications and is actively liaising with clients and property owners in order to progress such acquisitions.

## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

### AWARD FOR TOBAR MHUIRE, AHASCRAUGH

Galway County Council and C&N Higgins Construction win "Judges Silver Award" for Tobar Mhuire, Ahascragh under the category of Residential Development Project under €5million. The Irish Construction Excellence Awards (ICE Awards) are the original and premier recognition of performance excellence for the contracting sector in Ireland and provide an opportunity for the industry to showcase and reward best practice across the full range of construction disciplines and project categories.



Award categories include Innovation in Construction, Public Building, Commercial, Health Safety & Wellbeing, Residential, Civil Engineering, Healthcare and the recently included Engineering Design Excellence, Architectural Design Excellence, and introduced for 2025 Future Leaders, a category specifically to recognise our future construction industry leaders.

Judges' comments: A beautifully constructed and finished residential development which created a visually pleasing and homely environment for the end users. These homes included the highest quality air-to-water and ventilation systems creating energy efficient and comfortable homes for the people of East Galway. The external and site works resulted in a fabulous aesthetic which complimented the neighbouring distillery and added a new lease of life to the village of Ahascragh.



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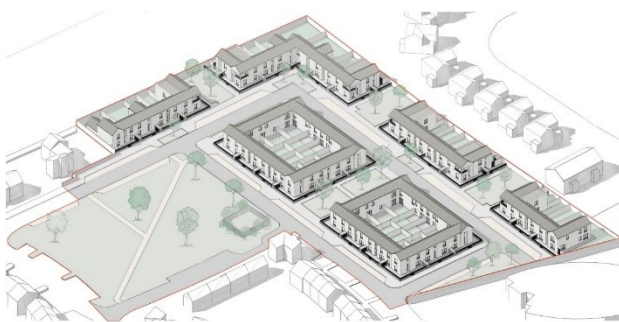
## PART 8 PLANNING FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT RAHEEN, ATHENRY

Part 8 planning was advertised for a 43-unit housing development at Rahen in Athenry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2025.

The proposed development will consist of 43 no. dwelling units in six blocks. The proposed southern block is located along the existing Gort Mhaoilir estate roadway, the remaining blocks are located along new roadways. The proposed blocks are two-storey in height and comprises of:

- 6 no. 2-bedroom apartments
- 6 no. 1-bedroom apartments
- 14 no. 2-bedroom dwellings
- 16 no. 3-bedroom dwellings
- 1 no. 5-bedroom dwelling

Construction of new roadways and paths, provision of new car parking spaces, provision of cycle parking, hard and soft landscape works, lighting, signage and all associated infrastructure, site developments work necessary to facilitate the proposed development.



This project will be delivered through the accelerated Design Build delivery process with completion due in Q4 2026.

## PART 8 PLANNING FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT ST BRIGID'S ROAD PORTUMNA

Part 8 planning was advertised on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 for the partial demolition and complete refurbishment of 11 two bed units at St Brigid's Road in Portumna.

This project will bring back into use 8 derelict units while modernising 3 additional units to provide A2 rated modern homes.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, FIRE & EMERGENCY & CLIMATE CHANGE

### TAKING IN CHARGE

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

Table A – Taking in Charge

<i>Estates Taken in Charge</i>	2
<i>Estates pending Ratification of Minutes</i>	2
<i>Estates for consideration at next MD meeting</i>	1
<i>Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position @ 12/05/2025.

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

The taking in charge of an estate is a process and at times can be quite protracted.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the Taking in Charge team for their work to date.



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## ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION EVENT: THE LIFE SAVER PROJECT

Leas-Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council Ollie Turner and Senior Engineer Tom Prendergast attended The Life Saver Project on the 06<sup>th</sup> of May in Leisureland, Galway. This road safety education event was hosted by An Garda Síochána's Road's Policing Unit and Galway City and County Council supported the event - it was attended by 600 Transition Year students. The Life Saver Project is a new initiative aimed at reducing deaths and serious injuries caused by traffic collisions. Delivered by Gardaí, the programme encouraged motorists to adopt safer driving habits, particularly focusing on speed reduction.

The two-hour session included a mock road traffic accident scenario, with participation from all major emergency services, followed by a powerful film illustrating the devastating impact of road traffic collisions on individuals and families. This event is one of the strong road safety partnership initiatives under our Joint Roads Safety Committee, dedicated to improving safety for all road users across Galway city and county.



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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

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### ISO 45001 HEALTH AND SAFETY SURVEILLANCE AUDIT:

The NSAI ISO 45001 Health & Safety surveillance audit was held recently in Tuam MD.

The following locations were audited over the course of the day:

Roads & Transportation (Tuam MD), Fire Service (Tuam Fire Station), Housing Maintenance.

A very positive audit with Galway County Council retaining certification to I.S. ISO 45001:2018.

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## ACTIVE TRAVEL

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### GCO/23/0012 BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Works are 80% completed on Beechlawn, Ballinasloe Phase 3. Works are envisaged to be completed by mid-May 2025.



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

Phase 2 Options Assessment Workshops were held for Athenry and Tuam. Approval in principle was given by the National Transport Authority (NTA) to progress the identified emerging preferred option designs and develop the associated documentation for both schemes.

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

The schools included are Calasactius College, Oranmore, Gaelscoil de hÍde, Oranmore, Scoil Íosaif Naofa, Oranmore, Scoil Chroí Naofa, Athenry & Athenry Boys National School. TOPO surveys were completed in April. A workshop including the NTA, Clandillon Consultants and Galway County Council was held end of April 2025. Preliminary design drawings are currently being finalised to progress to NTA's Phase 3.

#### GCO/24/0004 - SRTS R1 ST PAULS OUGHTERARD

Harrington Concrete & Quarries Ltd have begun construction works are 85% completed.

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



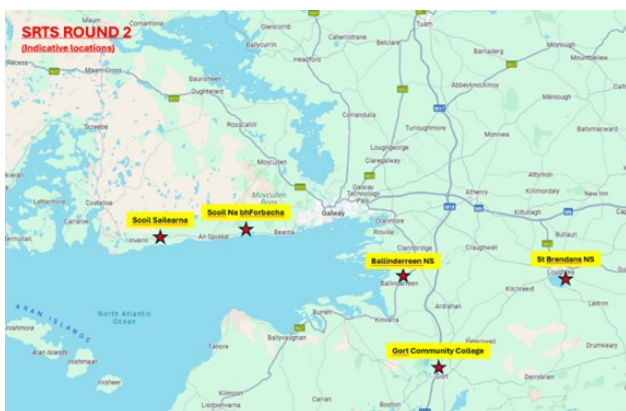
## ROUND 2 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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

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



Clandillon Civil Consulting was appointed as the Design Consultant on April 11, 2025. A kick-off meeting was held on April 23, 2025, to initiate the project. Joint site visits by Galway County Council Active Travel and the consultants took place on April 8, 2025. Currently, the procurement documents for TOPO surveys are being finalised.



## ROUND 3 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

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



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

Construction works are being carried out by John Madden & Sons Limited for the pedestrian crossing near LIDL, Oranmore. Works are nearing completion and are envisaged to be completed in May 2025.



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

The NTA has approved funding for the pedestrian crossing on St. Joseph's Road in Portumna. Currently we are at Phase 2 and arranging for necessary surveys to inform the design before we can seek the next stage NTA approval.

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### COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

This month we had a two-day training course run by La Touche Training for all 15 Community Wardens. All 15 Community Wardens attended and found this course very insightful and helpful.



We held the training over the two days in the Loughrea Area Office. The course covered Law, Evidence & Procedures on the first day and the second day we covered Notes, Reports and Courtroom Skills.



### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

#### OILEÁIN ÁRANN DECARBONISATION ZONE

The three islands of Oileáin Árann were designated as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Galway County under the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. The DZ is an area where local authorities and communities work together to find innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support a just transition to a sustainable economy and community. To support Climate Action in the DZ, Galway County Council launched the Pilot Oileáin Árann Climate Action Fund on 28<sup>th</sup> April. It will remain open for applications until 28<sup>th</sup> May. The €60,000 fund is open to organisations, businesses and communities of Oileáin Árann that are interested in developing Climate Action projects and initiatives under four key themes: Energy, Travel, Food & Waste, and Local Environmental Action. A link to the application form and a recording of an online information webinar, which was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, is available via the QR code below or at <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/environment/climate/>

#### Decarbonisation Zone Climate Action Fund



#### COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Communities are currently implementing projects which were awarded funding in 2024 under the Community Climate Action Fund. Seven of the thirty-two projects have been completed. Galway County Council is supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of projects in the Country.

Oranmore Tidy Towns group received funding for a cargo bike which is a shared resource for the community. It provides a sustainable and practical way for local groups and individuals to move items from place to place; whether delivering supplies for community events, helping local organisations transport equipment, or even assisting neighbours with bulky



loads. There is an online booking system in place.

PHOTO: CARGO BIKE,  
ORANMORE TIDY TOWNS

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## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Climate Unit continues to work towards reducing energy use and emissions and establishing an ISO 50001 accredited Energy Management System within the organisation.

Project	Update
Building Audits	Codex Energy Consultants Ltd were appointed in April to conduct non-domestic BER assessments on four of our buildings. This will enable us to identify projects that can avail of 50% funding under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme. Site visits will take place in May, and it is expected that the reports will be issued by July.
Energy Management System Audits	Optien Ltd conducted a pre-award Internal Audit on 16 <sup>th</sup> April. The Climate Unit are working on the identified Non-Conformances and Opportunities for Improvement with a view to applying for ISO50001 certification later in 2025.

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## UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION EVENTS

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### LAUNCH OF KILCOLGAN / CLARINBRIDGE ENERGY MASTERPLAN

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) programme supports communities in the transition to a low carbon society. The Climate Action Unit works with SEAI mentors to support the completion of community level Energy Masterplans (EMP) through the provision of Bridging Finance and procurement support and then recoups the funding from SEAI. Kilcolgan / Clarinbridge will launch their EMP on the Wednesday June 4th from 6-9pm in the Clarinbridge GAA Clubhouse. The event will include an EV test drive and presentations on available SEAI grants. It will also include a presentation from Tina Ryan, Climate Action Coordinator, GCC in relation to GCC funding and a Housing Retrofit Case Study.

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## GREEN CLUBS INFORMATION NIGHT

A GAA Green Club Programme Information Night will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Ballindeeran GAA Club organised by the Climate Action Unit. There will be presentations from Croke Park GAA Green Clubs Programme representatives, field studies from Green GAA Clubs, as well as presentations from Galway County Council staff including Rosina Joyce, Mark Molloy, and Denise Feeney. Denise will be giving a presentation on the Community Climate Action Fund 2025, which we expect to launch in the coming months. GAA clubs will be able to apply for funding under the following themes: Energy, Biodiversity, Transport, Recycling and Local Climate Action.

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## SAND DUNES GATHERING



Sand dunes play a critical role in coastal protection and Galway County Council has participated in the Protect Our Dunes Campaign since its inauguration in 2021. Participating agencies include Leave No Trace Ireland, CARO and the University of Galway. The third annual Sand Dune Gathering will take place in Galway on the 17<sup>th</sup> May and aims to bring together anyone interested in the future of Ireland's beaches and dunes, focusing on latest actions and initiatives in tackling erosion and other issues on their local dune systems.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - GALWAY

Galway Fire and Rescue Service hosted the Chief Fire Officers 'Association (CFOA) Annual Conference and Trade Show Exhibition in the Salthill Hotel on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May. The theme of the conference was "*Delivering a Modern Fire Service – The Future is Here and Now.*" Fire Officers, industry experts, and government and local government officials from Ireland and overseas gathered for the annual showcase event for Ireland's fire and emergency services sector.

The CFOA represents the leadership and senior management of all Irish fire services, with a mission to enhance safety and protect lives and property across the country. The aim of the conference and exhibition was to provide a platform for those in the fire and rescue sector to discuss pressing issues, explore cutting-edge fire service equipment and appliances, and discover the latest technologies in fire operations and prevention. The conference addressed key challenges confronting the Fire Services and highlighted the latest advancements in fire service operations and prevention technologies.

The event hosted expert speakers from Ireland and abroad in the emergency services and fire industry, sharing their expertise and insights to offer innovative solutions for adapting the Fire and Rescue Service to current challenges.

The conference was opened by Dennis Keely, CFOA Chairperson and Chief Fire Officer for Dublin Fire Brigade, with a video address to delegates provided by James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Mark Hardingham, former Chair of the UK National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), spoke about the Final Report of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, following the death of 72 people in the worst UK residential fire since World War II. Meanwhile, the inquiry learnings and fire safety changes were the subject of a talk by ARUP fire safety specialist and expert witness for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Dr Barbara Lane.

The risks and challenges associated with Lithium-Ion batteries, used primarily in electronic devices, electric vehicles, and small appliances, were studied by Conor Leonard, Head of Batteries and Projects, WEEE Ireland.

Phil Garrigan, Chair of the UK National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC), shared UK perspectives, while Peter Lonergan from the European Emergency Number Association explore how improved communications can enhance emergency response.

Additional speakers included Ray Goggins, Author, Keynote Speaker, and Director at Core Skill Training, discussing effectiveness; Liam Carroll, SEO Climate Change and former Acting Chief Fire Officer at Carlow Fire and Rescue Service, addressed the Irish Fire Service's role in climate change resilience; Keith Leonard, Director of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, presenting a national perspective on fire services; and Ritika Wadhwa, Founder and CEO of Prabhaav Global, exploring cultural intelligence as a key skill for managing rapid change.

Conference delegates were welcomed by Cllr. Peter Keane, Mayor of Galway City, and Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, followed by addresses from Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services of Galway County Council, and Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive of Galway City Council.

Over 300 delegates and 150 exhibitors attended over the course of the two days, which features a trade exhibition taking place in parallel to the conference programme, showcasing fire service fleet and equipment from all the main suppliers to the Irish Fire Services.

The conference was a resounding success with many of the attendees complimenting Galway Fire and Rescue Service on a very well run and organised event with a lineup of very interesting speakers.







## OPERATIONS

The information below is based on April data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 224 turnouts to 179 Incidents. This is an increase of 11 incidents on 168 the previous month. 81 were fire incidents, 90 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 8 were standby either in station or at a central location. Of those incidents, 29.27% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 41.46% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 29.27% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.13 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.75 minutes.

An analysis of the statistics for April by comparison to previous March shows that normally the ratio of fire incidents to Special Service incidents is normally approximately 1 to 1.5. In April however the ratio was more or less equal with a similar level of fires and Special Service Incidents. This is accounted for by the time of year (gorse/bog fire season) and the considerably dry weather in a large portion of the month of April. As many of the fires were gorse/bog fires they were in remote locations, hence the increase in the percentage of incidents attended in over 20 minutes by comparison to previous months.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

### CIRCLE K MEM (MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT) TABLETOP EXERCISE

The Civil Defence Officer (CDO), Assistant Civil Defence Officer (ACDO), and two officers attended the Circle K MEM tabletop exercise at the Harbour Hotel in Galway. Members assisted with Information Management during the exercise.

### OPEN DAY AT LOUGHREA GARDA STATION

Civil Defence was invited to attend an Open Day at Loughrea Garda Station. Members displayed several assets, including:

- Ambulance
- Boat and Rescue Sled
- Control Unit
- Drone
- Sonar Scan Unit

The public showed significant interest in the services provided by our organisation.

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING DATA

KEY Statistics: 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	
Applications Received/Valid	607/512
Granted	523
Grant Rate	91%
Refused	49
Breakdown of Decisions Granted Outline (2)	
Permission (410)	
Retention (101)	
Permission Consequent (3)	
Extension of Duration (7)	
Percentage of applications received via Portal/Hardcopy	84%
Stage 1LRD	1
Stage 2 LRD	0
Major Meetings	6
SID Meetings	1

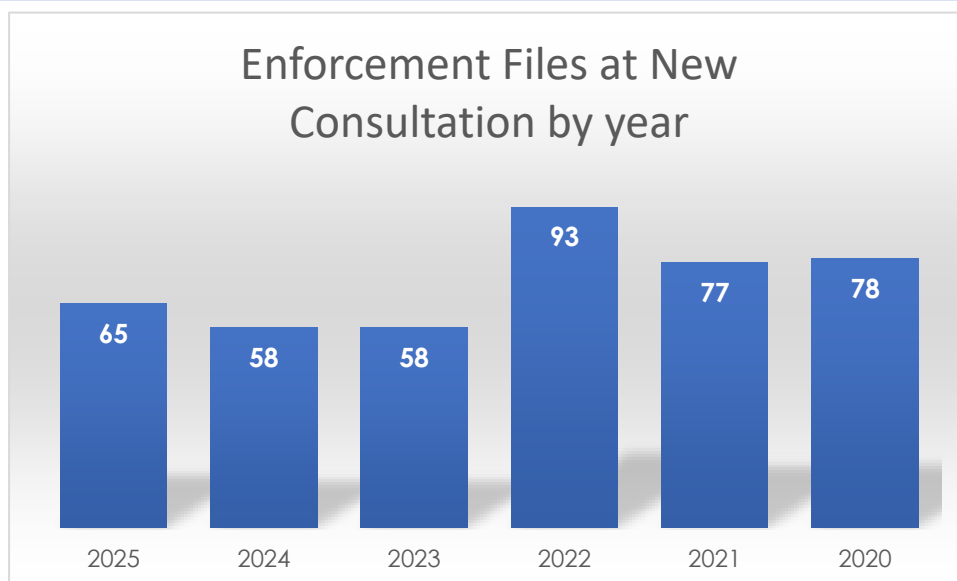
COMMENCEMENTS AND COMPLETIONS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	
Submitted and Validated Commencement Notices	225
Submitted and Validated Certificates of Completion	29

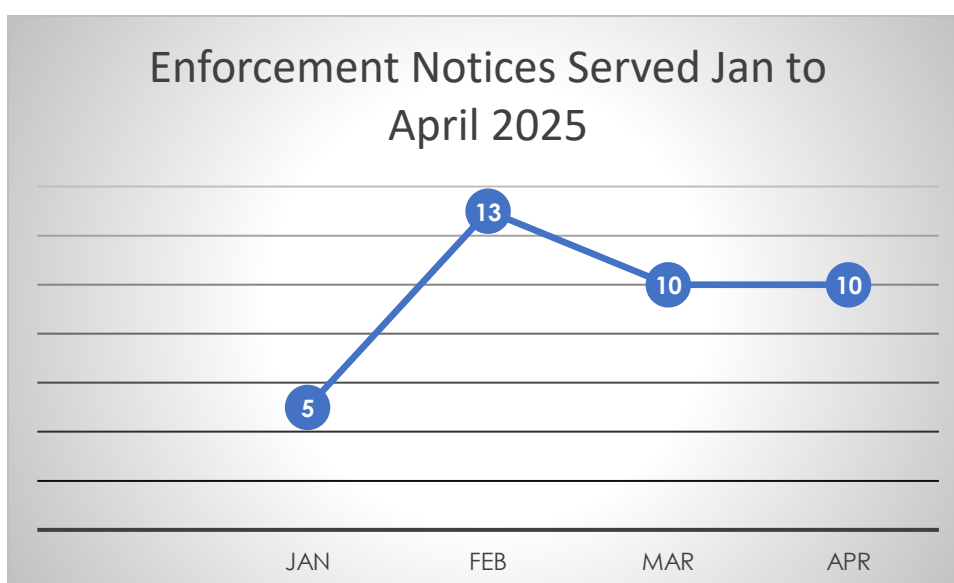
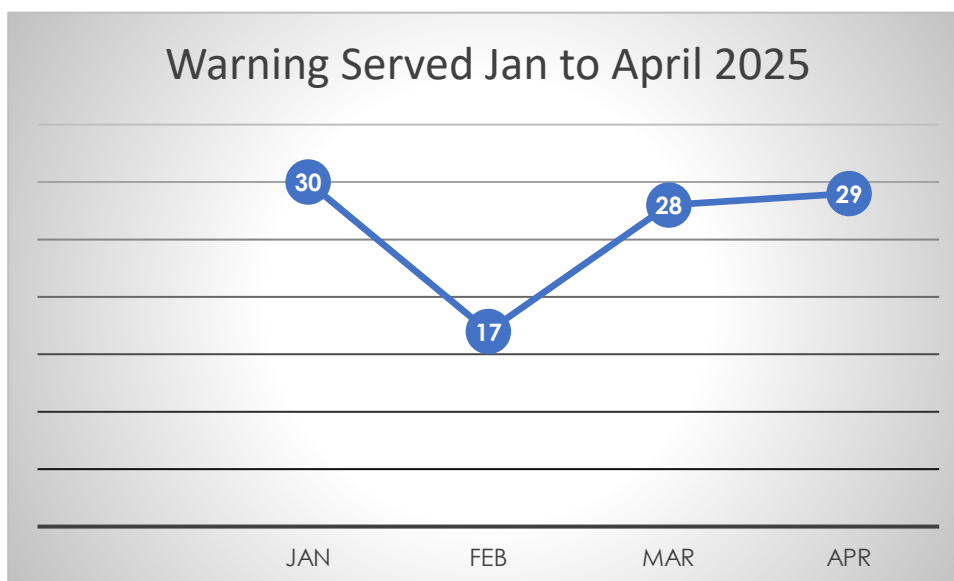
KEY STATISTICS 1 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 –30 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025.	
Exempted Development Applications (under Section 5)	61
Exempted	30
Not Exempted	21
FI	5
Withdrawn	
Decision Pending	5
Appealed	1

#### PRE PLANNING MEETINGS JANUARY TO APRIL 2025

PPM per MD per Month	January	February	March	April	Ma
Ath/Ora	3	7	5	5	
Ballinasloe	2	2	5	6	
Connemara	3	4	6	7	
Loughrea	8	9	9	5	
Tuam	1	6	3	3	
Total per month	17	28	28	26	

#### ENFORCEMENT





## KEY PLANNING UPDATES

### GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

CE Report on submissions received on Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was discussed at the Loughrea MD Meeting on 06/05/2025. A number of Material Alterations were made and will go out on public display from 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025. CE Report will be prepared on submissions received on Material Alterations and will be available in July/August 2025.

### MONITORING OF GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

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



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## URDF

Works progressing with consultants with respect to design of local centre, ecopark and density typology study at Garraun.

SET enabling works now complete at Oranmore Train Station.

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## BRIARHILL URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN LANDS

Works underway preparing design of local/nodal centre and density typology study at Briarhill.

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## JOINT RETAIL STRATEGY

Consultants are updating the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft/final document. To be sent to City and County for review.

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## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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## UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY MA PLANNING STUDENTS

MA planning students have commenced 12-week placement with Galway County Council. A total of 3 students from University of Galway are participating.

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## COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN ROS AN MHÍL

Planning was granted for a new commercial centre for Ros an Mhíl which will include ticket sales, ferry offices, restaurant and retail uses.

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## 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

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#### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, LEO Galway provides a wide range of high-quality training supports which are tailored to meet

specific business requirements. Please note our short training courses will stop on June 4<sup>th</sup> for the Summer months and will recommence on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### May & June Schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Social Media Bootcamp (5 weeks).
6 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Visual Storytelling.
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Understanding Financials for Business Planning.
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Costing and Pricing for your business.
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Managing Cashflow for your Business.
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Introduction to TikTok 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. Our sessions are both in person and by phone. 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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## START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway organizes a SYOB programme monthly with up to 16 participants on each programme. The April/May SYOB evening programme finished on 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2025. Our next SYOB programme will commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May and will run until the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

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## LEAN LAUNCH

The Spring Lean Launch programme commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This programme is ideal if you are starting out with your business idea or just need that guidance to point you in the right direction to start making or increasing customers and sales. Our expert trainers

will support you in carrying out real world sales and market research to see if there is a business in your business. Market research is key in any business and while this programme is very hands on, you will get to see if your idea is viable. The programme will run as follows:



Module 1	Thursday 27 <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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

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

Previous participants have benefitted from increased publicity, networking and marketing opportunities. The National Final will take place in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Thursday May 22nd, 2025, **Marteye Limited** are finalists at this year awards. Caroline McDonagh and Eoin Connaire will attend the awards from LEO Galway.



L-R: MS. NOREEN DONOHUE (LEO GALWAY), MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. MARGARET MONAGHAN AND MR. CIARAN FEENEY MARTEYE LIMITED, MS. CAROLINE MCDONAGH HEAD OF ENTERPRISE & MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY

### GRANT CLINICS WITH LEO GALWAY & THE PORTERSHED

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



This kicked off on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. The next Grant Clinic will run on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm.

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

**What to expect:**

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

**Who should attend:**

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

## PAST EVENTS

### DESIGN MINGLE WITH PAUL CONWAY

Paul Conway spoke about his inspiring journey to success in CREW on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Paul is a talented artist and one of the co-founders of Spooky Doorway, an Irish indie game studio known for creating the popular game series The Darkside Detective. With over 16 years of experience in the video game industry, Paul has contributed to more than 100 games, including well-known franchises like The Sims and Theme Park.

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.



PAUL CONWAY (SPOOKY DOORWAY)  
IN ACTION AT DESIGN MINGLE

### CREW ONE-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Social Protection and Minister Rural and Community Development, visited CREW to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Creative Enterprise and Innovation Hub on the ATU's Galway campus.

Well done to Crew for celebrating their first year of growth, supporting digital creative industries entrepreneurs. Noreen Donohue, Eoin Connaire, Liam Hanrahan, and Liam

Conneally recently attended their one-year celebrations. Over their first year, CREW has fostered a dynamic and growing community of digital creative entrepreneurs and innovators from early-stage startups to established businesses. We wish CREW every success in the years to come.



L-R: MR. PETER HYNES, DCCI, MS. NIAMH COSTELLO, CREW, MR. LIAM HANRAHAN, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, MS. MAJELLA MAHER, ENTERPRISE IRELAND, MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MR. EOIN CONNAIRE, LEO GALWAY

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#### INFORMATION SESSION AT PLATFORM 94



On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Eoin Connaire & Sandra Regan of LEO Galway attended Platform94 to present LEO supports to a local group of Accountants in practice at Platform94. This local group is chaired by Jane Mangan of Candor Chartered Accountants.

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EOIN CONNAIRE (LEO GALWAY)  
PRESENTING LEO SUPPORTS.

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#### STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME NATIONAL FINAL

The Student Enterprise programme is an enterprise education programme for second level students from first to sixth year students and is run by the Network of Local Enterprise Office of Ireland. Students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan. This year's final was held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 8th of May.



Cúl Cards from Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew competed in the Senior category. Scents Crafts & Co from High Cross College competed in the intermediate category. Cailiosa Keaveney, Martina Riddell and Caroline McDonagh from LEO Galway, attended the final and provided support to the intermediate judging panel.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

### Facebook:

7.4k likes

Reach year-to-date: 17.4k

### Instagram:

3.3k followers

Reach year-to-date: 8.8k

### LinkedIn:

1.3k followers

Reach year-to-date: 2.1k

### X (Twitter):

5913 followers

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## WESTERN REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN PROGRAMME MANAGER

Kenny Deery has been appointed as the Western Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Manager (WREP PM) and started in position on April 14th. The position is housed within Galway County Council; however, the remit will serve all four western counties (Mayo, Roscommon, Galway City & Galway County).

There are seven strategic objectives within the plan, as follows;

- Advance the development of the regional entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.
- Realise the Atlantic West region's potential for enterprise and job creation in the renewable sector.
- Support cluster organisations in driving the development and growth of enterprises.
- Drive the global competitiveness of the life sciences sector underpinned by an expanded regional footprint and coordination.
- Grow the AgTech and food sector in the west, underpinned by an integrated innovation network, facilitating the transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy.
- Expand project for sustainable entrepreneurship, employment and upskilling in tourism.
- Facilitate an equitable and green transformation in the West.

There are working groups aligned to each of those objectives, sitting under the strategic direction of a steering committee. There are approximately 80 stakeholders involved in the working groups.

The Programme Manager, has to date, met with a substantial cohort of stakeholder organisations, examples include Bord na Mona, Udaras na Gaeltachta, the Western

Development Commission, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA. The PM has had and will continue to have considerable engagement with the Department of Enterprise, Trade (soon to be Tourism) and employment (DETE).

The Programme Manager participated in two significant events in recent weeks, the focus of those events was



Renewable Energy onsite at the Oweninny Windfarm in North Mayo which is Irelands largest onshore wind farm.

EU Funding, Success, Pathways and Opportunities at the PorterShed in collaboration with the Galway Culture Company.



The focus of the coming weeks and months will be engaging stakeholders and curating events and collaborations that will aim to deliver on the ambitions of the WREP.

## REGENERATION SCHEMES

### TOWN CENTRE FIRST (TCF) PROGRAMME

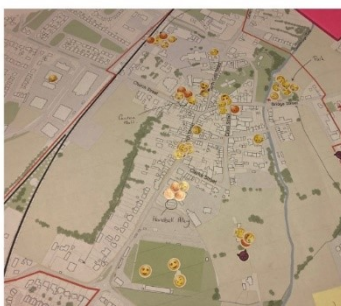
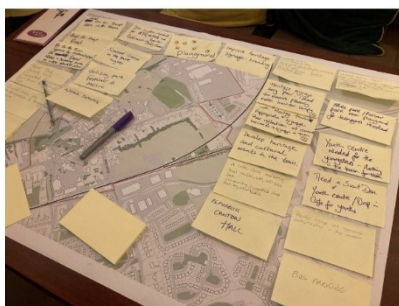
#### ATHENRY

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





PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
EVENING, NEWPARK HOTEL



## BALLINASLOE

The Ballinasloe Town Team continue to work with the Paul Hogarth Company in development the draft Town Centre First Plan. A well-attended outdoor public consultation event took place on the afternoon of May 6<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Galway County Council and the Paul Hogarth Company shared the key themes and visions emerging that will form the Town Centre First Plan. The consultation runs until May 20<sup>th</sup> and is available to view at

<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/ballinasloe-town-centre-first-plan> where a survey is also available to complete.



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## AN CHEATHRÚ RUA

The Town Centre First Plan for an Cheathrú Rua is being led by Údarás and supported by Galway County Council. Allies and Morrison have been appointed to develop the plan. A



public engagement evening took place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at An Cromptán. The Town Regeneration Officer, Brent Mostert was in attendance on behalf of Galway County Council.



## PORTUMNA



## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Works are currently progressing ahead of programme at Portumna Courthouse. The building is currently being snagged, and final commission will take place in 2 weeks. Final furnishings are also being considered.

The official opening of Portumna Courthouse will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am, performed by Minister Dara Calleary. An invitation has issued to Municipal District Members.

Ms. Karagh Kelly will commence employment as Business Development and Operations Manager for the facility on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Tenders for the operation of the on-site café closed on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Tenders received are currently being considered. The evaluation will be complete by the end of May.



## PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM

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

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

## PORTUMNA TOWN TRAIL

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

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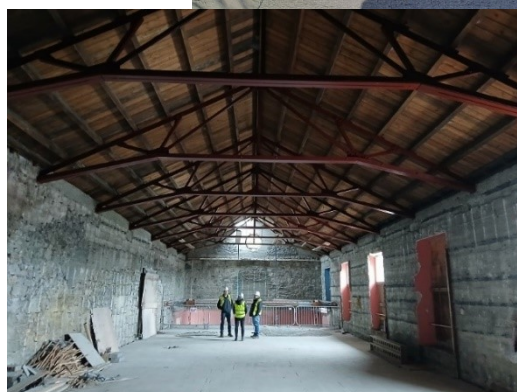
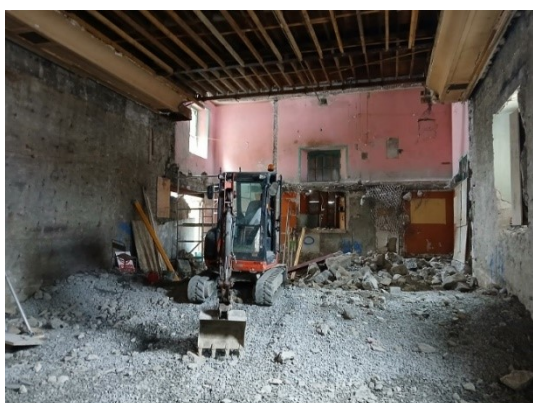
## LOUGHREA

### RRDF PROJECT – LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

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Finna Construction are progressing with demolition works ongoing.

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



### ORIS PROJECT – LONG POINT

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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 consultant team appointed by Galway County Council are preparing our submission in response to the issues raised.



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

## ATHENRY

### RRDF PROJECT – PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

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

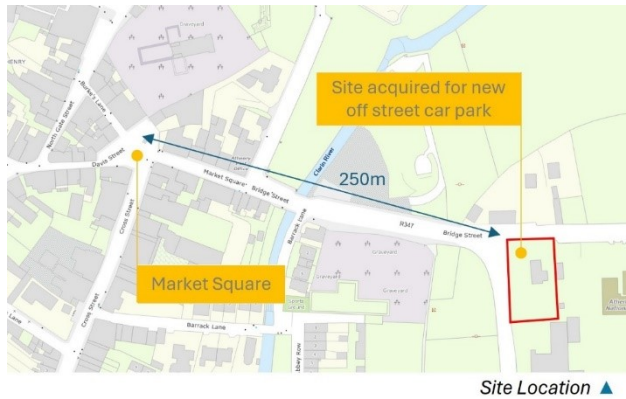
The detailed design of the scheme (drainage, m&e, alignment, pavement) continues, led by Tobin Engineers. A pre-qualification tender will issue week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> May in order to shortlist suitable contractors to tender to deliver the scheme.



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

### 3D RENDER PROPOSED PUBLIC REALM





## LOCATION OF PROPOSED CARPARK, CARPARK SKETCH DESIGN

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



## RRDF PROJECT – SOMERS SHOUSE

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

## OPW WORKS – ATHENRY CASTLE

Galway County Council have been informed that the Office of Public Works have appointed a contractor to carry out improvement works to the entrance threshold to Athenry Castle. Works are progressing on site and are expected to be completed in advance of the high tourism season.



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## TUAM

### TUAM TOWN HALL

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

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

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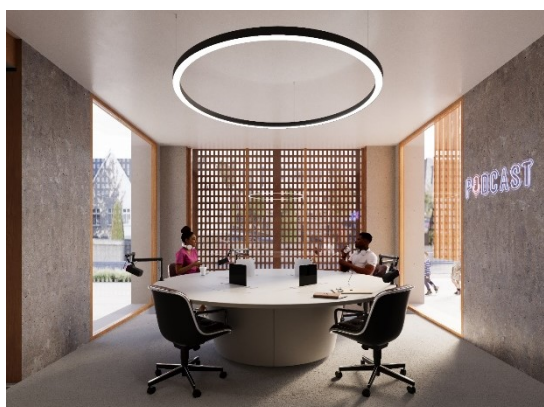
The renovation and extension of the Tuam Station Building has been designed inhouse by the Regeneration Team.

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

A Meeting of Tuam Municipal District will convene on May 29<sup>th</sup> to consider the Chief Executives Report on the planning file. The

deadline for submitting a funding application to deliver the capital project is May 30<sup>th</sup>. This application will be made to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. Updated 3d renderings have been produced to support our funding application as below.





## TUAM STATION QUARTER MASTERPLAN (THRIVE FUNDING)

Galway County Council is working in partnership with Iarnród Éireann and to deliver a transformational masterplan for the Tuam Station Quarter. Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been formally appointed to develop the masterplan. The first public consultation has taken place. The findings are being collated by the consultants to inform the draft masterplan. Engagement with Iarnród Éireann has progressed in the past number of weeks, further exchange of information is scheduled to take place.

## 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>. A request for further information has been issued by An Bord Pleanála to Galway County Council. The design team appointed by Galway County Council are currently working on a response. It is anticipated this response will issue within 8 weeks.





BEACH ROAD QUAY



MARKET SQUARE AND MARKET STREET



HARBOUR PARK



## GORT

### GORT PUBLIC REALM

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



## SISTERS OF MERCY CONVENT

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

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## ORANMORE

### RINVILLE PARK SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have been appointed to develop a sustainable development plan for Rinville Park. An initial inception meeting has taken place. A programme of public engagement will follow which will include engagement with the local elected members. It is anticipated that there will be 2no. public engagement events, one to take place at Oranmore Public Library, the second on site at Rinville Park; further details will be publicised once dates have been confirmed. The newly formed Oranmore Town Team will be an important stakeholder in the process.



### PRESERVING THE PAST: ABBEYGORMICAN PROJECT EARNS NATIONAL ACCLAIM

A landmark restoration project dedicated to preserving centuries of archaeological and architectural heritage at Abbeygormican in East Galway has earned national acclaim at the prestigious Irish Construction Excellence (ICE) Awards.



The Abbeygormican Church Conservation Project received the Judges' Silver Award, honouring the

meticulous restoration of the historic Augustinian friary and its unique blend of 12th, 15th, and 17th-century architecture, all set within an ancient ecclesiastical enclosure.



Conservation works were carried out in three phases in collaboration with Galway County Community Archaeology Project, Galway County Heritage Office, Galway County Council, the local community, and the National Monuments Service, and guided by a Conservation and Management Plan prepared by a multidisciplinary team.

The award was jointly accepted by contractor Mathieu & Mitchell Ltd., the Abbeygormican Cemetery Group, and Galway County Council at a ceremony held in the Convention Centre, Dublin.



L-R: MS. ANN MARIE CUSACK, ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, MS. CLAIRE BREEN, SENIOR ARCHAEOLOGIST, NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE, MR. TOM MITCHELL, MATHIEU & MITCHELL LTD., CLLR MARTINA KINANE, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, CLLR GERALDINE DONOHUE, MS. MARIE MANNION, HERITAGE OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND MS. BERNIE DOHERTY GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST

**Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway**, said, “This national recognition is a testament to the dedication and skill of all those involved in preserving Abbeygormican’s remarkable heritage. The conservation of this historic site not only safeguards an important part of East Galway’s architectural and cultural legacy but also reconnects us with the rich story of our community. I commend everyone involved for their collaboration and commitment to protecting our shared history for future generations.”

**Liam Hanrahan, Acting Chief Executive of Galway Council**, commented, “Located within a graveyard, the Augustinian friary is a sensitive monument that required urgent repairs to ensure safe access for burials and prevent further deterioration of the medieval church exposed to the elements. The successful completion of the restoration project would not have been possible without the funding support granted by The National Monuments Service, the diverse skillset of the multidisciplinary team and the dedication of the local community.

**Michael McDonagh, Chief Archaeologist with the National Monuments Service**, which funded the work through the Community Monuments Fund, stated, “Abbeygormican is a lesson in perseverance, commitment and pride. Crumbling masonry did not deter the contractor’s perseverance in preserving the piscina, conserving the ivy-clad transept chapel, supporting the Hannon Tomb, and stabilising the transept and chancel walls.”

Outlining the background to the project, **Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council**, explained, “The Abbeygormican Church Conservation Project exemplifies what can be achieved when communities, heritage professionals, and public bodies work together with a shared vision”.

**Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist**, said “Through careful research, conservation best practice, and community collaboration, we have safeguarded an irreplaceable part of Galway’s heritage story. It is deeply rewarding to see this dedication recognised on a national stage.”

Initiated by the Abbeygormican Cemetery Group and Galway County Council, the Abbeygormican Church Conservation Project team comprised Mathieu & Mitchell Limited (Contractor), 7L Architects (Architects), John Britton Consulting (Engineer), Moore Group & Martin Fitzpatrick, Thrutime (Consultant Archaeologists), and MKO Ltd. (Ecologists).



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## IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE VISIT TO ATHENRY TOWN WALLS CONSERVATION WORKS

The Heritage Officer met with members of the Irish Planning Institute as part of their fieldtrip of East Galway on 11<sup>th</sup> April and gave them an overview of the medieval town of Athenry and its walls and the conservation works that are being undertaken of Athenry Town Walls by Galway County Council Heritage Office and funded by Galway County Council and the Heritage Council.



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## PRESENTATION AT STONE CONFERENCE, JEJU ISLAND, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer was invited by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Stone Culture Park (The Jeju Provincial Government) to Jeju Island, Korea, to present a paper entitled "The UNESCO Inscription of Ireland's Drystone Walling: A Celebration of Heritage and Craftsmanship" on April 26<sup>th</sup>.



Jeju Island are keen to apply for UNESCO recognition of their own drystone construction practices. By sharing Ireland's and Galway County Council's (Féile na gCloch, Inis Oírr) experiences and insights, the aim is to foster a reciprocal exchange of knowledge and interest between the two islands.



Jeju representatives attended Féile na gCloch in 2022. The paper that was presented provided an overview of the historical context and techniques of dry-stone construction in Ireland, showcasing how this ancient practice has been preserved and celebrated through various initiatives including Féile na gCloch held annually in Inis Oírr, since 2006. It mentioned other stone festivals and training related to stone craft in Ireland and the Dry-



Stone Walling Association of Ireland. It also the journey Ireland took with regards to UNESCO's recognition of Ireland's Dry-Stone Construction.

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#### EXCERPT FROM PAPER (PRINTED IN ENGLISH AND KOREAN)

Féile na gCloch (Festival of Stone)

Féile na gCloch (Festival of Stone) is a festival that takes place each year in Inis Oírr, County Galway, Ireland, in celebration of the timeless beauty of the dry-stone walls and stonework that can be found on the island, in various parts of Ireland and throughout the world.

Féile na gCloch (돌의 축제)

Féile na gCloch 는 매년 아일랜드 골웨이 카운티 이니스 이어 섬에서 열리는 축제로, 섬뿐만 아니라 아일랜드와 세계 여러 지역에서 볼 수 있는 건식 돌담과 석조 작업의 아름다움을 보여주기 위해 개최됩니다.

The theme for the 2023 festival was 'Hands across Europe/ Lámha trasna na hEorpa'. An exhibition and booklet celebrated the craftsmanship, heritage, and beauty of dry-stone wall building found in Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy Luxembourg, Slovenia, Switzerland and Spain.

2023 년 Féile na gCloch (돌의 축제) 의 주제는 “유럽을 잇는 손길 (Hands across Europe / Lámha trasna na hEorpa)”이었습니다. 전시가 열리고 소책자가 발간되어 안도라, 오스트리아, 벨기에, 크로아티아, 키프로스, 프랑스, 그리스, 아일랜드, 이탈리아, 룩셈 부르크, 슬로베니아, 스페인, 스위스에 걸쳐 있는 다양한 건식 돌담 건축 유산과 장인정신, 아름다움을 기념했습니다



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MR. LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

리암 코넬리, 골웨이 카운티 의회 의장 (사진 제공: 마리 매니언)

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## KILMALLOCK, CO LIMERICK TOWN TEAM VISIT TO ATHENRY



The Town Regeneration Officer, the County Archaeologist, Limerick City and County Council and members of Kilmallock Town Team paid a visit to Athenry on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Both Athenry and Kilmallock are members of the Irish Walled Town Network. The group visited Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Castle, Athenry Community Park, Loro Gate, North Gate and also visited various parts of the walls where conservation works have taken place over the past 20 years.

## PLANNING

## BIODIVERSITY

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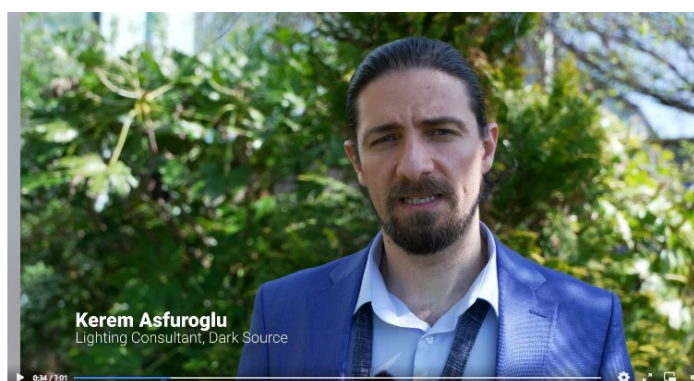
### RESPONSIBLE LIGHTING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES VIDEO

A recently released video captures key highlights from last month's artificial lighting workshops, coordinated by the Biodiversity Officers across Connacht. The video not only showcases the environmental and health impacts of light pollution — which disrupts wildlife behaviour and human circadian rhythms — but also effectively highlights the proactive role of local authorities and their Biodiversity Offices in addressing this issue.

The workshops underscored the financial and energy costs associated with excessive artificial lighting, particularly from LEDs in urban and roadside settings. Over two days, expert speakers shared practical strategies for reducing light pollution through thoughtful lighting design, robust policy frameworks, and collaborative community action. The central message was clear: responsible lighting — the right light, in the right place, at the right time — is both achievable and essential.

The initiative was supported by local authorities in Sligo, Galway County, Galway City, Mayo, Roscommon, and Leitrim, with valuable contributions from speakers including Kerem Asfuroglu, Miriam Crowley, Georgia McMillan, Peter McLoughlin, and Tina Aughney. The video serves as a strong testament to the leadership and commitment of the Connacht local authorities in promoting biodiversity and sustainable practices.

Following the positive response to this workshop series, similar events are now being



planned across Ireland in other regions, reinforcing the message that light pollution is a uniquely solvable environmental challenge — one that can be addressed with informed, immediate action. The video can be watched here:

<https://fb.watch/zALZRBZUSA/>

## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2025



Final preparations are underway for National Biodiversity Week with events running from 16-25 May. The aim of National Biodiversity Week is to connect people with nature through a series of nationwide events that focus on communicating the importance of Ireland's biodiversity and how we can all play our part in protecting it. Galway County Council is actively participating in the week by supporting and delivering a diverse range of free events across the county. A bioblitz will take place in Rinville Park to document as many species as possible over a 24-hour period. This will coincide with public events, such as moth trapping, a bat walk, a dawn chorus and a tour of the park with the Biodiversity Officers from both Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

#### 1. Restoration Improvement –2025 Contractor signed up – Staring works next few weeks – Internal works commencing next week

- Old Church St, Athenry (2024) – Complete
- RI R347 Laraghmore 2025 – RI Contractor
- RI R348 Derrydonnell 2025 – RI Contractor
- RI L4105 Millplot (Station Road) 2025 – RI Contractor
- RI L3106 Ballinvoher 2025 – RI Contractor

- f. RI L2129 Drumgriffin 2025 – RI Contractor
- g. RI L3107 Tysaxon (Monivea Rd) 2025 – RI Contractor
- h. RI L2119 Baunmore 2025 – RI Contractor
- i. RI L6214 Clogher/Cahergowan 2025 – RI Contractor
- j. RI L2134 Castlegar 2025 – City Contractor
- k. RI L6195 Liscananaun 2025
- l. RI L6117 Mullaghtruttery 2025
- m. RI L31026 Moor 2025
- n. RI L71102 Carnmore East 2025 – Micro-surfacing complete
- o. RI L81031 Rinn 2025
- p. RI L71523 Toorkeel 2025
- q. RI L31078 Carrantarramud 2025
- r. RI L7168 Knockroe/Rafort 2025
- s. RI L7130 Farravaun 2025
- t. RI L7114 Kiltroque 2025

## **2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**

**Surface dressing** – preferred contractor Has been appointed – works commenced

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

**Recycling Contract** – Tender evaluation ongoing

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

## **3. Safety Improvement Works**



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

#### 4. Climate Change

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

#### 5. Community Involvement Scheme

Maree Road @ Church – - Complete

New Line Junction Pedestrian Crossing – Contractor on site

Ryehill Church – Road widening – Complete

Coolarne – Road setback ongoing

Caraun – Road bend - Complete

Ballyboggin – Edge drainage – Complete

#### 6. Other Items

Belville Road realignment Issuing Planning consent forms for	Designer response issued to Landowners.
Hydrological study Clarin River	Application to be updated again to latest OPW information.
Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore	Construction Works ongoing – ESB connection to be completed
New Line Junction Athenry Ped Crossing	Works to continue in near future

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## FIGURES AND PICTURES



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STONE PARK SURFACE DRESSING

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CARNMORE EAST – MICROSURFACING



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OLD LIMERICK ROAD, ORANMORE  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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NEW LINE JUNCTION CROSSING ATHENRY





COOLARNE CIS

OLD LIMERICK ROAD, ORANMORE  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



## BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

During April 2025, Ballinasloe MD technical teams have been assessing tenders received for works to be completed as part of the annual roadworks programme. It is expected the works will begin in May under the restoration improvement (29 projects) and restoration maintenance (39 projects) grant categories funded through the Department of Transport. Advance preparation of roads is ongoing by Ballinasloe area crews. It is possible that with improved value for money achieved through the tender process, that some additional projects made be considered in 2025.

Throughout Ballinasloe Town, grass cutting has begun by both direct labour crews and contractors, with changes and improvements made from the 2024 season, in particular around areas for biodiversity.

Sightline improvement works, supported by Elected Representatives NOM allocations, have begun in Creggs at the Ballygar junction on the Roscommon Road. It is expected that these works will be completed during May 2025

A tender competition was submitted on eTenders for the provision of consultancy services for the ORIS grant funded Ballinasloe Outdoor Recreation Park Feasibility Study project. An assessment of the tenders received along with the appointment of consultants will progress shortly.



Ballinasloe MD staff have contributed the 2025 Tidy Town application for Ballinasloe. It is hoped that the improved engagement and provision of details of both the works planned, and the works being undertaken will help to improve scoring under the National Competition.

Phase 3 of the Beechlawn Active Travel footpath project is well underway and nearing completion. This project is funded by the NTA, and was designed, procured and delivered onsite by Ballinasloe MD, including all landowner engagement.

Below are a brief set of examples of the works undertaken throughout Ballinasloe MD in April 2025.



BALLINASLOE TOWN VIEW FROM THE MARINA – TIDY TOWNS APPLICATION

REPAIRED BLACKSMITH OR WHEELWRIGHTS TYRING PLATFORM AT ST MICHAELS SQUARE BALLINASLOE – TIDY TOWNS APPLICATION



BEECHLAWN ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATHS, BALLINASLOE - PHASE 3 IN PROGRESS

R362/L2316 JUNCTION SIGHTLINE IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN PROGRESS - BALLYGAR ROAD / ROSCOMMON ROAD SOUTH OF CREGGS





## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

### UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – MAY 2025

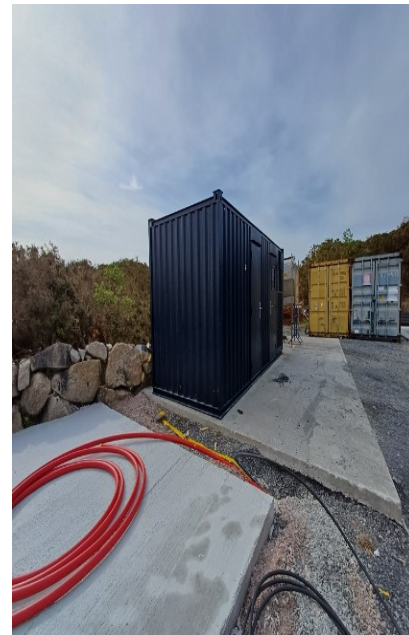
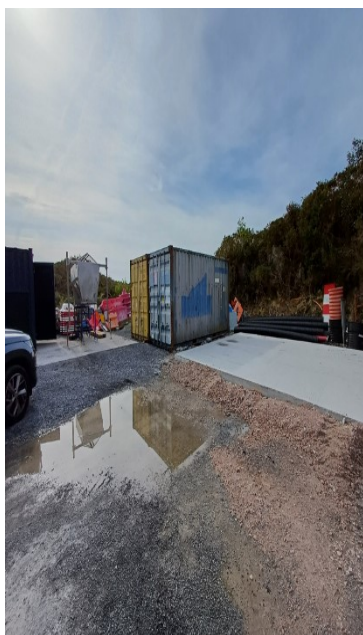
- The Restoration Improvement Works and Restoration Maintenance Works has been awarded and works have commenced. A total of 76 sections of roads throughout Conamara MD will be resurfaced.
- An application for funding regarding for Inishbofin, Inis Mor, Inis Meain and Inis Oir has been submitted to the Department of Rural Community Development. Substantial funding was granted in 2024 and a decision on 2025 funding is expected shortly.
- An allocation of €30,000 has been granted by the Department of Transport to progress a Strategic Infrastructure Scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works allocation of €80,000 has been granted for 3 locations: R345 Máimín, R336 Na Forbacha, R336 An Tulach.
- Climate Change Projects €240,000 (4 projects) has been allocated.
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme & drainage works.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ringbuoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme.
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- preparing for summer 2025.
- Funding has been received for the following areas:

Municipal District of Conamara		CONAMARA MD
	Route No.	Details of Work
National – pavement works/HD15/HD17	N59	Clifden Pedestrian Crossing
	N59	Pedestrian Crossing Oughterard Bridge
	N59	Portacarron Type B RSI
	N59GC	Baile Nua (Safe Routes to School Pilot Scheme)
	N59GC	Clifden School Pedestrian Crossing RSI
	N59GC	Leenane Pedestrian Crossing

	N59GC	Letterfrack Pedestrian Crossing
	N59GC	Recess Safety Improvements
	N59GC	Derrynavlaun RSIS
	N59 GC	Lachtgannon RSIS
	N59 GC	Cloonabinna RSIS
	N59 GC	Barna Road Junction RSIS
	N59	Corcullen RSIS
	N59	Kentfield
<b>B030202 &amp; B040202</b>		<b>CONAMARA MD – RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT (RI)</b>
<b>Road Class.</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>
R	341	Ballyconneely Roundstone
R	344	Inagh
R	336	Leenane
R	341	Bridge Street
R	340	Gleann Chatha
R	340-83	Doire Iorrais
R	336	Forai Maola
L	11063	Mannin low rd
L	5132	Errislannin High Rd
L	51253	Faul
L	5116	Claddaghduff
L	5113	Cloone
L	51033	Rosroe
L	51374	Glencoaghan
L	11072	Ballyconneely Old Graveyard
L	5300	Gleantreague
L	53262	Drumsnauv
L	1301	Finny
L	5327	Glann
L	1310	New Village
L	53283	Leam
L	1202	Doire Fhearta
L	52291	Leitir Caladh
L	52334	Trá Bháin
L	52346-2	Truscain
L	52332	Tobar Naomh Anna
L	5238	Camus Íochtar
L	5242-16	Garafin
L	52441	Ard Mhór O Thuaidh
L	12075	Domhras
L	1320-22	An Spidéal Maigh Cuilinn

L	5395	Baile an tSagairt
L	53951	Baile an tSléibhe
L	1200-24	Ros an Mhíl
L	5366-19	Rocks Rd
L	5362	Gortmore
L	5345-17	Doon High Road
L	5361-8	Park, Roscahill
L	5376	Claideach
L	5347-10	Knockaunranny
L	53946	Pairc Thoir
		<b>CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)</b>
<b>Road Class.</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>
R	341	Ballinahinch
R	379	Cleggan
R	336	Bothuna
R	336	Minna
R	336	Na Doirriú
R	336	Leitir Mucú
R	374	Tuairín
R	374	Leic
L	1105	Bog Road
L	5132	Low rd Errislannin
L	5117	Aughrus Beg
L	51372	Imleach Mór
L	51372	Imleach Mór
		<b>CONAMARA MD – Restoration Maintenance GRANT (RM)</b>
L	1104	Sky Rd Letterdean
L	1310	Gortdrishagh-Glann Rd
L	1103	Ballynew
L	5300	Bothán - Gleantreague
L	1304	Ardan Cong
L	5341	Maghera More
L	5101	Glennagevlagh
L	11031	Bannouges
L	11034	Ross Moyard
L	51101	Rossadillisk Salerno
L	11023	Rossadillisk
L	51311	Munga
L	11056	Inis Ni
L	5219	Trá an Doilín
L	1206-51	Maíros

		<b>CONAMARA MD –DISCRETIONARY GRANT (DG)</b>
<b>Road Class.</b>	<b>Road No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>
L	51255	Riverside Clifden
L	51372	Imleach Mór
L	11059	Inis Ní
L	52285	Leitir Caladh
L	1205-14	Doire Iorrais
L	5396-13	Baile Liam
L	5354	Garrynagry



STATIC RISK ASSESSMENT FUNDING: ROS MUC COMPOUND WORKS – NEW WELFARE UNIT, FENCING, NEW BASES FOR STORAGE OF CONTAINERS AND MATERIALS



BLUE FLAG BEACH ENABLING WORKS AT AN CHÉIBH NUA, AN SPIDÉAL





ROADS PROGRAMME 2025 – ROS AN MHÍL  
RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS

PRECAST BATHING SHELTER –  
DESTINED FOR INIS MEÁIN THIS WEEK



NEW SHOWER INSTALLED AT CÉIBH NUA AN  
SPIDÉÁL

### PRIMARY FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

Works on the Roads Programme have really begun in earnest over the last few weeks aided by the unseasonably good weather. A high-level overview is as follows:

- 48 Restoration Improvement Grant projects - 8 Complete (16%)
- 22 Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) projects - 2 Complete (10%)
- 8 Local Tertiary Roads – 2 Complete (25%)
- 5 No Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Schemes - 2 Complete (40%)
- 3 No. Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works – 1 On-going
- 2 No. Former National Schemes – Yet to commence
- LIS and CIS Schemes – Yet to commence

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



PLANTERS READY FOR LOCATING IN LOUGHREA TOWN  
& EDGING AT LONG POINT, LOUGHREA

EDGING OF FOOTPATH AT LONG POINT, LOUGHREA IN  
PREPARATION FOR BLUE FLAG SEASON







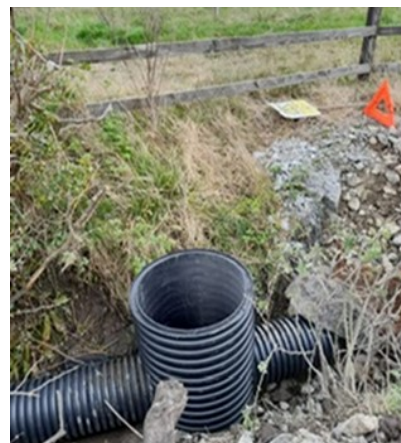
NEWLY CONSTRUCTED GREENHOUSE READY FOR PLANTING SEEDS AND SHRUBS FOR FUTURE PLANTING IN LOUGHREA MD



ROAD SURFACE RESTORATION WORKS AT LIMEHILL, LOUGHREA



NEW FENCING INSTALLED AT PORTUMNA FOLLOWING STORM DAMAGE



DRAINAGE WORKS ON THE R350 REGIONAL ROAD AT BENMORE TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY



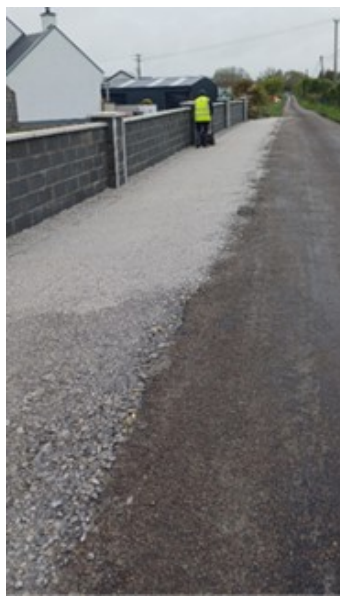
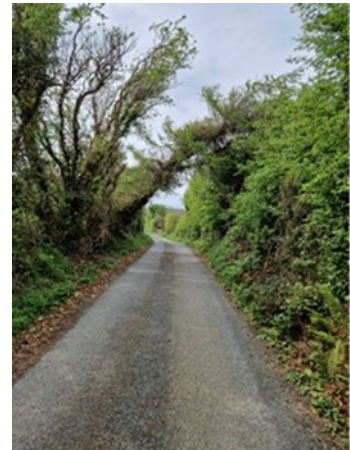


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DRAINAGE WORKS  
ON THE R350  
REGIONAL ROAD  
TO FACILITATE  
PLANNED ROAD  
SAFETY WORKS





REMOVAL OF FALLEN TREE AT  
BOGGYPARK, LOUGHREA



ROAD SAFETY  
WORKS AT SEEFIN,  
LOUGHREA TO  
IMPROVE  
JUNCTION  
SIGHTLINES



FENCING TO SECURE BOUNDARY WALL AT  
MOUNTPLEASANT BURIAL GROUND  
LOUGHREA FOLLOWING STORM ÉOWYN  
DAMAGE



NEW LAYBY  
AREA ON R446



## TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Tuam MD Roads Programme was brought to the April MD meeting and was adopted by the Elected Members. €7.8m was allocated towards the road infrastructure in this year's programme.

The road improvement overlay schemes; road recycling schemes and surface dressing schemes were all tendered out throughout last month and returned. The successful contractor for the road overlay tender was Roadstone Ltd, with Colas Contractors successful in both the Surface dressing and recycling contracts. Both successful contractors will commence the work in the coming weeks. The Direct Labour crews also commenced works on various roads during the month with a number of roads fully resurfaced and completed.



L6419 Addergoole Beg



L6414 Cloonbrush



R362 Gortaleam





SURFACE DRESSING LAVALLEY

OVERLAY WORKS CORTOON



## PALACE GROUNDS TUAM

**Sensory Garden** – the works in the Sensory Garden have recommenced during the month by a landscaper and members of the Women's Shed in Tuam. All civil ground works have been completed by the Direct labour crews.



It is envisaged that the Sensory Garden will be opened in late June, and an official opening will take place with all personal involved with this project.



**Dog Park** – works have recommenced in the month of April as ground conditions improved. It is envisaged that the dog park will be opened in May and an official opening will take place with all personal involved with this project.

**Sports grant** Galway County Council has secured funding from the Participation Nation Outdoor Fund for the installation of permanent sports equipment in the park for the installation of a 3v3 Basketball Court. Works commenced in April by the Direct Labour Crew.

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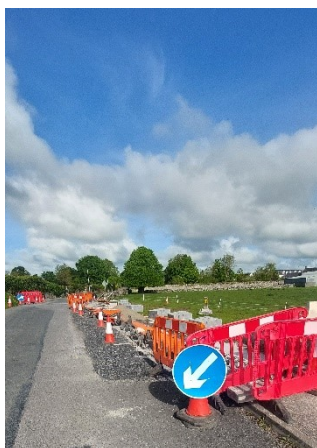
### R332 KILBANNON SCHEME

- R332 Kilbannon - Department of Transport has given approval to proceed to Tender.
- The scheme has been tendered and had a closing date in early March.
- All tender documents have been assessed by Galway County Council and a winning contractor has been Identified.
- Further sanction will be required from the Department of Transport in due course and all land compensation must be processed before any construction works commence.



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### PEDESTRIAN CROSSING HEADFORD



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NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WORKS IN DEERPARK  
HEADFORD



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## NEW SIGNAGE



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NEW SIGNAGE FLASKEAGH MORE



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NEW SIGNAGE FOR CASTLEGROVE WOODS

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive**  
**Galway County Council**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**