



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Samhain 2023
November 2023

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Payment of €259,306.84 has been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development as partial drawdown of funding under this scheme. The Community & Rural Development Section are now liaising with all projects to identify alternative drawdown timescales for all remaining elements of projects up to Quarter 2 2024.

HEALTHY IRELAND



Healthy Galway County and Galway Sports Partnership attended a Croí Heart & Stroke Event on 26th October for #WorldStrokeDay in the Family Centre in Tuam. The event was to raise awareness on stroke prevention and supports for people after a stroke. Healthy Galway County and Galway Sports Partnership on the day hosted a stand and provided various information, resources and supports for all things health and wellbeing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

- The All-Island Pride of Place Awards Ceremony took place on Friday 10th November in Armagh. Nominated by Galway County Council, **Creggs Rural Development Group** was named overall winner of Climate Action & Biodiversity category in recognition of its commitment to promote, educate, raise awareness, and enhance biodiversity within the north Galway village. The community joins Lawrencetown (2022), Inis Méain (2018), Clonbur Community Council (2016) and Clifden (2012) as an overall winner of the prestigious annual competition. County Galway's other participant in this year's competition **Gort River Walk Group** was nominated in the Community Wellbeing category

in recognition of their continued development of a 3km looped walk that encompasses biodiversity, rest areas, and a new footbridge in the south Galway town.

NewsPeople

Creggs community wins at Pride of Place 2023



Representatives of Creggs Rural Development Group and Galway County Council pictured at the Pride of Place 2023 awards ceremony in the Armagh City Hotel.



Pictured at the IPB Pride of Place awards ceremony in the Armagh City Hotel were Alan Farrell (Director of Services, Galway County Council), Sheila Beirne (Creggs Rural Development Group), Carmel Bourke, Sean Beirne, Fiona Brandon, Mary Kelly (Creggs Rural Development Group), and Cllr Evelyn Parsons (Leas-Chathaoirleach, Galway County Council) accepting the Climate Action and Biodiversity category award alongside IPB Pride of Place 2023 judges.

County Galway has continued its trend of being successful in the IPB Pride of Place competition, with Creggs Rural Development Group being named winner in its category at an awards ceremony held in the Armagh City Hotel on Monday, November 10th.

Organised by peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place awards showcase and celebrate exceptional community development efforts. This year marked the 21st anniversary of the awards, and the event was hosted by UTV's Pamela Ballentine.

Nominated by Galway County Council, Creggs Rural Development Group was named overall winner of Climate Action and Biodiversity category in recognition of its commitment to promote, educate, raise awareness, and enhance biodiversity within the north Galway village. The community joins Lawrencetown (2022), Inis Méain (2018), Clonbur Community Council (2016) and Clifden (2012) as an overall winner of the prestigious annual competition.

County Galway's other participant in this year's competition Gort River Walk Group was nominated in the Community Wellbeing category in recognition of their continued development of a 3km looped walk that encompasses biodiversity, rest areas, and a new footbridge in the south Galway town.

The communities of Creggs and Gort in County Galway were visited by judges from IPB Pride of Place during August when representatives of both groups made a formal presentation to adjudicators before hosting tours that highlighted the elements of the community and volunteer efforts of which they are most proud.

Dr Evelyn Parsons (Leas-Chathaoirleach of Galway County Council) commented: "This award win is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together for the benefit of their local community. It is an enormous achievement for the community of Creggs Rural Development Group to receive official recognition for their work in front of the 800 people from communities across the island of Ireland that gathered for the award ceremony".

Liam Conneally (Chief Executive of Galway County Council) stated, "County Galway has always performed well in this competition which is an acknowledgement of the valuable and often unseen work carried out by our communities."

"Galway County Council is proud to be able to support communities like Creggs and Gort and to recognise the unique value and contributions made at community level by voluntary and community groups across the county".

Galway glowing with pride

County continues proud record of success In Pride of Place Competition

GALWAY has continued its history of success in the IPB Pride of Place competition with Creggs Rural Development Group named winner in its category at an awards ceremony held in Armagh last weekend.

Organised by peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place awards showcase and celebrate exceptional community development efforts. This year marked the 21st anniversary of the awards, and the event was hosted by the UTV's Pamela Ballentine. The awards took place in front of 400 community volunteers from across the island.

Nominated by Galway County Council, Creggs Rural Development Group was named overall winner of Climate Action & Biodiversity category in recognition of its commitment to promote, educate, raise awareness, and enhance biodiversity within the north Galway village.

Judges praised the motivation of the community.

"This is a small village, but with a vision and ambition on a much grander scale," they said.

"The values of respect and inclusivity were apparent throughout the judges' visit and the judges felt that in many ways this is an ideal demonstration project for the very best of community engagement in tackling



Members of the Creggs Rural Development Company, winners of the Climate Action & Biodiversity category at the Pride of Place Awards, with Alan Farrell Director of Services, Galway County Council; Cllr Evelyn Parsons, Leas Chathaoirleach Galway County Council; Jill Armstrong, Deputy Lieutenant of County Armagh; John Hogan, Chair, IPB Insurance, and Tom Dowling, Chairperson of Pride of Place.

fundamental challenges including climate change and building a sustainable future for very small rural settlements," they added.

The community joins Lawrencetown (2022), Inis Méain (2018), Clonbur Community Council (2016) and Clifden (2012) as an overall winner of the prestigious annual competition.

County Galway's other participant in this year's competition Gort River Walk Group was nominated in the Community Wellbeing category in recognition of their continued development of a 3km looped walk that encompasses biodiversity, rest areas, and a new footbridge in

the south Galway town.

Galway Youth Climate Assembly took runner up place in the Community-led Initiative category. And Galway Community College and Rockfield Residents Association all received nominations as well.

Leas Chathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr Evelyn Parsons, described the award win as 'a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together for the benefit of their local community'.

"It is an enormous achievement for the community of Creggs Rural Development Group to receive official recognition for their work in front of

the 800 people from communities across the island of Ireland that gathered for the award ceremony," she said.

Chief Executive of Galway County Council Liam Conneally described Galway continuing success as 'an acknowledgement of the valuable and often unseen work carried out by our communities'.

"Galway County Council is proud to be able to support communities like Creggs and Gort and to recognise the unique value and contributions made at community level by voluntary and community groups across the County," he said.

Alan Farrell, Director of Com-

munity & Rural Development and Corporate Services, Galway County Council, said there were many examples in County Galway of hard-working community groups and organisations "who give freely of their time due to a sense of devotion to their community and those around them".

"In nominating Gort River Walk Group and Creggs Rural Development Group this year, Galway County Council found two ideal examples of projects that best demonstrate the true spirit of pride of place and how a strong community spirit can have long-lasting, positive effects for communities," he said.

The Pride of Place competition was initiated 21 years ago through a Co-operation Ireland programme to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

It has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland.

President Michael D. Higgins, who is Joint Patron of Co-operation Ireland, said the awards played an important role.

"The Pride of Place awards are a most important initiative, reminding us that creating societies that are ethical and inclusive is a task for all of our citizens, of all ages and circumstances," he said.

Pride of Place... Creggs in the spotlight!

It's Thursday evening of last week, and as usual I am tuning into the 'Irish in the UK' programme on Channel 186 on Sky TV. The programme is presented by our own Martin Logan, who I was delighted to see at the 60th anniversary celebration dinner dance of the London Galway Association.

Another Creggs man, Seamus O'Grady, is President of the London Galway Association, a group that does Trojan work for various charities in the London area, and which also tries its best to help the 'forgotten Irish' – Irish people who for one reason or another have fallen on hard times.

A special guest on the night was Liam Sammon, an All-Ireland

medal winner from 1966, and in the course of his interview with Martin he paid tribute to another man who had a long association with Creggs, the legend that is Mattie McDonagh.

Mattie is still the only Connacht man to have won four senior All-Ireland medals, and the way things are going, his record is as safe as your money in the bank – not exactly sure how safe that is anymore, but you know what I mean.

Anyway, as I watched, I can't deny that I felt a great sense of pride about the fact that on a hugely popular Sky TV programme, our little village had the honour of having such a large representation – Martin himself, Mattie, and Seamus. I said to

myself, 'Who would ever have believed it?'

Talking of pride in our village, up in Armagh on Friday night, Creggs, representing County Galway, won the Pride of Place Climate Action and Biodiversity category, a huge national honour, bestowed in recognition of its commitment to promote, educate, raise awareness, and enhance biodiversity around our little village.

Our representatives were more than delighted to accept the award, and it is something that is more than deserved by a very hard-working voluntary community group. Congratulations to everyone involved – it's another All-Ireland victory!

SOCIAL INCLUSION

AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

- An Age Friendly Alliance Meeting will take place on Thursday 9th November and will be hosted by Galway City Council on behalf of Galway City & County Councils.
- Galway City & County Councils & the HSE have coordinated the development of an updated Directory of Services for Older People. The Directory includes information and signposting on a range of services and supports which are structured across the World Health Organisation Themes such as Health, Housing, Transport, and Social Participation. It is intended to launch the Directory of Services at an Information Event in the Menlo Park Hotel on Friday 24th November from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. and all are welcome to attend. The second Property Marking Machine, which is being rolled out in conjunction with Men's Sheds in the east of the County, will also be launched at this event.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

PPN membership now stands at 1,265 member groups spread across three pillars: Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental.

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN sent out 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 9 mass emails to all 1,265 Member Groups. These emails informed groups of topics such as the upcoming PPN training sessions and calling for input into Galway County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Regular updates across the PPN's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and updates from various other shareholders shared via email.
- The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls, website, and emails.
- The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

BUILDING CAPACITY:

- The PPN has arranged the following training – free to all member groups, this training will help groups operate effectively, develop their business plan, and learn about social enterprises.
 - New Committee Member Induction Wednesday, 15/11/2023 @ 7pm
 - Business Planning for Voluntary Organisations / Developing a Business Plan Wednesday 22/11/2023 @ 7pm
 - Growing Your Social Enterprise Tuesday, 5/12/2023 @ 7pm
- To highlight Social Inclusion week, the PPN has organised Disability Awareness Training – Building Inclusive Community Groups with the Disability Federation of Ireland on 20th November @ 15:00-16:30.
- Galway County Disability Forum will meet on 24th November to discuss plans for 2024.
- The Green Recovery Working Group will meet on 13th November to hear from the Climate Action Team on the Draft Climate Action Plan.

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- PPN Reps attending the JPC meeting on 6/11/23.
- PPN Reps attended the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC meeting.
- The PPN Plenary will be held on 28/11/23. All member groups are invited to attend to help shape the workplan for 2024.

TULCA FESTIVAL OF VISUAL ARTS – BALLINALSOE LIBRARY



Abandoned Goods Screening with talk by Prof. Clair Wills on the 17th Nov 2023 in Ballinasloe Library.

J.J. Beegan was an artist and sculptor who made drawings repeatedly naming himself, his professional and Ballinasloe, as a long stay patient at Netherne Mental Health Hospital, in East Surrey, England, where he made drawings recalling home.

Screened in Ballinasloe for the first time, Abandoned Goods is a short film that explores the many artists making work in Netherne, including Beegan through archival and 35mm footage. Following the screening there will be a talk by Professor Clair Wills, who will share her extensive research into Beegan’s life and his connections to Ballinasloe.

This event was made possible with the support of Creative Ireland Galway County and Galway County Council / Galway County Arts Office.

VAI WORKSHOPS FOR GALWAY COUNTY ARTISTS



“Unlocking the Power of Social Media for Artists”, online workshop, designed to equip artists with the essential skills and strategies needed to thrive in online spaces. This workshop will be conducted by Social Media expert Mary McGraw. Supported by Galway County Arts Office.

Tuesday 21 November online from 7:00 - 9pm.



The City and County Council Arts Offices are organising a networking event for the 24th in conjunction with Visual Artists Ireland to provide artists with an idea of local and national opportunities with representation from Galway and Irish visual arts spaces.

The concept is to invite up to 40 artists and 8-10 curators/ studio managers and to set up tables for a group version of 'speed networking' taking place in Outset Gallery in Galway.

CRAUGHWELL PER CENT FOR ART FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

**'A river runs through it'
Percent for Art Commission**

**Craughwell
Co. Galway**



Budget €41,000

Stage 2

The Craughwell Selection panel have moved to stage 2 (final) selection for this scheme. Four artists have been shortlisted, they have been invited to attend a site visit in October and we are awaiting their submissions.

Closing date for round 2: Friday 17th November 2023 and the selection panel will meet on Wednesday 22nd November to make the selection. This project is being managed by Galway County Council Arts Office on behalf of the OPW.

IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE SIX IN THE ATTIC – GALWAY COUNTY ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

Six in the Attic (SITA) and Six in the Virtual Attic is Irish Theatre Institute (ITI)'s key artist development programme. This year long programme provides playwrights and theatre makers with the space and resources to create and develop work.

Since the foundation of the programme, Six in the Attic alumni have gone on to great individual successes – creating new work, winning awards, founding theatre companies, amongst many more accolades.

2023 / 2024 marks the introduction of six important new strategic partners: Galway City Arts Office, Galway County Arts Office, Leitrim Arts Office, Roscommon Arts Centre, Tipperary Arts Office and Wexford Arts Office. These sectoral collaborators are supporting ITI to identify artists across the country to ensure they avail and participate in the scheme.

Closing Date: 9th Nov 2023, one Galway County Artist will be awarded a place on this scheme.

OUGHTERARDS WRITERS GROUP PRESENTS MOYA RODDY WORKSHOP

OUGHTERARD WRITERS
Invite you to join us
For a Morning of Creative Writing
facilitated by
Moya Roddy
'USING YOUR VOICE'
Thursday 9th November
11am-12.30pm

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP
For more information or to book please contact
Clann Resource Centre at 091-557633

Supported by Galway County Council and Clann Resource Centre

HEADFORD LACE TRAIL LAUNCH

Headford lace trail presents an innovative heritage experience brought to you by the Headford Lace Project and Galway County Arts Office



Take a journey around some of the town's lace industry landmarks with this unique audio trail. With real characters based on real people who once lived in Headford, and hear interviews with locals Teresa Eagleton, Pat Monaghan and Margie McNamara as well as historian Norma Owens. Performed by a local cast, music by Matthew Berrill.

GENERATION FILM FLEADH

Junior Film Fleadh Nov 13- Nov 16

Gen Beyond is the annual outreach programme organised by Generation Fleadh which takes place in Galway City and County, the programme is dedicated to promoting film culture to young people and providing them with a platform to immerse themselves in the world of film.



TUAM CINEMA DAY

GENERATION FLEADH • THE MALL
TUAM, CO. GALWAY

GENERATION FLEADH will bring a diverse array of films to local schools as part of the GEN Beyond programme.

Students can look forward to thought-provoking screenings, including the French film *Libre Garance* followed by German documentary *Long Distance Swimmer – Sara Mardini*, a screening of *Being Put Back Together*, the longlisted Oscar®-qualifying short documentary by Tuam-based filmmaker David McDonagh followed by a short documentary workshop from producer Keith Bogue.



AS AN NGNÁCH VIRTUAL REALITY & IRISH LANGUAGE SCREENINGS

INIS OÍRR

Seó réaltachta fíorúil agus scannáin Gaeilge Inis Oírr.

GENERATION Fleadh bring an exciting programme of film culture to Inis Oírr. The programme includes an extraordinary Virtual Reality experience, *As an nGnách* along with a screening of two compelling short films, *Sean Nás* and *Scairf* followed by the feature film *Ó Bhéal* at Aras Éanna for a day of unforgettable film experiences!

November is a very busy time of year for Creative Ireland with many of our bursary funded projects coming to a close and recoupment winding up for the year. The projects are varied in scale and subject including sculpture trails, music festivals, literary launches and more.



On the 3rd of November **Newbridge Tidy Towns** unveiled their newly installed sculpture trail. This was a soft launch with an official community launch to take place in Spring 2024. Designed by Artfarm Collective, these sculptures are made of natural or recycled, locally sourced materials, and designed to work with their environment as they decompose. The invited artists were asked to consider the theme of environment and climate action. This project engaged local artists who worked in collaboration and

consultation with the local community and was funded under the Galway County Creative Ireland Bursary Scheme.

In late October musician Keith Wallace was awarded Creative Ireland funding to travel to Inis Oirr as part of **The Plassey Project**. While on the island Keith met with and interviewed locals who remember the heroic 1960 rescue of the crew of the M.V. Plassey. He also recorded sound scaping at the site of the famous shipwreck and will use these recordings, along with samples of his interviews to create an original piece of music. This innovative technique will preserve the sounds and story of The Plassey for generations to come as the shipwreck falls further and further into irreparable disrepair.





Sticking with music, mid-November sees the launch of Galway’s newest festival, **Going Coastal**. This event is a celebration of contemporary original music featuring young, emerging, and established acts from Galway City and County. From the 15th to the 19th of November, Galway’s West End plays host to a wide variety of live music performances by local musicians.

Funding from Galway County’s Creative Ireland bursary scheme supported a song-writing workshop for That’s Life, an award-winning arts and personal development programme for people with intellectual disabilities. This programme of the Brothers of Charity Services has seen the formation of the band Electric Dreams, a diverse band with a strong message of inclusion and community. Electric Dreams gave a free, family-friendly concert at the Nun’s Island Theatre on Saturday November 18th. They were joined on stage by composer Anna Mullarkey and electro-folk artist Emma Lohan.

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

SPORTS IRELAND
SPORTS IRELAND
SPORT IRELAND

hi
Healthy Ireland
Healthy Galway

GOOD2GO

ROSSAVEEL Community Hall
Tuesdays
10am - 1:30pm
17th Oct - 14th Nov

OLDER ADULTS TRAINING

- ✓ **Functional Fitness**
- ✓ **Activator Poles**
- ✓ **Step2The Beat**
- ✓ **Social Games**
- ✓ **Seated Exercises**

REGISTER NOW

✉ eloftus@galwaycoco.ie

For members of Active Retirement Groups, Mens Sheds, Womens Sheds and individuals who work closely with older adults. 2-3 representatives from each group will take part and deliver what they have learned to their group. Support for starting sessions and equipment will be available from Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway

Galway Sports Partnership is holding a 5-week training programme for Older Adult, Disability Groups and Organisations in Rossaveel Community Hall. This training aims to help these groups to increase their offerings and run sustainable activities by training up people within these groups to lead various activities. Over the 5-week training programme the course will cover topics such as;

- Functional Fitness (tips on how we can be more active during the day and how you can encourage your peers in your group/persons you support)
- Activator Poles (walking poles and how you can use these for exercise also)
- Social Games (Boccia, Scooch, Flisk and Skittles)
- Step2TheBeat (Folk and social dances)
- Seated Exercises (some revision over the previous weeks and ways we can make changes to include individuals who are sitting)

Participants can avail of equipment on loan from Galway Sports Partnership and Healthy Galway County to use with their groups. The idea being that if the groups enjoy the activities, they can then purchase their own equipment through fundraising of their members or through grants such as Age and Opportunity, Galway County Council community grants or Galway Sports Partnership grants.

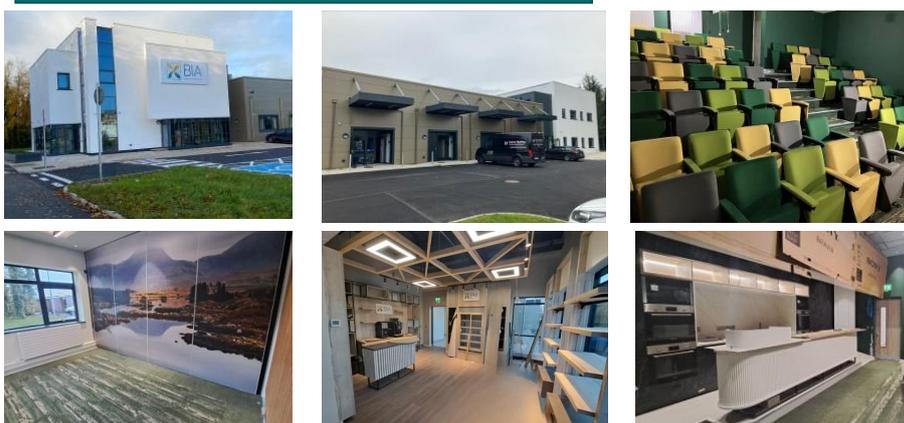
This programme is supported through Healthy Ireland Funding.



BIA INNOVATOR CAMPUS

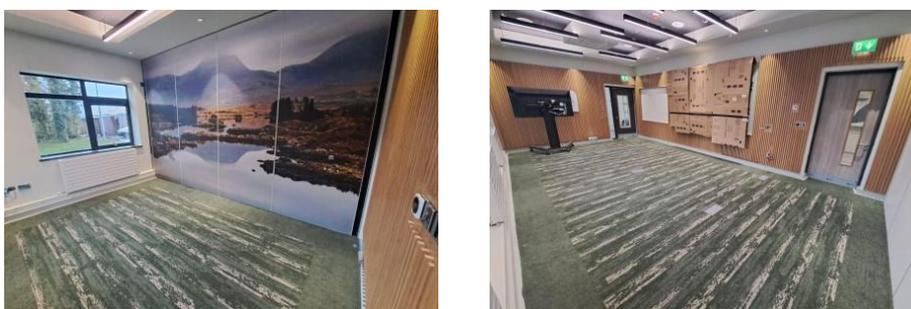
Work on the BIA Innovator Campus made significant progress over the last number of months with Buildings 2 & 3 comprising the 9 own door growth units and 3 own door HPSU units being completed and building 1 nearing completion. See photographs hereunder taken in early November.

BIA Building 1 Progress



IRELAND WEST FOOD INNOVATION & INCUBATION HUB

BIA Building 1 Progress



8-Seater Conference Room

48 - Seater Conference Room

IRELAND WEST FOOD INNOVATION & INCUBATION HUB

BIA Building 1 Progress



Buyer Showcase Room



Lobby

BIA Building 1 Progress



Business Engagement Zone

IRELAND WEST FOOD INNOVATION & INCUBATION HUB

B2 & B3
Complete



TUAM STREETScape ENHANCEMENT SCHEME TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME



Tuam Streetscape Enhancement Scheme Sample Before & After

A total of **€85,008.44** has been recouped from the Department of Community and Rural Development further to investment in the Tuam Town Centre Streetscape Enhancement Scheme funded by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Over 40 Offers of Grant Funding were made to applicants within the Town Centre zone extending from Market Square in the 2022-2023 period. 32 Properties completed and successfully drew down grant funding of up to 80% of their costs within the Scheme deadline which ran to the end of October 2023.

The main type of work completed was façade painting, some lighting and general declutter works. High Street Businesses in particular, succeeded in completing a higher volume of adjacent properties resulting in a positive visual improvement. Stakeholders in the roll-out included Local Business Networks, Auctioneering Companies, Tuam Tidy Towns and Tuam Lions Club who contributed to the promotion and information on the Scheme further to Galway County Council Public Information Workshops and Advisory Clinics held regularly in the Tuam Regional Office. It is noted that the support of the Elected Members in promoting the Scheme and assistance of the Staff in the Tuam MD Office, as well as local business and community networks contributed greatly to the implementation of the Scheme.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME – LEENANE COMMUNITY PARK

Leenane Development Association (LDA) completed works and a successful claim to Galway County Council for their final draw-down of Grant Aid of **€250,000** under the Town and Village Renewal Programme (2021 Scheme) at end of October 2023. The Park on the shores of Killary Harbour in North Connemara includes parking spaces, outdoor seating and completed assessable pathways in a circular route around a central open green space.

Future plans include provision of a community playground subject to funding. The desired aim of the project was to re-use a disused pitch to create an amenity for local and visitors as part of ongoing efforts to sustain the population of this small village and surrounding areas year-round. The project is a testament to a small resilient community working to match fund and oversee delivery of this large-scale project for current and future generations. Furthermore, it adds an additional amenity to encourage visitors and day trippers to stay longer in the area and to avail of local tourism and hospitality businesses. The Council will recoup the funding paid from Department of Community and Rural Development by end of November and the project is due to be launched in Spring 2024.



FIGURE: PROJECT SITE VISIT OCTOBER 2023. PROJECT CHAIR (LDA) GERARD MCLAUGHLIN, ÉIMEAR DOLAN, COMMUNITY & RURAL UNIT.

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

The scheme supports sporting and recreational pursuits. It helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

It provides funding for:

- development, extensions and repair of trails, walkways, cycleways and blueways
- improved access to outdoor leisure or recreational facilities
- development of outdoor recreational infrastructure

For the following Measures:

- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large- scale projects.

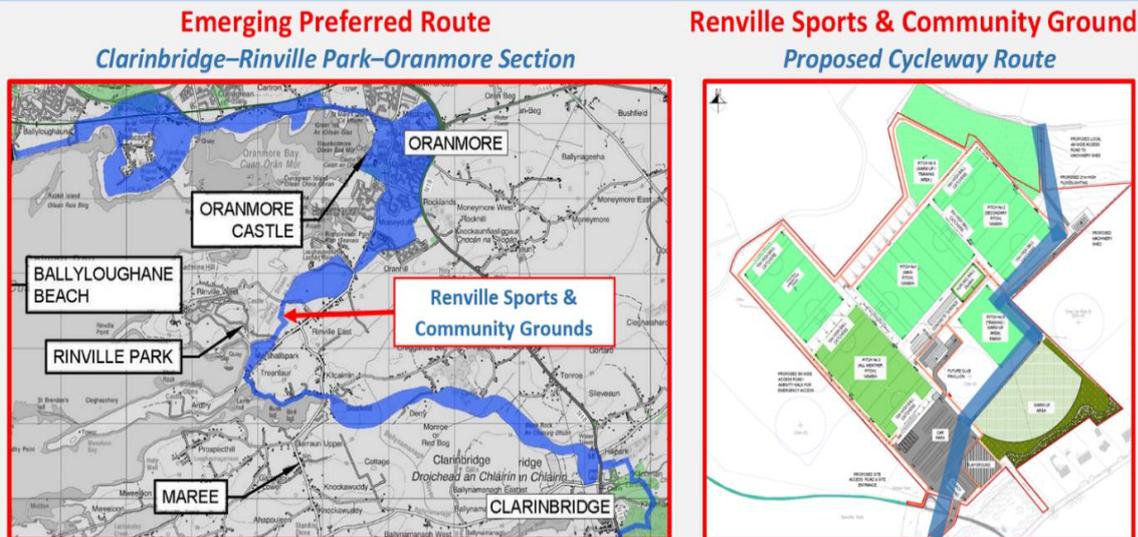
Galway County Council has selected the following projects for submission to the Department of Rural & Community Development, 2023

Measure 3 -

Measure 3 Proposal – Oranmore Maree GAA						
Scheme Measure	Community/Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Description	Total estimated costs including Administration / Professional fees	Amount of ORIS funding requested	Project Type: New amenity or repair/upgrade of an existing amenity
M3	Oranmore Maree GAA	Rinville Park Walkway	Development of an additional 2.5km low level walkways, providing linkages to the Existing Rinville Park Trails, Oranmore Town, Coastline walkways, Sli Na Slainte, Wild Atlantic Way and proposed Galway Athlone Greenway, incorporating key new features namely a sensory garden and Ringfort.	390,000	351,000	New Amenity providing linkages to Rinville Park

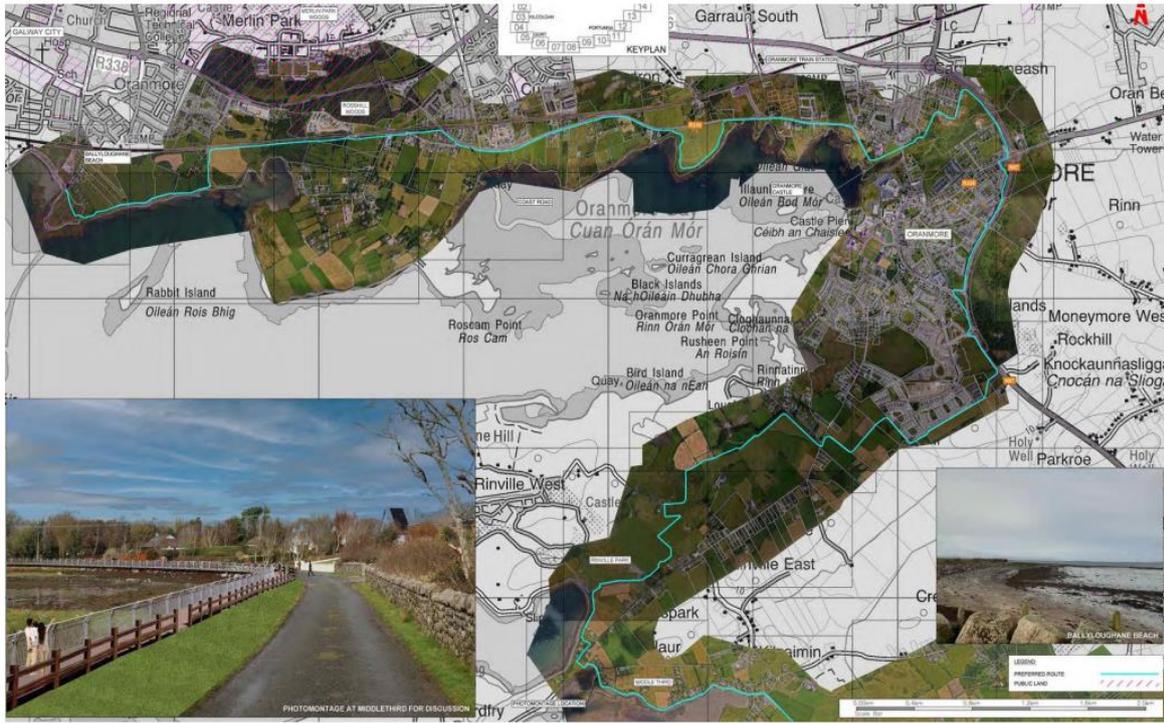


Oranmore Maree GAA & Galway to Athlone Cycleway



- The proposed Galway to Athlone Cycleway project, which is being led by Galway City, and Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils, will complete the circa 270km Galway to Dublin Cycleway, and will be a world class amenity for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to enjoy.
- The emerging preferred route for the Cycleway has been selected and from Athlone it goes around via Portuma and Gort. In this area, it goes from Clarinbridge to Rinville Park and from there on to Oranmore and Galway City (as shown on the above extract from the route map). The proposed route crosses the site for the planned Renville Sports and Community Grounds, as shown above on the right (final route to be designed).
- This project will provide a safe cycleway for much of the catchment area of Oranmore Maree GAA to get to the new Renville Sports and Community Grounds – these two projects will work in synergy to provide state of the art facilities and amenities to the whole community.

The **Galway to Athlone Castle National Cycleway** project will see the creation of a segregated walking and cycling route linking Ballyloughane Beach in Galway City to Athlone Castle, where it will connect to the existing Athlone to Dublin Cycleway. The Cycleway will be Ireland's first dedicated inter-city route for cyclists and walkers. Stretching across the country from Galway to Dublin, the Cycleway will be a world-class amenity for families, communities and tourists to enjoy.



Measure 2

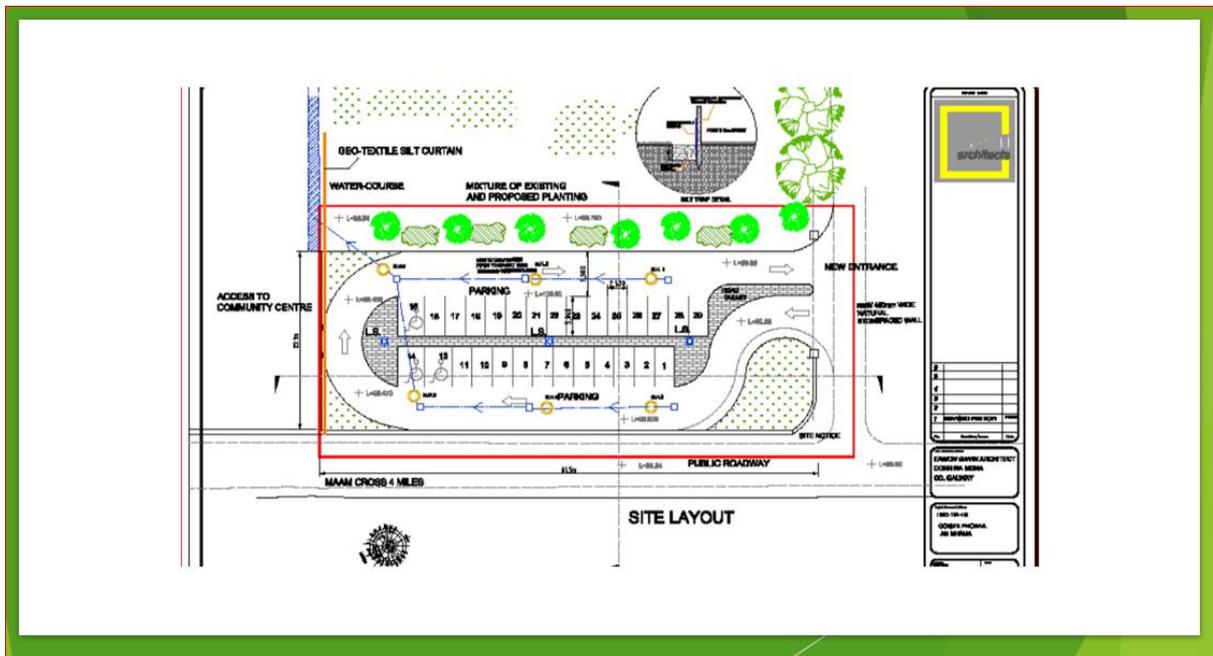
The Following Projects were selected by Galway County Council for submission to the Department of Rural & Community Development under Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Project No 2 – Measure 2 - Coiste Forbartha an Mháma

Project No 2 – Measure 2 - Coiste Forbartha an Mháma Ionad Pobail an Mháma - Car Park



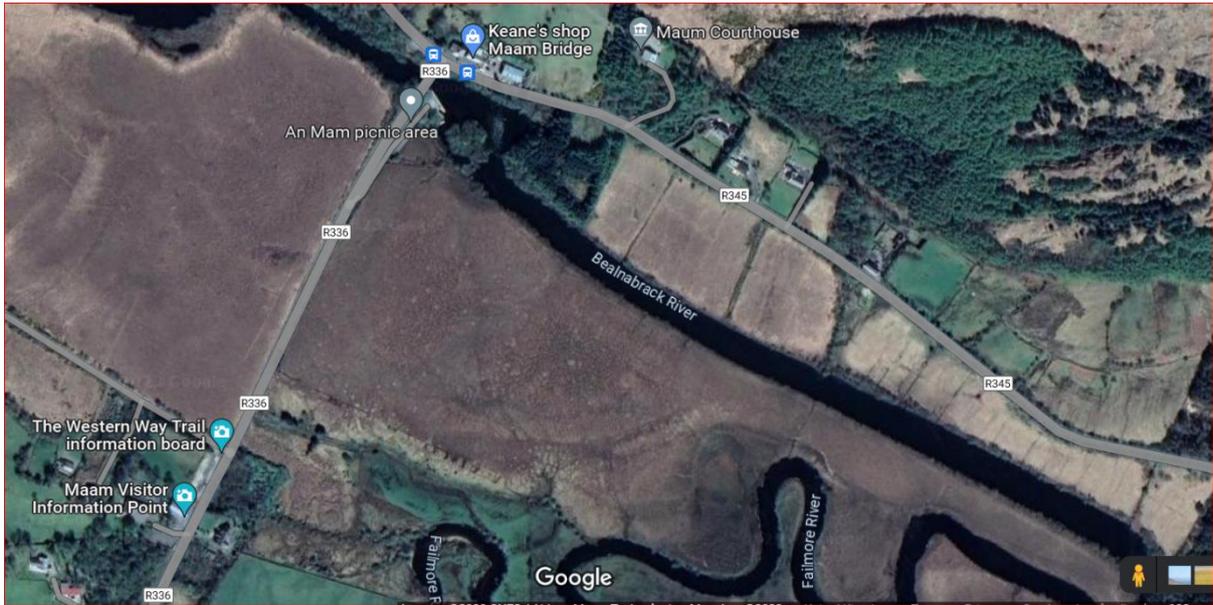
- ▶ The construction of a car park which will facilitate cars and buses for visitors walking the western way.
- ▶ The car park will also provide adequate and secure parking for a range of community and commercial outdoor recreation events which are organised every year by various groups
- ▶ Funding Requested : €172,582.05



Coiste Forbacha an Mháma have recently undertaken a comprehensive consultation process with local stakeholders including residents, community groups and businesses to inform a 7-year development plan for the 2024-2030 period.

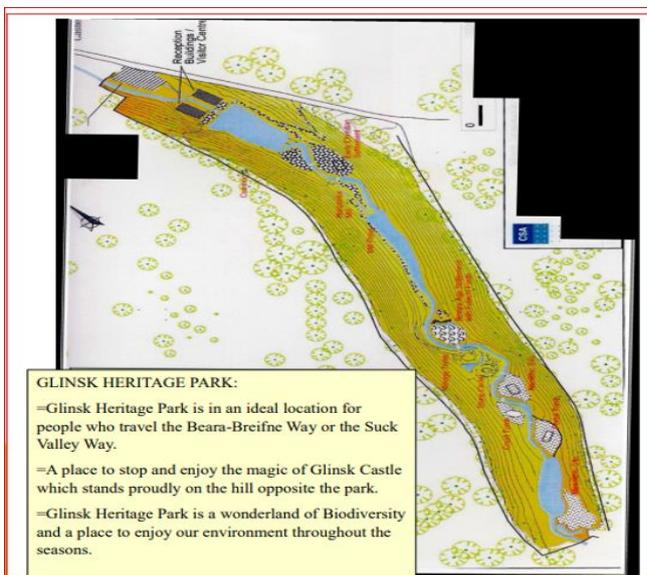
The proposed car park is a key element to promote Maam as a hub for outdoor recreation activity.

- Will facilitate cars and buses for those who enjoy walking the western way.
- Parking for a range of community and commercial outdoor recreation events which are organised every year by various groups.
- The 2024-2030 strategy, led by Coiste Forbacha an Mháma, will include a strong focus on the promotion of outdoor recreation activities.
- The car park is strategically located at the beginning of stage 2 of the Western Way, and within 100m of 2 rivers that are ideal for a range of water based outdoor activities.



Project No 3 – Measure 2 - Glinsk Heritage Park

Project Name:		Amount of ORIS funding requested	Project Type: New amenity or repair/upgrade of an existing amenity
Glinsk Heritage Park	Upgrading existing 2kTrails and Amenity at Glinsk Heritage Park Located beside Glinsk Castle a National Monument. Providing and additional point of interest on both the Beara-Breifne way and the Suck Valley Way	€ 200,000.00	Upgrading existing Amenity.



Project No 3 – Measure 2 - Glinsk Heritage Park

- ▶ Upgrading existing 2kTrails and Amenity at Glinsk Heritage Park
- ▶ Located beside Glinsk Castle a National Monument.
- ▶ Providing an additional point of interest on both the Beara-Breifne way and the Suck Valley Way
- ▶ Irelands Hidden Heartlands

- Glinsk is a small village between [Creggs](#) and [Ballymoe](#).
- Located approximately 68 km from Galway city and approximately 30 km from Roscommon.
- Located in valley of the [River Suck](#), which has a 60-mile hiking trail.
- Nearby is the Glinsk Castle ruin, built by [Ulick Burke](#) in the early 17th century. Also in the area is the ruins of Ballynakill Abbey, which dates from the early 13th century.
- The services found in Glinsk include a church, a shop, a pub and a GAA pitch. The community centre also houses a childcare centre which opened in 2009. Glinsk Community Development is the full owner of this 13-acre property and has been developing this Heritage Park since the late 1990's.

► 2k Trails and Amenity at [Glinsk Heritage Park](#) Located beside [Glinsk Castle](#) a National Monument.

► Providing and additional point of interest on both the [Beara-Breifne way](#) and the [Suck Valley Way](#)



The existing Beara Breifne Way stretches from Dursey Island in Co Cork to Blacklion in Co Cavan. It runs for over 700km and traverses the counties of Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan. The Beara Breifne Way is made up of 12 existing National Waymarked Trails or long-distance walking routes and sections of trail that link these.

The legendary march taken by Dónal Cam O'Sullivan Beara and visits many of the places and communities shaped by his story. On New Year's Eve 1602, he led one thousand men and women, including four hundred soldiers, on the epic march north, hoping to join forces with rebel leaders in Ulster.

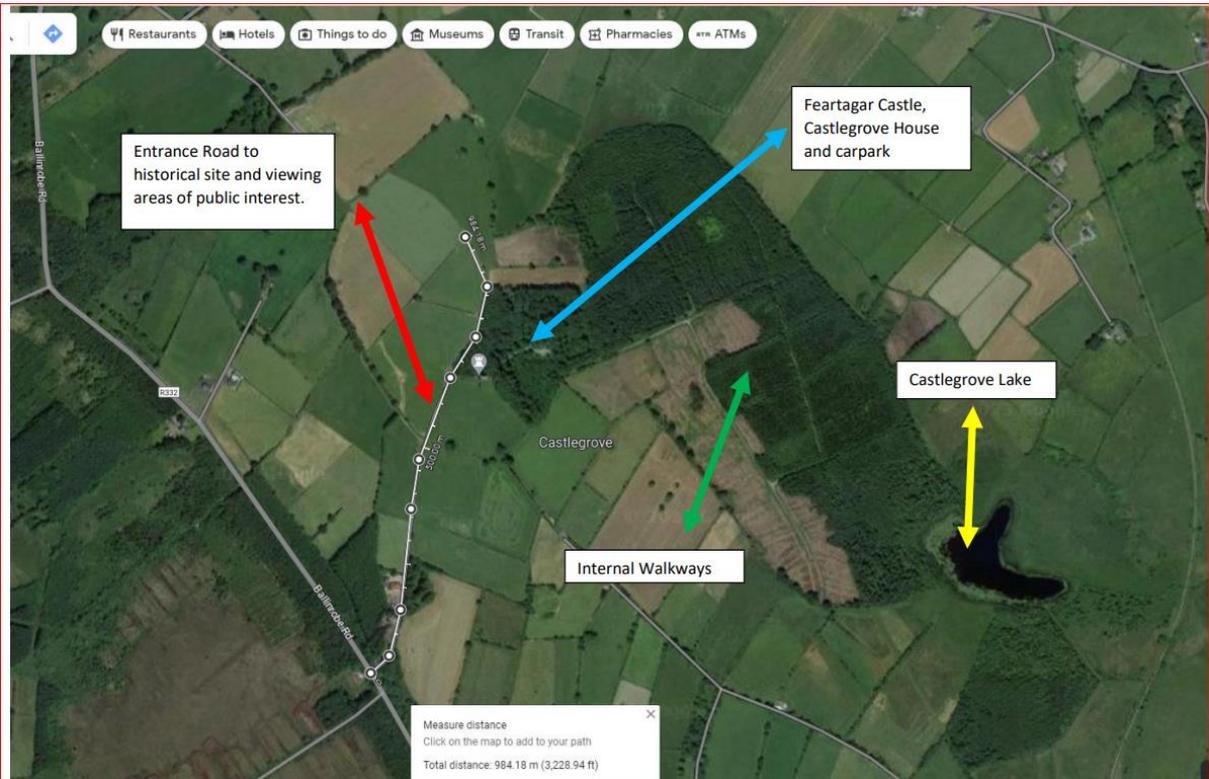
Glinsk Castle was an important stopping point for O'Sullivan Beare in the early days of January 1603.

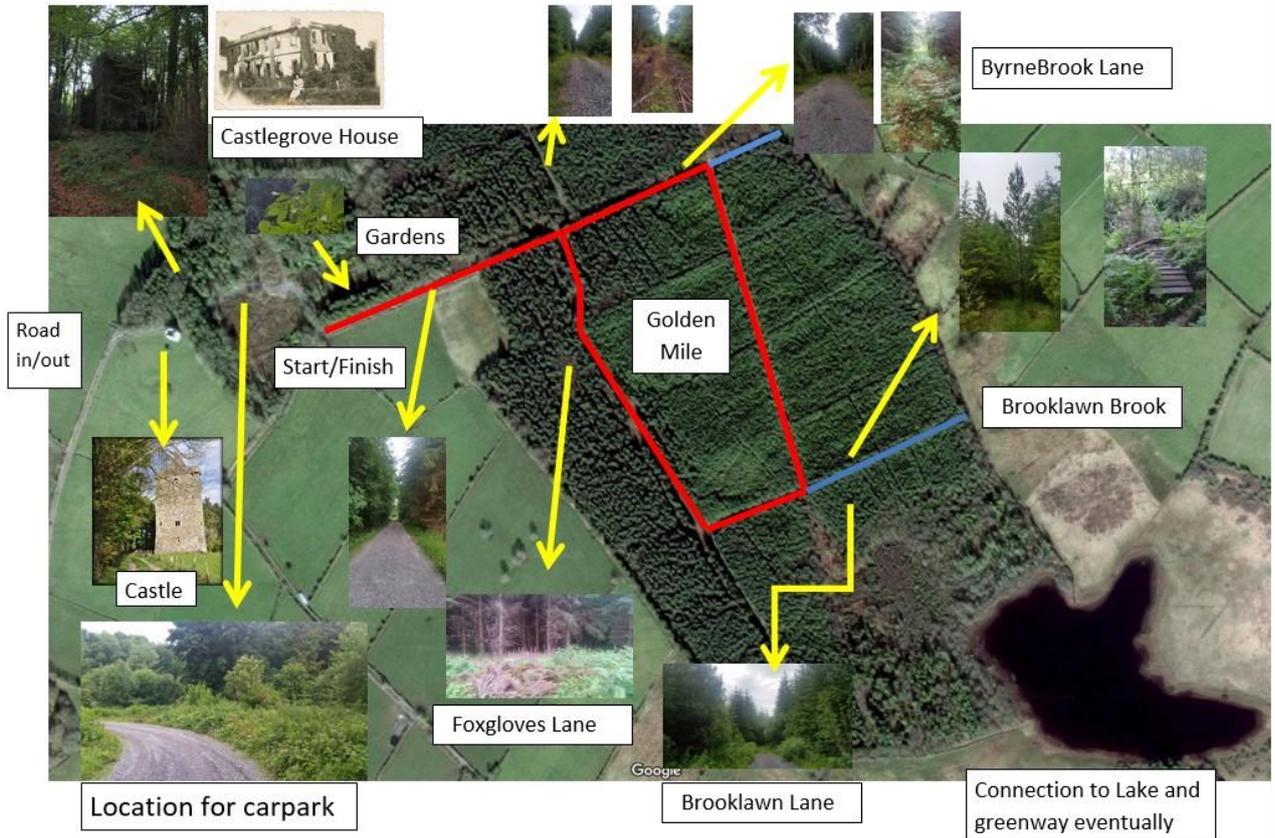
17. Upper Path(Northern Perimeter) – Alternative walk((660 Metres)):-



Project No: 4 Measure 2 – Castlegrove Woods

Community /Partner name(s):	Project Name:	Project Description	Amount of ORIS funding requested	Project Type: New amenity or repair/upgrade of an existing amenity
Castlegrove Woods Tales & Trails Group	Castlegrove Woods Tales & Trails	Resurfacing of Entrance roadway to the Estate, provision of Trail Head and registration with National Trails Register. Accessibility is at the heart of the development. Upgrading trails to make the surface even and suitable for walking, cycling and wheelchairs.	54,956.70	Upgrade of trails in existing Amenity





- The Trails Committee Plan to develop Castlegrove Woods and Barracks as nature & Historic Trails.



CORPORATE SERVICES

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The County Galway Joint Policing Committee held its annual public meeting in the Meadow Court Hotel in Clostoken, Loughrea on Monday the 6th November 2023. The committee is comprised of members of An Garda Síochána, Councillors, Oireachtas Members, Community Representatives and Galway County Council Staff.



PIC 1 CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT GERARD ROCHE AND THE CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY GALWAY JPC, CLLR. JIM CUDDY



MEMBERS OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA, COUNCILLORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

THE

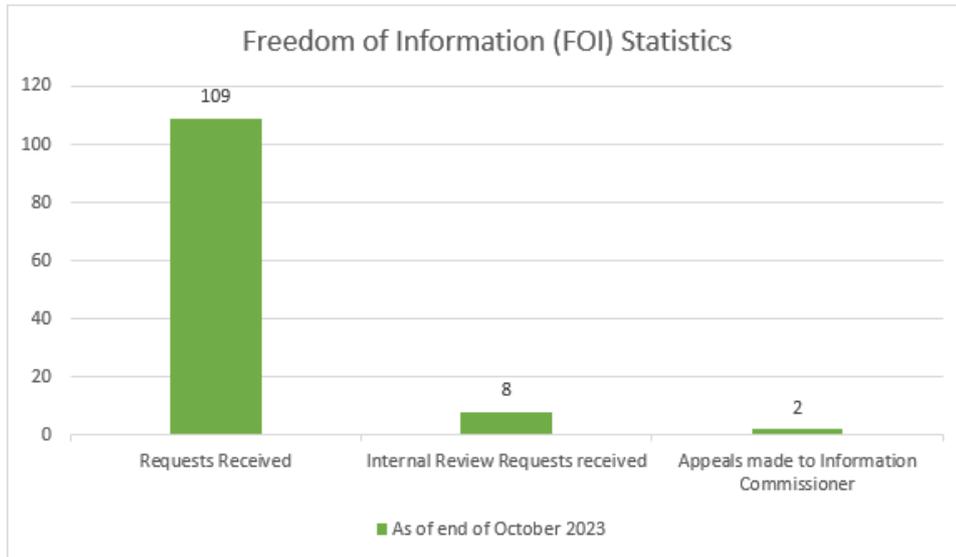


COUNTY GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE, INCLUDING OIREACTHAS MEMBERS DEPUTY SEAN CANNEY AND DEPUTY ANNE RABBITTE

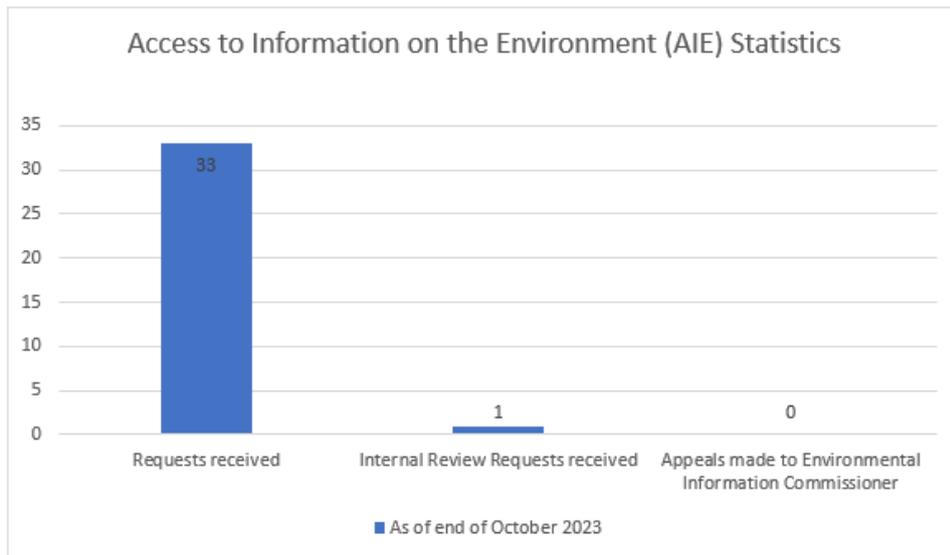
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION & DATA PROTECTION

2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.10.2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT



DATA PROTECTION

- **Data Access Requests**
 - 10 Data Access Requests
 - 2 Third Party Access Requests e.g. An Garda Síochána
- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**
 - Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff

FACILITIES

RINVILLE PARK

Essential repair and maintenance works to the fascia boards and rainwater gutters on the public toilet building at Rinville Park, Oranmore, Co. Galway. Significant deterioration of the timber fascia had occurred at one of the old stone buildings at Rinville Park. This timber structure supported the rainwater gutter which was in a state of collapse. The Facilities Section procured a competent contractor to removal all the timber fascia and replace with treated timbers and refix the rainwater gutters thus preventing potential injuries to the public using the toilet facilities.





SOCIAL MEDIA

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



www.facebook.com/galwaycounty



www.twitter.com/galwaycoco



www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

- Up to 34,208 followers and fans, from 34,038 last month – an increase of 0.5%.
- Posted 564 times, down from 570 last month – a decrease of 1.1%

FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 194 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page, which is up 22.8% from the previous month. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 32,323, a decrease of 1.4% compared to the previous month.

AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 62 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of October 31st, 2023, to 16,033.

Galway County Council's Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.4% of this age group are women and 10.7% are men.

In total, 31.8% of Galway County Council's Facebook followers are male and 68.2% are female.

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top posts



Galway County Council
Oct 23, 18:20

Civic Reception Organised by Galway County Council On Monday 23rd October

20 reactions



Galway County Council
Oct 06, 14:57

Gradaim Um Tarfhoirmiú Digiteach na hEarnála Poiblí 2023 Tá ceann de na

14 reactions



Galway County Council
Oct 26, 17:30

Galway County Libraries Local studies section has a unique early travel guide,

12 reactions

AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 139 tweets with 56k impressions.

Galway County Council’s account gained a total of 32 new followers in this period, bringing the total following to 16,510.

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

Top tweets



@GalwayCoCo
Oct 26, 18:00

LÉIRITHE SPÉISE DO SHEACHADADH TITHÍOCHTA I gCONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

12.5% engagement rate



@GalwayCoCo
Oct 24, 16:01

Fógra/Notice #gaillimh #galway

<https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1>

8.7% engagement rate



@GalwayCoCo
Oct 23, 18:24

Civic Reception Organised by Galway County Council On Monday 23rd October

8.6% engagement rate

AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council’s Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council’s Facebook page.

Galway County Council’s Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 68.9% being female and 31.1% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 35.8% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 24.9% women and 10.9% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers by 7.7% bringing the total to 728. The overall reach for this period increased by 3.2% compared to the previous period.

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

 **Top posts**



galwaycountycouncil
Oct 23, 18:20

Civic Reception Organised by Galway County Council On Monday 23rd October

11 likes



galwaycountycouncil
Oct 23, 18:01

Civic Reception Organised by Galway County Council On Monday 23rd October

8 likes



galwaycountycouncil
Oct 04, 17:25

Architecture at the Edge Festival 2023
"The Living and Lost Heritage of Clonfert"

6 likes

AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 34 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,485.

Galway County Council shared 57 posts with 4.9k impressions this month.

OCTOBER'S TOP THREE POSTS

 **Top posts**



Galway County Council
Oct 03, 18:30

Architecture at the Edge Festival 2023
"Our Town Square: The Heart of"

6 reactions



Galway County Council
Oct 23, 12:03

Invitation
Portumna Public
Engagement Evening

Galway County Council and Coillte are cordially inviting the public to a major public consultation event on Tuesday evening (October 24th) at 6pm at the Portumna Community Centre. Galway County Council will be on hand to present the Draft Portumna Regeneration Plan for Portumna Town Centre while members of the Coillte team will also be in attendance seeking

Portumna Public Engagement Evening
Tues 24th October 2023 6-9pm Irish

4 reactions



Galway County Council
Oct 26, 08:01

Now
Hiring!

Vacancy - Executive Planner Closing Date:
4pm Thursday, 9th November 2023.

3 reactions

AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

Currently there are 26 subscribers, with no new subscribers for the month of October.

Galway County Council's YouTube audience ranges between 35-54, with the main audience being those aged between 35-44 years old, a total of 69.9%. Overall, 59.8% of Galway County Council's YouTube subscribers are male and 40.2% are female.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Galway County Council hosted the Local Government Internal Auditors Network (LGIAN) hybrid meeting in the Council Chamber on 25th October 2023. The members were welcomed by A. Farrell, Director of Services, Community Development & Corporate, who emphasised the importance and value to which the Internal Audit function adds to the organisation. This forum is for internal auditors within local government to share knowledge and experiences to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Internal Audit function across the sector. The LGIAN meets twice yearly and covers

a broad spectrum of topics that is relevant to all local authorities and reports to the CCMA Finance Committee.

Presentations on the day were provided on 'Strategic Audit Planning' by Mr. S. James of Fingal County Council and the 'Debt Management System' by Mr. S. Begley of Wexford County Council. External guest speaker on the day - Dr. T. Ward, Senior Governance Specialist from the Institute of Public Administration. Updates were provided from the Chairperson of each of the three regional networks, the Value for Money, and Institute of Internal Auditors representatives. Active discussions amongst the members were had to provide feedback to the CCMA Finance committee on the draft findings of the NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) report – 'Internal Audit function in Local Authorities' and future training needs of the network members.

LIBRARY SERVICES

DECADE OF CENTENARIES



The Decade of Centenaries City project "Reflections: A Commemoration to the Irish women of 1923" is a project presented by Galway City Council, Galway Public Libraries and Galway City Museum, to honour the legacy of Irish women, whose stories and accomplishments have often been overlooked or marginalized in historical narratives continues in our three City Libraries. The artists include Tracy Bruen Galway singer-songwriter, Poet Emily Cullen and Visual artist Áine Philips.

Ballybane Library is hosting visual artist Áine Philips and a women's group who are creating and making visual banners reminiscent of the work created by Susan 'Lily' and Elizabeth 'Lolly' Yeats in 1923.

Westside Library is hosting creative writing workshops facilitated and led by Emily Cullen, with Galway City Library hosting the choir workshops and musical composition piece.





“Reflections: A Commemoration to the Irish Women of 1923” is a captivating series of talks and artist residencies that delve into the lives and contributions of women during a significant period in Irish history. This initiative aims to explore and reflect upon the invaluable role played by women during 1923, shedding light on their experiences, struggles, and triumphs.

The series of talks will provide a platform for historians, scholars, and experts to share their insights on the lives of Irish women in 1923. They will delve into various aspects, including social, political, cultural, and economic dimensions, highlighting the unique challenges faced by women during this period. These talks will serve as a valuable resource for understanding the historical context and appreciating the pivotal role played by women.

The aim of "Reflections" is to honour the legacy of Irish women, whose stories and accomplishments have often been overlooked or marginalized in historical narratives. By commemorating their efforts and bringing them to the forefront, this initiative seeks to foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of the pivotal role played by women in shaping Irish history.



DECADE OF CENTENARIES: 1923 RESPOND, REFLECT, REJOICE

The programme of public talks led by experts will focus, reflect and provide insight into The Decade of Centenaries County project Respond Reflect Rejoice: 1923 Through the Lens of our Literary and Artistic Creatives will take part throughout October and November in our various branch libraries throughout the County.

1923 Respond, Reflect, Rejoice
 Leabharlann na Ceathrún Rua
 9ú Samhain, 6:00i.n

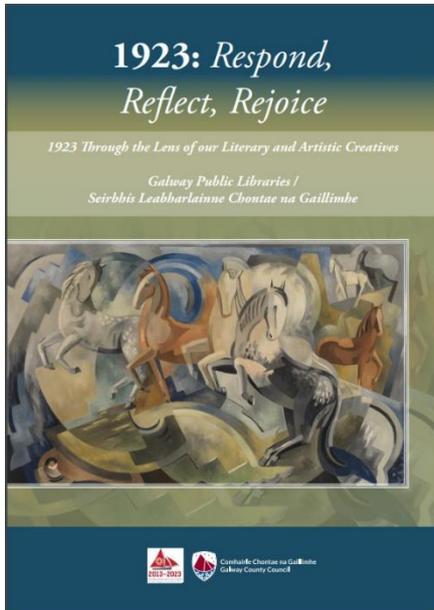
1923: An saol in Éirinn
 Léacht gearr le Mary Clancy

Liam Ó Flaithearta agus a
 Chuid Gearrscéalta
 Léacht le Micheál Ó Chonghaile

i gCuimhne Liam Uí Fhlaithearta
 Seoladh píosa nuachumtha do phianó agus dhá
 fhidil le Risteárd Ó hAodha, Peadar-Tom Mercier
 agus Róis Ní Chonghaile

Fáilte roimh 'chuile dhuine!



This project includes an exhibition alongside a series of lectures, artistic creations and residencies that commemorate creatives such as Elizabeth Bowen, Sean O’Casey, W.B. Yeats, Mainie Jellet and Liam O’Flaherty who crafted their master pieces during a chaotic time in Ireland in the early 1920s.

BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

Ballinasloe Library successfully hosted the Comic Con 2023 on the 3rd and 4th of November. This project received funding and support from the Creative Ireland team which allowed for an increase in programming and built on the success of previous years.

Participants were delighted with the vast range of events, workshops, and opportunities to explore creativity. The 501st Ireland Garrison made a surprise appearance much to the delight of Star Wars fans.



With opportunities from makeup artists, gamers and illustrators showcasing comic scripting there was something for everyone. The team also took time to visit landmarks throughout the town and raise awareness of the event.

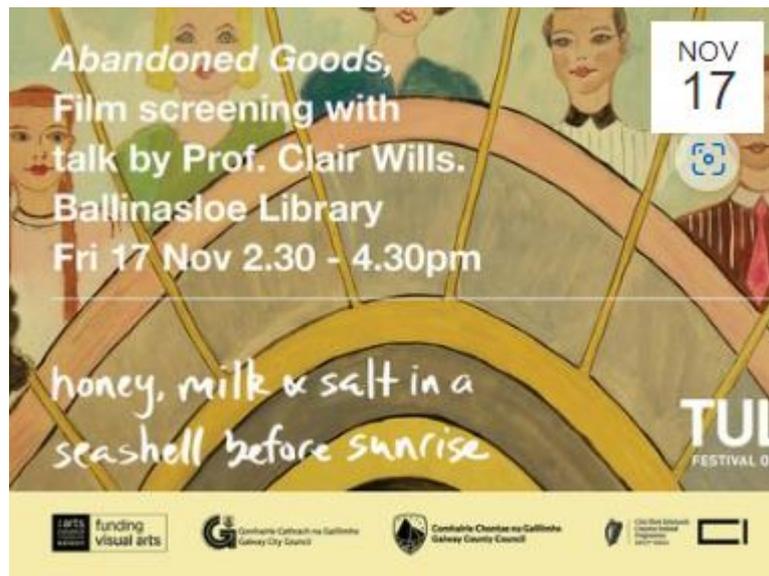
Thanks especially to our Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Carroll for participating and supporting Comic Con 2023.

Abandoned Goods Film Screening with talk by Prof. Clair Wills

J.J. Beegan was an artist and sculptor who made drawings repeatedly naming himself, his profession and Ballinasloe, as a long stay patient at Netherne Mental Health Hospital, in East Surrey, England, where he made drawings recalling home.

Screened in Ballinasloe Library for the first time, *Abandoned Goods* is a short film that explores the many artists making work in Netherne, including Beegan through archival and

35mm footage. Following the screening there will be a talk by Professor Clair Wills, who will share her extensive research into Beegan's life and his connections to Ballinasloe.



Abandoned Goods, 2014

Length: 37 mins

Abandoned Goods screened as part of TULCA Festival of Visual Arts curated by Iarlaith Ní Fheorais. An essay film exploring the journey of one of Britain's major collections of 'asylum art' containing about 5,500 objects (paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculptures and works on stone, flint and bone) created between 1946 and 1981, by about 140 people compelled to live in the Netherne psychiatric hospital in South London.

Abandoned Goods was awarded the Golden Pardino for the Best International Short Film in the Leopards of Tomorrow Competition at Locarno Film Festival. To date it has also screened at the Hamptons, London BFI Film Festival, Sundance, True/False, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Oberhausen, Festival International de Cine De Huesca, Janela International de Cinema Festival, Bucharest Experimental Film Festival, First Fortnight Film Festival, DocAviv, San Francisco Documentary Film Festival and Busan International Short Film Festival.

Edward Lawrenson is a Scottish filmmaker and writer based in London. His films have played at a number of festivals, including Sundance, BFI London Film Festival, Cinéma du réel, True/False, Open City; and cinemas, including the Museum of the Moving Image in New York and London's ICA.

Pia Borg is a Maltese/Australian filmmaker. Her non-fiction films that chronicle historical events and psychological phenomena have received numerous prizes, including the Golden Leopard at Locarno Festival for *Abandoned Goods* (2014) which she co-directed with Ed Lawrenson.

LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Hosted a live performance of a scene from Act 1, from Seán O'Casey's "Shadow of a Gunman" followed by a talk with the cast and Dr Ian R. Walsh, Head of Drama and Theatre Studies, University of Galway.

Cast:

Minnie Powell: Erin Prendergast

Donal Davoren: Sean Gannon

Director/Narrator: Jay Hannon

Shadow of a Gunman is the first in O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy and had its debut performance in the Abbey Theatre in 1923.

1923-2023 Decade of Centenaries Loughrea Library

Wednesday 8th November 5.30pm



Image from The Plough and the Stars, 1926, Abbey Theatre. Arthur Shields (placard centre) as Captain Conroy. Arthur Shields Archive, University of Galway.

Live performance:

A scene from Act 1 of "The Shadow of a Gunman" by Sean O'Casey

By students from the BA in Drama, Theatre and Performance, University of Galway, followed by a talk with the cast and Dr Ian R. Walsh, Head of Drama and Theatre Studies.

No booking required. All are welcome to this free event.



GORT LIBRARY

We had a wonderful time in Gort Library last week celebrating the centenary of W.B. Yeats's Nobel Prize for Literature, as part of our Decade of Centenaries project.

Historian Mary Clancy began the evening with an overview of life in Ireland in 1923. Gerry Hanberry then spoke about the women who inspired Yeats to write some of his best-known poetry, including "The Sally Gardens". We were treated to a beautiful rendition of the song by Aisling Mitchell, accompanied by Gerry on the guitar.



Geraldine Mills, our poet in residence for this project, read the poem, "Raising of a Nation 23 to 23" that was collectively written over the previous three weeks at workshops in the library by Kes Clarke, Sheila Gardener, Margaret O'Connor, Anna O'Donnell, Gus O'Donnell, Phil Stankard and Blue.

To finish off the evening, Anna, Leo and Ben from the Ploughed Field Collective read some of their own poetry, along with some of their favourites.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

The Autumn series of Healthy Ireland Talks focused on Heart Health, Fall Prevention and Nutrition in older years. Working with Croí several presentations were delivered in branches throughout the County.

EATING FOR A HEALTHY HEART
AISLING HARRIS, CROÍ CORU REGISTERED DIETITIAN

Aisling is Dietetic Lead at Croí Heart and Stroke Charity. This talk will cover the basics of a heart healthy diet.

Aisling will specifically focus on the common foods and nutrients in our diet that can affect cardiovascular disease risk factors such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

TUESDAY
21ST NOVEMBER, 2023
1-2PM
LOUGHREA LIBRARY

THIS IS A FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL
HOSTED BY GALWAY PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS PART OF THE HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY PROGRAMME

Logos for Healthy Ireland, Galway City Library, and other partners are shown at the bottom.



Loughrea Library are currently hosting a programme of talks focusing on post stroke recovery in the community. This multi-session programme is a first for the library service targeting older communities and builds on feedback from library participants on health needs within the community.

Healthy Ireland At Your Library also partnered with the Social Prescriber for Galway City which is run in partnership with Galway City Partnership to develop and host a series of workshops in Galway City Library focusing on group participation, journalling and crafts to address social isolation.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONFERENCE 2023



Library staff are actively involved in various groups at national level showcasing projects and initiatives that encompass the strategic vision of libraries in the 21st Century. Two staff of Galway Libraries are currently on the Public Libraries Committee and helped craft and deliver an extensive conference programme from the 8th to the

10th of November to over 150 delegates.

A key guest speaker this year was Dr. Stuart Hamilton of the LGMA who provided insight and guidance on the new public libraries' strategy, 'The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration 2023-2027, which was launched earlier this year.

This year's conference entitled '**What's it all about?...Creating Connections through Books, People and Places**' was themed on the new national strategy, The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration.

SCIENCE WEEK IN LIBRARIES

Libraries throughout the network are hosting workshops and activities encouraging STEM participation and providing opportunities for children to experience AR, coding, slime and much more. Building on the success of the new STEM club in conjunction with Foróige, Galway City

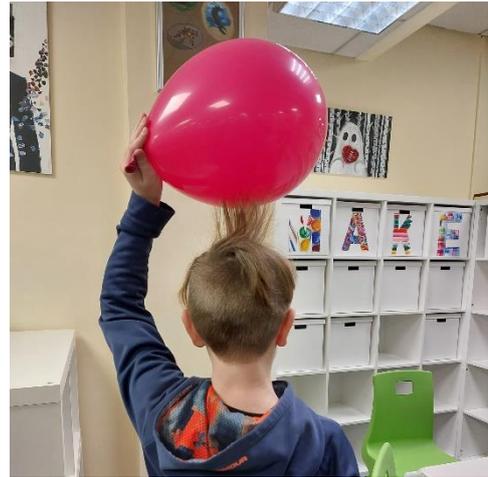


Library are hosting STEM events all week showcasing robotics, coding and LEGO.

Ballinasloe Library are hosting events

for Primary Schools in the area and Westside are hosting craft sessions with themed story times around the importance of science and our ability to make changes to support sustainability.

All libraries are showcasing book displays and encouraging readers to explore the wonderful world of science.



LIBRARIES OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

Our library outreach team were busy this month presenting at a number of events throughout the county and encouraging participant to join the library service and avail of the free services available to everyone.

Our team visited Gort Community Health and Wellbeing Fair and the Community Comeback Event in Oughterard, Co Galway.

Really positive feedback from the sessions with many attendees joining the library, accessing the online services with a number interested in the mobile library network.



HOUSING

VACANT HOMES OFFICE INCLUDING CROÍ CÓNATHE

VACANT HOMES SURVEY UPDATE:

A survey is underway to confirm vacancy of 1727 properties in urban centres throughout County Galway. As of Thursday 16th November, 795 properties have been surveyed, 406 of which have been confirmed to be Vacant / Derelict. See Dashboard below.



Of the seven (7) main large settlements, six (6) have now been surveyed – Tuam, Oranmore, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Clifden and Athenry. Gort will be surveyed by the end of November. Of the mid-size settlements, four (4) have now been surveyed – Bearna, Na Forbacha, Headford and Craughwell.

The following mid-size settlements have yet to be surveyed: Baile Chláir, Corrandulla, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Ballygar, Glenamaddy, Moylough, Mountbellew, Menlough, Williamstown, Ahascragh, Moycullen, Oughterard, An Cheathrú Rua, An Spidéal, Cill Rónáin, Roundstone, Rosscahill, Portumna, Kinvara, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Eyrecourt, Woodford, Killimor, Dunmore, Ballinderreen, Corofin, Cluain Bú, Monivea, Milltown, Abbeyknockmoy and Dunmore.

All identified vacant properties are provided with information about the various schemes available to bring the property back into use as a dwelling and a poster showing that the site has been visited is placed on the front of the building.

CROÍ CÓNAITHE

There is a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme). The number of applications submitted in 2023 to date is 268 (124 In progress i.e. additional information has been requested etc, 130 applications have been finalised (88 approved, 42 rejected), and 14 applications have been withdrawn).

The scheme has also been updated in relation to agricultural buildings as follows:

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is available for the refurbishment of a vacant or derelict properties for occupation as a principle private residence and for properties that will be made available for rent.

This includes the conversion of commercial or public use buildings that have not been used as residential heretofore. These buildings have to be compliant with Planning (i.e., exempt or with planning permission). Agricultural structures e.g., sheds and outhouses, are not eligible for grant funding.

SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPLY & DEMAND

The Following web page contains GCC's live statistics for 'Housing Supply' and 'Housing Demand'. www.galway.ie/en/services/housing/supplydemand/ ([Galway County Council](http://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 twice daily.



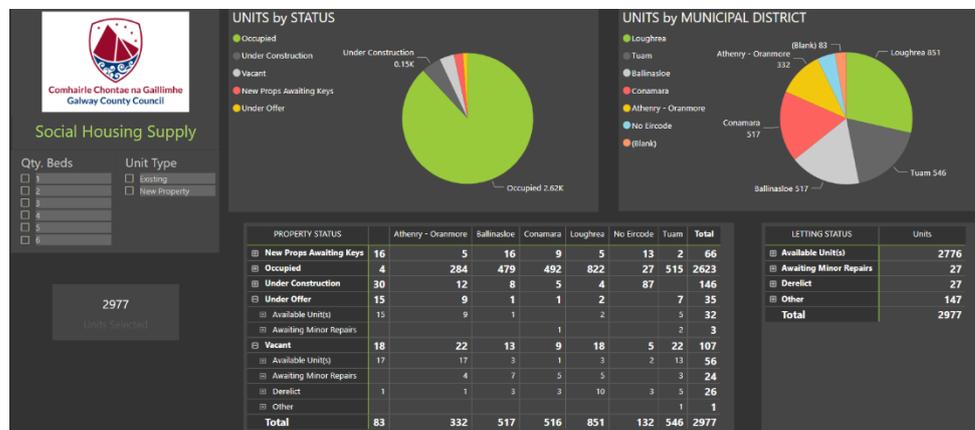
Don't forget to hold the CTRL key on your keyboard when selecting multiple filters and use the reset button when you want to do a new search.



On the supply side, you can search by: -

Supply

Search supply by...
 Municipal District
 No. of bedrooms
 Property Status
 New/Casual Vacancy



Demand

Search demand 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



HOUSE PURCHASES IN 2023

The following houses have been or are in the process of being purchased either directly or under the Tenant in Situ Scheme in 2023.

Location	# Social Housing Units	Stage
Frenchpark, Oranmore	1	Purchase complete
The Orchard, Moylough (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
Goldcave, Tuam	1	Purchase complete
Country Meadows, Tuam	1	Completion December 2023
Country Meadows, Tuam	1	Completion December 2023
Deerpark, Headford	1	Purchase complete
Castleview, Headford	1	Purchase complete

County Meadows, Tuam (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
Country Meadows, Tuam (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
Bruach na Habhann, Carraroe (TIS)	4	Completion December 2023
Cul na Cille, Ballygar (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
Boland Court, Gort (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
Rathbawn, Ballinasloe (TIS)	1	Completion December 2023
The Maltings, Loughrea (TIS)	1	Purchase Complete
Racecourse Lawns, Clifden	1	Completion December 2023
Total	18	End of year 2023

SALE OF DERELICT PROPERTIES

The sale of derelict houses identified previously is progressing and there is a lot of interest in some of the properties. It is planned to bring a number of properties to the December Meeting under the Section 183 process for approval.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



**Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland**

In November 2020 the Housing Section of Galway County Council was contacted by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth requesting that housing be made available for the resettlement of up to 150 new arrivals to Ireland under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme 2 (IRPP) 2021 to 2023.

An Inter-Agency Working Group was set up to ensure necessary support was in place to enable families relocating to Galway from Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres access services and to integrate into their local communities. Some of the families had resided in these centres for 2 to 3 years.

GCC identified and allocated 31 houses, suitable for various size families, to the Refugee Resettlement Scheme in 6 towns across the County. These houses were fully kitted out with the essentials by the Department of Social Protection prior to the arrival of the refugees and were allocated to suitable sized families in line with the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme. The Programme Refugees are originally from Syria and Afghanistan, and speak Arabic, Pashto or Dari as a first language.

A Refugee Resettlement Support Worker Officer and an Arabic Intercultural Worker/Interpreter started with the Programme in 2022, joined by an Aghan Intercultural Worker and Interpreter in 2023. To date, they have supported 125 men, women, and children in 27 households, who have successfully relocated to County Galway. The designated staff will be working to the end of April 2024, thanks to a contract extension supported by the Irish Refugee Protection



Programme, to facilitate the relocation of the remaining 4 families over the next few months. The Programme is fully funded by DCEDIY and its success is largely due to the support of multiple organisations, including Government Departments and local Community supports. During the

Resettlement Programme events are organised by the Refugee Resettlement Support Worker to introduce and familiarise families in the Programme with each other and with their local communities. One such event held recently to celebrate World Food Day took place in Clarin College, Athenry in collaboration with the staff and some home economics pupils of the school. It was facilitated by Jess Murphy of Kai Restaurant with some of the refugee families who had been resettled under the Programme came together to create



and sharing their national dishes. Jess spoke about her experiences with refugees, as an active supporter of UNHCR and having spent time with Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan prior to their resettlement in Ireland. The families said that they are delighted to have the ability to cook and eat their own food as it reminds them of home. This was not possible when they were living in the camps in the Lebanon and Jordan or whilst they were residing in the Emergency Reception Orientation Centres.

Some feedback from the students of Clarin College, Athenry:

“I enjoyed learning about the culture of Afghanistan and Syria”.

“I enjoyed listening to the refugees talk about their traditional foods and their background in their home country”.

“I learned about new cultures and tried new foods”.



TENANCY & ESTATE MANAGEMENT

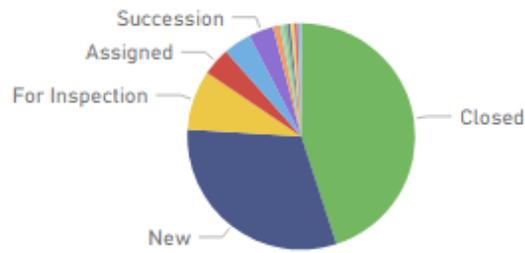
The Tenancy & Estate Management Unit was established in 2013 within the Housing Unit of Galway County Council to clearly show the Council's commitment to provide secure and lasting homes and the care and support to develop stable and sustainable communities, prevent tenancy breakdown and possible homelessness. The Tenancy Sustainment Strategy for the County outlines the interventions and supports available to assist our tenants in sustaining their tenancy and contributes positively to their neighbourhood and community.

An inter-departmental and inter-agency approach is adopted by the Housing Unit and its partners, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents in our housing estates with staff regularly meeting with relevant staff from the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Galway/Roscommon Education Training Board and other agencies as necessary. Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy recognises that anti-social behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of our tenants and the stability and sustainability of communities. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy acknowledges the importance of a multi-agency approach in preventing and reducing incidences of anti-social behaviour.

A new CRM system was rolled out in 2023 to collate all TEM cases and track assignments. A migration of data to the new system involved collating historical data from all the various sources and uploading to the new system. The screenshots below outline all TEM activity to date in 2023.

This one portal tracks all cases from start to completion and is also linked to a BI report which means an accurate update is provided which reflects the number of cases and their status.

Status



TEM Cases (200 cases to date in 2023)
 Data as of 17/11/23, 04:14
 Filtered by **Case Date** (is on or after 1/1/2023 and is before 17/11/2023)

Category



TEM Cases (200 cases to date in 2023)
 Data as of 17/11/23, 04:14
 Filtered by **Case Date** (is on or after 1/1/2023 and is before 17/11/2023)

OFFER A HOME PROGRAMME

The escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine has caused civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure forcing people to flee their homes, seeking safety protection and assistance. Millions of refugees from Ukraine have crossed borders into neighbouring countries and some have been forced to move inside the country. They are in need of protection and support.

In light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs; an interagency response is being carried out in support of the displaced people from Ukraine; Galway County Council continues to work on the Ukraine response through the administration of the Offer A Home Programme.

Under the programme, local authorities are appealing for offers of houses, apartments, or holiday homes for use as temporary accommodation for those arriving from Ukraine. Ideally, properties would be available for at least six months. Property owners can offer homes on the website www.offerahome.ie

To date 65 homes have been registered and inspected on this programme; 47 of which are now occupied with displaced people from Ukraine, whilst a further 12 are in the process of being allocated.

RENT A ROOM SCHEME

The Minister, as part of Government’s consideration of a range of Housing for All actions, announced on the 14th November 2023 the decision to extend access to the Rent a Room Scheme to local authority tenants from 1 December.

This initial rollout of the scheme will target potential student renters using the existing Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) ‘Room for a Student’ campaign. The Government has developed a dedicated [portal](#) for the Room for Student campaign that includes a range of information for those interested.

STORM DEBI EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN FOR TRAVELLER SPECIFIC HALTING SITES

In response to Storm Debi and the Met Eireann Weather Alerts for Extreme Weather (Wind) Status Orange and Red and a meeting of the Council’s Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) it was decided on Sunday, 12th November 2023 to implement the Galway County Council Emergency Evacuation Plan for Traveller Specific Halting Sites.

The Traveller Liaison Officer (TLO) arranged for the centres in both Portumna and Tuam to be made available as follows:

Capira, Portumna – Portumna Town Hall, Clonfert, Portumna

Tuam Halting Site - Western Traveller Intercultural Centre, Brú Bhríde, Churchview, Tuam

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL PROJECT SHOWCASED

HOUSING DISABILITY STEERING GROUP (HDSG): MENTAL HEALTH SUBGROUP – GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

A Galway County Council initiative was showcased by the National Oversight and Audit Commission and commended by Minister O’Brien at the recent NOAC’s Good Practice in Local Government seminar, an annual event organised by NOAC, in collaboration with the Local Government Management Agency, to showcase a range of local authority innovations.

The 5th annual Good Practice in Local Government seminar, organised by NOAC, in collaboration with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and the County and City Management Association (CCMA), held in Kilkenny Castle, included a presentation on the Galway County Council Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG): Mental Health Subgroup.

Opening the event, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, recognised the “initiative, innovation and hard work of local authorities” while addressing attendees. Minister O’Brien further commented, “The variety and calibre of projects showcased today really brings the work of our local authorities to life and shows the positive impact being made across the country through our local government colleagues”.

The Galway County Council Housing Disability Steering Group mental health subgroup uses a partnership approach between the local authority and HSE to progress mutual clients with mental health diagnoses. It offers a communication pathway and, for clients with additional needs, to

progress having their own tenancies, supporting vulnerable applicants in a way that is person-centred, allows for case discussion and progression of complex cases and vulnerable clients.

LIVING MY LIFE HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



The initiative is a collaboration between Ability West and the Brothers of Charity, which will provide access to housing for adults with intellectual disabilities throughout Galway County.

The team will work with 32 individuals over the next five years to prepare them for more independent living by building on their life skills and assisting them to find socially valued, roles in the community.

Whilst the project is a collaboration between Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland – West Region, it has also been identified as a Priority Action in the HSE National Service Plan 2022 – 2027 following the publication of the Disability Capacity Review 2032 in which the gap between service demand and service provision was clearly identified.



It aims to develop a Rights-Based approach to housing, supporting person-centred supports, community inclusion and enablement by establishing pathways into housing for the people supported and involves collaborating with Galway County Council to look at housing solutions under their Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021 – 2026.

8 UNITS AT BALLYMOE

Finna construction Ltd. have mobilised and commenced construction of the 8-unit housing development in Ballymoe, further to contract signed with Galway County Council in October 2023.



AERIAL VIEW OF SITE
CLEARANCE WORKS AT
BALLYMOE

26 UNITS GORT NA **GCLOCH, CLIFDEN**



The final phase consisting of 8 apartment units within the protected structure element of this development was completed this month.

WILLIAMSTOWN, SINGLE RURAL:



Contracts for the demolition and new build of a bungalow unit commenced on a derelict unit in Williamstown in November. Carty Construction were awarded the contract with a programme for delivery of 12 months.

58 UNITS, AN CEAHTRU BHAN, ATHENRY:

The final phase of the advance purchase of 58 units at An Ceathru Bhan, Athenry closed in November.



BUNDLE 7 OF THE SOCIAL HOUSING PPP PROGRAMME

A site in the ownership of Galway County Council at Ballygaddy Road, Tuam is provisionally included in Bundle 7 of the Social Housing PPP Programme. It is envisaged that approximately 60 high-quality energy efficient homes can be provided on the site under the PPP programme. The site also offers the scope for mixed tenure housing, to include affordable housing and the potential for cost rental housing, subject to design development and feasibility.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provisionally selected the sites for Bundle 7 following an initial review of the local authority (LA) site reports and the completion of site visits by the National Development Finance Agency. Bundle 7 will involve the construction of almost 650 social housing units across 6 sites and 4 local authorities. Dublin City Council has agreed to act as the lead for this bundle based on the number of projects included for their area and also in view of their experience as lead LA for Bundles 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the Programme.



The site is located in the townland of Halfstraddle, off the R332 Ballygaddy Road, in Tuam, County Galway. It is located approx. 1km northwest of the town centre. The site for development is a greenfield site comprising 5.76 Ha (14.24 Acres) with vehicular access to be provided from the Ballygaddy Road (R332). The area is zoned Residential (Phase 1) with two perimeter strips zoned Open Space/Recreation & Amenity to the East and South of the site in the Tuam Local Area Plan 2018-2024. The Council is committed to examining the potential to deliver a mixed tenure development on the overall site, to include the delivery of an affordable housing scheme and potentially the first cost rental housing for Tuam.

The social housing PPP model provides a delivery structure whereby social housing units remain in State ownership throughout. The homes are being delivered using an ‘availability based’ PPP model, in which a private sector company designs, builds, finances, maintains and operates (DBFMO) the social housing developments for a 25-year period, in return for a monthly payment (‘Unitary Charge’) from the State. The monthly payments only commence once construction is completed, and the homes are available for tenancing. Experienced tenancy management service providers such as Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), provide the required management services for the PPP developments on behalf of the relevant local authority (who remains the landlord) over the 25-year operating period and the units are returned to the relevant LAs in a pre-defined condition at the end of the operating period.

RAPID BUILD HOUSING FOR UKRAINIAN PEOPLE DISPLACED BY WAR – PROPOSAL FOR POOLBOY, BALLINASLOE

As part of the State's Humanitarian Response to the Ukrainian Crisis, the Government is rolling out a Rapid Build Housing Programme to provide accommodation for families fleeing the war in Ukraine. Now in progress, the programme aims to provide short-term accommodation to 2,800 Ukrainians, in four-person family units, at several sites across Ireland, including rapid build homes proposed for a site in Poolboy, Ballinasloe.

A rapid build home is a small dwelling that is mostly built off-site from the planned location and then delivered and finished on site. This means they can be put in place quicker than standard accommodation and there is less construction disruption to the area. The Office of Public Works (OPW) has been asked by Government to develop the programme of rapid build homes needed to accommodate Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP), on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), which is the approving authority for the programme.

WHY RAPID BUILD HOMES?

The Government is obliged under EU law to provide accommodation to people under the Temporary Protective Directive (European Council Directive 2001/55EC).

The Government is providing temporary accommodation to all those fleeing the conflict and in need of accommodation.

However, as the crisis continues and more displaced persons arrive in Ireland, Rapid Build Homes will provide a means to increase the accommodation capacity available.

SITES FOR RAPID BUILD HOMES

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, along with DCEDIY, OPW and Local Authorities have identified vacant sites located in or close to urban areas, including the site at Poolboy, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The OPW has assessed each site and deemed it suitable for use.

DOES THIS HAVE AN IMPACT ON SOCIAL HOUSING?

No. People on existing social housing lists have access to both housing available to Local Authorities and to related financial supports. Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) do not have rights to social housing.

Occupants of the Rapid Build homes will also be required to pay charges.

WHAT ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVICES?

The Department of Education is planning for the extra school places needed and alternative arrangements will be made to bring occupant children to schools close by where the local school is at

capacity. The Department of Health along with the HSE are planning for additional health service requirements.

The Community Forum coordinates the community-led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they are accommodated around the county. The partner agencies and organisations who form part of the Community Response Forum will work through their individual remits to support the integration of displaced persons into local areas. The Government is also providing funding for community initiatives to support persons displaced by the war in Ukraine.

INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

DCEDIY, with the support of the OPW, is engaging with local representatives, Local Authorities and the communities where the sites will be located to provide full information about the plans.

Email: ukrrapidbuild@equality.gov.ie

An information session was held in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe on Wednesday 8th November from 7pm - 9pm for local residents to provide further information on this project.

In the context of the Galway County Council site at Poolboy, Ballinasloe being identified for a Rapid Build Modular Homes Development, as part of Ireland's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the OPW offered to facilitate a site visit to a similar development nearing completion in Clonminch, Co. Offaly. The site visit is proposed for Friday, 24th November 2023 with an initial invitation extended to the Ballinasloe Municipal District and the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

It is currently envisaged that a proposal to lease the site at Poolboy, Ballinasloe to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to facilitate the Rapid Build Modular Homes Development will be presented to the December Plenary.

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE & FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL WORKS

ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK UPDATE

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is expected to be completed in Q3 2024. To date, approx. 80% of the network has been completed.

The works consist of:

- Approx. 3.9km of gravity sewer, which includes for 3 no. railway crossings and 4 no. river crossings.
- Decommissioning of the existing Caheroyn PS.
- New pumping station at Pairc na hAbhainn.
- Approx. 460m of rising main.

- Decommissioning of 9 no. DPls.

SPIDDAL WWTP

The new Spiddal WWTP has been fully commissioned and results to date have shown that the plant is operating and providing an effluent well within its emission limit values. Spiddal is one of the 39 priority areas identified by the EPA where Uisce Éireann must progress new treatment to prevent wastewater discharges negatively impacting bathing water quality. The plant is 1,000 P.E design capacity, providing secondary treatment via rotating biological contractor.

There are subcontractors on site today finishing up tarmacking and the landscapers are tidying the green areas. Seeding of green areas will take place in March/April next year. The 12-month contractor (Coffey) operate phase has commenced.



Figure 1: Spiddal site overview

AHASCRAGH

Flows have been diverted to the new WWTP since 27th October. A rising main from the Bridge Court estate is to be diverted to the new terminal pumping station this week and full flow will then be diverted to the new pumping station. There are some remedial works to be carried out on the Primary and Final Settlement Tanks, and it is envisaged that this will be completed before Christmas. The process proving period will then progress and be completed in January 2024. In the meantime, the effluent quality will be monitored, ~~however~~.

The new plant at Ahascragh is 470 P.E. capacity and provides secondary treatment via rotating biological contractor.

KILRICKLE GWS UPDATE

- 81% of the pipework & 71% of valves and fittings have been installed.
- Pressure reducing valves will be installed in the coming weeks which will permit delivery of water to the area closest to the connection point. A supply of water to Kilrickle village is expected in early Q1, 2024. Drinking water will be progressively supplied into all of the currently installed mains network.
- The contractor is applying for a road opening licence for the N65 in Kilcooley and Boston areas, a separate road opening licence will be sought for the remaining local roads in Kilmeen and Kilcooley. This section of mains will complete the mains laying and will include the replacement of the entire Kilcooley network.
- The contractor is on target to complete the project by the end of March 2024.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE 2023

HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR



A health & safety seminar with the theme of *'Ownership of Safety'* integrated throughout, was delivered to GCC employees who are in management/project supervisory roles in late October. It was held in the Raheen Woods hotel in Athenry and was attended by over 90 employees from a variety of sections including Roads, Rural Water, Environment, Corporate Services, ERCD & Housing. Speakers included the H&S section who reminded staff of the safety management system and how to assess competency when outsourcing work including an overview of the competency assessment system. GCC's Criminal Defense Legal Advisor, Michael Lannigan and Ivor Heavy from IPB gave an overview of *'How to manage a Serious Incident'* and reminded staff of GCC's procedures for dealing with such an event. The keynote item of the day was an interactive drama by a theatre company called Theatre at Work that explored leadership styles, team dynamics & empowerment, system failure & psychological safety.

All speakers were received well, and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, while key health & safety messages were communicated to all.

HEALTH SCREENING

GCC launched the health screening programme in November. As part of GCC's commitment to promote and encourage good health for all employees and elected members, GCC are once again offering **free** and **confidential** health & lifestyle screening for all. This service will be provided by Medmark Occupational Healthcare. All employees/elected members are encouraged to avail of the programme. The health screening is made up of a combination of measurements, blood tests and questionnaires which provide a valuable overview of one's current health status. The health screening will take place in various locations across the county in late November, early December and early January.

NRPO UPDATE 2023

N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

An Bord Pleanála have assigned new case numbers to the development consent and compulsory acquisition applications and have updated the status of the applications to "re-activated". Work is ongoing on Ecological and Traffic assessments in anticipation of a Request for Further Information from the Board.

N59 MOYCULLEN BYPASS

The N59 Moycullen Bypass mainline is complete with works on ancillary roads and testing ongoing. Substantial completion and the opening of the mainline is due in December.



N59
MOYCULLEN
BYPASS
MAINLINE.

N83 CLAREGALWAY

The advanced works Archaeology contract commenced in August 2023 and were completed this month with the construction of the drainage attenuation pond now to commence.

AT - N67 SOUTH OF BALLINDERREEN

The Design Report has been approved by TII and a Part 8 application is being finalised.

The Design Report has been approved by TII and a Part 8 application is being finalised.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME - ACTIVE TRAVEL FOOTPATH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ACTIVE TRAVEL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT UPDATE OCTOBER 2023

The National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Investment Team recently provided funding to Galway County Council's Roads and Operations Section to design and build a 200m section of new footpath and install public lighting on the Tismeáin Rd, An Cheathrú Rua. This new footpath connects the Fire Station, Údarás na Gaeltachta Enterprise Estate, a creche, a playground and the GAA sports grounds to the village. In July 2023, this project was successfully completed and huge thanks and credit to the GCC Roads Area Office team in Carraroe for their work. Padraig Folan Civil Engineering Ltd completed the civil works and Electric Skyline installed the public lighting. This project has enhanced the safety of pedestrians traveling to and from these amenities.



The Tender Assessment process has successfully reached its completion, resulting in the tender being awarded to PMCE Ltd.



TAKING IN CHARGE

Taking in Charge summary @ 01/11/2023 outlined hereunder: -

Estates Taken in Charge	8
Bond Release (Estate not Taken in charge)	1
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	6
Estates for consideration At next MD meeting	2
Estates – Works complete – Pending GCC Water Services agreement	3
Estates – Works complete – Pending Uisce Éireann agreement	3

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The information below is based on October data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 188 turnouts to 157 Incidents. That is an increase of 49 incidents on 118 the previous month. 67 were fire incidents, 84 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 6 were standby in station. Of those incidents, 42.95% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 40.94% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 16.11% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full time station in Galway City was 2.14 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.42 minutes.

STORM DEBI

During storm Debi GFRS responded to 10 incidents across the City and County and rescued 8 members of the public from RTC's, properties and stranded vehicles. Senior officers from GFRS participated in the Galway County Council Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) meetings on the Sunday afternoon and Monday morning and the Galway City Council Local Co-ordination Group meetings on Monday morning and afternoon. GFRS provided a very effective response to Storm Debi.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The West Region Major Emergency Management Working Group (WRMEMWG) conducted a training course for Media Liaison Officers in the event of a major emergency on the 9th November and for Controllers of Operations on the 10th November. Those training courses were each attended by 2 staff members from Galway County Council along with members of staff from the other Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) in the West Region. Galway County Council holds Major Emergency Committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis. The last meeting was held on the 26th October. There were no West Region MEM Working Group of Steering Group meetings held in November.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry is well underway with the project approximately 70% complete. It is expected that the building will be full enclosed by the end of November.



NEW FIRE STATION IN
ATHENRY

LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

The proposal for the new fire station in Loughrea is currently going through the Part 8 Planning process.

FIRE APPLIANCE PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME 2023 – 2025

On 19th October Minister Darragh O’Brien announced the new allocation of Class B fire appliances for local authority fire services. GFRS has been allocated 2 new fire appliances under the programme. The Galway appliances are 4th and 5th on the manufacture schedule of Emergency One, Scotland (the supplier that supplied our most recent new appliance in 2023). It is expected that the new appliances will be on the ground in Galway in Q4 2024 or Q1 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

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:

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. Our Winter Schedule of Short Training Courses is now up and running.

WINTER SCHEDULE

4th November	Website & Online Marketing 1:1s
6/7th November	Marketing Techniques for your Business
9/10th November	Instagram Advanced
15th November	AI Tools for Business
16th & 23rd November	Tiktok Comprehensive
18th November	Website & Online Marketing 1:1s
20th & 27th November	Master Video Presenting
22nd November	Tax and Vat for Beginners
2nd December	Website & Online Marketing 1:1s

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway runs SYOB programmes monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. Next upcoming programme will commence in January 2024.

GREEN FOR BUSINESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

Green for Business is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving small businesses access to a green consultant to develop a 'greener' policy, which can offer many benefits to a business, including:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation.
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts

Businesses can sign up for the Green for Business programme via the LEO Galway website.

The Energy Efficient Grant is a new support delivered by LEO Galway which will enable small businesses to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient. The grant will be available to companies who, through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes, have identified the technology and equipment need & benefits. The grant will cover up to 50% of the costs to a maximum amount of €5,000. The scheme will reduce the impact of small businesses on the environment and may help them to reduce costs over time to enable them to become more competitive.

There were 10 Energy Efficiency Grants approved to date nationally with the first one approved in Galway at the end of September for EUR5,000.

SALES AND EXPORT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

LEO Galway is running this accelerator programme in conjunction with LEO Mayo and LEO Roscommon. The programme will assist business owners to identify, target and convert new sales opportunities for their business. An information session will be held on Friday the 17th November at 10am in the Clayton Hotel, where business owners will hear about the programme content, delivery and expected outputs/results. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions to the programme facilitator and LEO Galway at this information session.

There will be 2 distinct strands to the Programme, namely:

- Strand A - will focus on helping businesses to grow new business in the Irish market;
- Strand B - will focus on helping businesses to grow new business in EITHER the UK market or mainland Europe.

BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS

LEO Galway attended the Building Better Business event in Ballina on the 13th October. This event was organized by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment who held a series of free events regionally for businesses which highlighted the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and decarbonisation.

Opening session: Included remarks from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

- Panel discussions: With business leaders and experts and on the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and the transition to a low carbon.
- Business supports: Experts will be on hand to talk you through the range of supports available from the government.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with other businesses who have taken steps on their digital and green journeys.



(LEFT TO RIGHT)
MINISTER DARA CALLEARY, VALERIE KELLY – LEO GALWAY, MINISTER OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT SIMON COVENEY, NOEL KELLY (CREVA INTERNATIONAL).

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

LEO Galway in conjunction with LEO Mayo & LEO Roscommon held our West Region NWED event – Empowering Business Together - on October 19th in Kilronan Castle. The event seen a great turnout with over 120 attendees on the day.

NWED is Ireland's largest female enterprise event, promotes, encourages, and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland.

Speakers on the day included:

- Mairead O' Shea - Communications Manager 'See Her Elected' an initiative which aims to empower women all over rural Ireland to run for local election by equipping them with skills, confidence, and knowledge.

- Ruth Larkin - Founder and Managing Director of Lark Bridal Ltd. Which distributes a portfolio of luxury international bridal, bridesmaid, and evening collections to international retailers.
- Eimear Noone – Award winning, Galway-born conductor, composer, and entrepreneur.

Panel Discussion with the LEO NWED Ambassadors included:

Jacqui O'Connor - Founder and Managing Director of MedScan3D, helping healthcare professionals and research engineers access a seamless route to Patient Specific Medical 3D Printing through a high level of support, accessibility, and knowledge of the technology.

Alison Clarke - Founder of 'Fembition' - a pioneering women's digital leadership and fertility platform for progressive employers who want to retain their top female talent, close the gender gap and build a more inclusive culture at work.

Noreen Hackett - Founder of Advanced Cosmetics, Ireland's only Cosmetic Manufacturing company owned and ran by a Cosmetic Chemist with over 10 years' experience in the industry.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) NOREEN DONOHUE - LEO GALWAY, VALERIE KELLY - LEO GALWAY, JACQUI O'CONNOR (MEDSCAN3D) AND STEPHANIE COLOMBANI LEO GALWAY AT WEST REGION EVENT FOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY IN KILRONAN CASTLE.

CREW/ARDAN



CREW “Creative Enterprise West” is a collaborative initiative led by Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Galway the Western Development Commission (WDC) and Ardán (formally the Galway Film Centre). CREW supports enterprises in areas such as design, film and TV production, animation, gaming, content development and AR/VR from its base at the ATU Galway campus at Cluain Mhuire, Galway. The CREW CEED (Creative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development) incubation programme helps turn a

creative idea into a sustainable business in a variety of disciplines (TV & Film, Virtual Production, Games, Animation, Content Development, Digital Arts, Immersive Technologies, Digital Design, Creative Technologies & more).

LEO Galway delivered a presentation to members of Ardan and CREW in relation to LEO Galway supports on October 6th. After the presentation, 1 to 1 business advisory sessions were held with students from the CEED programme.

NUTRITION CAREERS FAIR – ATU



LEO Galway attended the Nutrition careers fair in ATU, Galway on Friday October 13th. Galway Local Enterprise Office had a stand in the ATU to promote all of the training workshops that are available to the students.

IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY MARKET WORKSHOP

Immersive Technology Market (Virtual, Mixed, Augmented Reality) and enterprise activity in the Western Region - October 25th.

LEO Galway took part in this workshop held in Uadaras na Gaeltachta.



The IMMERSE project activates recommendations in the 2022 Eirmersive report “The Irish Immersive Economy”. Phase 1 2023 addresses the key challenges in developing the XR (virtual reality, mixed reality, augmented reality) industry ecosystem in the Western region. The project is working on a cross industry basis through action research. The team has worked with enterprises across the Western region in multiple industries to explore adoption of the technology, market activity and enterprise & innovation needs and gaps. The consortium will present the findings and recommended next actions to government with the aim of positively influencing strategic development in the XR industry and the growth of opportunity in the Western Region.

The project is a partnership between the Donegal County Council, Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Eirmersive, Connected Hubs, Regional Enterprise Offices, CREW Digital, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Western Development Commission. IMMERSE is funded by Creative Ireland and resourced by participating partners.

GOOGLE – YOU'RE THE BUSINESS

You're the Business platform provides online training and resources for all Irish SMEs to help them get online, to grow their digital footprint and expand internationally. Google are looking for small businesses around the country to be winners of the You're the Business competition.

Winners will gain practical support and advertising credit that will help them in the next part of their digital journey. And you could raise the profile of your business in the process.

Winners will receive:

- €1000 Google Ads credit
- 1:1 mentorship with digital specialists
- A You're the Business trophy and digital assets

An additional prize of a video creation kit will also be awarded to an SME who has demonstrated great efforts in promoting their business.

LEO Galway attended the You're the Business event on Thursday 26th October at the Foundry in Google, Dublin. On the day, the latest SME training was outlined while they also covered the area of artificial intelligence, on how clients can boost their productivity with AI, and how to leverage machine learning for their businesses. LEO representatives also got to meet the 2022 programme winners, who each received €1,000 Google Ads credit as well as expert digital mentorship.



2022 GALWAY BASED WINNER
CHLOE GARDINER OF WONKY
WOOLINS.

PORTERSHED – BUSINESS ADVISORY CLINIC – 7TH NOVEMBER

LEO Galway organised 1:1 meetings with clients from the Portershed to discuss the LEO supports and business opportunities available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT GIFT FAIR



Since 2012, the Local Food and Craft Fair has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. Starting with a reception on the Friday evening, crowds throng to the Fair all throughout the weekend with a significant increase in footfall year-on-year.

More than 50 local crafts people specialising in artisan food, drinks, art, jewellery and more will converge on the Black Box theatre Galway City for this year's event. This two-day fair is great opportunity to find unique gifts before

Christmas, along with a wide range of artisan jams, jellies, chutneys, cakes, cheeses, vegan foods, juices, and craft brews. Beautiful creations of local craft experts will be on show ranging from handmade ceramics, leather work, wooden carvings, household decorations, gifts, jewellery and more.

The 2023 event takes place from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. Free entry.

LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT GIFT FAIR STAND HOLDER TRAINING



To support the Local Food and Craft Gift Fair Stand Holders, the Local Enterprise Office held tailored training on October 26th. The focus on the day was on merchandising and preparing stand holders for selling at markets.

SHOWCASE 2024 – 21-23 JANUARY

Ireland is globally renowned for its craft and design and the Showcase trade fair is the international launchpad for so many Irish makers to achieve this recognition. With more than 380 exhibitors at the show across Fashion, Jewellery and Home & Gift, the three-day trade fair expects to welcome more than 4,000 registered trade buyers from Ireland and UK, Europe, Japan and the UAE. The Local Enterprise Network has 105 stands and LEO Galway has seven clients taking part.

These include:

- Sketchico,
- Wild Atlantic Wicks,
- Orla Culligan Ceramics,
- Fiona Concannon Art,
- Socksociety
- Galway Fairytales and
- Emer Whelan Designs

LEO Galway is working with these clients in advance to ensure the clients are fully prepared in terms of visual merchandising, pricing, and supply chain logistics to maximise this opportunity with international buyers.

On October 23rd, LEO Galway staff members took part in the Showcase working Group in The Mullingar Park Hotel. LEO Galway organised and coordinated an in-person Local Enterprise Showcase Masterclass Training Day for all participants attending Showcase in January.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

- Facebook reach year to date: 82563
- Instagram reach year to date: 7187
- Facebook followers: 8202
- Instagram followers: 2736

REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY

The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being incorporated into the wider public realm was submitted for Part VIII on the 17th of November. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. The below images give a before and after visualisation of the project. In addition, a proposal brief is being prepared to appoint consultants



for the delivery of Town Centre First Plan for Athenry. The TRO will commence formal engagement including the establishment of a Town Team to help deliver the plan through 2024.

LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

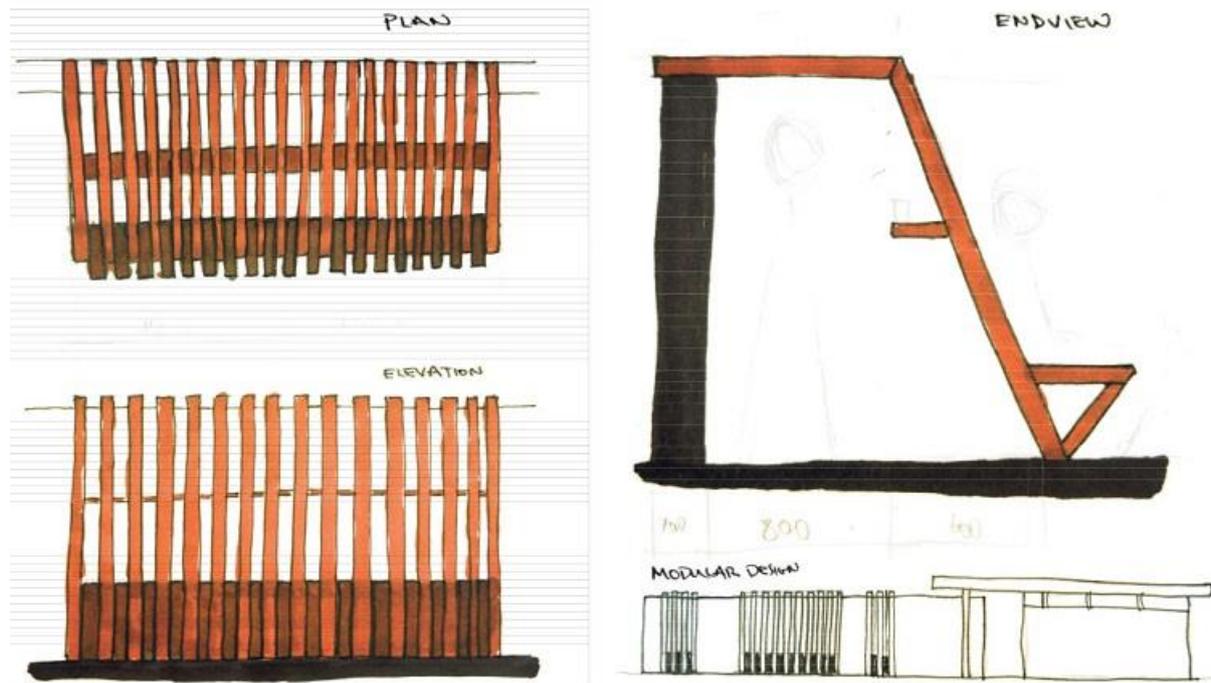
Construction Tender Documents are finalised for the Town Hall. These are due to be published on the etender platform with appointment of contractors expected Q1 2024 and with a view to construction commencing on site in Q2 2024.

CLIFDEN

The Design team are now finalising the planning application with expected submission to An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year.

Clifden Sustainably Sourced Timber Pilot Project: Cities4Forests in conjunction with Letterfrack ATU Connemara and Galway County Council.

Cities4Forests sourced the sustainably grown and harvested exotic hardwoods in central America and shipped these to Letterfrack. The GCC Regeneration Team identified 4 sites across Clifden (with due consideration given to the Public Realm Enhancement Project) which will accommodate the bespoke furniture designs. Twenty students submitted Stage 1 concept designs which will be developed further with input from the GCC Regeneration Team.



PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

Tenders for the construction phase of the project have now been evaluated and it is anticipated the contractors for construction will be appointed in Q1 of 2024.



PORTUMNA

The Regeneration Team alongside Coillte held a public engagement evening in the Irish Workhouse Centre on Tuesday, October 24th, the evening was very well attended by the local community and the overall response to GCC's proposals for the public realm were very positive. The public consultation closes on the 21st of November, with 10 formal submissions received to date. The project is now at detailed design stage with the proposals due to be lodged for Part VIII planning in Q1 of 2024.



CASTLE AVE



ST BRENDAN'S STREET/CLONFERT AVENUE



ST. PATRICK'S STREET



PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PIC L-R LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL), RONAN CONWAY & HAZEL FOX, URBAN & RURAL REGENERATION TEAM, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE SUNDAY BUSINESS POST, 29TH OCTOBER 2023

GORT

The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) has been working closely with the Gort Town Team finalising the content of the pilot Town Centre First (TCF) plan for Gort. The plan is now completed with an expectation to have a formal launch of the final plan in December. The plan has outlined 12 key themes, each theme having approximately 2 projects identified as short-, medium- or long-term proposals. The TRO has assisted in preparing the first funding application since the completion of the TCF plan, which is a TVRS application for streetscape enhancement for Gort.



The public realm project is in its final stages of detailed design in preparation for the submission of a planning application, environmental screenings of the project are currently being undertaken.



TUAM

The Regeneration team is preparing for the funding call for a Category 1 application under the RRDF. A call for applications was announced on 10th November, with a closing date for Cat1 applications of the 8th February 2024. The team are working towards resubmitting an application for the Tuam Town Hall which already has part VIII planning in place.

GCC Has secured €2,000,000.00 in funding for Tuam, Ballinasloe and Oranmore under the URDF. The award represents a rolling fund which will be used to purchase and bring to the market identified vacant and derelict properties across these settlements. A team is being assembled to manage the fund and work on reducing vacancy and dereliction in our towns and villages.

HERITAGE OFFICE

GALWAY AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS (EAST GALWAY)

The overall aim of the Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in the Municipal Districts of Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Athenry/Oranmore and Tuam was to identify, locate and list oral heritage recordings and/or collections on East Galway topics, people, or places.

Across May to November 2023, Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting (MHC), identified and documented a total of 1035 recording items of both long and short form interviews within or relating to the East Galway Municipal Districts. These relate to thirty-four collections of oral heritage, with twenty-seven holding institutions or collection holders. Ten of the collections (27%) were generated by local heritage groups, or for the purpose of local history research/ documentation, within a community context. Eleven (30%) of the holding institutions are defined for this project as 'regional' and include both Galway County Council as well as University of Galway. National institutions, like the National Folklore Collection, Military Archives of Ireland, and National Museum of Northern Ireland (Ulster Folk Museum), account for six of the collections (16%) and contain 276 recording items, which amounts to 26% of recordings identified across the audit.

The Audit has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive digital database, reflecting the scope, content and detail of oral heritage collected in and relating to East Galway over the last century. It is clear from the findings that much of the local material identified, may not have been documented according to what may be technical agreed as the standards of oral history. Approximately 73% of items listed were not generated with an associated consent or clearance form. However, it is evident that most of the material generated relating to east Galway, was done so in good faith and that, as sound recordings of memory, have a profound importance for historical information and cultural understanding in the area. While many of the interviews are woven into publications and community group websites, approximately 40% of the recordings themselves are not always accessible to researchers.

Across such a range and time span of collecting, it is not surprising that a broad landscape of memory is enfolded within identified collections. Common to many collections are themes of local history, tradition, historical figures and episodes in east Galway, rural life, farming, the fair and electrification. Hurling, pastimes, folklore, storytelling, the Easter Rising of 1916, Irish War of Independence and Civil War as well as World War I, fieldnames, tracing, work life and ghost stories are also recurrent subjects. Given the positive response at public events and in consultation with holding institutions and collectors, it is evident that appreciation of the significance of East Galway's oral heritage collections is remarkably high. The desire to continue collecting and to upskill and receive training was noted within almost all local collection holders who participated in the audit.



MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE COMMUNITY LISTENING AND DISCUSSION EVENT, SHOWCASING INTERVIEWS OF MEMORY AND ORAL HISTORY RECORDED IN THE SKEHANA AND EAST GALWAY AREA WITH LOCAL OLDER PEOPLE OVER MANY YEARS ON THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023 IN SKEHANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX

TOMÁS MACCONMARA (CONSULTANT), SEÁN CONNEELY, EMMA LAFFEY, CLLR LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY AND MARIAN HARDIMAN, SKEHANA HERITAGE AT THE COMMUNITY LISTENING AND DISCUSSION EVENT, SHOWCASING INTERVIEWS OF MEMORY AND ORAL HISTORY RECORDED IN THE SKEHANA AND EAST GALWAY AREA WITH LOCAL OLDER PEOPLE OVER MANY YEARS ON THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023 IN SKEHANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX.



www.thamherald.ie

Tham Herald

Wednesday November 8, 2023 15

NEWS

Community's oral listening evening a great success

By Mark Walsh

The memories and stories of older people in the Skehana and East Galway region were heard at a community listening event last Thursday evening in the Skehana Community Development Complex.

Dr Tomás Mac Conmara, an oral historian and author from Clare, gave an insightful lecture at the event, which was held in conjunction with the Skehana and District Heritage Group. A presentation was also provided on the recently launched Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in East Galway.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, is overseeing this project, which will work with community groups and historians in a bid to create a comprehensive list of oral history recordings that were made on tapes, reel to reels, VHS and other means. It is the first time such an initiative has been undertaken in the county.

"It was a great success," Jimmy Laffey, PRO of the Skehana and District Heritage Group, said of the community listening event.

"Tomas Mac Conmara played a few recordings of people that he had come across himself. He believes that every community in the North and East Galway area should do an audit of their oral recordings, be they on video, audio or on paper.

"He was making the point that you'd leave it too long. Records will play forever, but the cassette tape won't. There is a shelf life."

Emma Laffey and Sally Ann Barrett have done interviews with older people in the Skehana area, some of which were played on Thursday evening.

Those in attendance heard John Dolly from Kilbeg talking about how his father was a blacksmith at the French landlord estate in Monivea, and TJ Scanlon speaking on Gilbooley's Mill in Killascobe.

"We have about 35 recordings up on our website (Skehana and District Heritage Group) and have another 15 to be put up," said Jimmy Laffey.

"There are an awful lot more people around the parish we could talk to.

"We plan to write to every house in the Skehana and catchment area asking if they would be willing to share any tapes or recordings they may have," he said.

In brief

Charity walk across England

MANY Irish folks have enjoyed days out at Aintree and Cheltenham Racecourses and, this Friday, a Tuam native will start walking from one racecourse to the other, writes Mark Walsh.

Colm Farrell and three others will walk from Aintree in Liverpool, to Cheltenham in the West Midlands.

Colm walked through the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland in 2018 for Pieta House. He moved to England a year later, and set up his Stamp Out Suicide charity in 2015, a free phone-line counseling service that any person in the UK can access.

Living in Warrington between the Tuam native is an advocate of suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

GUEST speaker Tomás Mac Conmara, with Sean Conneely, Chairperson; Emma Laffey, Vice-Chairperson; Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council; and Marian Hardiman, Secretary.

FREE EVENT

MINNESOTA
MACHINE & MFG. CO.
ST. PAUL, MINN.

Johnny Dolly

MEMORIES & STORIES OF SKEHANA & EAST GALWAY

A COMMUNITY LISTENING EVENT 2023

A community listening and discussion event, showcasing interviews of memory and oral history recorded in the Skehana and East Galway area with local older people over many years

7.30pm | Thursday 2nd November 2023
Skehana Community Development Complex
Eircode: H53 KT99

FREE EVENT

Mac Comara
Heritage Consulting

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

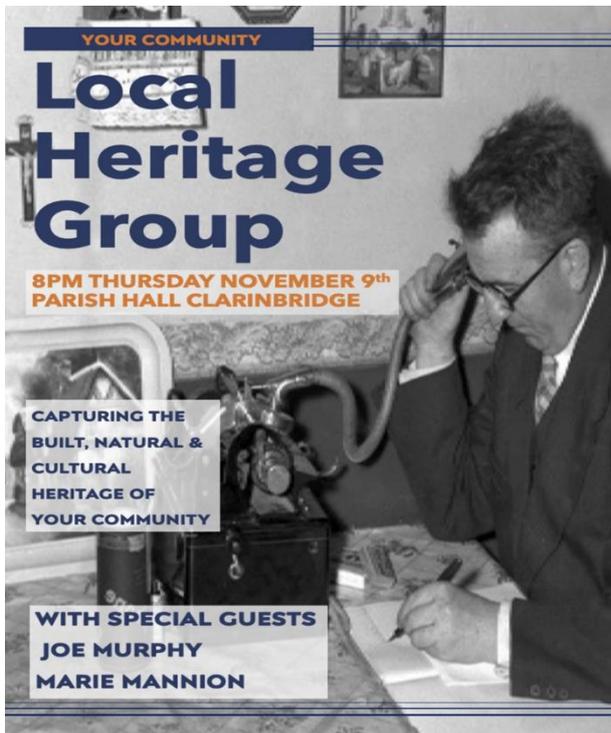
An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council

ALWAYS
COUNTS
HERITAGE
FORUM

PROGRAMME FOR THE **REFLECTIVE FORUM** TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF THE **COMMUNITY STRAND OF THE DECADE OF CENTENARIES PROGRAMME 2012-2023.**

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council and Galway County Council Decade of Centenaries Co-ordinator was part of a four person panel discussing *“How to engage people with history – innovative approaches used throughout the Decade of Centenaries”* at the *Reflective Forum* to mark the conclusion of the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023 which was held in the National Concert Hall, Dublin on 17th October.





In the region of 50 people attended the “Local Heritage Group” event in Clarinbridge on Thursday 9th November. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer gave a presentation to the group with regards to heritage on the night.

THE AUDIT OF THE HOLY WELLS OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY



CLOONCREE
TOBAR
CEANNACH

The Audit of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway is being undertaken in a series of phases. Phase 4 was completed in 2023 when the holy wells of the North Connemara area were recorded using the specially designed ‘Galway Holy Wells Survey 123 App’. The aim of the Audit of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway is to collect and collate information which may be in danger of being lost due to a largely, older generational knowledge base and development pressures, including land clearance. The data being collected through the County-wide audit of each holy well includes location, infrastructure,

physical condition, access, protection status, ownership, archaeology, biodiversity, traditions, folklore, oral heritage, and customs associated with and connected to the holy wells. This information will be used to develop high quality promotional resources for this aspect of the County's Heritage in the longer term. All data collected on each well is entered onto The 'Galway Holy Wells Survey 123 App' . This allows for the uploading of written description, location co-ordinates and up to 20 photographs during field survey. This information is then added to through community consultation and published sources of information. The collected data for each well is then uploaded to the Audit of Galway Holy Wells web platform hosted by Galway County Council. General and specific reports can now be generated from the stored data, including text and photographs, through Galway County Council's map based GIS.



ST PATRICK'S
WELL MAMEAN

FIELD RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Written descriptions and photographic details for 35 holy wells were collected and uploaded to the Galway Holy Wells Survey 123 web-based platform during the 2023 audit period, bringing the total number of wells recorded to 167 to date.

During the development stage of the 'Galway Holy Wells Digital App' the primary aim was that the data collection, storage and dissemination approach used for all future phases of the Audit would be future proofed in terms of: · its potential to be developed as a Citizen Science data collection tool for local communities · its potential adaptation for other similar heritage initiatives data collection · the dissemination of heritage information through the Galway County Council GIS structure · and its transferability for use in other Counties through the Heritage Council's Heritage Officer programme.

The app has proved to be an invaluable field data collection tool. It's easy to use format provides a potential template for data collection for other heritage initiatives. It is readily transferable for use in other County Holy wells Audits.

The planned positioning of Phase V of the Audit in South Connemara and the offshore Islands, in 2024 will complete the Audit for the entire County.

GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Galway Community Archaeology Project is funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council and is managed by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council. The Community Archaeologist, Bernadette Doherty provides support and advice to individuals, schools, organisations and groups. We have produced a variety projects and online events to promote greater awareness and appreciation of our archaeological heritage.

This year the Community Archaeologist contributed to a number of conferences, seminars and local heritage lectures. She dealt with numerous emails or phone calls from individuals and group representatives seeking advice or help in relation to archaeology or archaeological related matters and topics. She works with schools, community groups, societies, farmers and other individuals on an ongoing basis. She played a major role in assisting community groups apply for the Community Monument Fund and Heritage Council Community Grants, as well as promoting Heritage in schools, Heritage Keepers and Adopt a Monument Scheme.

ADOPT A MONUMENT CONFERENCE

Galway Community Archaeologist gave a presentation on her work at *The Adopt a Monument Conference* in Tullamore, County Offaly). See the link to the presentation:

<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/new-contributions/adopt-a-monument-conference>

SOCIAL MEDIA – GALWAY COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Public Sector Digital Awards received many comments and reaction on Galway Community Archaeology Facebook Page and Instagram. This was a positive factor in public engagement which is up 62 % for the past three months.

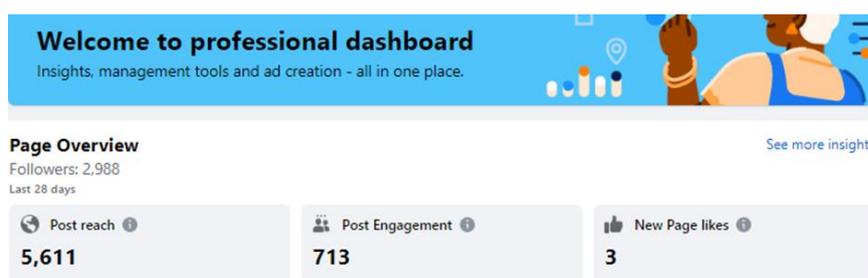
Facebook – Comments on posts

HERITAGE IRELAND SUMMIT 2030

Galway County Heritage Office and Galway Community Archaeology Project submitted a total of three Digital Poster to be showcased at the Heritage Ireland Summit 2030, held 25th October 2023 in Trinity College Dublin and on-line.

The Summit brought together stakeholders, members of the public and those working to protect heritage in communities, by showcasing successful projects, exploring challenges and opportunities and outlining progress in delivering the objectives of Ireland’s national heritage plan.

GALWAY COUNTY HERITAGE OFFICE FACEBOOK PAGE



Just short of 3,000 followers with 19 new page followers in past 28 days.

PLANNING

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A total of 203 Planning Enforcement complaints were received to date 8th November 2023. A total of 99 Warning Letters were served to the 8th November 2023 and 61 Enforcement Notices. A total of 154 files have been closed.

There are 1,270 files at various stages of investigation.

ACTIVE COMPLAINTS BY MD

Athenry/Oranmore	206
Ballinasloe	91
Connemara	497
Loughrea	251
Tuam	225

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 1,783 planning applications were received ytd 8th November 2023. The breakdown between e-files 75% and paper files 25%.

FORWARD PLANNING

TUAM LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029

Finalised and Adopted Tuam Local Area Plan in September 2023. Plan came into effect on 23rd October 2023.

ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023-2029

CE Report on Material Alterations of the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2023-2029 to be circulated to Members on 30th November 2023. It is expected that Report will be discussed at the Athenry/Oranmore MD meeting in January 2024.

LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

Loughrea Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 is going on public display and may be inspected from 24th November 2023 to 15th January 2024. A Public Consultation Drop-In Session will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2023 from 2.30 – 7.30 p.m. in Loughrea Hotel & Spa.

A Public Consultation Webinar will take place on Thursday, 14th December 2023.

RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

On-going works with the Residential Zoned Land Tax Maps. Final Maps to be published on 1st December 2023.

URDF

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

MASTERPLAN OF THE FORMER GALWAY AIRPORT LANDS

Work is underway in the preparation of Tender Documents.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICE

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2024

The Scheme is designed to assist the owner or occupier of a Protected Structure, or structures that contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) to undertake necessary works to secure the conservation of the structure or part of the structure, i.e. works necessary to extend the life of the structure. The scheme is not intended to assist in carrying out routine maintenance, alterations, or improvements.

The aim of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme is to assist with the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts.

It is also designed to leverage private capital for investment in a significant number of small-scale, labour-intensive conservation projects throughout the country and to support the employment of conservation professionals, craftspeople, and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment.

An application for a structure can be made under the BHIS and the HSF, but only one grant from either the HSF or the BHIS can be availed of per structure.



REPAIR TO COMB AND APPLICATION OF BLUESTONE TO THATCH NEWTOWNSMITH, DURUS, KINVARA BHIS 2023



REPAIR TO TIMBER SASH WINDOWS, PROSPECT HOUSE, ATHENRY BHS 2023



KEANE'S HOUSE; REPAIR TO WINDOWS 2023

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/archcon/grants/>

Contact conservationofficer@galwaycoco.ie or 091 509366

Closing date 26th January 2024

The aim of the HSF is to reduce the risk of deterioration of Ireland’s architectural heritage while continuing to support employment for conservation professionals, contractors, and specialists.



CILL EINDE, AN SPIDÉAL.
REPAIRS TO
SOUTH FAÇADE
POINTING AND
TO RAINWATER
GOODS.

The Historic Structures Fund provides capital funding for works to qualifying structures which include the following:

(i) Protected Structures:

(ii) Structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS

(iii) Structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs),

Eligible projects will be as follows:

a) projects proposed by local authorities on foot of applications from **private applicants who are the owners or custodians of historic structures**

b) projects proposed by a Local Authority for works to **historic structures in public ownership**, where a clear heritage focus, and community or public benefit has been demonstrated

Stream 1 will offer grants **from €15,000 up to €50,000** and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures.

Stream 1, Historic Shopfronts sub-stream – To incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts, eligible essential repairs and small capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of historic shop facades, windows, signage, and other associated details to safeguard them and keep them in use. Also, an additional application for Irish-language shopfronts.

Stream 2 will offer a small number of grants **from €50,000 up to €200,000** for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- a. A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- b. A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary)

Vernacular Structures Stream – In the context of *A Living Tradition: A Strategy to Enhance the Understanding, Minding and Handing on of Our Built Vernacular Heritage* (2021 to support conservation repairs and small capital works to vernacular structures that are not listed in local authority Records of Protected Structures or otherwise legally protected. Such structures may be located within an Architectural Conservation Area.; between €5,000 and €10,000 for eligible projects.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/archcon/grants/>

Contact Conservationofficer@galwaycoco.ie Or 091 509366

Closing date 26th January 2024

As communities around Ireland face challenges like vacancy, dereliction, traffic management and depopulation, the **Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF)** is calling for local architects and community stakeholders to propose collaborative projects to regenerate their town or village centre.

The project proposals are being called for under a new round of the Hometown Architect initiative that has opened for applications today (09.11.23). **Hometown Architect** is a key initiative of the IAF's **Reimagine** placemaking programme.

This is the second round of Hometown Architect, whose focus is supporting small and medium towns outside of major urban centres. Three projects will be selected for development funding of €10,000 each plus mentoring and practical support from the IAF's experienced placemaking team.

Project proposals for Hometown Architect 2024 must be made jointly by community stakeholders and an architect with a local connection. Proposals should focus on issues of particular concern, opportunities or innovations for town centre regeneration in line with the Government of Ireland's **Town Centre First Policy**. This policy aims to make town centres across Ireland viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit.

Submissions will be assessed by a panel of experts, including the IAF team, Town Centre First Policy specialists and independent experts.

Hometown Architect 2024 builds on the success of the 2023 round of Hometown Architect, which is supporting **projects** in Aughrim, Co Wicklow; Belmullet, Co Mayo; Lisdoonvarna, Co Clare; Tipperary town; and **Tuam, Co Galway**. Hometown Architect is a catalyst for active citizenship in the built environment, encouraging creative connections between community groups and architecture professionals to deliver ground-up implementation of the national Town Centre First Policy.

I-WEBS WORKSHOP WITH BIRDWATCH IRELAND

The Integrated Waterbird and Breeding Bird Survey represents a collaborative effort in citizen science aimed at monitoring bird populations in wetlands and coastal locations around Ireland. In recent years, there has been a drop-off in volunteer numbers in Co. Galway and in a collaboration with Galway City Council and



BirdWatch Ireland, workshops were held to upskill citizen scientists to support this longitudinal study. Over 70 birdwatchers attended the workshop held by Galway County Council at the Marine Institute in Oranmore and the project received good media coverage in the lead up and after the workshops.



CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE & RESEARCH PRESENTATION, CONAMARA SEAWEEK

The Biodiversity Office co-sponsored the Climate & Biodiversity Conference as part of Conamara Sea Week on Saturday 28th October. The booked-out event saw speakers discuss the impacts of climate change with a focus on the marine environment and the life within. This was followed by a presentation of a longitudinal study on the Hidden Lakes of Connemara by a team of Dutch scientists with an introduction by Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer.



Climate and Biodiversity Conference Conamara Sea Week 2023

HIDDEN LAKES OF CONNEMARA BOOK LAUNCH

The Hidden Lakes of Connemara Jan van Groenendael, Ton Roozen, Madeleine van Mansfeld and Marijke van Mansfeld was launched by Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll in Letterfrack as part of the Conamara Sea Week celebrations. Copies of the book will be circulated by to local community groups, schools and libraries as an educational resource.



LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECTS

This year's projects are drawing to a close with outputs such as this beautiful poster on the breeding birds of Connemara by BirdWatch Ireland's John Lusby.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ICT & HUMAN RESOURCES & DIGITISATION

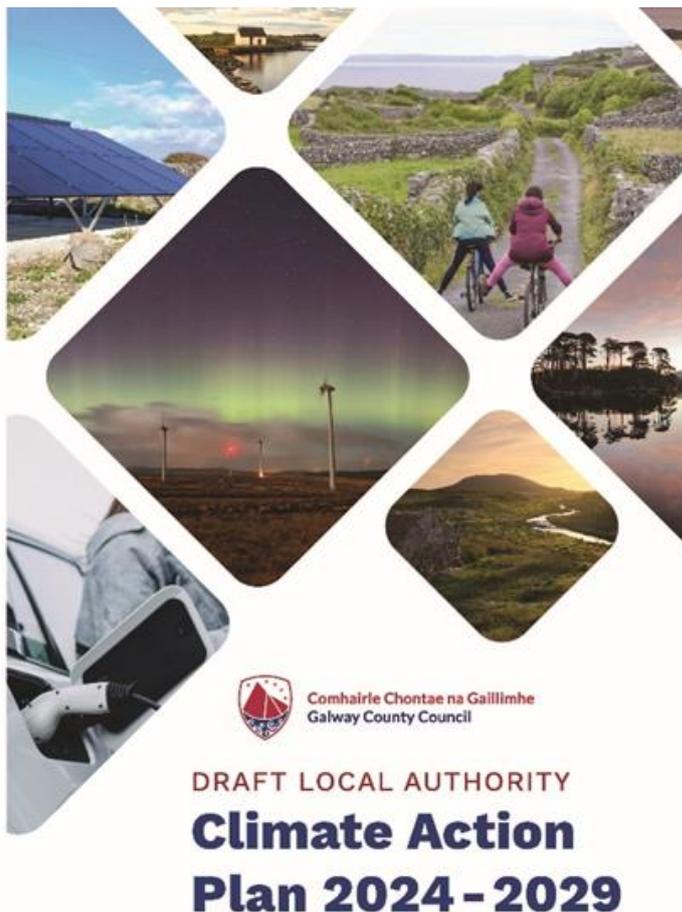
ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE ACTION UNIT

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan was published on the 10th of November. The public are invited to submit observations and recommendations via our consultation portal <https://www.galway.ie/ClimateAction> or in writing. We are running public information events to support consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan and provide information on the upcoming Community Climate Action Fund. The Climate Unit will be available at the following locations:

1. **Ballinasloe Library**, Tuesday November 14th, 17:30 – 19:00
2. **Clifden Library**, Thursday November 16th, 16:30 – 18:00
3. **Tuam Library**, Saturday November 18th, 14:00 – 15:30
4. **Loughrea Library**, Wednesday November 22nd 17:30 – 19:00
5. **Claregalway Hotel**, Tuesday November 28th, 18:00 – 18:30



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Galway County Council will be opening the Community Climate Action Fund in December. The Climate Unit has been working to highlight the potential of the fund for communities through presentations and stands at a number of events including the Green Recovery Working Group meeting and the following events.



LAUNCH OF THE CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY EVENT IN NEWBRIDGE, CO. GALWAY



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING EVENT HOSTED BY GORT FRC AND SUPPORTED BY GRD SICAP TEAM

CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE

As part of the shared island fund cross-border project, we were involved in organising the climate action conference 'From the Ground Up | Cultivating Innovation and Growth' which took place on the 19th of October at the BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry. We presented on the role of Galway County Council in supporting the sector as part of our work in relation to Climate Action.

Shared Island Climate Action Conference

From the Ground Up | Cultivating Innovation & Growth

19 OCT

**BIA Innovator Campus,
Athenry, County Galway,
H65 F961.**

Agri-Food

Sustainable Energy

Agri-Tourism

Health & Wellbeing

BOOK NOW >>





EIRGRID ROADSHOW

EirGrid has embarked on a series of public roadshow events aimed at informing local communities on plans to future-proof the electricity grid as well as providing information about microgeneration, home energy upgrades and retrofitting grants. The Climate Action Unit presented at the Roadshow providing information in relation to Galway County Council Climate Action and funding.



Partnered with:



Energy Citizens Roadshow, Galway

Wednesday, 13 September, 2023
Salthill Hotel, Galway, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Free event

[EirGrid.ie/roadshows](https://eirgrid.ie/roadshows)



MOBILE WEEE COLLECTIONS

23 mobile WEEE collections by WEEE Ireland were supported in 2023 with in excess of 180 Tonnes collected.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media campaigns, including WEEE, Leave No Trace, and Bonfires.



REFUSE MONTH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

October was Reuse Month with a focus on Circular Living



Circular living keeps products and material in circulation through processes like improved efficiency, maximising use, conserving, preventing waste, maintaining, sharing, reusing, repairing, remanufacturing, upcycling, giving new life, recycling, composting, and making these things the norm. As we embrace Circular Living, we are reducing waste, conserving precious resources, spending less, and contributing positively the environment.

<https://www.mywaste.ie/circular-living/>

GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT NEWBRIDGE



The Environmental Awareness Officer and Community Climate Action Officer attended a Community Event on November 3rd in Newbridge at the invitation of Galway Rural Development to host an information table on Environmental Awareness and Waste Management, and the Climate Action Community Fund. This event was interactive with a mix of

organisations, and community tables showcasing on the evening. The aim is to acknowledge and create awareness in the community about the positive changes we can make and how to start being more aware within your own home etc.

GORT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING EVENT.

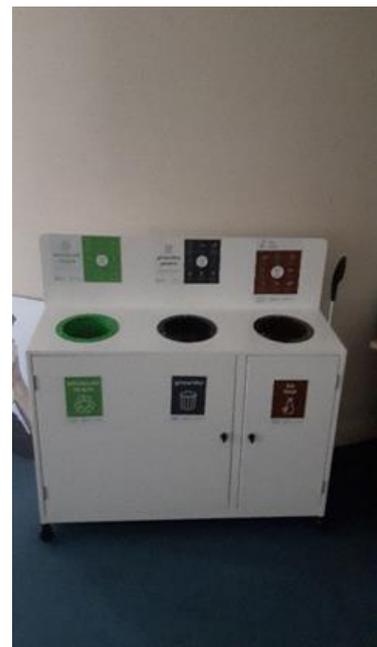


The Environmental Awareness Officer and the Community Climate Action Officer attended a Community Event on November 10th in Gort at the invitation of Galway Rural Development to host an information table. There were also local Community Groups as well as agencies hosting information tables on the day.

SEGREGATED WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS



Segregated Waste Management units were installed in the Conference room in Centrepoint and the library in Ballinasloe to improve waste segregation. Individual bins were removed.



TIDY TOWNS SURVEY 2023

1. Litter Control
2. Sustainability -Doing More with Less

The Environment Section of Galway County Council invited all Tidy Towns groups registered with the PPN to take part in a survey of the “**Tidiness and Litter Control**” and the “**Sustainability - Doing More with Less**” sections of the Tidy Towns competition in Co. Galway. This was an opportunity to highlight any issues the Tidy Towns group may have come across in their community in delivering these sections.



4 Tidy Towns groups returned the survey following an extension of the deadline. The environment section will be reviewing the surveys from these 3 communities and working with them in relation to their issues and queries.

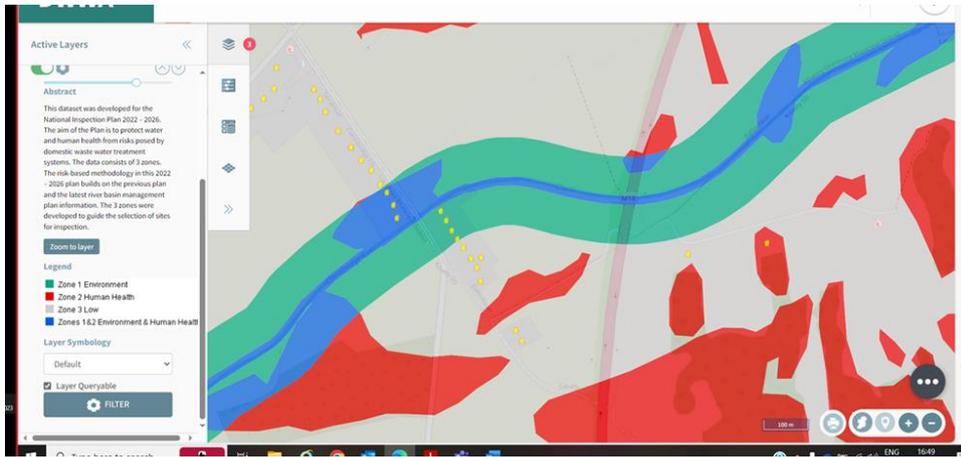
BURIAL GROUNDS

BURIAL GROUND DEVELOPMENTS

The Environment Section has supported 170 burial ground maintenance committees throughout the county. In 2023, we allocated approximately €130,000, an increase of €30,000 from 2022. Previously, the grants allocated were 3 tiers - €300, €450 and €600. However, in 2023, we introduced 6 tiers - €200, €300, €450, €600, €900 and €1400 to cater for the increase in the maintenance costs and to acknowledge all the works that the committees do throughout the year. The grants cater for our small, closed burial grounds and our larger burial grounds and it is a credit to the committees for the fantastic work that they do. We will continue to work in partnership with the committees in 2024.

SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS

Planning commenced for National Inspection Plan (NIP) inspections of domestic wastewater treatment systems in the Clarinbridge area. This area is a priority area for action in the 3rd cycle river basin management plan. There are 3 different risk zones with inspections in Zone 1 (Environment) and Zone 2 (Human Health) being prioritized in this case. Figure 1 below is an example of the mapping used to locate properties for inspections. The inspections planned will be undertaken in November and December 2023.



ONE OF THE MAPS USED FOR LOCATING PROPERTIES FOR NIP INSPECTIONS IN CLARINBRIDGE AREA.

DRINKING WATER

A Boil Water Notice was issued on the Kinvara Public Water Supply on the 9th of October 2023 and is still in place. The BWN was put in place after it came to the attention of UÉ that the Kinvara Public Water Supply was at risk due to mechanical issues experienced at the water treatment works. Following advice from the Health Service Executive, Uisce Eireann issued a Boil Water Notice to protect consumers in the Kinvara area affecting approximately 2162 consumers.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER WATER POLLUTION ACT

BALLINASLOE DISTRICT COURT



A case taken for prosecution for non-compliance with a Section 12 Notice issued under the Water Pollution Act was to be heard in Ballinasloe District Court in October. As a result of negotiations at the court it was agreed that the requested work

would be done within a new timeframe which will deal with the source of pollution. A further Section 12 Notice will also be issued which encompasses all measures necessary. A further hearing date was set for December in Loughrea District Court.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT



Staff attended the quarterly Waste Enforcement Officer meeting of the Connaught Ulster WERLA.

Items on the agenda included the NEMIS complaints management system, Household waste collection, PTUs (pay to use), Commercial waste collection, CCTV and the Code of Practices, Waste data flows and Reverse Register for household waste collection.

Galway County Council gave updates on the following:

- Anti-Dumping Initiative 10 projects completed
- Annual Returns
- Construction and Demolition waste
- Solid Fuel Regulations
- Court cases
- Waste Presentation Bye Laws
- Facility Permits / CORs

CCTV UPDATE

The revised Codes of Practise for use of CCTV are now going through a final legal review before they are to be sent to the CCMA CATCEN Committee and the Board of the LGMA for approval. Once the Board of the LGMA has signed off on the CoP's, they will then be submitted to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communications for approval.

WASTE DATA VALIDATIONS

The validation of data submitted by permitted waste collectors and facilities for waste movement during 2022 was completed in early October. The remaining waste facility permit sites, authorised treatment facilities and certificate of registration sites were also inspected.

WASTE MANAGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

Two Section 55 Notices were issued in October. Both files related to the unauthorised storage of End-of-Life vehicles without authorisation by way of a waste facility permit. Both Notices issued require the operators to remove the waste ELV's to authorised facilities for proper disposal to prevent or limit environmental pollution within the given timeframe.

**GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY ENFORCEMENT OF THE AIR POLLUTION ACT 1987 (SOLID FUELS) REGULATIONS 2022
S.I. No. 529 of 2022**

Prepared for:



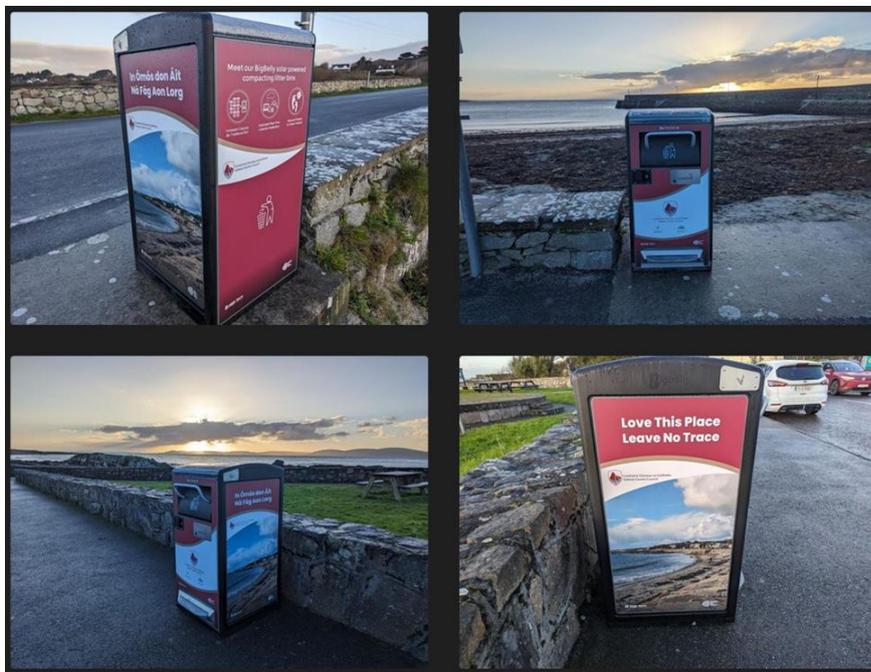
**An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Date: December 2022



Two staff members attended training on the new Solid Fuel Regulations in Sligo.

NEW SOLAR POWERED COMPACTOR BINS FOR SPIDDAL



As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative this year we secured funding for some new solar compactor bins for the busy beaches in Spiddal. During the summer, the regular bins in this area were being filled faster than the area office staff could empty them. These bins can hold significantly more as there is a built-in compactor.

LAW AGENTS UPDATE

- The Law Agent Unit has continued in its efforts, working alongside colleagues in the Housing Unit, to progress and complete acquisitions of residential properties.
- The Law Agent Unit has achieved continued success in seeking and obtaining Court Orders for various infringements and breaches of the Planning Code. Most recently, a conviction and resulting Court Order, with conditions, was obtained for unlawful quarrying activity at a site in County Galway. This is an area which will be the subject of particular focus from the Planning Enforcement and Law Agent Units

ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – NOV 2023

1. Restoration Improvement – Contractor on Site

- a. Roanmore - Next week
- b. Annagh Hill - Next week
- c. Gorteen - Complete
- d. Kiltullagh - Complete
- e. Castlelambert - Complete
- f. Cloonboo - Complete
- g. Lydican - Complete
- h. Garraun/Ardaun – Complete
- i. Baunmore – Complete
- j. Cullairbaun – Planned
- k. Monivea – Complete –

2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

- a. **Surface dressing** - Ongoing
 - i. Belville Cross/Hundred Acres - Complete
 - ii. Parkcurry - Complete
 - iii. Carnakelly South - Complete
 - iv. Glennagloghaun/Cloonkeen - Complete
 - v. Kilskeagh - Complete
 - vi. Castleturvin - Complete
 - vii. Gardenham - Complete
 - viii. Moneymore - Complete
 - ix. Maonbaun - Complete
 - x. Annaghdown - Complete
 - xi. Killoughter - Complete
 - xii. Tiaquin demesne – Complete
 - xiii. Ballinloughaun – Complete
- b. **Works completed by direct labour crews.**
 - i. Farravaun - Complete
 - ii. Gortbrack - Complete
 - iii. Rockfield - Complete
 - iv. Killoughter - Complete
 - v. Ballygurraun – Complete
 - vi. Clamperpark – Complete
- c. **Recycling Contract** – Contract awarded issues with personnel.

- i. Aghafadda- Complete
- ii. Clooncah - Complete
- iii. Bushfield - Complete
- iv. Muckrush - Complete
- v. Annagh West - Complete
- vi. Monard - Complete

3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Preliminary Design Review complete design report Road safety audit planned.
- b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) Works complete.
- c. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Preliminary Design Phase Road safety audit planned.
- d. Cregmore Bridge Lights switched on

4. Climate Change

- a. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions
- b. L7125 Ballydavid – Road to Raised
- c. L3112 Gloves West - Complete
- d. L2117 Lisheenananoran - Complete
- e. L3117 Cormachugh – Complete

5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.86.21 L-31165 Curry Gurteen
- b. CIS.69.21 L-3112 Montpellier Athenry - Complete
- c. CIS.73.21 L-2119 Baunmore/ Gardenham – Issue with Landowner consent no Funds
- d. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Wall removed footpath ongoing
- e. CIS.32.21 L-7119 Mirah Turloughmore – planned for this month – flooding issues.
- f. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Rooanmore planned.

6. Local Improvement Schemes

- a. R1LIS/266/21 Gorthue - Complete
- b. R1LIS/193/21 Post Office Corner - Complete
- c. R1LIS/187/21 Park - Complete
- d. R1LIS/186/21 Well Road - Complete
- e. R1LIS/40/21 Mountain Road - Complete

7. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment Issues resolving agreement Landowner Meeting with all landowners to convey. Option 2 alignment
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River Funding Approved by OPW – Tender Documents being produced.
- c. Lavally Drainage District AA screening complete – Some works complete tree removal planned.
- d. Dual carriageway Oranmore Re-Tendered as works started planned finish 21st November.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| e. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue | Drone survey completed; CCTV completed – awaiting full report. |
| f. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore | Cycling options included in Design, Road safety audit planned – updated cross section issued to NTA. |
| g. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd. | Contractor Started work. |
| h. Caheroyne Avenue Footpaths | Footpath Bay repairs Ongoing |
| i. Oakfield and Ashbrook footpaths | Footpath Bay repairs Complete |
| j. Storm Debi Clean-up | Ongoing numerous trees knocked across roads Walls damaged houses flooded. |

8. Figures and Pictures



Coolarne CCTV



ARD AOIBHEANN RAILING



MAREE ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



ANNAGHDOWN FOOTPATH WORKS - COMPLETE



ORANMORE BOYS SCHOOL – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME



OAKFIELD ESTATE – FOOTPATHS



CREGMORE BRIDGE LIGHTS



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ATHENRY – RAHEEN WOODS



MOYVEELA JUNCTION UPGRADE



COAST ROAD CLEAN UP



STORM DEBI CALL OUTS

BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The Ballinasloe Municipal District met on the 8th of November 2023 to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 showing an indicative expenditure of €9,852,587 which is an increase on the 2023 expenditure. Following consideration, the municipal district members by resolution adopted the draft budgetary plan without amendment.

At the October Municipal District Meeting; Mr. Matthews, Head of Operations, Irelands Hidden Heartlands made a presentation on the “EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme for Ireland’s Midlands 2023” which included an update on the Just Transition Fund which includes investment grant aid scheme for private and community small and medium enterprises, the strategic partnership agreements which were in place with Local Authorities and State agencies and the sanction of tourism activators. This presentation and project was welcomed by the Ballinasloe Councillors.



At the June Ballinasloe Municipal District Meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Dermot Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Peter Keaveney that Cllr. Declan Geraghty be elected Cathaoirleach. Photographed below is outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons with the newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Declan Geraghty.



Newly Elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Declan Geraghty 2023/2024 And Outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons 2022/2023

Ballinasloe Horse Fair is held annually in Ballinasloe; it is one of Europe’s oldest and largest Horse Fairs, dating back to the 18th century.

This annual event attracts up to 80,000 visitors from all over the world, with many returning to the town year after year. This festival is one of the most important social and economic events in the life of the town. Ballinasloe is renowned for many equestrian activities which take place throughout the year.



BALLINASLOE FAIR 2023

On the 10th of May 2023 a presentation on the Framework Plan for East Galway Eco Park by the Environment Section. This was welcomed by the Councillors.



EAST GALWAY ECO PARK

During 2023 the following roads were considered and adopted by the Ballinasloe Councillors to be taken in charge:

- Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and Schedule 14A of Local Government Act 2001: Hawthorn Park, Ballygar, County Galway. Houses Nos 2 to 7 (inclusive) commencing at its junction with the L-63791 and extending in a Easterly direction and ending adjacent to house no.7 for a distance of approximately 70 meters (all in the Townland of Ballygar).
- Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and Schedule 14A of Local Government Act 2001: Clós an Iarnróid Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Clós An Iarnróid Estate, House No 6a to 15 (inclusive)– commencing at Point A at its junction with the R358 adjacent to Clós An Iarnróid Estate House No 6a and extending in a Southerly direction to Point B adjacent to Clós An Iarnróid Estate House No 15 for a distance of approximately 102 meters (all in the Townland of Deerpark).
- Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads – Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and Schedule 14A of Local Government Act 2001: Treanrevagh, House No 1 to 11 - commencing at Point A at its junction with the N63- 336 and extending in an Easterly direction for a distance of approximately 70m to a point adjacent to Treanrevagh House No 1, then in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 58 meters to a point adjacent to Treanrevagh House No 7 and then in a South Easterly direction for a distance of approximately 21 meters to a point adjacent to Treanrevagh House No 5 for a total distance of 151m (all in the Townland of Treanrevagh).

A meeting was held in March 2023 to consider and adopt the 2023 Annual Schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Ballinasloe Municipal District. The following photos offer a visual of some of the works that were carried out in 2023.



INSTALLATION COMPLETED OF REPLACEMENT SOLAR POWERED PARKING TICKET MACHINES IN BALLINASLOE TOWN.



COMPLETED FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT MENLOUGH, PROVIDING A SAFER ACCESSIBLE LINK FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE GAA PITCH AND BURIAL GROUND.



ONGOING FOOTPATH CONSTRUCTION UNDER ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME AT BEECHLAWN, BALLINASLOE.



COMPLETED ROADWORKS PROGRAMME PROJECT AT CRAUGHWELL, LAURENCTOWN (L43011) USING A COLD IN-SITU RECYCLING METHOD, BEFORE & AFTER.



COMPLETED ROADWORKS PROGRAMME ROAD STRENGTHENING PROJECT AT GORTNAHORNA, CLONTUSKERT (L8408).



COMPLETED FOOTPATH & PUBLIC LIGHTING CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT AHASCRAUGH ON THE CALTRA ROAD R358, FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME, PROVIDING SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS.



BACK ROW L-R CLLR DERMOT CONNOLLY, CLLR PETER KEAVENEY, CLLR DECLAN GERAGHTY, LIAM HANRAHAN (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES), CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY, CLLR TIM BRODERICK

FRONT ROW L-R AIDEN SHERIDAN, BALLINASLOE MD CATHAOIRLEACH CLLR DR EVELYN PARSONS

CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The Conamara Municipal District met on the 17th November 2023 to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 showing an indicative expenditure of €8,726,709 which is an increase on the 2023 expenditure including in the services areas of roads and housing maintenance expenditure.

Following consideration, the municipal district members by resolution adopted the draft budgetary plan without amendment.

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR CONAMARA – NOVEMBER 2023:

- Connemara MD Roads Programme complete.
- Mionoibreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 work completed.
- Mionoibreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 (Inis Mór)



Cill Mhuirbhig - 2575m² of 70mm CL912 AC 14mm.

- Mionoibreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 (Inis Meáin)



Teileascóip Inis Meáin

- The Strategic Infrastructure scheme at the Causeways is progressing through design.
- An application has been made to the Department of Transport for a Strategic Infrastructure scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works €115,000 (3 projects) Completed.
- Climate Change Projects €150,000 (3 projects) have gone out for tender. 2 No Completed.
- Local Improvement Schemes (1 on Inis Bofin complete, 4 in Conamara North Eng Area mainland fully complete)
- LIS Inis Oir complete. LIS Inis Mor complete. Inis Meain substantially complete.
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, drainage works.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions, 1 new Community Warden Fiona Connolly Loftus commenced employment in the MD - 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 2023 5 No. pier locations
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- review of summer 2023 has commenced.
- Active Travel Projects- 2023 Project Carraroe Complete.

ROADS PROGRAMME – CURRENT STATUS:

- 21 of 21 (100%) bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.
- 42 of 42 (100%) unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.
- 32 of 32 (100%) of the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) roads are now completed.

SIGNIFICANT ROAD PROJECTS COMPLETED

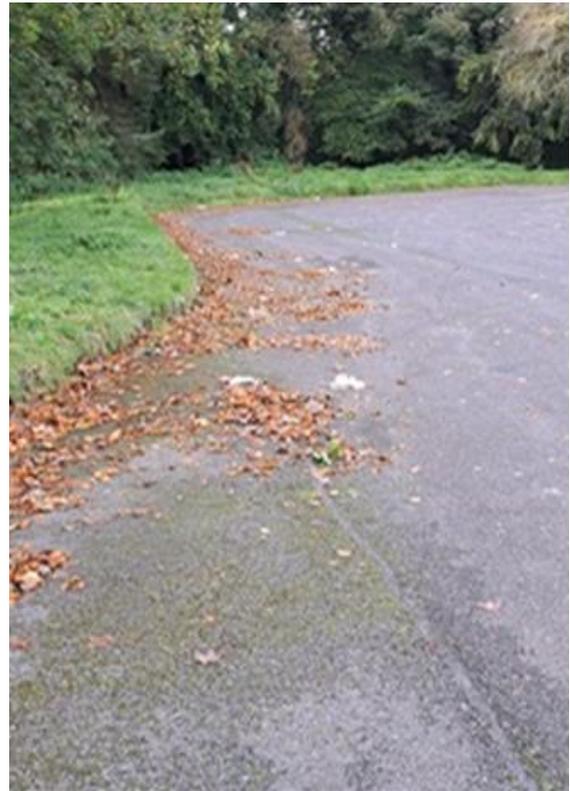
- All Local Improvement Schemes are now completed.
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works are now complete.
- Overlay of a Former National Road at Dartfield, Loughrea on the R446 completed.
- Last week saw the completion of a Local Tertiary Road at Tooreenydermot, Woodford. This 1.8km road was the last road to be completed on the adopted 2023 Loughrea Municipal District Roads Programme.

OTHER MINOR WORKS

- Cleaning of Car Park at Long Point, Loughrea.
- Planting of new shrubs in Planters at various locations in Loughrea.
- Purchase of spring bulbs for Loughrea Town (ready for planting!).
- Cleaning of bins – early morning, Loughrea.
- Culvert replacement works at Gortnamanagh, Kilchreest.
- Works to introduce a new Village centre footpath commenced under a Community Involvement Scheme in Labane.
- Clean-up of illegal dumping at bottle banks Loughrea.
- Early Stages of Storm Response following significant impact of Storm Debi.

JAYNE BAKER, GARDENER, GETTING LOUGHREA TOWNIN BLOOM FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER





Before



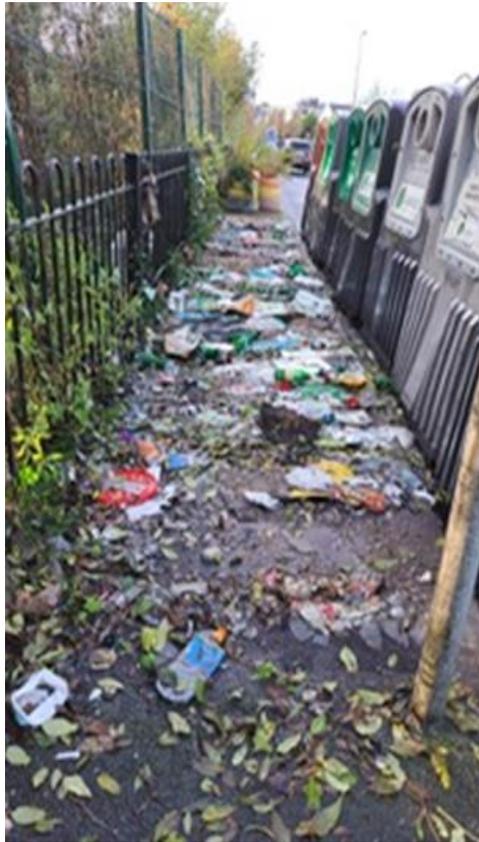
After

OVER 6200 SPRING BULBS TO BE PLANTED IN LOUGHREA, DAFFODILS, TULIPS, HYACINTHOIDES, FRITILLARIA, ANEMONE, COMASIA, ALLIUMS AND CAMASSIA

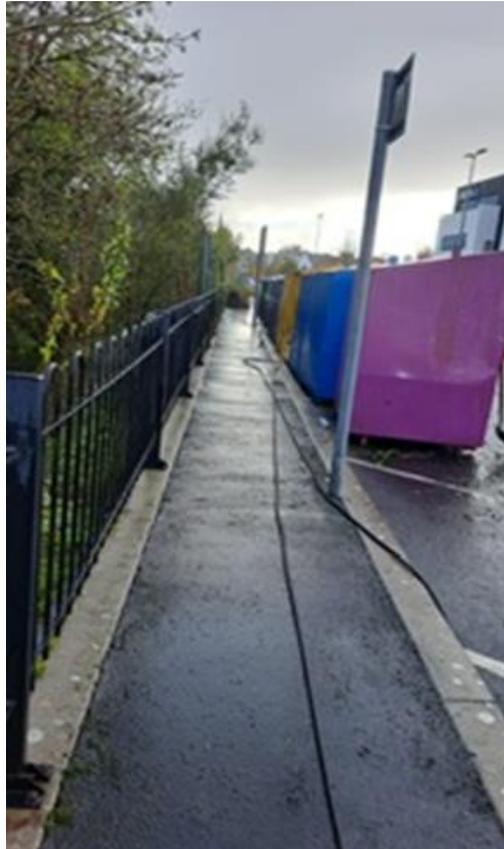


CLEANING OF LITTER BINS IN LOUGHREA IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MONDAY MORNING

CLEAN UP TIME AGAIN: ILLEGAL DUMPING - STATION ROAD BOTTLE BANK



Before



After

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – LOWPARK, KILLORAN



BEFORE IMAGES



WORKS IN PROGRESS



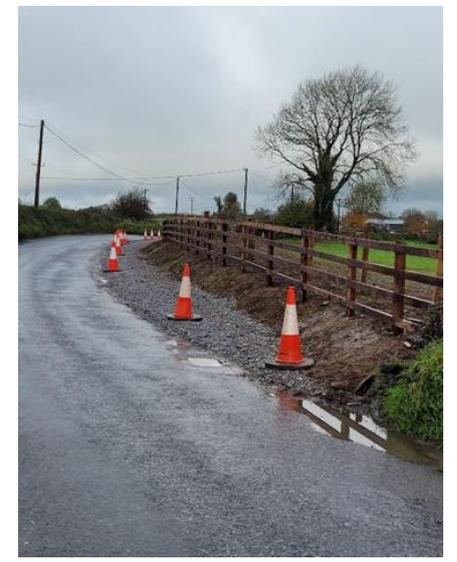
WORKS COMPLETE

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECT ON THE APPROACH TO TYNAGH VILLAGE

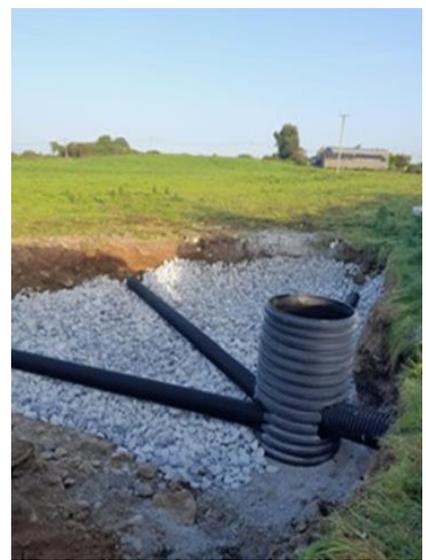
180m of drainage works and road realignment. All works carried out in-house by Portumna Area team.



Before Images



Work in Progress - Road Realignment



Works in Progress - Drainage Works

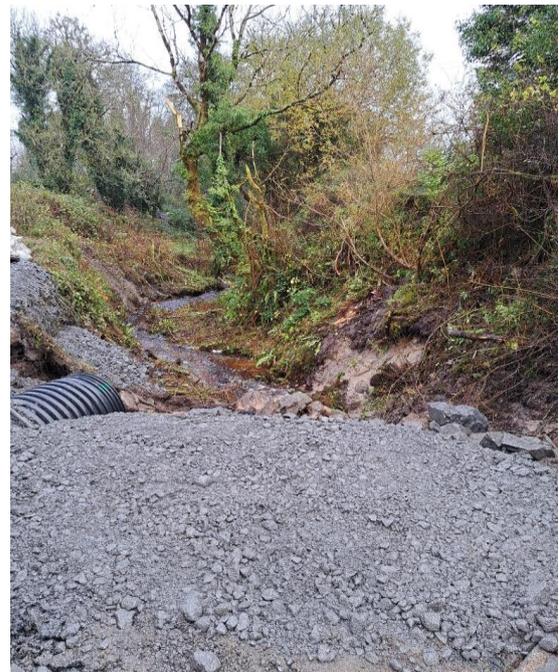
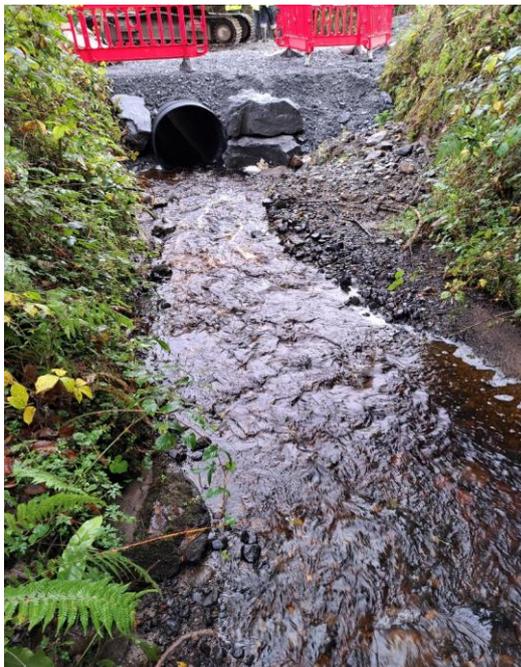
OVERLAY ON FORMER NATIONAL ROAD AT DARTFIELD, LOUGHREA – R446



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME – LABANE FOOTPATH



CULVERT REPLACEMENT WORKS AT GORTNAMANAGH



TOOREENYDERMOT, WOODFORD - TERTIARY ROAD

Final road on this year's Road Programme for the Loughrea MD



TUAM – STRAUBING NEWS



THE SIGNING OF THE TWINNING CHARTER IN TUAM'S SYNOD HALL ON SEPT. 6. 1991 WITH MIKO KELLY, CHAIRMAN OF TUAM TOWN COMMISSIONERS AND LORD MAYOR OF STRAUBING REINHOLD PERLAK.

MIKO KELLY, CHAIRMAN OF TUAM TOWN COMMISSIONERS, HOLDING THE REPLICA OF THE ROMAN STATUE STATUETTE OF A LAR. THE LORD MAYOR OF STRAUBING REINHOLD PERLAK HAD JUST PRESENTED IT TO MIKO KELLY AS THE OFFICIAL GIFT FROM THE CITY OF STRAUBING.



At the Tuam Municipal District meeting on the 13th November 2023, Tuam Councillors along with the Tuam/Straubing Twinning Committee launched a photo exhibition for the Tuam- Straubing Twinning in the Tuam MD offices. The Exhibition included the original partnership deed agreements, the Roman Statue Statuette, archive news pieces on the original twinning proposals from both the Tuam Herald and from the Straubinger



JOHN Coyle, Senior Engineer with Galway County Council and curator of the exhibition, with Emily Reynolds, Chair of Tuam Straubing Twinning Committee, and Cathaoirleach of Tuam MDC Cllr Donagh Killilea.

Tagblatt; Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt visit to Straubing Street, Tuam in 2022 and further material on the history of the Twinning. In attendance of the Launch was Cllr Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Peter Roche, Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Mary Hoade, Cllr Stephen McHugh, Cllr Andrew Reddington along with Tuam/Straubing Twinning Committee members Emily Reynolds.



Exhibition charting links between Tuam and Straubing opens

Rich heritage between two towns showcased

By Jacqueline Hogge

AN exhibition charting the development of Tuam's Twinning with Straubing has gone on display in the town this week.

Photographs and documents from the signing of the Twinning Charter in the Synod Hall in September 1991 form the centrepiece of the display that is located on the first floor of the council building.

The late Miko Kelly, who was Chairman of Tuam Town Commissioners, signed the charter alongside the then Lord Mayor of Straubing Reinhold Perlak, who presented Cllr Kelly with a replica of the Roman Statue, Statuette of Lar, as an official gift.

The statuette, original partnership deed agreements, and photos of the ceremony in the Synod Hall are featured in the collection that has been curated by Senior Area Engineer John Coyle.

Archive news reports on the original twinning proposals from both *The Tuam Herald* and from the *Straubinger Tagblatt* are also included in the exhibition, alongside information on the history of the Twinning provided by German Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt who visited Straubing Street in Tuam last year.

Congratulating John Coyle on the exhibition, Chairperson of the Tuam Straubing Twinning Committee Emily Reynolds said it showcased the rich relationship developed between the two towns over the past 30 years.

"This exhibition is a wonderful reminder of all that has gone into the relationship between Tuam and Straubing over three decades," she said.

"I hope as many people as possible get the opportunity to view this memorabilia, which gives a brilliant account of the work done by so many to nurture our towns' twinning."

Cathaoirleach of Tuam Municipal District Council said the exhibition was a credit to John Coyle and all

involved in the Twinning Committee who had ensured the relationship had thrived down through the years.

"This is a wonderful collection of archive and historic material relating to the twinning of Tuam and Straubing and will be of huge value to the community both now and in the years to come," he said.

THE original Twinning Charter marking the official twinning Straubing and Tuam in 1991.

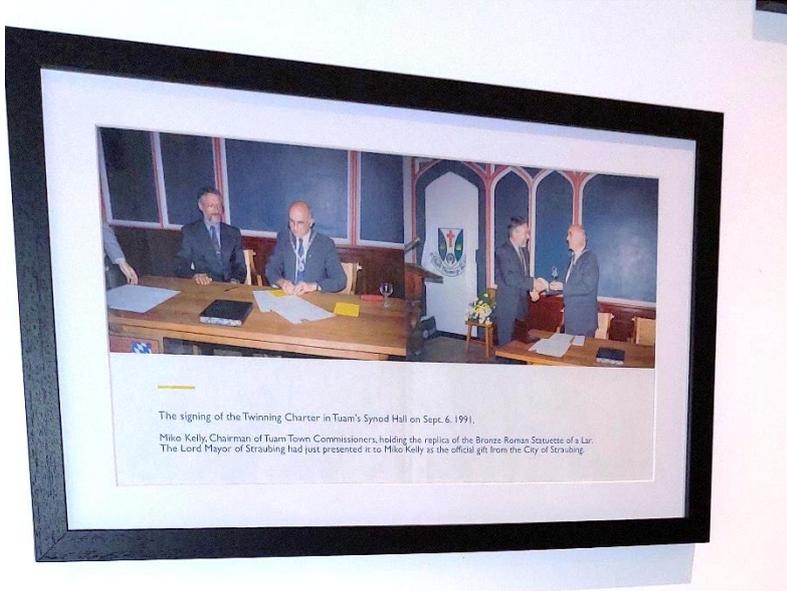


LORD Mayor of Straubing Reinhold Perlak with the late Miko Kelly, Chairman of Tuam Town Commissioners, at the signing of the Twinning Charter in the Synod Hall, September 1991. PHOTOS: RAY RYAN



JOHN Coyle, Senior Engineer with Galway County Council and curator of the exhibition, with Emily Reynolds, Chair of Tuam Straubing Twinning Committee, and Cathaoirleach of Tuam MDC Cllr Donagh Killillea.





The signing of the Twinning Charter in Tuam's Synod Hall on Sept. 6, 1991.
Miko Kelly, Chairman of Tuam Town Commissioners, holding the replica of the Bronze Roman Sarcophagus of a Lar.
The Lord Mayor of Straubing had just presented it to Miko Kelly as the official gift from the City of Straubing.





HEADFORD NEWS

A new heritage trail experience was launched in Headford on 11th November as part of a lacemaker's weekend. The Headford Lace Trail will take visitors on a journey around some of the town's historic lacemaking landmarks. It will allow visitors to set off to discover a time when lacemaking wasn't a hobby, but a matter of survival for an entire community. Funded by the Galway County Arts Office as part of Culture Night which was brought to you by the Arts Council in partnership with Galway



County Council. Headford Lace Project is a voluntary community initiative established to research, revive, and reimagine the lacemaking heritage of Headford, County Galway, a town in the west of Ireland whose lace industry originated c.1766.

CURRENT WORKS STATUS

RI funding

The 2023 Restoration Improvement programme is 96% complete to date with 100% of the Galway County Council Direct Labour schemes completed. Remaining overlay projects to complete by Harringtons are:

- R332 Barnadearg
- R332 Frank Stockwell Road
- R923 Bishop Street
- L6154 Feadh



OVERLAY WORKS R332 BARNADEARG



OVERLAY WORKS R332 FRANK STOCKWELL ROAD



ROAD RECYCLING ON THE L6487 TOOMOUR AND L6519 WOODQUAY



Hedge cutting

- National and Regional roads have commenced by contractors
- Local road hedgecutting has commenced by local area staff.

HEDGE CUTTING ON THE R332 KILBANNON ROAD IN TUAM



LOW-COST SAFETY SCHEMES

New upgraded signage has been installed at the bend at Curragh West.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Works commenced in Culleen (Headford) for a community involvement scheme, removing corner and improving sightlines.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Works started for the Palace Grounds project under the Community Recognition Fund, which received €68,000 funding, of which €38,800 was drawn down by mid-October 2023, and the remaining €29,200 by mid-October 2024.

- Upgrading and widening Walkways, boundary fencing with native hedging was completed in Year 1
- Sensory Garden area to be completed in Year 2, and other elements such as biodiversity signage and Fit Sticks Signage



FENCING UPGRADE FOR THE PALACE
GROUNDS



UPGRADING AND WIDENING WALKWAYS IN PALACE GROUNDS

MAINTENANCE WORKS



DRAINAGE WORKS AND AN OUTSIDE KERBED/DINING AREA AT CAMPBELL'S TAVERN, HEADFORD



UPGRADE OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LIGHTS ON BISHOP STREET TUAM

NATIONAL ROAD WORKS

N67 OVERLAY WORKS ON THE DUAL CARRIAGEWAY IN ORANMORE.

This section of carriageway was funded by the TII to improve the surface texture. It involved planning out 7500sqm of existing wearing course and replacing it with a new SMA surface, linemarking and studs. Works were carried for Galway County Council by John Madden and Sons.





Before works



During Works

N67 ORANMORE DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WIRE ROPE CRASH BARRIER REPAIRS

Damaged barrier



Repaired barrier



N83 STUD FITTING REPLACEMENTS.

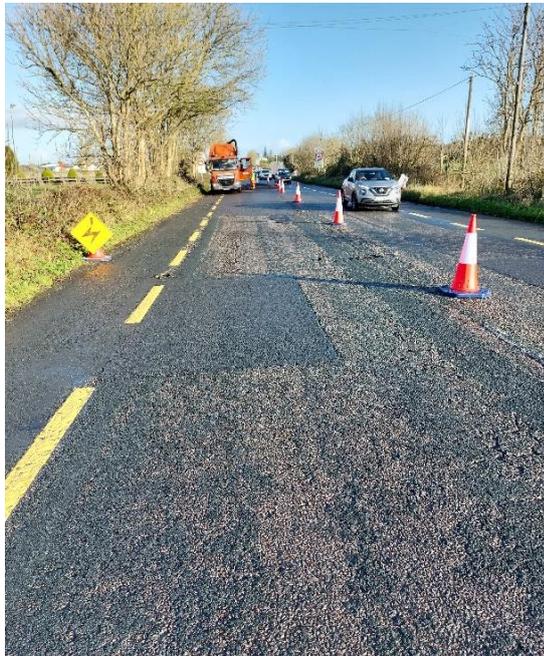


N83 KNOCKDOE EMERGENCY PAVEMENT OVERLAY.

The TII funded Galway County Council to carry out a full overlay on a 300m section of carriageway on the N83 between Tuam and Claregalway. This is a busy NS route with approx 10000 AADT. A number of defects had been recorded on this section and patch repairs have been carried out previously. The existing surfacing was circa 10-15 years old. Some defects were previously repaired but are likely to deteriorate quickly again. These areas needed improvement to prolong the life of the pavement. Due to the porous nature of the pavement this material would deteriorate quite quickly under bad weather events. Roadstone Ltd carried out a full overlay on the N83 in early November.



Before overlay works



During works



Completion of works

Mise, le meas,

Mr. Liam Conneally

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

22nd November 2023