



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council
Monthly Management Report
October 2022

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Galway County Council has liaised with a significant number of commercial property owners who have expressed an interest in providing accommodation to the Department on 6-month contracts. The Council acts as an intermediary; reviewing the property, advising the owner on the process etc. We don't have any role in contracts, payments or issues re

The LGMA is coordinating on behalf of all Councils the response to further pledges of accommodation.

The interagency response continues to meet with HSE, TUSLA, Social Protection, Local Development Companies and GRETB putting services into the centres in various locations.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENTS:

The purpose of the SSHA is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the country whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. Where a household is eligible and demonstrates a need (as per the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended) (hereafter the Social Housing Assessment Regulations)), they are deemed to qualify for support. They are entered on the record of qualified households for social housing support (or the waiting list) for that local authority. The SSHA is an important exercise that can tell us more about the profile of applicants for social housing. This can inform policy and allow local authorities to plan for the right types of housing support. The SSHA requires local authorities to review their waiting list to ensure applicants still want and qualify for support, and to ensure the detail of the applicants' household is up to date and accurate. The summary data provided by local authorities is a summary of all qualified households at a specific date. The 2022 SSHA exercise is the seventh SSHA to be carried out under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. It will be a count of the total number of households qualified on 1st November 2022.

On the 6th September the list of total applications from iHouse that are eligible for an assessment was 3,461. All HAP applicants (1,447) were removed along with RAS, RAS AHB, transfers & new applicants that had been assessed within the previous 12 months - 816. The remainder 1203 were sent letters, the SSHA form & the HDM form 1.

The stats related to Galway County Council as of week of 17th Oct 2022:

Row Labels	Count of Status
RECEIVED	180
RETURN FOR FI	197
RETURNED BY AN POST	84
CITY/ RAS /HAP	13
NO REPLY	491
READY FOR ASSESSMENT	71
COMPLETE	154
Closed Applicant	11
Deceased Applicant	2
Grand Total	1203

HAP

The Ombudsman has decided to commence an investigation into the effective administration by Councils (including the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive) of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). HAP is a form of social housing support provided by all Councils. Under HAP, Councils make a monthly payment to a landlord, subject to terms and conditions including rent limits, on a HAP tenant's behalf. The HAP tenant pays a weekly contribution towards the rent to the Council based on the household income. Payments are administered through the HAP Shared Services Centre.

It is intended that the investigation will examine the entire administrative processes prospective HAP tenants and landlords must navigate when applying for HAP. It will also investigate the administration of HAP tenancies, including transfer pathways to other forms of social housing support. The investigation will look both at ways to improve the operation of the current scheme and highlight good practice in this area.

6 Local Authorities have been picked by the Ombudsman for in-depth study and Galway County Council is one of the 6 with site visits, meetings and review of Galway CoCo processes being undertaken as of the end of this month.

LTACC – TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PLAN REVIEW

The Final Mid-Term Review of Galway County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 has been completed and approved by the LTACC and submitted to the Department. The attached map was included in the County Development Plan and formed part of the review.

Further development of HSDG and related subgroups, ID subgroup - progressing well. New Housing Project being set up.

Galway County Council along with the City counterparts are hosted the annual Local Authority Social Work conference 2022 in October with training and support inputs.

Social Work cases:

2022: October 2022

Open cases (Oct 2022)	New Referrals	Total
121	22	<u>143</u>

MAINTENANCE

Over 1500 Maintenance requests have been lodged so far this year. A recent survey undertaken as part of a customer service review of maintenance requests (by LGMA of all councils) highlighted:

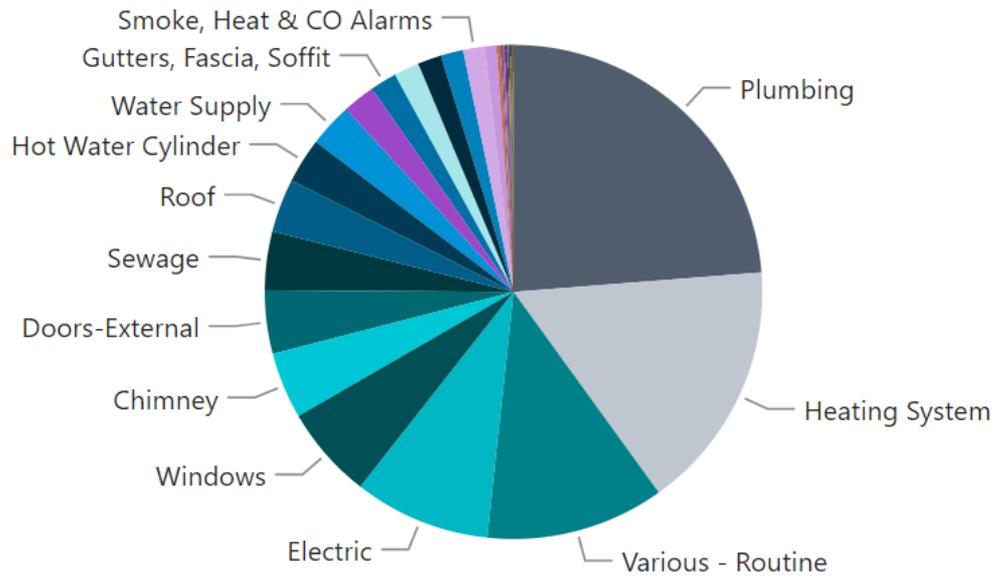
2/3rd of all requests in Galway County Council have been made via the online portal with the rest coming via phone calls (to housing liaison officers, Councillors etc)

Monday and Tuesday are the busiest days for making requests.

No in person requests were lodged at the public counter.

These have been categorised and reflect:

REPAIR CATEGORY



CAPITAL DELIVERY PROGRAMME



Fana Bhui Units, Tuam

Scheme	Project Name	Project Status	Projected Completion	Total Units Expected
CAS Const	Letterfrack		Complete	11
Ship Turnkey	Tubber Road		Complete	5
CAS Const	Ballylee House Gort		Complete	6
AHB CALF Turnkey	Gort na Fuinse, Headford(Phase 1)	On-site	Tenants being nominated	4
Turnkey	Weir Road Tuam	Build Completed	Tenants being nominated – disability specific.	5
CALF Part V	Gort na Fuinse, Headford(Phase 1)	On-site	Tenants being nominated	7
LA Part V	Coill Ard /Bun na Coille Mt Rd Moycullen	On-site	01/10/2022	5
LA Part V	An Saileachán, Athenry(The Willows), Athenry)	On-site	30/11/2022	3
LA Part V	Garrai Glas Park (7 units) and Garrai Glas Drive (1 unit), Ballydavid, Athenry	On-site	15/10/2022	5
LA Part V	Coill Clocha , Oranmore	On-site	30/11/2022	7
LA Part V	Gairdin Cul ,Loughrea	On-site	30/10/2022	1
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Garraí Ghuaire, Cartron, Kinvara	On-site	Finishing snags etc	10
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Gort na gCloch Hospital Road, Clifden	On-site	15/12/2022	8
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Gort na gCloch Hospital Road, Clifden	On-site	Finishing snags etc	18
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Fana Bhuí, Tuam (phase 1)	On-site	Tenants being nominated	16
SHIP CONSTRUCTION	Fana Bhuí, Tuam (phase 2)	On-site	Tenants being nominated	16
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Cullairbaun Athenry (phase 2 of 4) Contract 1	Funding Turnkey	Approved 30/11/2022	13
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Cullairbaun Athenry (phase 1 of 4) Contract 1	Funding Turnkey	Approved 15/10/2022	14
SHIP CONSTRUCTION TURNKEY	Garrai Glas Athenry	Funding Turnkey	Approved 15/10/2022	7
			TOTAL	161

	Late 2022 completion but not ready for allocation			
pV/Turnkey and CALF	Dunlo, Ballinasloe	On-site	Full site delivery 2023	16
	Cullairbaun (pv) Calf/Turnkeys being negotiated		TOTAL	12 25
Affordable Units	Claregalway	Design stage – mixed tenure		44
	Cosmona, Loughrea	Design Stage – mixed tenure		35
	Turnkey Affordable Units being considered after advert:	Moycullen, Headford, Oranmore, Ballinasloe		tbc

ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ERCD)

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- The annual **SICAP** engagement meeting with Pobal and the LCDC Sub-Committee on Social Inclusion/Equality took place on 6th October with an analysis of social inclusion data from the local programme versus national data. This analysis will feed into the planning process for 2023 which will commence with the agreement of KPI's and the emerging needs group.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) have advised that funding announcements under the Community Centre Investment Fund are imminent and a round of the **Community Enhancement Programme** will be announced shortly.
- **Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund** is supporting several initiatives for Mental Health throughout October such as Forest Bathing Taster Sessions in Portumna, a Galway Connect Café for Agencies working in Mental Health, 5 Ways to Wellbeing and Mental Health Talks in libraries, 2 Woodlands for Health Walks, Community Mental Health Information nights in Connemara and a Galway County Council Staff Walk and Talk in Centrepoint. Other activities in October include 2 online and 2 face to face Healthy Food Made Easy Courses, Activator Pole Group in Lawrencetown, and Good 2 Go Training for Older Adults in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership
- **Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund** will run from 2023-2025 and a briefing for staff was held in Dublin on 5th October. Local planning will now commence based on an analysis of National Health Indicators by the LCDC Sub-Committee for Health & Wellbeing, with a draft application to be approved by the LCDC and submitted to Pobal and the Department of Health by 7th December 2022.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development held a Briefing on the **Empowering Communities Programme** on 6th October for Chief Officers and Local Development Companies. As advised previously this is a pilot programme targeting 14 small areas with highest socio-economic deprivation (as measured by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index) and the small area selected for County Galway is Ballinasloe Urban (comprising St. Grellan's Terrace & St. Theresa's Park) which has a deprivation rating of -30.93 making it one of the highest deprivation areas in the country.

The allocation for County Galway is €140,000 and Galway Rural Development have commenced the recruitment of staff to work exclusively in the designated area. The

programme will be monitored through reporting to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

- Socio-economic analysis and information gathering is progressing, and a further meeting took place with NUI Galway School of Business and Economics on 13th October to collate statistical data and review the first LECP, which will all feed into the development of a Socio-Economic Statement for the next LECP.
- A meeting is also due to take place with the Planet Youth Coordinator in October to ensure that data gathered through this preventative programme is incorporated into the LECP analysis.
- Work is also ongoing on gathering information for an Equality and Human Rights Statement to form the basis of the new LECP.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- A meeting of the **Traveller Interagency Group** took place on Wednesday 11th October to discuss progress on the Good Practice Framework adopted by Member Organisations and progress further training and analysis of the Public Sector Duty with specific relevance to Travellers.
- Work is taking place with the HSE and other stakeholders to collaborate on developing a second **Directory of Services and Activities** aimed at Older People in the County.
- A meeting of the **Older People's Council** for County Galway will take place on 24th October – the full membership of this group is still being finalised and the Age Friendly Programme Manager is attending national training in October to further develop the OPC.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

- The National Age Friendly Awards will be held in Dromoland Castle on 27th October - Claregalway & District Day Care Centre has been shortlisted for an award for the Gort na Créige Older People's Housing Scheme.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN attended the Ballinasloe MD Meeting on 12th October to promote engagement and build awareness of the role of the PPN
- The PPN has signed up to the LOCAL HUB App to promote community activities at local level – the app is designed to help users stay informed about what’s happening in their local area

BUILDING CAPACITY:

- On 4th October, the PPN attending the launch of a new Galway City project called “Gold Star Disability Initiative”. This initiative aims to raise disability awareness among businesses and improve accessibility for People with Disabilities by inviting businesses to sign up, complete a voluntary self-appraisal tool, and access training and audits to improve their services for people with disabilities. Galway County PPN plan to meet the Project Officer to consider a similar project in the County.
- On 6th October, the PPN hosted training for community groups on “Finding and Keeping Volunteers” in partnership with Volunteer Galway – this was a priority area emerging from a Training Needs Analysis conducted with member groups.
- On 8th October, the PPN assisted in organising a network meeting targeted at integrating migrant women in Clarinbridge in collaboration with other community stakeholders. The “Who’s She Galway Project” brought together migrant and non-migrant women, settled and non-settled women, for a range of presentations and classes.
- On 12th October, the PPN’s Green Recovery Working Group submitted an application for funding to SEAI to conduct an Energy Master plan for County Galway, to help us understand the energy demand and supply in communities. It is hoped that this will evolve to form the foundation for other applications and projects over time.
- The PPN National Conference is taking place on 21st and 22nd October and representatives from the local authority, PPN Workers, and PPN Secretariat will attend this networking and information event.
- On 24th and 26th October, the PPN is collaborating with Galway City Community Network and AMACH! to deliver training for PPN Member Groups and Service Providers to make communities LGBTQI+ friendly.

PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- On 4th October, the PPN collaborated with the SHE Project (See Her Elected) and local Elected Members for an event entitled “Galway Women in Politics – What you need to know”. This popular event was targeted at women interested in local politics and provided participants with important insights into the local political process.
- On 27th October, Galway PPN will host a Housing Linkage Group Meeting where PPN Representatives will inform PPN Members of policy developments at local level

ARTS OFFICE

LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE SCHEME ROUND 4 /CEOL AN FHÓMHAIR - OCTOBER 2022

Galway County Council Arts Office presented Ceol an Fhómhair at the Palace Grounds in Tuam on Saturday 1st Oct as part of the ‘Local Live Performance Programming Scheme’.

A showcase of young Bands and musicians took place in the Palace Grounds in Tuam on the 1st Oct 2022 and headlined Tracey Bruen. Young bands and singer/songwriters have been mentored through the LiveFeed programme in Galway City & County.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT
1
OCT

#LocalLive

GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICE PRESENTS:
CEOL AN FHÓMHAIR TUAM
Location: The Palace Grounds, Tuam

HEADLINERS:
**TRACY BRUEN &
ANNA MULLARKEY**

WITH PERFORMANCES FROM:
THE RESTRICTED, THE ROSECAPS,
SARAH BROOKFIELD & JAYDEN MURPHY

FREE

CEOL AN FHÓMHAIR

Comhairle Chontae na Galímhí
Galway County Council

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cúlúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltachta, Sport and Media

This event is supported by Galway County Council Arts Office and funded through the
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Scheme



Ceol an Fhómhair Tuam

Photo credit. Emilja Jefremova

Galway County Council Arts Office presented Ceol an Fhómhair at Ballinasloe Fair and Festival as part of the 'Local Live Performance Programming Scheme' on **Sunday 2nd of October**. This programme of music events was a free, family-friendly held all day Sunday in Ballinasloe Town Centre at the festival's Sound Stage. The official opening of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival was headlined by one of Ireland's top entertainers, Mike Denver and also featured performances from Rachel & Band and 4 Men & A Bass.



Arts Council Application: The Galway County Council Arts Partnership Grant funding 2023 was completed by the Arts Office in October. This application set out the anticipated funding for our Arts Programme 2023. With a projected programme budget of €185,200 across 4 strategic priorities we have requested a €98,700 contribution from the Arts Council – an 18.5% increase on 2022 funding. Decision expected mid-December 2022.

BookIt Festival 2023 – annual children's book festival will take place across libraries and schools in the county in collaboration with the library service and funded by the Arts Office Programme.



BookIt Festival/ Oranmore Library with Helen Hancock

Culture Up – Galway Visit: Galway County Council Arts Office is hosting a Culture Up visit in Galway from 24 – 27 October 2022. 31 people associated with the partner organisations will participate in the programme. Culture up is a capacity building project for cultural institutions and Local Authorities in non-urban and peripheral areas. The project sets out to share and exchange knowledge and practices of cultural development across the public, private and civil sector in five European non-urban and peripheral areas. The five partners have been associated with successful and unsuccessful bids for European Capitals of Culture (ECOC).

Culture Up partners are from Denmark, Finland, Ireland, The Netherlands and Serbia. A full programme of working sessions has been created by the Arts Office, showcasing and supporting existing and potential partnerships between our European Partners and Galway County. Visits to Cultural Partners including Inis Oirr/Aras Eanna will take place over five days.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Bursaries: Three of the 8 bursary projects are now complete (Bloomsday in Skehana, Harness Your Hopes Podcast and Western Trav Visual Art Workshops). 1 project, Wild by Aoife Carry, has been postponed to Jan/Feb 2023. The remaining projects be delivered - 2 in October, 1 in November and the 2 in January and February of 2023.

Culture Team Projects: 2 of the 7 Culture Team projects are complete (the re-print of An Áit Seo and Galway Wandering Kite Festival on Omey Strand.) 1 project, Ballinasloe Library ComicCon has been postponed for 2022 but will happen in 2023 instead. The remaining 4 projects will be complete by the end of October.

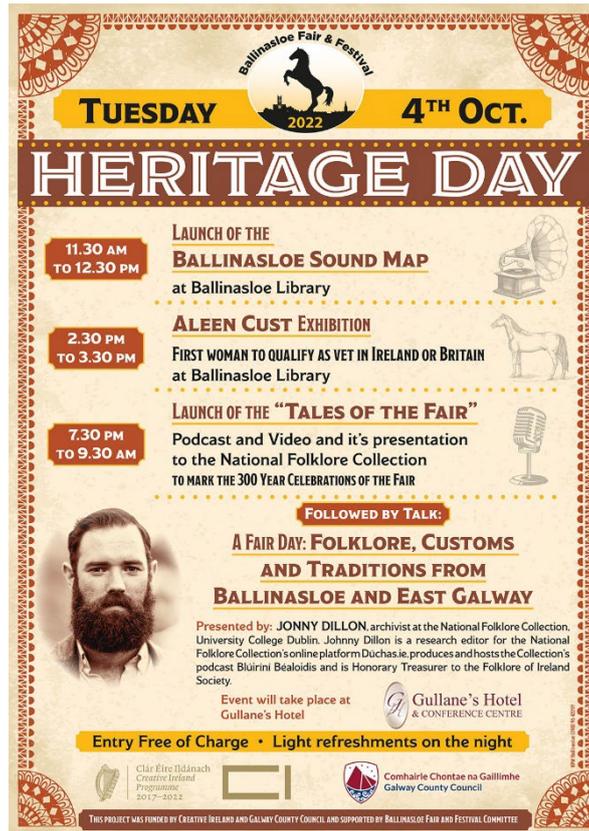


Wandering Kite Festival, Omey Strand

c. Aengus McMahon

Creativity in Older Age: There are 2 projects in this strand – The Nursing home project which collects stories, songs, folklore and social history accounts with nursing homes in County Galway and Creative Carers is a mixed Arts & Crafts programme that aims to enhance positivity and wellbeing for Connemara carers. Both are in progress.

Other Projects: Creative Ireland Galway County contributed to the celebrations of 300 years of Ballinasloe Horse Fair, by supporting the editing of previously captured footage and interviews to create a video documentary and a series of podcasts about the Ballinasloe Horse fair and in particular about Ireland's first female vet Aleen Cust.



TOURISM

FÁILTE IRELAND REGIONAL TOURISM PLANS

Fáilte Ireland have published the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands *Draft Regional Tourism Development Strategies* (RTDSs), as part of the public consultation stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. The Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Draft RTDSs are now on public display for a period of four weeks during which Fáilte Ireland are inviting comments on the draft documents.

Please see link to the documents below:

<https://www.failteireland.ie/regionalstrategies.aspx>

COUNTY GALWAY TOURISM STRATEGY:

The Draft County Tourism Strategy is following the regional tourism plans in phasing and has commenced its final project stage incorporating stakeholder and agency feedback on draft documents. Following internal review; the Co Galway Tourism Strategy is due to be published as part of the public consultation stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

DESTINATION LOUGH DERG

Galway County Council hosted the autumn Lough Derg meeting in Portumna Castle OPW site. This meeting took place on 6th October. Destination Lough Derg Group includes partners from Tipperary County Council, Clare County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Coillte and tourism industry representation. This meeting was focused on Portumna and Galway based projects. Ruth Mulhern and Ronan Conway delivered presentations in relation to Tourism and Regeneration programmes and investment for the region.



CONAMARA NETWORKING EVENT:



Members of the Conamara tourism industry took part in a tourism networking event in the Connemara Coast Hotel on Tuesday 18th October. The event was organised by C osta Gaelach Conamara  rainn and supported by key partners, Galway County Council, F ilte Ireland and  dar s na Gaeltachta. It provided a networking session for tourism businesses to encourage cross selling within the area.

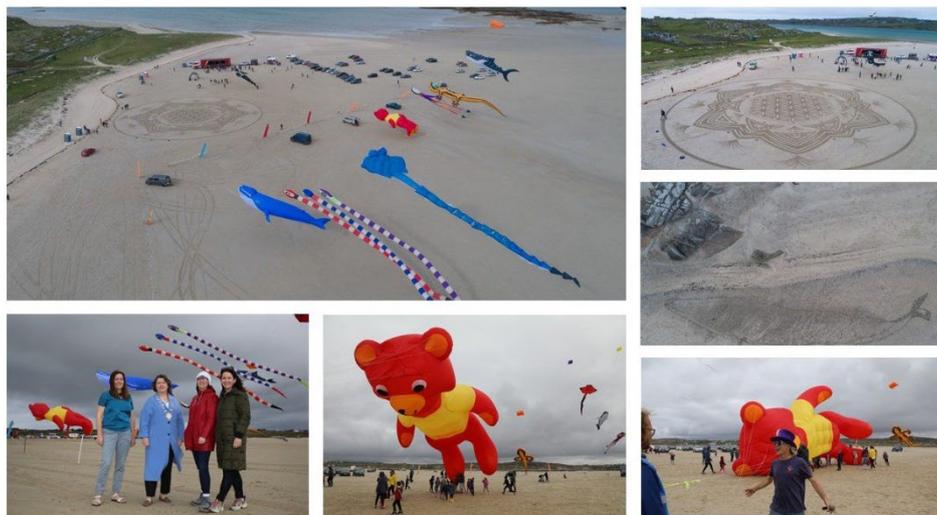
Galway County Council were delighted to support and attend this event and to continue to work with the other key partners to realise our shared vision for tourism development in the region.

MARKETING:

DISCOVER GALWAY PLATFORMS:



Marketing of festivals and events that have been supported through CSS and Creative Ireland is ongoing with recent highlights including promotion of the 300th anniversary of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival and the The Galway Wandering Kite Festival on Omey Strand which was also a Tourism/ Community/ Creative Ireland project which was launched by Cllr Eileen Mannion.



IRELAND'S WEST AIRPORT KNOCK

Galway County Council are supplying a batch of tourism promotional material for distribution in Knock Airport in October.

EUROVELO 1 IRELAND WEBSITE CYCLE ROUTE.

The Tourism department has been working with Sport Ireland in developing the EuroVelo 1 Ireland website, cycle route.

This website is due to go live the end of October and will be available by link on Galway County Councils website.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS UPDATE

CSS grants continue to be drawdown with a further 20 festival and evens drawn down for the month of Sept/Oct.

Total funding allocated for 2022 Regional, Economic and Festival & events 87,250.00

RURAL SCHEMES



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



TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME (TVRS)

ERCD are working with Operations and Infrastructure in Final Monitoring and Draw-down Phase of the following projects funded by Town and Village Renewal.

- 2019 TV19GY01 €200,000.00
Oranmore -Ongoing Final Phase
- Pathways & links to Railway Station – Lead Galway County Council
- 2019 TV19GY04 €80,000.00 **An Cheathrú Rua** – Completed
- Lighting Pathways Links to Business Park and Village Enhancements – Lead Galway County Council and Comharchumann Mhic Dara
- 2019 TV19GY08 €100,000.00
Killimor – Ongoing Final Phase
- Footpath Upgrades Improved Access to Enterprise Centre – Lead Galway County Council
- 2019 TV19GY12 €100,000.00
Ballygluinin – Ongoing - Final Phase – Extension-Toilets, Heating, Web-site for Events, Visitors and baseline for Co-Work Spaces. – Lead Community Group – Ballygluinin Railway Restoration Group



The following projects under the 2020 Scheme are in final recoupment phase for October:

2020TV20GY03	€	100,000.00	Portumna (GCC Led and Match Funding – O&I and combined with Active Travel) Access from Town to Forest Park
2020TV20GY04	€	100,000.00	Belclare (GCC Led – Community and Council match funded) Pathways- Outdoor Seating

TUAM STREETSCAPE SCHEME



Promotion and assistance to potential applicants continued in early October. Applications from Town Centre Property Owners and Tenants for participation in the Scheme were closed on October 7th with 44 applications seeking €170k of funding. Applications came from 37 Occupied Commercial Properties and 7 Vacant/Unoccupied. The level of grant aid sought by applicants in Tuam is significantly in excess of this block allocation of €100k which has been advised previously to the Council, however we have sought the increased amount although this may not be forthcoming. The Department of Community and Rural Development sought a final report on the Scheme by October 14th and final approval is required further to the shortlisting and grant offers. Galway County Council provided a map and visual audit of the applications received and indicated a desire for further funding.

A workshop on implementing the scheme will be held in November to provide a co-ordinated approach to any painting works approved.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/communityenterpriseeconomicdevelopment/grantschemes/enhance/>

Sample Images of traditional shopfront from the National Archives and other sources have been on display along with information on the Measure , throughout September and October in the Tuam Municipal District Office as part of the promotion of the Measure.

Lead Contacts Éimear Dolan AO / M Kenny SSO

CLÁR SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME

Letters of Offer have issued to all 15 projects approved under the CLÁR 2022 programme, which have until mid 2023 to complete work. The total Co Galway grant offer allocation under CLÁR in 2022 was 612,863.07.

Final draw-down reports and site-inspections for the 2021 CLÁR allocations are nearing completion with extensions granted on October 10th by the DRCD to the end of November for two projects [Inis Mór and Woodford-Derrcrag].

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME – REMOTE WORKING

MARKETING SCHEME MEASURE TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGNS TO ATTRACT REMOTE WORKERS TO LOCATIONS ACROSS RURAL IRELAND.

Minister Humphreys announced funding support of €1.1 Million to 23 Local Authorities through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, to support Remote Working. Funding of €49,950 has been allocated to Galway County Council to support marketing campaigns to attract remote workers to locations in Galway County.

It is intended that Galway County Council will collaborate with its AEC partner counties to achieve cost efficiencies on any similar marketing actions (e.g. development of marketing collateral, creation of digital media) where appropriate. This will also extend to collaborating on coordinating county campaigns (in particular scheduling) so as to maximise each county's national impact.

Meeting took place with the Department of Rural & Community Development, Western Development Commission, Local Authorities, Broadband Officer, Atlantic Economic Corridor Officers, Grow Remote <https://growremote.ie/> on Friday 7th October, 2022 to ensure a consistent message by working together to maximise efficiencies. A further meeting will take place after Christmas.

A National Hub Summit will take place on 24th November, 2022 bringing together Hub Managers, representative bodies, State Agencies and Government Departments to map out the future of the National Hub Network.

CONNECTED HUBS VOUCHER SCHEME

Phase 2 of the Connected Hubs Voucher Scheme was launched by Minister Humphries and will run from 21st September to 31st December, 2022. Anybody wishing to register for their free vouchers can do so online at ConnectedHubs.ie or via the ConnectedHubs mobile app.

The Connected Hubs Voucher Scheme is administered via the connectedhubs.ie platform. Vouchers may be redeemed against a day of hot-desk use at participating hubs when booking online. Registered customers will automatically receive 3 vouchers each, credited to their online profile. Participating hubs may accept up to 50 vouchers each.

Phase Two will run from 21 September to 31 December 2022 and is aimed at any person registered via ConnectedHubs.ie.

Lead Contact Bernie Donnellan A/AO	
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JUST TRANSITION FUND (JTF)

Galway County Council have proposed three (see below) Just Transition Fund Training (JTF) and Mentoring Programme Locations. This designation which covers East Galway had internal meetings convened between personnel in Economic, Rural and Community Development, the GCC Regeneration Team and the Climate Change Coordinator for the Council while a separate meeting was held with the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).

The proposed locations are based on the objectives of JTF in the overall context of how communities have been impacted by changes in how we generate power as well as the move towards climate neutrality. While the request was for only two communities staff worked with the lead CARO and enabled three communities to be put forward based on key information relating to the objectives of JTF. Now the areas have been communicated to lead CARO they will identify the next steps in the initiative and the opportunities that may become available over time.

Just Transition Fund Locations for East Galway			
Primary Location	Supported villages in catchment (not exhaustive)	Rationale for Location choice	Other strengths
Ballinasloe and environs	Kilconnell, Aughrim, Ahascragh	Good basis with active BACD (group who have leverage funding through JTF for a town centre remote working hub) who have JTF experience. Potential to use the territorial scheme for additional funding. Also potential for tourism spin off projects with the preferred greenway Athlone to Galway route	Potential in the support villages to offset the loss of some assets/develop vacant sites
Portumna and environs	Woodford, Lawrencetown	Woodford Tidy Towns and Lawrencetown Community Development Group (CLG) two strong local groups. Portumna has significant tourism potential with the Council and wider stakeholders working together to make it a destination/hub	GCC have several initiatives ongoing in the location in the areas of tourism (lough derg, beara breifne way and hymany way) and regeneration

Glenamaddy and environs	Willamstown, Ballygar, Creggs	Significant interest in reducing dependence on fossil fuel energy sources as demonstrated by the numbers of Sustainable Energy Communities. Large concentration of protected peatlands in this part of the county	Glenamaddy has some good capacity while there are strong local active groups in Ballygar and Creggs
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Lead Contact for JTF - Kieran Coyne AO

GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

- July 9th was National Play Day and to celebrate Galway City Council teamed up with Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City Partnership, Music Generation and a number of local clubs to host an event for children in Westside pitches. The initiative targeted children from 8 to 12 years of age. As well as sports, arts and music GSP arranged for the delivery of over 80 play bags to Ukrainian and Homeless service users containing arts, music and activity elements. Funding of €3,000 was received towards the event from the Dept. of Equality.
- European Week of Sport took place between the 23rd to 30th September. GSP asked all clubs and community groups to register their activities during this week.
- Galway Sports Partnership are working with various parties to continue to support Ukrainian people to be involved in activities. Many National Governing Bodies of Sport and local clubs have opened their arms to those who have come to Ireland. In most cases this has the form of free membership.
- Connacht Table Tennis delivered two sessions to Ukrainian children in NUIG. Each child received a table tennis bat along with an adjustable net so they can play on any table. It was also the first outing of Galway City Council's new glow sports equipment which went down well with the children.
- €25,000 was allocated to Galway towards supporting clubs and groups to reopen their activities. In all eleven applications were received with the total amount allocated to 10 clubs was €12,327.54.
- Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) activities include; Ower Equine Time, Learn to Cycle for Children with Disabilities, Programmes in gym work and equestrian activity, Autism and fundamental skills and autism swim project, positive ageing week, boccia, horses connect program,
- Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) activities include; Summer paddle series in Loughrea, Established a walking group to promote activity, Race around Galway to enhance activity offering, Established a Park Run in Mountbellew,

Letterfrack Community Centre Womens Intro to Gym Programme, Open Water Swim Programmes with Swim Ireland and open water swim camp for children, and HER Outdoors Week

RURAL REGENERATION SCHEMES

ATHENRY:

The Regeneration Team have met with the DRCD and progressed discussion for the inclusion of Cross Street with the Market Square as part of the Category 2 works. Designs have been advanced and will be circulated and discussed with MD Engineers and Infrastructure and operations staff in the coming weeks.

LOUGHREA:

Following on from the request in an uplift in funding the Department have sought additional information to support this request. Work is currently taking place on compiling the case to support the increase in funding.

CLIFDEN:

The Public Realm Second Public Consultation submissions have now been distilled and been taken into consideration in the emerging preferred designs. The issue of car parking is being considered including how the loss of spaces can be addressed as part of the design as well as looking at alternative car parking. This is in the context of ensuring that any proposal that is being brought forward for Category 1 RRDF will need to be transformational in order to be successful. A ground investigation contractor will be carrying out exploratory works this week.

PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE:

O C & C Architects have been appointed as the design team following the procurement process and meetings are scheduled to consider initial design proposals. Negotiations are in progress with Town hall trustees regarding Snooker Hall site.

PORTUMNA PUBLIC REALM:

RPS Consultants have been appointed. Initial topographical surveys and non-intrusive services surveys completed. A Public Engagement strategy is being developed and this will be cognisant of the work being undertaken by other partners in Portumna.

GORT:

Public Realm and Town Centre First Masterplan Engagement of Consultants going through final stages of due diligence with appointment of Consultants imminent.

SHARED ISLAND FUNDING APPLICATION - AGRIFOOD INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLING GROWTH

The Shared Island chapter of the revised National Development Plan includes the commitment to *“fully support the work of cross-border local authority partnerships and pursue opportunities for collaborative investment and working, in implementing the Shared Island NDP investment priorities”*. In December 2021, Taoiseach Micheál Martin set out priorities for the Shared Island initiative in 2022. One was that the Government would make available *“Shared Island development funding for local authorities...to provide an impulse to initiate new joint investment projects that will link funding streams from North and South and better deliver regional development goals.”*

Galway County Council led the development of a Shared Island project is a collaboration with Leitrim County Councils, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The proposal is to develop Excellence Centres in Food Innovation and Agritech.

There are three key themes

1. Priming Capital Plans – learning from the experience of the partners and getting ready for investment in Agri Food and Agri Tech infrastructure to support the sectors
2. Climate Action – Cross border climate conference and pilot work around Ag Tech
3. The establishment of the first cross-border Food + Agritech Innovation Network

Under each theme there are a number of actions which will be delivered in partnership with the three Council and in conjunction with the following with the following

- BIA Innovator Campus CLG, Galway
- The Food Hub Drumshanbo
- Southern Regional College, NI

The project will run over 12 months with €250k from Shared Islands and €5k from each of the Councils

The project aims to enhance the cooperation and learning between the North/South and it is anticipated that the Council will be in a position to access the capital funding that will be made available through the programme.

At the event which was attended by the Chief Executive, the Cathaoirleach, Director of Services and representatives from the partners, the Taoiseach made special reference to the importance of the project which has since been highlighted on social media by Merrion Street at <https://twitter.com/merrionstreet/status/1583050381751627777>



← Tweet



MerrionStreet.ie
@merrionstreet

...

Under the [#SharedIsland](#) Local Authority Development Funding Scheme, AgriFood Infrastructure Enabling Growth sees [@GalwayCoCo](#) working with [@abcb_council](#) to develop the first all-island investment model for new, climate-smart food, food tech and agritech infrastructure investments.



INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

N6 GALWAY CITY RING ROAD

On Friday October 14th last, the Council was disappointed to learn from An Bord Pleanála that they will not be opposing, on a very limited ground, the judicial review proceedings taken by the Friends of the Irish Environment challenging the Board's decision to approve the N6 GCRR. The Council understands that the matter will be mentioned before the Courts in a few weeks' time and in that context, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

OUR RURAL FUTURE: €787,000 FOR CAPITAL WORKS ON THE ARAN ISLANDS

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, announced funding of €787,500 for a series of capital works on the Aran Islands. The funding will be used to resurface a number of road projects on Inis Mór and Inis Oírr.

Up to 90% of the capital cost will be met by the Department of Rural and Community Development while Galway County Council will provide the balance of funding and manage the projects.

The projects to be funded by this allocation are set out below.

Project	County	Grant
Inis Mór - Eoghanacht road resurfacing	Co. Galway	€315,000
Inis Mór - Bóthar Ó Thuaidh resurfacing	Co. Galway	€297,000
Inis Oírr - Resurfacing of L-5250	Co. Galway	€175,500

It is unlikely that these works could be completed by the end of 2022 due to practical logistical considerations associated with transporting machinery to the islands, particularly with poorer weather conditions in winter months. The sanction of these grants now will enable the local authority to carry out preparatory works such as procurement in order to carry out these works as early as possible in 2023.

ROADS PROGRAMME 2022 - UPDATE

Laid down in GCC's 'Roads Programme 2022' published in Feb 2022 total budget €51M.

Grant Funding for Regional and Local Roads comes under many headings:

- Road Overlays, Structural Repairs, Surface Dressing, Surfacing of Tertiary Roads, Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Grant Bridge Rehabilitation, Low Cost Safety Schemes, CIS, Drainage, Former National Roads, Climate Change Adaptation, Specific Improvement Grants (eg , Athenry Ring Road, Kilbannon), Winter Maintenance, Management of Invasive Species.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of additional works carried out at both Municipal District level and in the Roads and Transportation Unit in Co Hall.

Active Travel schemes, applications for schemes (Active Travel/ Clár, T&V, CIS, LIS), prep. works for Roads Prog, hedgecutting , pothole repair, signage, management of CES schemes, queries from public and public reps, communication with Tidy Towns, local community groups and businesses, parking and byelaws, land disposal, mapping, taking in charge of roads and estates, taking in charge queries, traffic management, preparation for severe weather and assoc. repairs, management and updating of the MapRoad system.

Progress to date – 20th October 2022

Works are at similar stages across all Municipal Districts

- Surface Dressing (Contract + Direct Labour) 100% complete
- Bituminous Overlays 95% complete
- Road Recycling (Cold In situ stabilised and non stabilised recycling) 90% complete
- LIS schemes (Cl. 804, Contract + Direct Labour) 60% complete (less weather dependent)
- CIS schemes 60% complete (not weather dependent)
- Low-Cost Safety Schemes 60% complete (not weather dependent)
-

EXAMPLE OF SOME WORKS COMPLETED ACROSS THE COUNTY IN 2022



Works Completed - Footpaths and Pedestrian Crossing Ballinasloe



Works Completed

Pedestrian Bridge for Clarin College in Athenry



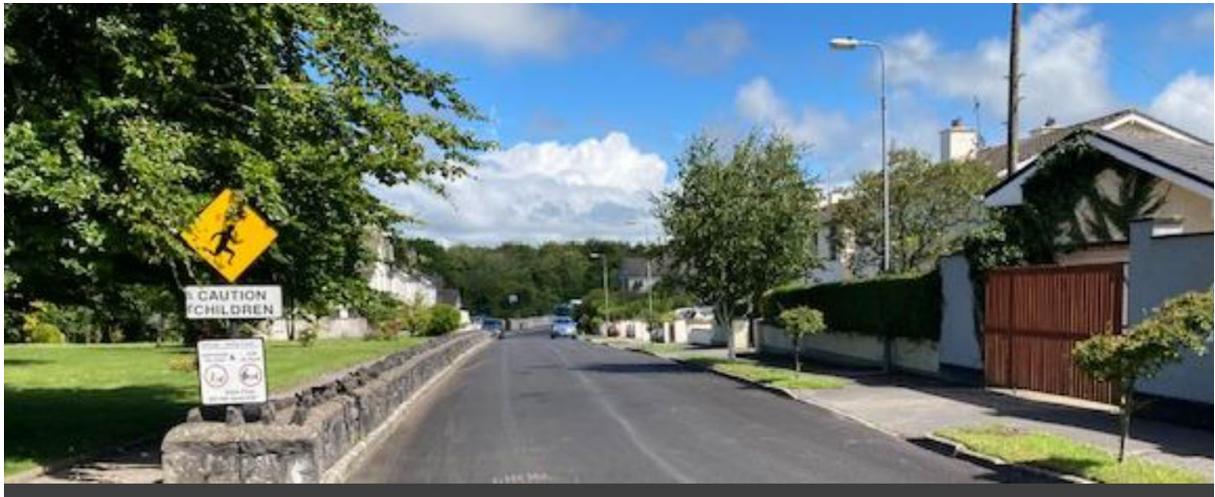
Works Completed

Surface Dressing in Conamara



Works Completed

Surfacing at Athenry



Works Completed

New Estate, Clarinbridge – Blacktop overlay



Active Travel

New Footpath in Clarinbridge



Works Completed

CIS scheme in Loughrea

Works Completed

Community
Involvement Scheme
(CIS) in Tuam
(Improving sightlines
and visibility)



Works Completed

Surface Dressing in Ballinasloe



Works Completed

Macadam overlay in Tuam

And of course, there are still ongoing external challenges which the Council has no control over which are impacting negatively on its ability to follow through on its commitments

Materials and Labour Inflation

- Oil products diesel, bitumen, plastics (pipes)
- Limited no. of contractors and all busy
- Design Consultants extremely busy

Construction costs surge again in April as inflation continues to pump up wholesale prices

Structural steel and fabricated metal prices were up 42% and 38.5% respectively over 12 months.

May 20th 2022, 2:52 PM 16,563 Views 18 Comments Share 22 Tweet Email 2

THE PRICE OF building and construction materials has surged by over 18% on average in the 12 months to April, according to new figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

But wholesale electricity prices fell by over 25% last month as global natural gas prices stabilised after the initial spike in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February. However, electricity prices remain 155% higher than in April 2021, according to the figures.



File photo

Image: Shutterstock/Dirk Hudson

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'Hyperinflation' of building materials will continue, CIF says

Jack Quann 11:00 7 JUN 2022

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Hyperinflation is the only way to describe the cost of building materials at the moment.

That's according to Tom Parlon, director-general of the Construction Industry Federation (CIF).

He was speaking as the Banking and Payments Federation says the surging cost of materials is going to mean house prices stay at Celtic Tiger levels.

Advertisement

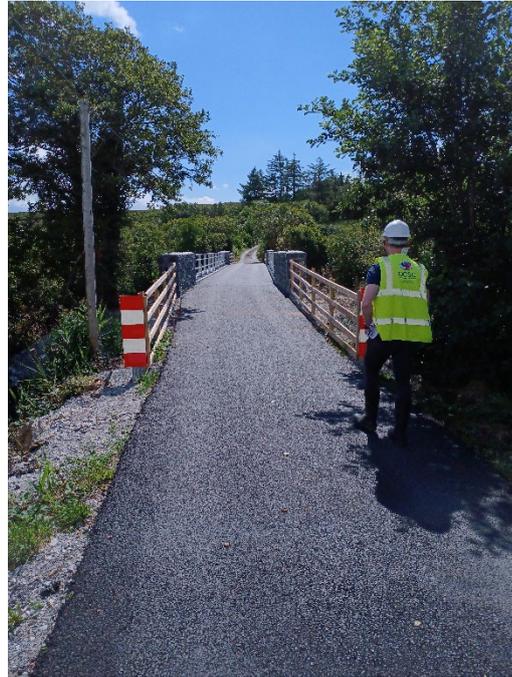
hifi tower Hifi Tower Online Shop

BRIDGES PROGRAMME 2022

- 36 Projects on the 2022 Bridge Programme – total budget of €1,025,000
- 12 bridges on the Rehabilitation Programme and 24 on Repair Programme
- 25 of 36 projects to be completed by end of 2022



Derryadda East, Recess, 1st June 2022



Completed 22nd July 2022



Athenry Footbridge (Joyce's), 12th July 2022

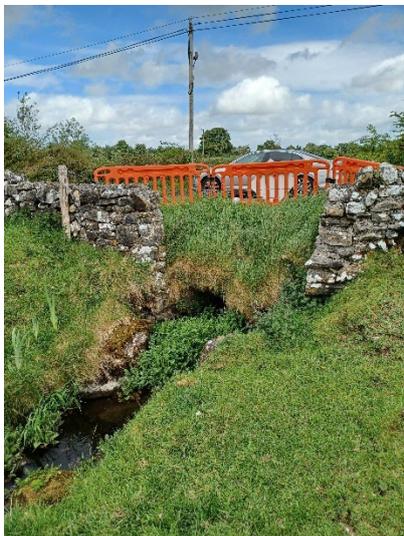
Athenry Footbridge, all works completed 21st September 2022



Dereen Footbridge, Gort, 26th Jan 2022



Completed 25th July 2022



Kilreekil 18th May 2022



Completed works 7th Oct 2022

N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNAD REALIGNMENT SCHEME

The Council has received confirmation from An Bord Pleanála of the approval, with conditions, of the much needed N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment Scheme.

The Council made an application to ABP under Section 177(AE) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended to construct the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunnad Realignment Scheme.

The proposed development runs for 3km, from the outskirts at the northern end of Milltown village and finishes in the townland of Gortnagunnad which ties in with a recently completed road realignment scheme of the N17 Carrownurlaur to Ballindine. We are now in the 60 day period where it is open to a member of the public to lodge a judicial review with the courts against the decision of ABP. The Council used this as a pilot scheme to deliver exclusively with in-house resources and did not procure the services of a consultant as lead designer (we did outsource ecology but managed it with GCC staff).

You will recall that in April ABP informed the Council that it could confirm the CPO for the scheme. That was done earlier this year. After the 60 day period has elapsed, in the hope that no JR transpires, the Council will begin the process of completing the detailed design and progress the scheme to construction as expeditiously as possible.



Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Decision to Issue a Direction to Galway County Council on the Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

On the 28th September 2022, the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke TD, further to a recommendation from the Office of the Planning Regulator, issued the Direction, as attached to the Notice of Intention to Issue a Direction dated 16th June 2022, without material amendment to the draft Direction.

The draft Direction contained four parts:

- Part 2(a) reinstate zoning objectives to that of the draft Plan for fourteen (14) individual material amendments;
- Part 2(b) delete the business and enterprise zoning on lands south of Headford on the eastern side of the N84 road to Galway;
- Part 2(c) delete policy objective WW9 and reference to the minimum 100 metre separation distance for all new wastewater treatment plants in An Cheathrú Rua;
- Part 2(d) delete the amended and additional provisions inserted under section 7.5.10, policy objective WW1 and policy objective WW2 (sludge management wastewater infrastructure).

The Development Plan has not been made in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Office and the Development Plan as made fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Also, the Development Plan as made is not in compliance with the provisions of the Act including s. 10(2A)(d)(ii) and s. 28(1A)(b) and is inconsistent with the National Planning Framework objective of compact growth as set out in NPO 3c, is inconsistent with NPO 56 to promote circular economy principles to maximise waste as a resource and is inconsistent with the provisions of NPO 63 to ensure that sustainable water services infrastructure is in place to meet demands of continuing population growth and the developing economy.

Furthermore, the Plan as made is inconsistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region specifically RPO 3.2 on compact growth, RPO 8.17 to promote circular economy principles to maximise waste as a resource and is inconsistent with the provisions of RPO 8.12 to ensure that sustainable water services

infrastructure is in place to meet demands of continuing population growth and the developing economy.

The Plan is also inconsistent with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act, specifically:

- the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007) and the Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2022);
- the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009);
- the Spatial Planning and National Roads, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).

MAPPING OF LANDS IN SCOPE FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX

Housing Policy Objective 15.2 of *Housing for All* outlined proposals for a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (“RZLT”) was introduced by section 80 of Finance Act 2021 and is contained in Part 22A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997). It is an annual tax which is calculated at 3% of the market value of land within its scope. Generally, the tax applies to land that, on or after 1 January 2022, is zoned as being suitable for residential development and is serviced.

The aim of the tax is to bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps to be prepared and published by each local authority for their respective functional area. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands identified to be within the scope of the tax, and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with the planning authority.

There are a number of exclusions from the scope of the tax which include:

- Existing residential property and the garden and yards usually enjoyed with it;
- Land which is zoned for residential use, but is used by a business to provide services to residents of adjacent residential areas, such as a corner shop;
- Land that is zoned for a mixture of residential and other uses, where it is reasonable to consider the land is integral to the operation of a business carried out on or beside it;
- Land used for certain infrastructure or facilities including utilities, transport, and facilities for social, community or recreational purposes;
- A site which is designated as a derelict site and subject to the Derelict Sites Levy; and
- Land that is affected in terms of its physical condition by considerations which might prevent development, such as contamination or where historic or archaeological artifacts are present.

Existing residential property may appear on the maps prepared for the purposes of RZLT, nonetheless, RZLT is not payable in respect of residential properties. However, an owner of a residential property that is included on a residential zoned land tax map will be required to register for RZLT if their garden and yards are greater than 0.4047 hectares, but no RZLT is payable.

Local authorities were assigned the responsibility to meet the statutory deadline for the publication of the draft map to indicate lands that are in-scope by 01 November 2022. These maps will be updated annually for any changes in the zoning and servicing status of the land.

Ministerial planning guidelines were issued under Section 28 of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended) in June 2022 (Circular NRUP 02/2022), to provide guidance to planning authorities in the preparation and publication of maps to identify lands in scope for the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

Zoned and serviced housing development land to be considered for the draft map includes existing residential development on all existing residential zonings, with exclusions as set out in the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended) applied.

The identification of the land in scope and publication of the maps is a significant undertaking. Ensuring that all of the relevant land is contained in the draft map has required appropriate local authority resources to be directed towards the identification of land in scope and use of GIS resources to display the data on maps as required by the legislation, in addition to administrative requirements in connection with the initial mapping process and subsequent submissions from landowners and interested parties.

LOCAL AUTHORITY MAPS

Land that is within the scope of RZLT will be identified on a map prepared by the local authority. In the course of 2022 and 2023, draft, supplemental and final maps will be prepared by local authorities identifying the land within scope; the final map will be revised annually from 2025 onwards. Maps will be published by local authorities on their websites and each local authority must publish a notice in a local newspaper notifying the public of the publication of the map and providing details of the website and local authority office at which the map can be viewed.

Land that is included on the final or revised map prepared by a local authority, which is not a residential property, is subject to RZLT and is known as a relevant site.

The process allows for the exclusion of land included in draft and supplemental maps from the final map, where it is established that the conditions for land to be subject to the tax are not met. Similarly, land not included in earlier versions of the local authority map can be included at a later stage. This may arise as land becomes serviced or as decisions around land zoning are made.

In addition, a landowner whose land is zoned suitable for residential use can make a submission to the relevant local authority requesting a change to the zoning of lands included on a draft or supplemental residential zoned land tax map. The local authority will evaluate the submission and consider whether a variation of its development plan is appropriate in the circumstances.

DRAFT MAP

A draft map is the initial map prepared and published by a local authority indicating land within its functional area which meets the relevant criteria to be within the scope of RZLT. Draft maps will be first published on or before **1 November 2022**. The legislation provides for a submission and appeal mechanism whereby the landowner can make a submission to the local authority in respect of land included on the map, if they do not believe that such land meets the criteria for inclusion on the map. Where the local authority does not agree with the landowner's initial submission, a subsequent appeal by the landowner to ABP is also provided for.

Provision is also made for any other person to make a submission to a local authority regarding including land on a map which they believe meets the criteria, being land that is not included on the draft map. An appeal mechanism does not apply in such circumstances.

SUPPLEMENTAL MAP

A supplemental map is a map prepared and published by a local authority, subsequent to the draft map. The supplemental map updates the draft map. It may include land which met the relevant criteria for inclusion on the map after 1 January 2022, for example where land becomes serviced or where decisions around land zoning are made. Supplemental maps will first be published on or before **1 May 2023**. A submission and appeal mechanism for landowners similar to that which applies in respect of draft maps is provided for.

FINAL MAP

The final map, which will reflect the outcome of the submission and appeal processes in respect of the draft and supplemental maps, will be published on **1 December 2023** and will indicate the land that is within the scope of the tax. Land included on a local authority final map, which is not a residential property, is known as a relevant site, and is subject to RZLT. The owner of a relevant site will be the liable person for RZLT and is responsible for ensuring their obligations in relation to RZLT, such as filing returns and payment of tax, are met.

REVISED FINAL MAP

Commencing in 2025, the final maps will be updated annually for changes in zoning and servicing of land. A revised final map will be prepared and published by a local authority by **31 January each year**.

As part of this annual update, a draft map will be published prior to the publication of the revised final map. The legislation provides for a submission and appeal mechanism in respect of the draft map, if a landowner does not believe that their land meets the criteria for inclusion on the map. Where the local authority does not agree with the landowner's initial submission, a subsequent appeal by the landowner to ABP is also provided for. Provision is also made for any other person to make a submission to a local authority regarding including land on a map which they believe meets the criteria, being land that is not included on the draft map. A supplemental map is not required as part of the revised final map process commencing in 2024.

The revised final map will reflect the outcome of the submission and appeal processes in respect of the draft map and will indicate the land that is within the scope of the tax. Land included on a local authority revised final map, which is not a residential property, is known as a relevant site, and is subject to RZLT. The owner of a relevant site will be the liable person for RZLT, and is responsible for ensuring their obligations to RZLT, such as filing returns and payment of tax, are met.

Summary timeline in relation to local authority maps

DRAFT MAP – KEY DATES

- The local authority will publish the draft map not later than **1 November 2022**;
- A person may make a submission regarding the inclusion or exclusion of land on the draft map to the local authority not later than **1 January 2023**;
- In the case of a submission made by an owner seeking to have their land excluded from the map or to change the date on which the land first met the criteria, the local authority will notify the owner of its determination, not later than **1 April 2023**;
- The local authority, before making its determination, may request additional information from the owner, or other third party, within **21 days** of receipt of the submission;
- The owner, or other third party, has **21 days**, from the request being made, to provide the information requested to the Local Authority;
- A landowner who wishes to appeal the local authority determination to ABP may do so not later than **1 May 2023**;
- ABP will notify the owner of its determination not later than 16 weeks from the date of the notice of appeal.

SUPPLEMENTAL MAP – KEY DATES

- The local authority will publish a supplemental map not later than **1 May 2023**;
- A person may make a submission, in relation to the supplemental map, to the local authority not later than **1 June 2023**;
- In the case of a submission made by an owner seeking to have their land excluded from the map or to change the date on which the land first met the criteria, the local authority will notify the owner of its determination, not later than **1 August 2023**;

- The local authority, before making its determination, may request additional information from the owner, or other third party, within **21 days** of receipt of the submission;
- The owner, or other third party, has **21 days**, from the request being made, to provide the information requested to the local authority;
- A landowner who wishes to appeal the local authority determination to ABP may do so not later than **1 September 2023**;
- ABP will notify the owner of its determination not later than 8 weeks from the date of the notice of appeal.

FINAL MAP – KEY DATE

- The local authority will publish the final map not later than **1 December 2023**.

REVISED FINAL MAP – KEY DATES

- The local authority will publish the draft revised map not later than **1 February each year**, commencing in 2024;
- A person may make a submission, in relation to the draft revised map, to the local authority not later than the following **1 April**;
- In the case of a submission made by an owner seeking to have their land excluded from the map or to change the date on which the land first met the criteria, the local authority will notify the owner of its determination, not later than the following **1 July**;
- The local authority, before making its determination, may request additional information from the owner, or other third party, within **21 days** of receipt of the submission;
- The owner, or other third party, has **21 days**, from the request being made, to provide the information requested to the local authority;
- A landowner who wishes to appeal the local authority determination to ABP may do so not later than the following **1 August**;
- ABP will notify the owner of its determination not later than 16 weeks from the date of the notice of appeal;
- The local authority will publish a revised final map not later than **31 January** each year commencing in 2025.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITY MAPS

A more detailed summary of the process for the preparation and publication by local authorities of maps is detailed hereunder:

DRAFT MAP TO BE PUBLISHED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The draft map to be prepared by the local authority will include land it considers meets the **relevant criteria** one month prior to 1 November 2022.

In addition, it will -

- specify the date on which the land first met the criteria, where that date is after 1 January 2022, and specify, in hectares, the area of land that meets the relevant criteria.
- The draft map will be published on the local authority website on or before 1 November 2022 and a copy of the map will be made available for inspection at its offices on or before 1 November 2022.

In addition to publishing a draft map, the local authority must publish a notice in a local newspaper notifying the public of the publication of the map and providing details of the website and local authority office at which the draft map can be viewed.

The local authority notice must also alert landowners whose land is zoned suitable for residential development in a development plan or local area plan, of the opportunity to make a submission to their local authority if they believe that the land in question does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the draft map or requesting the current zoning of their land be amended.

SUBMISSIONS AND DETERMINATIONS ON THE DRAFT MAP

Landowners whose land is included on a draft map should review the map and consider if their land meets the criteria for inclusion on the map. A landowner can make a submission to their local authority in writing by 1 January 2023. A local authority may, in exceptional circumstances, accept submissions relating to a draft map after 1 January 2023.

A submission relating to a draft map must relate to:

- the inclusion in, or exclusion from, the final map, or
- the date on which land first meets the criteria for inclusion on a local authority map.

The submission must include the name and address of the person making the submission. The address (both email and postal address) to whom submissions should be made will be included on the notification published with the draft map. All submissions received by the local authority (excluding personal data) will be published on the local authority website by 11 January 2023.

Where a landowner makes a submission relating to a local authority map, they must include an Ordnance Survey Ireland⁶ map at a scale at which their site can be accurately identified.

It is open to any interested party to make a submission in respect of a draft.

However, a local authority is only obliged to respond and provide a determination on a submission made by the owner of land included on the draft residential zoned land tax map.

In this regard, a landowner should have proof of ownership of a site available when making a submission to their local authority in respect of a draft map.

The local authority may request proof of ownership in determining if it is obliged to respond to the landowner.

In the course of considering submissions, the local authority may seek further information from the owner of the site, Irish Water, the National Roads Authority or from a person referred to in article 28 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. The local authority must request this information within 21 days of receipt of the submission; a response to the local authority request is required within 21 days of the request being received.

Where a local authority receives a submission from a landowner relating to the draft map, it will issue a written determination in response where the submission relates to: -

- the exclusion of a site from a final map on the basis that it does not meet the
- relevant criteria, or
- an amendment to the date on which a site first met the conditions for
- inclusion on the local authority map.

The local authority will notify the landowner of its determination no later than 1 April 2023. The local authority notification will also advise the landowner of their right of appeal in respect of its determination to ABP.

SUPPLEMENTAL MAP TO BE PUBLISHED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The local authority will prepare a further draft map, referred to as a supplemental map, for its functional area updated for other sites not previously included in a draft map that meet the relevant criteria one month prior to the publication of the supplemental map. Such additional sites include those which have been identified on foot of submissions made in respect of the draft map.

The supplemental map will include the area of land that meets the relevant criteria and specify the date on which such lands first met those criteria where that date is after 1 January 2022. The supplemental map will be published on the local authority website by 1 May 2023 and a copy of the map will be made available for inspection at its offices from this date.

In addition to publishing a supplemental map, each local authority must publish a notice in a local newspaper notifying the public of the publication of the map and providing details of the website and local authority office at which the supplemental map can be viewed.

SUBMISSIONS AND DETERMINATIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL MAP

Landowners whose land is included on a supplemental map should review the map and consider if their land meets the criteria for inclusion on the map. It is open to any interested party to make a submission in respect of a supplemental map.

However, a local authority is only obliged to respond and provide a determination on a submission made by the owner of land included on the supplemental residential zoned land tax map. A landowner should make a submission to its local authority in writing by 1 June 2023.

A submission relating to a supplemental map must relate to:

- the exclusion from the final map of a site or,
- the date on which a site first met the criteria for inclusion on a local authority map.

The submission must include the name and address of the person making the submission. The address (both email and postal address) to whom submissions should be made will be included on the notification published with the supplemental map. All submissions received by the local authority (excluding personal data) will be published on the local authority website by 11 June 2023.

Where a landowner makes a submission relating to a local authority map, they must include an Ordnance Survey Ireland⁷ map at a scale at which their site can be accurately identified.

A landowner should have proof of ownership of a site available when making a submission to their local authority in respect of a map. The local authority may request proof of ownership in determining if it is a submission in respect of which it is obligated to respond to the landowner.

In the course of considering submissions, the local authority may seek further information from the owner of the site, Irish Water, the National Roads Authority or from a person referred to in article 28 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. The local authority must request this information within 21 days of receipt of the submission; a response to the local authority request is required within 21 days of the request being received.

Where a local authority receives a submission from a landowner relating to the supplemental map, it will issue a written determination in response where the submission relates to: -

- the exclusion of a site from a final map on the basis that it does not meet the relevant criteria, or
- an amendment to the date on which a site first met the conditions for inclusion on the local authority map.

The local authority will notify the landowner of its determination no later than 1 August 2023. The local authority notification will also advise the landowner of their right of appeal to ABP.

APPEAL TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA

The legislation provides that a person who does not agree with a determination issued by the local authority in relation to a draft or supplemental map may appeal the determination to ABP. ABP9 is a national independent planning body that decides appeals on planning decisions made by local authorities as well as direct applications.

A local authority determination issued in response to submissions made by landowners in respect of a draft or supplemental map must set out the reason(s) for the determination. This will facilitate the landowner in stating the grounds for the appeal when completing the notice of appeal to be submitted to ABP. The notice of determination should also advise the landowner about his or her right of appeal and how to exercise this.

An appeal of a local authority determination issued in response to a submission on a draft map must be made in writing to ABP by 1 May 2023.

An appeal of a local authority determination issued in response to a submission on a supplemental map must be made in writing to ABP by 1 September 2023.

ABP will consider the local authority determination subject to the appeal and the grounds for appeal. In its deliberations it may consult with the owner of the land, the local authority and other relevant parties such as Irish Water, National Roads Authority and other bodies included under Article 28 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. ABP must request this information within 21 days of receipt of the submission; a response to the ABP request is required within 21 days of the request being received.

An appeal of a local authority determination issued in respect of submissions on a draft map will be decided by ABP not later than 16 weeks from the date of the notice of appeal. An appeal of a local authority determination issued in respect of submissions on a supplemental map will be decided upon by ABP not later than 8 weeks from the date of the notice of appeal.

The options available to ABP in respect of an appeal made to it of a local authority determination are:

1. confirm the local authority's determination,
2. set aside the local authority's determination and allow the appeal, or
3. partially confirm the local authority's determination and set aside part of the local authority's determination and allow the appeal in part.

ABP will notify the owner and the local authority of its decision as soon as practicable after making its decision.

SUBMISSIONS ON LAND ZONING

The process by which local authorities prepare development plans is set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Local authorities are also responsible for preparing and adopting local area plans (LAP).

Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires that development plans include objectives for the zoning of lands for particular purposes, in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development.

A landowner whose land is zoned suitable for residential use can make a submission to the relevant local authority requesting a change to the zoning of lands included on a draft or supplemental residential zoned land tax map. The local authority will evaluate the submission and consider whether a variation of its development plan is appropriate.

A submission relating to a draft map must be made by 1 January 2023.

A submission relating to a supplemental map must be made by 1 June 2023.

Written submissions or observations made to a local authority to vary land zoning shall be published on the website of the local authority within 10 working days of receipt, subject to certain exceptions.

If land that was zoned for residential use or for a mixture of uses, including residential use, is re-zoned in the formation or variation of the area's development plan, the next local authority map prepared for the purposes of RZLT should reflect this. Any land that is no longer zoned suitable for residential use will not be included in a revised residential zoned land tax map.

FINAL MAP

A local authority must publish, no later than 1 December 2023, a final map for the purposes of identifying land within the scope of RZLT. The final map will identify land satisfying the relevant criteria for inclusion on a map and will specify the date on which land identified on a map first met the criteria for inclusion, when this date is after 1 January 2022.

In preparing a final map each local authority will have regard to and reflect, as appropriate, the following in the final map:

- sites included in the supplemental map,
- submissions made in respect of draft and supplemental local authority maps,
- determinations in response to submissions made on a draft map and supplemental map or where a determination in respect of a draft or supplemental map has been appealed, the outcome of the appeal,
- changes made to the zoning of land as a result of a review of a development plan, a variation of a development plan or the amendment of an LAP by a local authority as a result of which land no longer meets the relevant criteria.

OUTCOME OF APPEAL UNKNOWN

Where a landowner has appealed to ABP or taken judicial review proceedings in relation to the inclusion of a site on a local authority map, and the outcome of the appeal or judicial review process is unknown 30 days prior to the publication of the final map, the area of land subject to the appeal or judicial review will be included on the final map and will be subject to RZLT.

REVISION OF FINAL MAP

A local authority will revise and publish the final map previously published for the purposes of RZLT by 31 January annually, beginning in 2025. The updated map is referred to as a 'revised map'.

The process for the preparation and publication of the draft map, the making of submissions in relation to the draft map and the issuing of determinations by a local authority in response to such submissions, apply for the purpose of making revisions to the final map, as does the process for appeal to ABP, as outlined above.

RECEIPT OF INFORMATION BY REVENUE

Revenue is required to notify a local authority when it becomes aware that zoned serviced residential development land in the local authority's functional area has not been included on the most recently published residential zoned land tax map. The local authority will assess the information provided to it and take this information into account when revising the final map.

SOLAR PLANNING EXEMPTIONS

Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) (No.3) Regulations 2022

Planning and Development (Solar Safeguarding Zone) Regulations 2022

The two sets of Regulations are linked and combine to amend and extend the existing exemptions for solar installations for a range of classes of development. An overview of the key provisions of each set of Regulations is set out below.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT) (NO.3) REGULATIONS 2022 (S.I. NO. 493 OF 2022)

The *Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) (No.3) Regulations 2022* (S.I. No. 493 of 2022) set out the main amendments to the existing solar planning exemptions contained in the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (the Principal Regulations).

These regulations set out the updated conditions and limitations which apply to the various pre-existing classes of development (e.g. houses, industrial, light industrial, business premises and agricultural). Substantial increases to the existing planning exemption thresholds for solar panels are provided as well as the introduction of two new classes of exempted development.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SOLAR SAFEGUARDING ZONE) REGULATIONS 2022 (S.I. NO. 492 OF 2022)

The *Planning and Development (Solar Safeguarding Zone) Regulations 2022* (S.I. No. 492 of 2022) support the Planning and Development Act (Exempted Development) (No.3) Regulations 2022 and set out 43 Solar Safeguarding Zones (SSZs) within which a rooftop limit on solar panels continues to apply. The SSZs are applicable to all classes of development other than houses.

- The SSZs are outlined on maps and by reference to townlands (in county councils) and local electoral divisions (in city councils).
- The SSZs are also available for viewing in greater detail on myplan.ie.

MAIN CHANGES/ PROVISIONS

Among the main changes provided for are as follows:

- The 12sqm/ 50% roof limit which applied to houses has been removed nationwide. There is no rooftop limit on houses, regardless of whether the house is located within or outside of a Solar Safeguarding Zone (SSZ). Houses are now able to erect unlimited rooftop solar panels subject to certain conditions such as minimum distances from the edge of the roof and the general restrictions on exempted development set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (the Planning Act) and the Principal Regulations including in respect of protected structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.
- The 50sqm/ 50% roof limit which applied to other specified classes of development has been removed for solar developments that are located outside of an SSZ. Such developments, located outside of an SSZ, are able to erect unlimited rooftop solar panels subject to certain conditions such as minimum distances from the edge of the roof and the general restrictions on exempted development set out in the Planning Act and the Principal Regulations including in respect of protected structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.
- For solar developments that are located within an SSZ, a 300sqm rooftop limit applies to each rooftop within the curtilage of a site/ holding.
- Applicants in SSZs may seek planning permission for rooftop proposals larger than 300sqm.

- Safeguards in respect of hazardous glint and glare have been provided for requiring any offending panels to be removed or covered until the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the planning authority.
- The regulations add two new classes of exempted development to the Principal Regulations which are subject to the same SSZ conditions as all other existing non-house classes of development, namely:
 1. apartments, and
 2. educational / community / sports / healthcare / religious / library buildings, and gas / electricity / telecommunications / water supplies and wastewater services sites.

SOLAR EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT AND GLINT AND GLARE

Having regard to the potential glint and glare impact on aviation receptors, the designation of SSZs around airports (5km zone), aerodromes/ military barracks (3km zone), emergency helipads (3km zone) was required.

There are 43 SSZs:

- 10 SSZs with 5km zones (airports)
- 33 SSZs with 3km zones (aerodromes/ military barracks/ hospital helipads).

SAFEGUARDS

The Regulations also contain additional safeguards in respect of glint and glare by way of:

- an amendment to article 9 of the Principal Regulations which sets out a general restriction that works are not exempted development if they would endanger public safety by reason of hazardous glint and glare for the operation of airports, aerodromes or aircraft, and
- the addition of a condition in each class of development which provides that “[d]evelopment which causes hazardous glint and/or glare shall not be exempted development and any solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels which are causing hazardous glint and/or glare shall either be removed or be covered until such time as a mitigation plan to address the hazardous glint and/or glare is agreed and implemented to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority”.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Regulations also provide by way of condition that solar exempted developments within an SSZ for all classes other than houses must be notified to the planning authority within 4 weeks of the development commencing.

- The notification requirement is not a consenting requirement and does not require any formal planning document to be completed. The requirement may be satisfied by a letter or email to the planning authority outlining the location and scale of development. A response from the planning authority is not required.
- These notifications will be used to obtain an understanding regarding the scale and specific location of solar developments being installed within SSZs and this information may be requested by the Department periodically.

SELF-GENERATION

The main focus of the review of the pre-existing solar planning exemptions was on facilitating increased self-generation of electricity. However, there are no restrictions on the energy generated from solar installations on a house. Therefore, any excess energy generated by a household may be sold back to the grid.

The exemptions for all classes of development other than houses only apply where the installation relates *primarily* to the provision of electricity or heating for use within the curtilage of the building or site. “Primarily” is defined to mean greater than 50%. The intention behind this limitation is to ensure that the buildings remain in use and do not change to a commercial energy generating use with the building falling vacant or derelict.

SOLAR EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTED STRUCTURES AND ACAS

Existing provisions contained in sections 57 and 82 of the Act and article 9 of the Principal Regulations provide that development shall not be exempted development if it would materially affect the character of a protected structure or a building in an Architectural Conservation Area.

In this connection, each class of development now also includes a condition in respect of free-standing panels that provides that “the placing or erection of any free-standing solar photovoltaic or solar thermal collector installation within an Architectural Conservation Area shall only be exempted development if those works would not materially affect the character of the area”.

In addition to declarations under section 5 and section 57 of the Act, it will be open to any person to seek planning permission for proposed development affecting a protected structure or ACA.

LIBRARY SERVICES

In support of Mental Health Ireland’s World **Mental Health Month**, a programme of events is ongoing this October in our Libraries and will continue into November. Book exhibitions in support of same are available in a number of Libraries.



Healthy Ireland
at your Library



Mental Health Ireland
World
Mental Health
Month

Get involved!

In support of Mental Health Ireland's World Mental Health Month programme, we are organising:

EVENT

5 Ways to Wellbeing
(free 2-hour workshops)

DATE & TIME See opposite for details

VENUE Galway Public Libraries

Booking required

If you want more information, please contact: info@mentalhealthireland.ie

For information, to get involved or to become a volunteer, visit: www.mentalhealthireland.ie

www.mentalhealthireland.ie

Thur. 13 Oct @ 11am
Galway City Library
Email: city@galwaylibrary.ie
Phone: 091-509094

Tue. 18 Oct. @ 10:30am
Westside Library
Email: westside@galwaylibrary.ie
Phone: 091-509091

Tue. 18 Oct. @ 2:30pm
Galway City Library
Email: city@galwaylibrary.ie
Phone: 091-509094

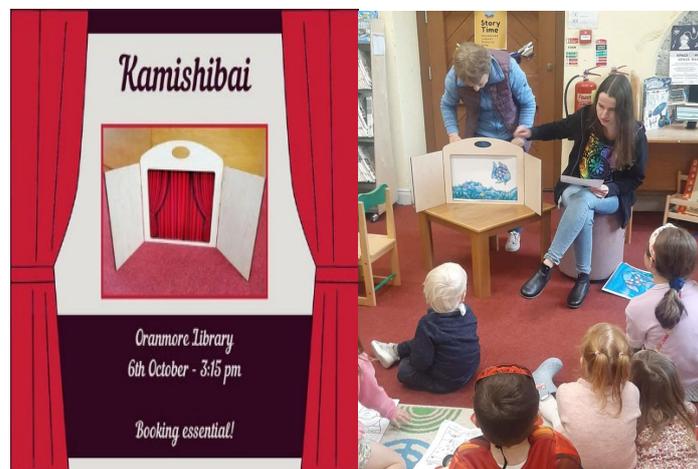
Wed. 09 Nov. @ 10am
Ballybane Library
Email: ballybane@galwaylibrary.ie
Phone: 091-509244

Thur. 10 Nov. @ 2:30pm
Ballinasloe Library
Email: ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie
Phone: 091-509551

Bookit! 'Be Kind to your Mind' is Galway Public Libraries' Book Festival for Young People

Bookit! takes place every October when reading, writing and storytelling are celebrated in our Libraries.

Through our work in the library service, we are cognisant of the impact that the last few years has had on the mental health of our young people. This year Bookit! is focusing on events that will promote mindfulness, positivity and self-belief.



Kamishibai Story Time and Crafts at **Oranmore** Library



Mindfulness Workshop with Lizzy Shortall in **Tuam** Library

Jane Landy, author, in **Oranmore** Library



..... in **Loughrea** Library

in **Dunmore** library

in **Gaelscoil Riabhach**, Baile Locha Riach





Niall de Búrca, storyteller in **Tuam** Library, Ballygar Secondary School and Carnaun NS

Dolores Keaveney, author in **Letterfrack** Library



BOOK LAUNCH

Leabharlann an Spidéil hosted the launch of a new publication by Futa Fata called **An Slipéar Gloine** by Fearghas Mac Lochlainn

Seoladh Leabhair
Ba mhór ag Futa Fata agus
ag Féile Chois Fharráige,
thú a bheith i láthair linn
le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar
An Slipéar Gloine
le Fearghas Mac Lochlainn.

Dé Sathair
08/10/2022 @1n
Leabharlann An Spidéil
Táille roimh chách, saorchead isteach!

Futa Fata COIS FHARRAIGE FÉILE CHOIS FHARRAIGE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Library staff attended many community events including **Glenamaddy District Ploughing and Agricultural Show, Tuam Men’s Health and Awareness Day, Older Persons Information and Celebration event in Loughrea** and chatted with the public on the many and varied services available for free at a local library service point or online.



CULTURE NIGHT

Culture Night 23rd Sept was celebrated with an array of events across the service. Images below from some of them.



- Drop in and drum in **Oranmore** Library



- Trad group from Archbishop McHale College played traditional music in **Tuam** Library
- Una Watters artist was celebrated in **Ballinasloe** Library



- Outdoor opera performance in **Ballybane** Library



- Grey Lake Quartet entertained in **Loughrea Library**



CLIFDEN LIBRARY



Exhibitions and Activities are back in all libraries again including for the below in **Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Clifden and Ballybane.**





ENVIRONMENT

BURIAL GROUNDS

Construction of the new burial ground at Brooklodge is substantially complete and provides capacity for approximately 300 double plots. A caretaker will be appointed shortly, and the grounds will be available from early next year. Construction works have commenced on the extension to the Creagh burial ground.

Drainage works were completed at the Killereerin and Arbear burial grounds and Archaeological works were completed to the gable of Ballinakill Abbey, Glinsk with funding from the Heritage Council and the Environment Section. A contractor has been appointed to complete the landscaping works at the new columbarium facility in Moycullen.

At the request of the Annaghdown Burial Committee a meeting was held to discuss possible sites for a new development. The archaeological constraints for a new development within the environs of the existing burial grounds were discussed and archaeological reports were submitted by GCC to the committee after the meeting. A follow up meeting is planned once reviewed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

NATIONAL TREE DAY - 6 OCTOBER



All National schools are invited to take part in National Tree Day 2022. This involves tree planting and colouring competition in relation to trees and forests.

GLENAMADDY PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP 2022 – INFORMATION STAND



Environment Section, in conjunction with Glenamaddy Tidy Towns, had an information stand on waste management, waste prevention, composting, food waste and litter management on Sunday 2nd October at the Glenamaddy ploughing and agricultural show.

WEEE IRELAND'S SCHOOLS BATTERY COMPETITION



All schools in Co. Galway were invited to take part in the WEEE Ireland schools battery competition where Schools and students across Ireland are being challenged to become battery recycling champions as part of a nationwide initiative which will also help children with life-limiting illnesses. [The WEEE Ireland Schools Battery Recycling](#)

[Competition](#) offers schools the chance to win one of six €2,000 sports equipment vouchers. Running from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023, it is open to all primary and secondary schools that collect at least 10 full 5kg battery boxes in WEEE Ireland Battery Recycling counties.

PLENARY 2022 - 27 SEPTEMBER



Environment Section, in conjunction with PPN Coordinator, had an information stand highlighting the many programmes which are delivered and available to communities through the Environment Section. Waste management, waste prevention,



recycling, composting, food waste, litter management, Schools programmes, Anti Dog fouling programmes, mywaste.ie and many others were highlighted

PICKER PALS



Picker PALS

Following a successful campaign in 2021/22, The Picker PALS programme was made available to 56 classes in National Schools in Co. Galway for 2022/23 period. This is part funded by Galway County Council. The Picker PALS programme engages pupils, teachers and families on

the issue of litter in their community and discussions take place within the class how to address the problem and find solutions.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

ENERGY

A new Energy Bureau Officer, Jordan Cooney, has been appointed and has started work with Galway County Council. He will be based jointly in the Environment Section and with the Buildings Management Team in Corporate Services. He has started to gather information with a view to identifying potential projects for Pathfinder funding. Internal resources will be required to implement identified projects and David O'Loughlin will be moving into a new energy role within Galway County Council to assist with implementation.

We have started to roll out the national Reduce Your Use Campaign. This will run from September to March to encourage staff to promote energy efficiency behavior at work, at home and as we travel.

CLIMATE ACTION

A ministerial direction regarding the development of Local Authority Climate Action Plans is expected in December 2022, however, background work has commenced on the development of the plan. DECC confirmed in early September that €3.5m is being made available nationally for 2022 Phase 1 deliverables which needs to be spent by end of November 2022. With the assistance of the regional LAs, CARO has run tenders to carry out baseline work for the Climate Action Plan including the development of a risk assessment and emission baselines. It is expected that these contracts will be awarded this week and the Climate Action Coordinator will assist the appointed consultants over the next through the provision of LA data and information.

CLIMATE ACTION STAFF AND FUNDING

DECC has confirmed that a Community Climate Action Officer will be funded through the Climate Action Fund for a 3-year term. A request has been prepared for the DHLGH for approval for the post.

JUST TRANSITION

In consultation with the Economic, Rural and Community Development Section, we identified three areas in the east of the county for the implementation of the EMERGE Climate Action Training Programme. The training programme will work with 20 communities across 8 counties in the midlands region of Ireland to empower them to take climate action and to develop new, sustainable economies.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Terms of reference have been prepared for a working group to develop a tender for the development of a Regional EV Strategy. Galway County Council will be the lead authority. This tender will be subject to an undertaking by the Department of Transport to provide 90% funding.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage facilitated two webinars in September for local authority staff in relation to the new Nitrates regs and the development of a National Inspection Plan in the agricultural area. New annual reporting requirements to

the EPA in relation to farm inspections and associated enforcement are now in place, with a deadline for completing the return of 1st March 2023. 15 farm inspections are planned for the Abbey area of the county in November due to deteriorating water quality in the river which flows through Abbey village.

OIL POLLUTION

Following the publication of the National Maritime Oil/HNS Contingency Plan by the Irish Coastguard in June 2020, Pollution & Waste Services Ltd has been employed to develop an Oil Spill and HNS Response Plan for Galway County Council and provide one day's training to staff as part of this agreement. The one-day training is to take place in Galway on the 10th of November 2022 at a venue to be agreed.

TRAINING

A number of staff from the Environment Section attended training in the Council Chamber on Biodiversity and Pollinators over a 2-day period on the 6th and 7th of October. This course examined best practices in Hedgerow and Treeline cutting, how to encourage biodiversity in grasslands and riverbanks, identification and treatment of invasive species and information on protected areas legislation in this area.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Following on from the multi-agency operation launched in June to combat illegal dumping in the county, further checkpoints were held during September involving the Gardai, Galway City Council, and Galway County Council Waste Enforcement Officers.

On the 16th of September, checkpoints were set up in the Pollboy area of Ballinasloe and on the link road in Loughrea, and inspections of vehicles transporting waste and suspected of transporting waste were carried out.

A number of offenses were identified, and one file was forwarded to our Law Agents for prosecution under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act for the unauthorised transport of waste car parts.

There was one successful prosecution under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act at Kilronan District Court.

One large unauthorised construction and demolition waste facility/crushing/sorting location was cleared following compliance with a Section 55 Notice, this site was on the main road into Moycullen and was generating a lot of complaints.

Thirteen audits were carried out which included Authorised Treatment Facilities, Waste permitted facilities, Certificates of registration sites, and permitted waste collectors. The validation of data submitted by these permitted sites was carried out and an additional 5 sites giving a total of 18.

WASTE PRESENTATION BYE LAWS

Ninety-seven Waste Presentation Bye-law inspections were carried out on the 7th of September in the Tuam agglomeration. The Country Meadows, Rivercrest, and Tierboy estates had follow-up inspections carried out.

These estates were previously inspected in December 2021. At that time when compliance was not confirmed on the day, Section 14 Directions were given to obtain a 3-bin service.

Warning Letters were sent regarding waste segregation and letters were issued to homeowners not available on the day to contact GCC with details of their domestic bin service.

These follow-up inspections in September provided evidence that the compliance rates had increased since the previous inspections. For example, in 1 estate where compliance was confirmed at approx. 50% in Dec showed that compliance was now at 75%

Inspections were also carried out in the Parkmore Estate, Tuam due to a number of complaints received regarding the burning of waste. Warning Letters have been issued and will be followed up on.

ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE (ADI) 2022

All projects were finalised, and preparation was started for the submission of a claim form to the Department to recoup the funding for these projects.

Mise, le meas,

Mr. Jim Cullen

Chief Executive

Galway County Council

20th October 2022