



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meán Fómhair 2023  
September 2023



## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

- The closing date for receipt of Tenders for SICAP 2024-2028 was 8<sup>th</sup> September, and tenders are currently being evaluated for Lot 27-1 (East Galway), Lot 27-2 (West Galway) and Lot 27-3 (Galway Islands), with a total framework value of over €14m. This process will continue until year-end when the winning tenderer(s) will be announced.
- Work is also continuing to finalise the Socio-Economic Statement for the LECP which will then proceed to public consultation.
- Contacts are being made with all groups who received funding under the Community Recognition Fund in light of the deadline for drawdown of Year 1 Funding which is 6<sup>th</sup> October, at which stage Galway County Council are required to drawdown 60% of the total Fund.
- The deadline for drawdown of Community Support Fund / Community Enhancement Funding has now passed, and all groups have been contacted to ensure full drawdown of available funding to the County.
- The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended Pobals Event on 'Enhancing Social Inclusion in 2023' in the Ardillaun Hotel, Galway on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The focus of the day was on Pobal, Government and communities in the Galway region working together to create an inclusive society.
- Healthy Galway County attended a 'Women's Health Event' hosted by Solas Family Resource Centre, Headford on 11<sup>th</sup> September where Healthy Galway County shared resources and promoted health and wellbeing initiatives both locally and nationally.
- Healthy Galway County and Galway Rural Development have been shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Award for their project "Healthy Islands". This was a series of health and wellbeing events on the 4 offshore islands, where over 20 agencies were coordinated to provide a series of health and wellbeing days aimed at breaking down the barriers to accessing services and information on the islands. A key aim of the roadshow was to form new relationships, and strengthen existing relationships, with the people and groups/organisations on the islands, to identify future projects to address the specific health and wellbeing needs of each individual island. A local judging process is due to be held in early October with the national awards ceremony in November.
- The Community Section has collaborated with the Heritage & Biodiversity Officers, and the PPN, to part-fund courses on the Sustainable Development Goals for Tidy Towns Groups, to coincide with Sustainable Development Goals Week. Tidy Towns Groups are required to identify which SDG's their Tidy Towns projects relate to when completing their annual Entry Form to the National Tidy Towns Competition, and therefore, this course will be of immense benefit to them in continuing their very valuable work in communities.
- The Community Section is currently liaising with the Environment Department regarding the establishing of an online grants system to administer small-scale grants which require a large amount of administration. It is hoped that this system may be in place to roll-out either the Community Support Schemes or Community Enhancement Programme for 2024 by year-end.
- Following on from the successful roll-out of the Property Marking Machine purchased by the Elected Members, the Community Section has collaborated with Men's Sheds to secure the purchase of an additional Property Marking Machine which will be rolled out in the East of the County. Property Marking Ireland carried out training on the use of the machine with

representatives of Men's Sheds from Clarenbridge, Athenry, Ballygar, Headford, Loughrea & Oranmore on 9<sup>th</sup> September. This is the first property marking machine in the country to be rolled out through the Men's Sheds Association, and demonstrates the huge community value of Men's Sheds, and their willingness to become involved in all types of community initiatives and projects for the benefit of their communities. Community Gardai from all of the relevant areas and Michael Walsh, Crime Prevention Officer, were also in attendance on the day.



REPRESENTATIVES OF MEN'S SHEDS WITH MARY MCGANN & HELEN MELIA OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AT PROPERTY MARKING MACHINE TRAINING IN CLARENBRIDGE ON SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Galway County Council is collaborating with Galway City Council, COPE Galway, Galway Rural Development, and Galway City Partnership, to again deliver a series of events during Positive Ageing Week which takes place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October. Our flagship event is again a Local Heroes Exhibition which will showcase 30 people who epitomize positive and healthy ageing. The exhibition for Galway East will be held in Ballinasloe Library, and the exhibition for Galway West will be held in Oughterard Courthouse – both will culminate in events to present the recipients with a souvenir brochure of their professional photo & biography. Many other local events are taking place across the County in libraries and community settings to celebrate positive ageing and the PPN will collate a full list of events for circulation.
- Galway City & County Council have been sitting on a Working Group with a range of HSE Professionals to develop a Directory of Services for Older People which will include information on accessing services and initiatives across a range of areas such as health, housing, social welfare entitlements, wellbeing, safety & security. It is intended to launch the Directory at the AGM of the Older People's Council in November 2023 – the Older People's Councils in City & County have been centrally involved in the development of the material by reviewing all the chapters as they are completed, thereby ensuring that the voice of the older person is central to its development.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

PPN membership now stands at 1,250 member groups spread across three pillars; Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental.

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#### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB:

- The PPN sent out 1 Monthly Newsletter along with 9 mass emails to all 1,250 Member Groups.
- Regular updates across the PPN's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and updates from various other shareholders shared via email.
- The PPN answered numerous queries in relation to funding, advice on setting up groups, insurance options for community groups, via phone calls, website and emails.
- The PPN Website was updated regularly with funding announcements, news from Government Departments, resources for groups and local/ national events.

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#### BUILDING CAPACITY:

- The PPN collaborated with LAWPRO to organise an event 'Who's Who in the Corrib'. This event brought together various groups from the area with an aim to setting up a River's Trust.
- The PPN ran an insurance webinar for member groups. The webinar provided an in-depth session on the types of insurance available to community groups with advice from an expert from BHP.
- The Galway County Energy Master Plan Steering Committee met for a progress update with consultants running the project.
- The PPN organised training on the Sustainable Development Goals tailored towards Tidy Towns groups to run as part of SDG week 2023.

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#### PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

- The PPN attended the POBAL 30 Enhancing Social Inclusion event on 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Ardilaun Hotel.
- The PPN through secretariat member George Francis are in the early stages of planning an Intercultural Day Event in Ballinasloe.
- PPN Reps attended and reported on the Transport SPC 20.09.2023.
- PPN Reps attended and reported on the Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC 22.09.2023.

### ARTS OFFICE

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#### CULTURE UP – INTERNATIONAL ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ON THE EDGE

The international selection panel convened this month, and two Galway County Artists (Noelle Gallagher & Daniel Mocci) were awarded a month-long funded residency to Leeuwarden, The Netherlands and Denmark. Áras Éanna will host two artists from Serbia and Finland later this year. The selection process and project management for this residency was supported by the Arts Office.

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#### CULTURE NIGHT 2023

Culture Night invites everyone across Galway County to join in a National Day of Celebration on Friday 22nd September. An exciting and magical programme of over 40 events is happening in towns and villages across the county and all are completely free due to support from the Galway County Council Arts Office and the Arts Council. Culture Night will bring communities together to revel in the vibrancy and diversity of culture in the county.

Multiple events including music, theatre, spectacle, visual arts, poetry, printmaking, photography, crafts and storytelling for all ages are happening throughout the day and late into the evening in a location near you including Abbeyknockmoy, Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballinderreen, Barna, Ceann Áras Fíabín, Clarinbridge, Clifden, Gort, Headford, Inishbofin, Inverin, Loughrea, Newbridge, Oranmore, Roundstone and Tuam.

Celebrate the rich heritage and vibrant culture of the Traveller community at Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre. Engage in photo exhibitions, workshops, showcases and performances, offering an authentic glimpse into Traveller culture. Allow Sonic Strings, a dynamic teenage orchestra from Coole Music and Arts, to guide you along the scenic Gort River Walk with harmonious melodies that create an absolutely enchanting ambiance.

At Tuam Family Centre, experience a cross-cultural celebration as musicians from North Africa weave their melodies with the enchanting verses of Farsi Poetry. Discover traditional craftsmanship at Gort Library, where artisan designers showcase activities from Aran stitching to felting, crochet and quilting, celebrating the artistry of these time-honoured techniques.

2023 • FRI 22 SEPT 2023			
<b>GALWAY COUNTY CULTURE NIGHT PROGRAMME 2023</b>			
16:00	Athenry	Snapshots of Who We Are	
17:00	Athenry	Harmonious Beats & Strings	
21:00	Athenry	Macnas Take A Walk With Crom	
21:30	Athenry	Londis Fireworks	
17:00	Ballinasloe	Tallest Smallest Theatre	
17:00	Ballinasloe	A Celebration of Traveller Culture & Heritage	
19:30	Ballinasloe	'Derelict' Culture Night Art Exhibition	
18:00	Gort	Music on the Move	
18:00	Gort	An evening of Traditional Crafting	
19:00	Gort	Open Studio Night with Japly Witte	
19:00	Gort	Visions of Gort: Unveiling Contemporary Perspectives	
16:30	Oranmore	Mix it up	
19:00	Oranmore	Drama, Poetry Readings and Music	
20:00	Oranmore	Unboxed Presents	
16:00	Tuam	Hang out with Sparkcatchers! Comet	
17:00	Tuam	Let's Go Wild! - A Celebration of Local Wildlife	
17:00	Tuam	Customised Culture	
20:00	Tuam	FUSE Trad	
20:00	Tuam	North African & Middle Eastern Music & Poetry	
16:00	Newbridge	Illuminated Hemispheres	
16:00	Roundstone	Roundstone Plain Air Painting Festival	
16:00	Clarinbridge	Creating Biodiversity Clarinbridge Community Walk	
16:00	Clifden	An Haicléar Manas	
16:30	Spiddal	Oíche le Ros na Rún	
18:00	Inish Valley	Printmaking at Interface	
18:00	Inishbofin	The Barber of Belcoo	
18:00	Online	Solas Photo Exhibition 2023	
19:00	Inis Oírr	Áras Éanna Open Night	
19:00	Abbeyknockmoy	Voices of Abbeyknockmoy	
19:00	Loughrea	Ag caint agus ag gabháil fhionn: Oíche Airneáin leis an Ollamh Lillis Ó Laoire	
19:00	Ballinderreen	Sketching Workshop	
19:00	Online	A Tapestry of Words: The Write-on Experience	
20:00	Inverin	Stuaim Láimhe an tSeán Shaoil	
20:00	Moycullen	Drumadore Night Beats	
21:00	Headford	Let's Create	

**BALLINASLOE**

**17:00 to 19:00** **Tallest Smallest Theatre**  
Ballinasloe Library, H53 T320

**17:00 to 19:00** **A Celebration of Traveller Culture & Heritage**  
Town Hall Theatre, H53 A2N7

**19:30 to 21:30** **'Derelict' Art Exhibition**  
Town Hall Theatre, H53 A2N7

**GALWAY COUNTY CULTURE NIGHT**

**ALL OTHER LOCATIONS**

**16:00 to 20:00** **Creating Biodiversity Walk**  
Kilcoman Woods, Clarinbridge, H91 RW3Y

**19:00 to 23:00** **Illuminated Hemispheres**  
Newbridge Social Centre, Newbridge, H53 KC65

**19:00 to 21:30** **Oíche Airneáin leis an Ollamh Lillis Ó Laoire**  
Loughrea Library, H62 EV61

**19:00 to 21:00** **Sketching Workshop**  
Ballinderreen Community Centre, H91 TC65

**GALWAY COUNTY CULTURE NIGHT**

Embark on a bilingual night of music and sean-nós singing in Loughrea at Leabharlann Bhaile Locha Riach, led by Professor Lillis Ó Laoire.

Celebrate Athenry's vibrant cultural scene with captivating performances, culminating in 'Lucht Siuil,' a poignant tale from the Traveller Community. Whether an arts enthusiast or new explorer, Culture Night offers a dynamic programme for all, weaving a tapestry of diverse stories, talents, and traditions.

## CULTURE NIGHT LATE – TAKE A WALK WITH CROM ATHENRY

This Culture Night Galway County Council proudly presents **Take a Walk with Crom**, an intimate Macnas spectacle that will meander through the medieval streets of Athenry. Join Galway County Arts Office and Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre as we invite the wise and magnificent Crom to lurk around Athenry town centre alongside Macnas performers, stilt walkers and drummers who promise to entertain and enthrall.

Crom emerged from the 2014 Macnas production **Symphony for the Restless** and has wandered the streets of Galway City, Dublin City and Ballina. ‘Raging, roaring, grieving; staggering, rootless out of proportion; loose wild and weary in this world. The giant, Crom is tormented by his own illusion and delusions. He is intoxicated with rage, he is disorientated, restless, and lawless...’

Before **Take a Walk with Crom**, come to Athenry to enjoy other Culture Night events at Skylark, Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre and walk around the town to experience ‘one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Ireland’. Stay afterwards to witness a spectacular fireworks display sponsored by Londis Athenry in the park

Culture Night Late is designed to support events that will begin after 9pm and continue late into the night on Culture Night, Friday 22 September 2023. The award is offered in partnership with Arts Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Night Time Economy Taskforce to offer audiences a greater diversity in their Culture Night experience late into the night, and to encourage more-inclusive and innovative late-night arts events suitable for a range of audience types into the future.

**TAKE A WALK WITH CROM**  
FROM 21:00 Burke's Lane, Athenry

Time	Event	Location
16:00 TO 18:00	Snapshots of Who We Are	Skylark Centre, H65 Y103
17:00 TO 21:00	Harmonious Beats & Strings	Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, H91 WC57
21:00 TO 21:30	Take a Walk with Crom	Burke's Lane, H65 H263
21:30 TO 22:00	Londis Fireworks	Athenry Park, H65 WP93

Partners: Arts Council, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council, An tAonán Tráchtálaíochais, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Ceardchuid, Spóirt agus Meia (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media), ATHENRY HERITAGE CENTRE, macnas.

## ARDÁN - MISLEÓR SHORT DOCUMENTARY BURSARY & SHORT DOCUMENTARY BURSARY RECIPIENTS

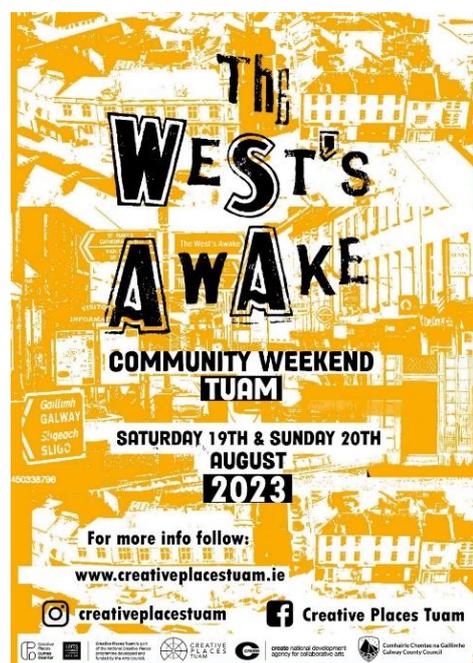
Filmmaker Kathleen Ward who is based in Tuam was awarded the Misleór Short Documentary Grant. Kathleen will be mentored by Alice McDowell. Filmmaker Jenny Roche who is based in Moycullen was awarded the Galway County Short Documentary Bursary. Jenny will be mentored by Donal Haughey.

Congratulations to David McDonagh for winning the Best Short Documentary and for his nomination to the Bingham Ray New Talent Award at this years Galway Film Fleadh. David received the first Misleór Short Documentary Bursary in 2021. This project is supported by Galway County Council Arts Office.

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THE WEST'S AWAKE COMMUNITY WEEKEND, TUAM 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST THE WEST'S AWAKE COMMUNITY WEEKEND, FEATURING HOME GROWN MUSICIANS, ARTISTS, CRAFTERS, PERFORMERS, POETS, FILMMAKERS, SINGERS, WRITERS, STORYTELLERS, POSITIVE DISRUPTERS AND MORE.

The festival took place over place over two days, across eight venues, in the streets and public spaces. From emerging talents to award winning voices, the weekend is a celebration of creative Tuam, by Tuam, for the west to enjoy. With over 25 events including a live music stage, children's activities, film screenings, a craft market, exhibitions, poetry readings, tea ceremony, audio walking tours, street performance, Tuam Herald poster type print workshops, music sessions, dancing and much, much more. Initiated in response to The Saw Doctors homecoming gigs, supported by Creative Places Tuam, Galway County Council, The Saw Doctors and Galway Rural Development. This weekend is organised and produced by a local team, with contributions from Tuam's vibrant communities.





AT THE WEST AWAKE WEEKEND IN TUAM, LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH DR EVELYN PARSONS, AOIFE BARRETT PRINT VAN GO, SHARON O'GRADY GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER. CREDIT AENGUS MCMAHON



SIP AND BEYOND COMMUNITY HOST ARTIST PAVITHRA KANNAN IN TUAM TOWN HALL AT THE WEST AWAKE FESTIVAL WITH LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH DR EVELYN PARSONS. CREDIT AENGUS MCMAHON

SATURDAY August 19th		SUNDAY August 20th	
<b>Venue 1: The Shambles</b>	<b>H54 KX05</b>	<b>Venue 1: The Shambles</b>	<b>H54 KX05</b>
12:30 - 14:30 The West's Awake Stage   Live Music 15:15 - 17:00 The West's Awake Stage   Live Music 12:00 - 17:00 Tuam Print Club   Printing with Print Van Go & The Tuam Herald Poster Type 13:00 - 14:00 Face Painting		12:30 - 14:00 The West's Awake Stage   Live Music 15:00 - 17:00 The West's Awake Stage   Live Music 12:00 - 17:00 Tuam Print Club   Printing with Print Van Go & The Tuam Herald Poster Type 12:30 - 13:30 Face Painting 17:00 - 17:15 Tuam Beat   Drumadore   Closing Performance	
<b>Venue 2: Town Hall</b>	<b>H54 XD61</b>	<b>Venue 2: Town Hall</b>	<b>H54 XD61</b>
<b>Ground Floor</b> 13:00 - 14:00 SOUNDBITES   The Tuam Lunchtime Music Session 15:30 - 17:00 Make Your Mark!   Childrens Art Workshop (9-12yrs) *Advanced bookings only <b>1st Floor</b> 11:00 - 16:00 Sip and Beyond   Community Hosting Event 11:00 - 12:00 Tuam Embracing Diversity   Circle Of Friends Event		<b>Ground Floor</b> 13:00 - 14:00 Voices of Tuam   Live Poetry Readings <b>1st Floor</b> 11:00 - 16:00 Sip and Beyond   Community Hosting Event 14:00 - 16:00 DJ Set   Ambient Beats to unwind	
<b>Venue 3: The Mall</b>	<b>H54 Y773</b>	<b>Venue 3: The Mall</b>	<b>H54 Y773</b>
11:00 - 12:00 Film Shorts   Young People's Screening w/ Q & A 17:00 - 18:00 Films Shorts   Short Film Screenings		15:00 - 16:30 Let's Draw!   Childrens Illustrations Workshop (7-11 yrs) * Advanced bookings only	
<b>Venue 4: Brú Bhríde</b>	<b>H54 EY24</b>	<b>Venue 5: Library</b>	<b>H54 F627</b>
12:00 - 15:00 Arts Academy Open Day   Workshops, Exhibition, Traditional Griddle Cake tasting		Patching Tuam: Let's stitch this town together   Exhibition *Closed on Sunday but exhibition can be viewed through the windows and continues until August 24th.	
<b>Venue 5: Library</b>	<b>H54 F627</b>	<b>Venue 6: Synod Hall</b>	<b>H54 XD29</b>
12:00 - 17:00 Patching Tuam: Let's Stitch This Town Together   Exhibition *Opening at 12noon / Closed for lunch 13:00-14:00		11:00 - 16:00 The West's Awake   Visual Arts Exhibition	
<b>Venue 6: Synod Hall</b>	<b>H54 XD29</b>	<b>Venue 7: The Mill</b>	<b>H54 N963</b>
11:00 - 16:00 The West's Awake   Visual Arts Exhibition		11:00 - 16:00 Tuam Craft Fair   Stalls, Exhibition & Womens Shed Display 11:00 - 16:00 Tuamóg   Childrens Art Workshops	
<b>Venue 7: The Mill</b>	<b>H54 N963</b>	<b>Venue 8: St. Mary's Cathedral</b>	<b>H54 XD29</b>
11:00 - 16:00 Tuam Craft Fair   Stalls, Exhibition & Womens Shed Display 11:00 - 16:00 Tuamóg   Childrens Art Workshops		11:00 - 16:00 St. Mary's Cathedral   Heritage Site Open Day	
<b>Venue 8: St. Mary's Cathedral</b>	<b>H54 XD29</b>	<b>Venue 9: Presentation Convent Gates</b>	<b>H54K583</b>
11:00 - 16:00 St. Mary's Cathedral   Heritage Site Open Day		14:00 - 15:00 SPARKcatchers' 'Laugh and the Quest for Something... Any something!'   Live Outdoor Public Performance via Bishop St.	
<b>Venue 9: Presentation Convent Gates</b>	<b>H54K583</b>	<b>Look out for our series of printed poems by local poets available at various venues throughout the town</b>	
14:00 - 15:00 SPARKcatchers' 'Laugh and the Quest for Something... Any something!'   Live Outdoor Public Performance via Bishop St.		<b>To book a your place for a workshop go to <a href="http://creativeplacesteam.ie/activity/the-wests-awake/">http://creativeplacesteam.ie/activity/the-wests-awake/</a></b>	
<b>12:00 - 14:00 GOCOM Radio   Tuam Studio Launch</b> Broadcast available at <a href="http://www.gocomradio.ie">www.gocomradio.ie</a>			

FULL WEEKEND PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



MEMBERS OF SPARKCATCHERS PERFORM "LAUGH AND THE QUEST FOR SOMETHING ...ANY SOMETHING" A LIVE OUTDOOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AT THE WEST AWAKE FESTIVAL IN TUAM. CREDIT AENGUS MCMAHON

### SHORELINES ARTS FESTIVAL SEP 14 -17<sup>TH</sup> 2023

Shorelines Arts Festival features a host of music, drama, exhibitions, workshops and more over three days in Portumna. Highlights include Irish Folk winners Ye Vagabonds and well as Cathy Davey & her band in concert. Theatre performances include Seamus O' Rourke's show The Ballad of Mossy Flood and newcomer Dee Keogh's Why haven't I met Oprah. For literary fans the programme features poets Amy Barry, Noelle Lynskey and Luke Morgan. The Festival also includes Street and family entertainment, a film programme and school events. This festival is supported by Galway County Council.



AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SHORELINES ART EXHIBITION GALWAY COUNTY ARTS OFFICER SHARON O'GRADY WITH ARTIST FERGUS A RYAN AND HIS WIFE SARAH. CREDIT KERRY KISSANE

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46<sup>TH</sup> CLIFDEN ARTS FESTIVAL 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



The longest running community arts festival in Ireland, Clifden Community Arts Festival, now heading into its 46th year will take place from September 13-24 and yet again promises to have something to excite everyone in the 2023 programme.

Audiences can expect a very high-quality artistic programme with a superb literary, musical and visual art content which again will have the community arts of Clifden and the surrounding hinterland as a central focus with creative writing, music, theatre and film workshops and performances taking place in the local schools for the duration of the festival. Clifden Arts Festival opens on with a special segment for secondary school students.

Community Arts Week began life as a week-long celebration of the arts for the children of Clifden Community School – helping to develop artistic and social skills and provide an outlet for self-expression and development. Over the years Arts Week at the school gave such pleasure to the greater community that an encompassing and fervent support network grew around it, allowing it to develop.

The launch of the festival took place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Clifden Town Hall. Clifden Arts Festival is supported by Galway County Council.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

### CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

The Creative Communities Engagement Officer took up the post on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and is currently reviewing the budget for 2023 and developing Creative Team projects that can be supported with the remaining funding.

### CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES PROJECTS ONGOING THIS MONTH

#### **ATHERNY HERITAGE CENTRE presents Silent Screens to Joyous Sounds**

Athenry Heritage Centre presents the Silver Screen production by Little John Nee and Fionn Robinson of a live recreation of the music and sounds of silent movie star Buster Keaton in his classic performance of Sherlock Jr. This takes place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September as part of the Athenry MAD Festival 2023 supported by Creative Ireland.



### CREATIVE TEAM PROJECTS

The Creative Team of Galway County Council have assigned funding to support a number of projects. As the team is inter-disciplinary, these projects are varied in their scope and subject matter.

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## AROUND THE HOUSE AND MIND THE DRESSER



This project is managed by the Libraries. The aim of *Around the House and Mind the Dresser* (working title) is to highlight the rich musical and song writing traditions of North and South Galway; to explore the various storytelling voices of South Connemara and our Islands; to

re-ignite in our older audiences' memories of times past and to inspire our younger generations to value and participate in this exploration of our Culture.

The series of free events will be hosted by our branch libraries throughout the county and will concentrate on song collecting in North Galway; the musical traditions of South Galway; Sean nós singing from our Gaeltacht areas; storytelling from Connemara and a residency in popular music in East Galway.

This will take place in a number of Branch Libraries including Gort, Ballinslae, Tuam, Carraroe, Loughrea & Oughterard. The Residency will be in October with Events taking place throughout November. Cultural Practitioners involved include Aindrias de Staic, musician and Irish storyteller, Máirín Mhic Lochlainn & Nuala Hayes, Storytellers, The Fahys from Ballinakill, Aine Ní Shioradain, Johnny Conneely, Ultan Conlon, musicians and others TBC.

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## GALWAY'S FORGED GATES PROJECT



Following on from a very successful Galway Forged Gates Project 2021/2, it is now hoped to embark on another forged gates project in 2023, this due to a major interest expressed in the project in the county with other areas now wanting to be part of the project.

The vernacular forged wrought iron field gate is a very valuable, but often neglected, aspect of the cultural heritage of our rural landscape in county Galway. These field gates were for the most part forged in the local blacksmith's forge. The objective of the project is to collect and collate information, oral heritage and images of forged gates, the craft of the blacksmith and the forge in three locations in County Galway. The locations picked for the 2023 project are Ballymoe, Moylough and Ballinasloe and build the work undertaken as part of the Galway Forged Gates Project 2023.

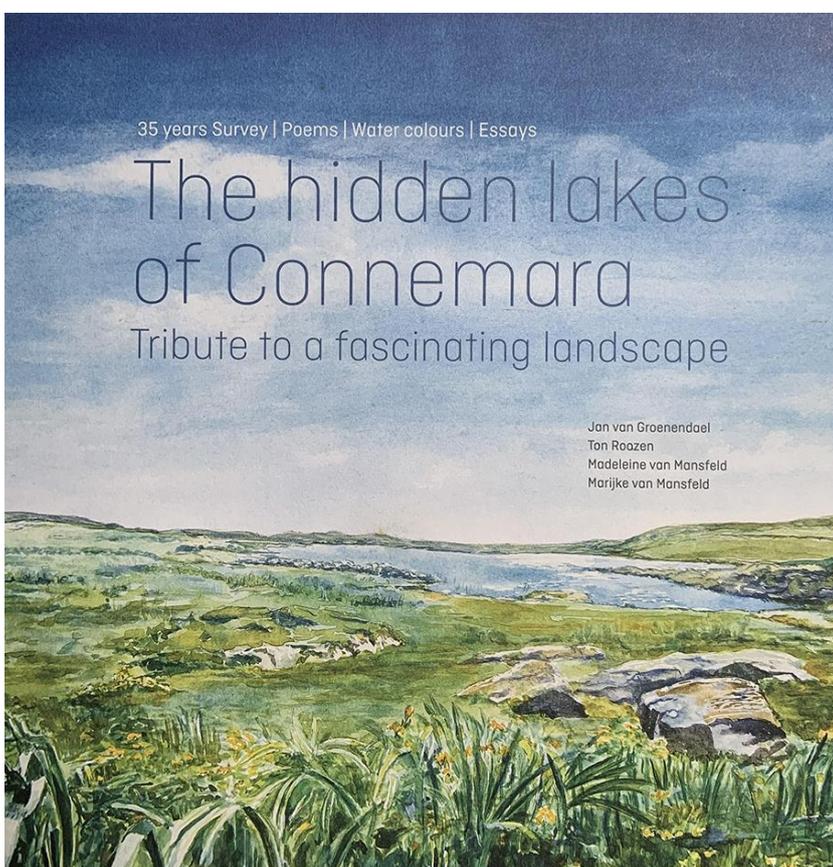
The project will capture and preserve the significance of the blacksmith and the forge as told by blacksmiths themselves and their descendants as they recall and relay their recollections from childhood memories and stories from their ancestors. This very valuable information will be captured on short films, audio interviews and recordings, photographs, pull-up banners and postcards. Local launches will take place in Ballymoe, Moylough and Ballinasloe. This project is managed by the Heritage Office.

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## THE HIDDEN LAKES OF CONNEMARA

Artisan House are running a print of *Hidden Lakes of Connemara*. It is a publication by four Dutch environmentalists, who have conducted a 35-year+ study of Connemara lakes. In his Foreword to the book, Wetland ecologist, Jim Ryan, writes 'This book ... analysed the botanical and chemical changes which have occurred in their vegetation plots over the 35 years and have identified the main causes of such changes. To my knowledge this is one of the very few long-term studies of this kind in Ireland and is unusual even on a world stage.'

The book contains original watercolour illustrations, poems, and essays, describing changes in the lakes and the landscape highlighting the special nature and beauty of Connemara. While the subject matter is quite specific, the book is designed in such a way that it will appeal to a general audience who share a deep appreciation of their environment. The study was based in Ballyconneely and Roundstone. This re-publication or this book including new images is supported by the Creative Ireland programme.





As part of a new initiative in the arts and in collaboration with Portumna Arts Group and the Portumna Pen Pushers Group,

the Irish Workhouse Centre will host a 5-day writing workshop on site, facilitated by Gerard Hanberry, Galway poet, writer and musician.

The participants, in an open invitation from the local community, will include both new and established writers. Following an introductory tour of the Irish Workhouse Centre, the group will meet for a number of sessions under the guidance of Gerry and a series of writings on the Workhouse and the museum artefacts will be then edited and published alongside a series of photographs of the inspiring pieces that each participant selected from the Workhouse. These will be edited by Gerry and become a part of the Workhouse collection. A reading will also take place to launch the publication.

### TOURISM

The County Galway Tourism Strategy has commenced its final project stage incorporating stakeholder and agency feedback on draft documents. A Tourism Strategy Briefing was held in the Raheen Woods, Athenry in July. Excellent attendance and engagement by our elected members resulted in a very informative briefing.

A panel of speakers at the briefing consisted of members from Failte Ireland, Galway City Tourism Officer, Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Director of Services of Galway County Council. They presented and demonstrated the overarching framework within which tourism is being developed in the County. The panel worked very well together, and this reflected to the elected members who also received a very informative and engaging briefing. We look forward to continuing to work together to realise our shared vision for Tourism development.

All points and queries raised at the briefing is supported by the Strategy bearing in mind the strategic nature of the document.

The speakers stated that the timing of the County Tourism Strategy is excellent with the recently launched Failte Ireland regional plans and the upcoming Destination Experience Development Plan for East Galway by the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Team.

This Strategy was sent to the statutory environmental bodies as required, there is a timeline of six weeks for return of comments, there may be adjustments based on this feedback before the final strategy is launched and come before Council for consideration and adoption.

The Strategy was presented to the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC, and they agreed the draft to go forward as proposed to Council.



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## MILWAUKEE 2023

Milwaukee Irish Festival is the largest celebration of Irish culture and heritage in the United States and takes place in Lake Michigan in Wisconsin. Members of Galway County Council and Galway City Council attended the four-day festival.

Staff working in the tourism function in Galway County Council worked with the Tourism Officer in Galway City Council and Tourism Ireland in designing a new Galway stand, banners, pop ups, backdrop and PR material for the festival showcasing the new Galway Brand.

Maps of County Galway including visitors' attractions, visitor information and Connemara maps were organised and printed in Milwaukee with Pens, Tote Bags and T Shirts for distribution. Further literature and information on County Galway's tourism attractions were also sent over.

This festival has a huge audience of more than 130,000 visitors and was a great opportunity to showcase all what Galway has to offer.



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## ADVERTISING

Staff in the Economic, Rural and Community Development unit invested in a County based marketing spread for the Connacht Tribune Supplement 2023 edition. **'Where West'** is a full colour, high quality magazine circulated throughout the west- from Connemara to the Islands; south to north Galway; north Mayo to south Clare.

4 pages in **'Go West'** magazine was also published in the 2023 edition. Galway County Council annually invest in the magazine of Knock Airport- alongside local authority partners in Sligo; Mayo, Roscommon and Galway City. For 2023- coverage includes highlighting festivals and events that are supported by GCC and promoting the best aspects of the visitor experience around the County including North/East Galway and high quality photography to promote Tourism in the County.

'This is Galway' magazine, we published in the June/July and August/September editions, focusing on the Kinvara and Gort areas and highlighting all that is to offer. The feedback received on the whole from these areas has been fantastic. The businesses that engaged in Kinvara and Gort have been extremely receptive and are delighted that 'The is Galway' featured businesses and places of interest outside the city, hotels in particular use the magazine as a vehicle to promote areas across the county.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS UPDATE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Festivals & Events - County Galway 2023

APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
13th-16th Clifden Traditional Music Festival 28th-1st Connemara Mountain Walking Festival 28th-30th Wild West Musical Festival 29th-30th Connemara Isles Wellness Retreat	1st-2nd 14th Annual Garden Festival, Claregalway 11-16th Galway Film Fleadh 28th-30th South Galway Bay Music Festival 28th-6th Clonberne Festival 2023 30th-6th Cashel Together 30th Mountbellew Vintage Annual Show 20th-23rd Williamstown Summer Festival	1st-3rd Carna Walking Festival 2nd Clarinbridge Market Day 3rd Taispeántas Chois Fharráige Teo 7th-10th Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds 8th-10th Cleggan Fringe Festival 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 14th-24th Clifden Arts Festival 2023 14th-17th Shorelines Arts Festival 2023 16th-17th Atheryn M.A.D Festival 22nd-24th Bia Bófinne Food Festival 22nd Culture Night 2023 26th-1st Three Rings	10th-15th Three Rings 13th-22nd Baboró International Arts Festival for Children 13th-22nd Glenamaddy Theatre Festival 21st-30th Connemara Sea Week 27th-30th Creggs Harvest Festival 27th-29th Kiltavna Festival 29th Halloween on the Green
MAY	AUGUST	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
5th-7th Féile Joe Éinniú 2023 19th-21st Galway Comhalta (Galway County Board of Comhaltas) 24th-28th Ballinasloe Tourism Sample Weekend	3rd-8th Ballygar Carnival 4th-13th Dunmore Annual Festival 4th-13th The Woman who built All Saints, Clonbur 11th-13th Clonbur August Summer Festival 12th-14th Cruinnlu na mBad 15th-18th Connemara Pony Festival 19th Felle Lunasa An Cheathrú Rua 24th-27th The Dessie O' Halloran Music Weekend 26th-27th Féile Báid Seoil Inis Meáin 26th-27th Féile ná Sléibhte 26th-28th Felle an tSruháin	1st-8th Ballinasloe Horse Fair 3rd-8th Three Rings 3rd Headford Community Arts Festival 3rd-8th Féile Chois Fharráige 6th-8th Éigse Dara Beag 6th-7th Cúirt Cheoil na mBan	12th-24th Galway Science & Technology Festival 25th Howl of the Moon
JUNE		DECEMBER	
2nd-4th Headfest 5th Féile An Spideal 18th Kilkerrin Festival		9th Christmas Walk in the Woods Mountbellew	

Community Support Scheme Grants continue to be drawn down monthly.

Total funding allocated for 2023 Regional, Economic and Festival & events is €87,250.00.



**SPORTS INCLUSION DISABILITY OFFICER**

**SUMMER PROGRAMS THAT TOOK PLACE**

Stand-up Paddleboarding with Parents of Autism Loughrea in July funded by SIDO Budget

- Over 4 weeks there were 30 participants (children with Autism and their families)
- Wet Mongrel Adventures delivered this program.

Activator Walking programs were delivered over a 6-week period with the groups taking over payment to tutor following these 6 weeks.

- Clarinbridge Cairde Club (15 participants)
- COPE Galway (20 participants)

Horses Connect funded by HSE in June for 4 weeks for 6 participants.

- Video of program

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR AUTUMN**

Inclusive Triathlon Kilcornan Clarinbridge Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 11:30am-1:30pm – during European Week of Sport in partnership with Triathlon Ireland & Healthy Galway County and delivered to Brothers of Charity.

- Board members are welcome to attend.

Good2Go in Rossaveel and BCNC in partnership with Healthy Galway County & City starting 17<sup>th</sup> October for 5 weeks.

- Older adult & disability service training for 2-3 representatives similar to PALS
- Video of program & what is involved.

Activator Walking Training funded by HSE 7<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am – 3:30pm

- For tutors and anyone interested in delivering sessions

Line Dancing sessions in ARUS Dr. Mannix Road

- For 4 weeks

Active Neuro in partnership with MS Ireland



- 12-week programs of Activator walking and strength and flexibility (one city and one county based)

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## COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Summer Programs that took place

Stand-up Paddleboarding in Loughrea Lake and Rusheen Bay

- Adult sessions, women only sessions and teen sessions
- 5 sessions in total took place.
- Also, a windsurfing program in Rusheen bay
- 99 participants took part.

Her Outdoors week 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August

- Activator Pole Walking Taster in Portumna
- Outdoor Fitness Class with a (silent) difference at Loughrea Lake and Renville playground
- Buggy Buddies Tasters in Tuam and Ballinasloe
- Outdoor Yoga in Merlin Woods
- Social Bike Ride in Gort
- 43 women took part.

Judo for Peace GSP funded 50% through direct provision budget.

- Taking place in BCNC and Oranmore community centre
- First of its kind in Ireland

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR AUTUMN

Marathon Kids Program

- 27 schools signed up across Galway city and county.
- 1074 participants
- Packs currently being sent out.



**2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – Project Proposals Submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development 2023.**

**MEASURE 1**

- small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing
- funding of up to **€30,000 at a 90% rate of aid**
- **maximum of 7 applications can be submitted by each Local Authority**
- maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each Local Development Company
- maximum of 2 applications per State body

**The Following M1 Project Proposals have been submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development for 2023.**

**PROJECT NO: 1 - GATEWAY TO THE CORRIB**

Almost 18 kms of cycleway, 18 directional signs and 10 information signs.

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Gateway to the Corrib	This project involves the erection of directional and information signage for a new cycle route in the Claren Area of Headford. This area rests between Headford town and Lough Corrib and is a particularly scenic area.	€18,000

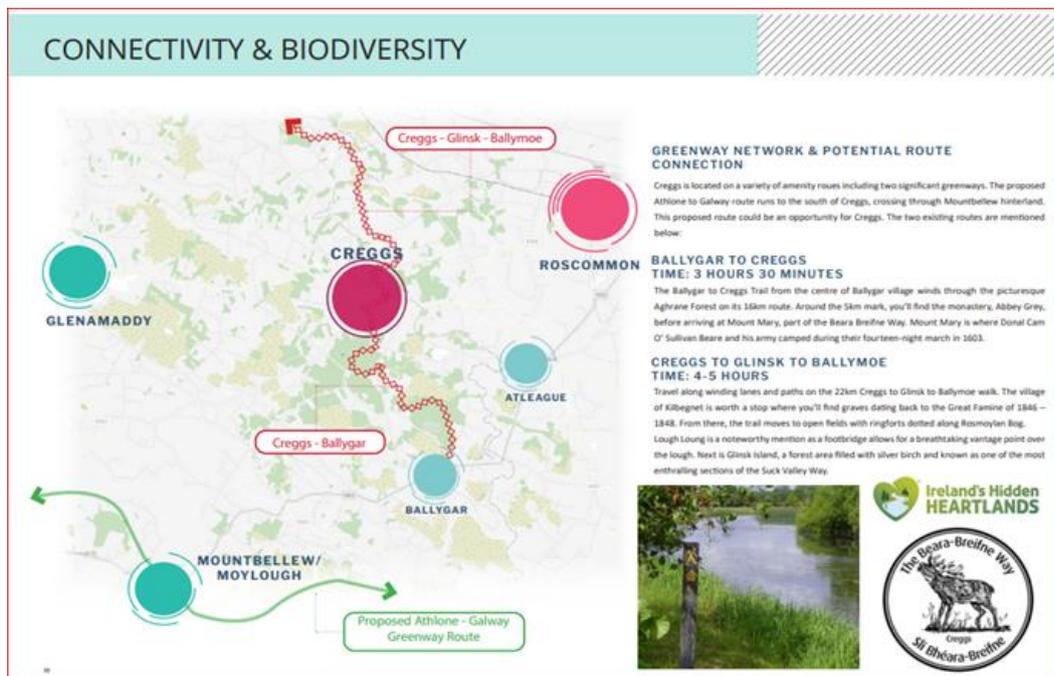


- Potential to expand this Cycling trail to include the opposite side of Lough Corrib.
- In the past there was a ferry across the lake from Kilbeg to Knockferry.
- Potential to extend the route across the Corrib into Connemara, Will require a mode of transport for the bikes across the Lake this would open up access to Moycullen and Oughterard - Gateway to Connemara.

PROJECT NO: 2 -\_CREGGS RURAL DEVELOPMENT –

**Creggs Wildlife Garden Accessibility Upgrade – Existing Amenity Upgrade.**

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Creggs Wildlife Garden accessibility upgrade.	Enhancement of wheelchair accessible walkways within Creggs Wildlife Park	20,000



*Excerpt from Creggs Biodiversity plan.*

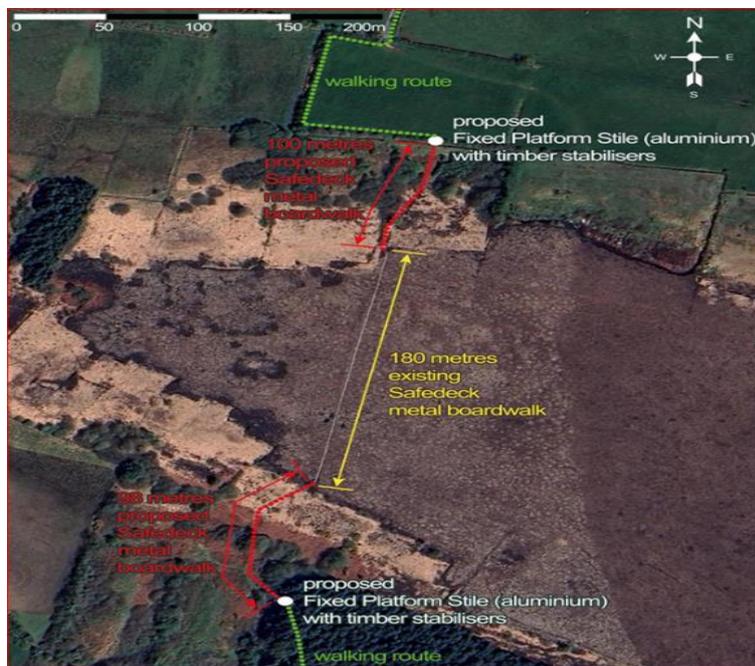
PROJECT NO. 3 - LACKAGH KNOCKDOEMORE WALKWAY 2023 ENHANCEMENTS

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Cairde Mor CTR	Lackagh Knockdoemore Walkway 2023 Enhancements	<p>Walkway safety enhancements and maintenance to existing Knockdoemore Park/Lackagh walkway, security fencing for works/maintenance compound and hard-core outdoor seating area at start of trail as well</p> <p>Tree line and surface maintenance.</p> <p>This represents an upgrade to the Knockdoemore -Lackagh and Knockdoemore Park Trail initiated in 2017 which is now part of the National Trails network since 2022</p>



**National Trails Website and Launch of Lackagh Walkway – Andrew Downes. Photographer.**

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount of ORIS Funding Requested</u>
<u>Hymany Way Upgrade</u>	To upgrade the Beara Breifne / Hymany Way Walking Trail over two boggy sections using a non-slip metal boardwalk, near Ruane, Co. Galway. Two safety stiles to be provided also.	<u>29,709.47</u>



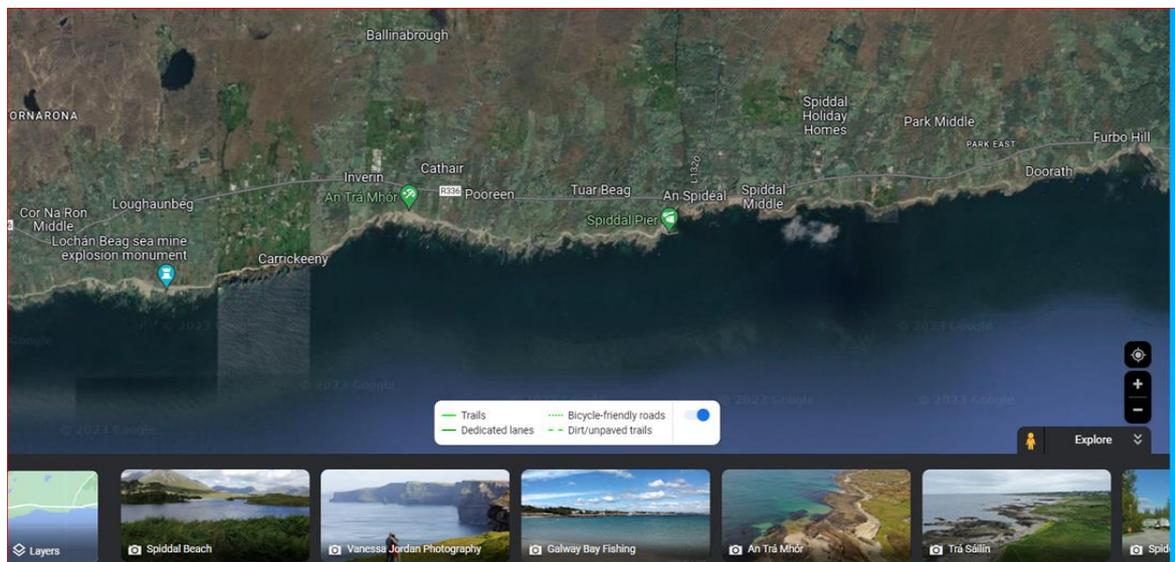
PROJECT NO 5. AN TRÁ MHOR – INVERIN

LOCATION - 53.234194, -9.439024

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS funding requested.
Trá Mhor Beach Accessibility Upgrades	Accessibility Upgrades to An Tra Mhor Beach.	€29,700

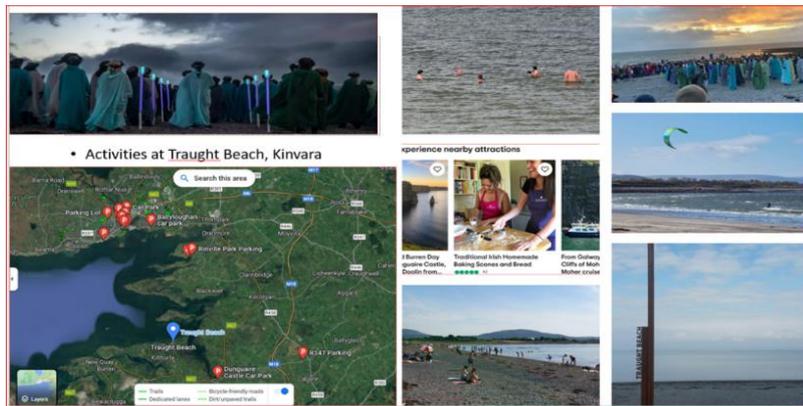
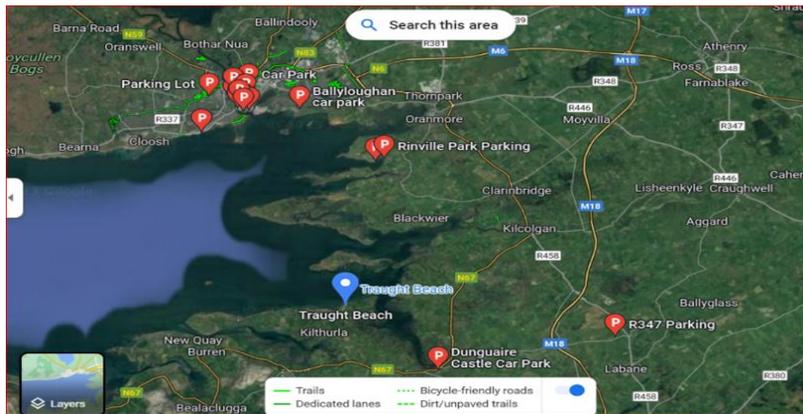


Image from Google Maps

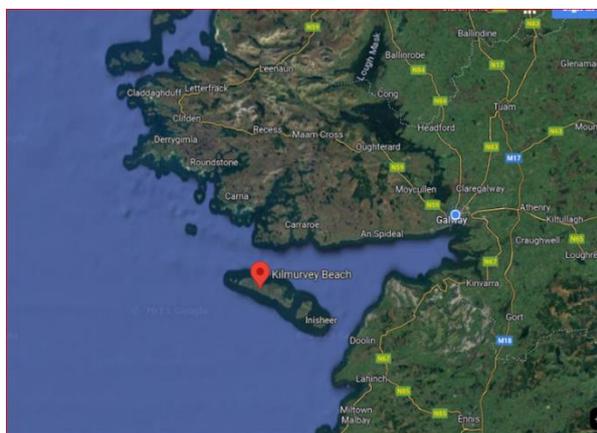


PROJECT NO.6 - TRAUGHT BEACH

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Traught Beach, accessibility upgrades.	Widening of Footpaths safer ingress and egress to water – re – arrange existing furniture and litter bins, to ensure accessibility.	€29,700



PROJECT NO. 7 – CILL MURVEY BEACH



Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Cill Murvey Beach accessibility upgrades.	A wheelchair & storage for a beach wheelchair – as well as ring buoys & water safety signage.	€29,700

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 2023

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEASURE

#### Timeline for completion of Project 18 Months.

- detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or Measure 3 of ORIS such as detailed design, preparation for Planning and/or Procurement, appropriate assessment etc.,
- funding of up to €50,000 at a 90% rate of aid
- **local authorities and State bodies can each submit two applications under this Measure**

**The Following 3 Projects have been submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development.**

#### PROJECT: 1 RINVILLE FOREST PARK MASTERPLAN

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount of ORIS Funding Requested</u>
Rinville Park Masterplan	Rinville Forest Masterplan- To Develop a Major Tourism Attraction, Building on the Unique Heritage of the park for Galway County and the Western Region.	€49,950



## PROJECT 2 - BALLINASLOE OUTDOOR RECREATION PARK

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Ballinasloe Outdoor Recreation Park	To carry out a feasibility study exploring the options for the development of a public Outdoor Recreation Park near the River Suck in Ballinasloe Town.	€49,950



## PROJECT 3 LINN TAOIDE ARAINN – ISLANDS APPLICATION

The proposed project is for the provision of a tidal pool on Árainn along the seashore that will offer recreational opportunities for the island community as well as visitors to the island and provide a habitat for marine life. 5 possible locations for the pool have been identified and based on the results of a feasibility study the appropriate location will be selected.

Project Name	Project Description	Amount of ORIS Funding Requested
Linn Taoide Arainn	Feasibility Study for Provision of tidal pool on Arainn along the seashore that will offer recreational opportunities for the island community as well as visitors to the island and provide a habitat for marine life.	€35,847.45



## HOUSING & UKRAINE RESPONSE

### CROÍ CÓNAITHE

From 1 July 2023, additional support under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is available to support the refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties located on the islands to help bring them back into use.

The maximum rate of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant payable is up to 20% higher for eligible vacant and derelict properties on qualifying islands which are Inishbofin, Árannn (Inis Mór), Inis Oírr and Inis Meáin in County Galway.

This brings the maximum grant rates for refurbishing properties on islands up to €60,000 for the refurbishment of vacant properties and up to €84,000 where the property is confirmed to be derelict. The maximum cost limits for the individual works categories are also increased by 20%.

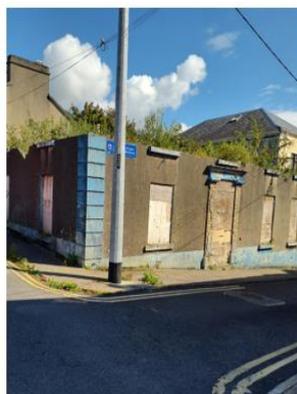
### INFORMATION EVENINGS ON CROÍ CÓNAITHE & LAHL

Two Information evenings on the Croí Cónaithe and the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) Schemes are being held in the coming weeks in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

The first is being organised by Portumna Chamber of Commerce and will be a gathering of local business and property owners and the venue is Podumna, Portumna (Eircode is H53E953) commencing at 7:30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The second is being organised by Kinvara and District Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) and will take place in Kinvara Community Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm.

### VACANT HOMES SURVEY

Pathway 4 under Housing for All is the “pathway to addressing vacancy and efficient Use of Existing Stock”. The Department have identified 1,727 properties in Galway County as potentially vacant based on Geo Directory Vacancy data. These are all located within 1Km of a settlement buffer. Each of these properties must be visited to confirm that it is vacant. If it is unclear at the time of the visit, the property must be visited up to three times. Once vacancy has been confirmed a poster will be placed on the property as shown below and details of the schemes available to the Owner to bring the property back into operation will be placed in the letterbox. The Department have developed an app to assist in



carrying out this survey and the survey will be carried out by staff in housing with assistance from the Community Wardens.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



D'aithin Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe an réadmhaoin seo mar Réadmhaoin Fholamh/Thréigthe agus tá an Chomhairle tiomanta an stoc tithíochta atá ann cheana a uasmhéadú.

Mar úinéir na réadmhaoin seo, an raibh tú ar an eolas faoi na trí rogha atá ar fáil duit?

1. An réadmhaoin a thabhairt ar ais le haghaidh úsáide mar ais cónaithe nó chun a ligean ar cíos.
2. An réadmhaoin a dhíol leis an gComhairle chun a thabhairt ar ais in úsáid mar thithíocht shóisialta.
3. Úsáid a bhaint as iasacht chun an réadmhaoin a athchóiriú agus ansin a ligean ar léas ar ais leis an gComhairle.

#### Rogha 1: Deontas Athchóirithe do Réadmhaoin Fholamh - Croí Cónaithe

Is féidir leat deontas suas le €50,000 agus suas le €70,000 a fháil, más réadmhaoin thréigthe atá i gceist. Caithfidh an réadmhaoin a bheith folamh ar feadh 2 bhliain agus beartaithe agat cónaí ann nó a ligean ar cíos. D'fhéadfadh go mbeidh réadmhaoin ar oileáin cháilithe i dteideal le (suas le) 20% maoiniú deontais breise.

Is féidir foirmeacha iarratais, foirmeacha léirithe spéise, tuilleadh eolais agus achoimrí scéime a fháil ar ár suíomh gréasáin:  
[www.galway.ie/en/services/housing](http://www.galway.ie/en/services/housing)

Oifigeach Tithe Cónaithe Folaigh do Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
+353 91 509 300 agus trí ríomhphost ag [vacanthomes@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:vacanthomes@galwaycoco.ie)

#### Rogha 2: Scéim Cheannaigh agus Athnuála

Má tá éileamh ann sa cheantar seo, is féidir leis an Údarás Áitiúil réadmhaoin oiriúnach do Tithíochta Sóisialta a cheannach.

Beidh seisiún eolais ar siúl i do cheantar sna seachtainí amach romhainn – fógrófar dátaí ar na meáin shóisialta & ar raidió.

#### Rogha 3: Scéim Deisiúcháin agus Léasaithe

Má theastaíonn deisiúcháin ó réadmhaoin agus más rud é go raibh sí folamh ar feadh bliana ar a laghad, is féidir leat iasacht a fháil le haghaidh deisiúcháin suas le huasmhéid €80,000 (CBL san áireamh) agus a ligean ar léas ar ais leis an gComhairle mar thithíocht shóisialta ar feadh tréimhse idir 5 go 25 bliana.

## REPAIR & LEASE SCHEME

The maximum interest free loan amount available under this scheme has been increased to 80,000 euro. The loan must be repaid over the life of the lease and the property must be rented to Local Authority or Approved Housing Body Tenants.

## TENANT PURCHASE

The *Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021* give effect to amendments of the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016, which include changes to (a) minimum income criteria for applicants and (b) the period of time applicants must have been receiving social housing support to be eligible under the scheme. The amendments come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

Specifically, the changes are as follows –

- i. **Minimum income requirements:** The minimum income required for an applicant to be eligible to apply under the scheme has been revised **downward from €15,000p.a. to €12,500 p.a.**

This change will ensure persons whose pension is their primary source of income can now apply under the scheme. **The change only applies to pensions** – other social welfare payments may only be regarded as secondary income.

- ii. **Time receiving social housing supports:** The period of time tenants will be required to be in receipt of social housing support to be considered eligible under the scheme has been changed **from one to 10 years.**

In the case of joint tenancies, both tenants must be in receipt of social housing support for at least 10 years before being eligible to apply.

Summary of 2023 Data	
<b>Valid Applications 2023</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Tenant Purchase Offers 2023</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Sold to date 2023</b>	<b>12</b>

## TRAVELLERS (HOUSING)

### TRAVELLER SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATION:

66 houses in Traveller Specific Group Scheme Housing in 11 different locations.

17 individual houses identified as Traveller Specific Housing.

14 Halting Site Bays in 2 Halting Sites (Tuam and Capira, Portumna)

2 Bays in Cluain Órtha Traveller Specific Accommodation

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2023 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROJECTS:

**Portnick:**

Property purchased, extended and extensively adapted to suit the needs of multiple members of the large household.



### **Clontuskert -**

Major refurbishment of the 3 houses in Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme at Clontuskert completed, including upgrade of waste water treatment facility. Multi-generational family housing facilitated in 1 house to include separate accommodation for 2 Grandparents. Families were provided with temporary housing in 3 mobile homes whilst the works were ongoing.



### **Cloonkeen, Attymon -**

Traveller Specific property which is being extended and undergoing major renovations to meet the needs of a large family currently residing in homeless services.

### **34 – 36 An Ceathrú Bán, Athenry -**

Three houses in the new turnkey housing development in An Ceathrú, Bán, Athenry have been identified as Traveller Specific Accommodation. Two of the properties are occupied by Traveller families and shortlisting is ongoing to identify a family for the third property.

### **Cloonlyon, Ballygar -**

Substantial upgrade works of 11 properties in Cloonlyon Crescent (6) and Cloonlyon Road (5) has commenced. Each household is moving into a vacant property, which was renovated, on the site whilst work is ongoing in their own property. One property is to be rebuilt, as following a fire it had to be demolished and this is being managed by the Housing Capital team. One prefabricated property is to be demolished and removed from the site. The project is expected to be completed within 22 months.

### **Ballygurrane -**

Plans have been completed to include an extension for a family with particular health needs and an application for funding is being prepared for submission to the Traveller Accommodation Unit.

### **Capital Projects -**

Plans for the redevelopment of Tuam Halting Site to provide 12 houses and 3 bays are at the preparation stage and are being advanced in consultation with the residents of the Halting Site.

## TENANT IN SITU

As of the end of August 2023 there are nine properties being progressed under the Tenant in Situ Scheme. These are in a number of locations including Headford, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Tuam, Gort and other smaller towns.

## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

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### PART 10 PLANNING APPLICATION DROIM NA GAOITHE, BAILE AN CHLÁIR, CO. GAILLIMHE

On Friday 18th August, Housing Capital section lodged a planning application under Part 177AE(4)(a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to seek approval from An Bord Pleanála for the development of 88 residential units and creche at Droim Na Gaoithe, Baile an Chláir (Claregalway).

The proposal comprises: 2 x 4-bedroom x 2 storey houses, 19 x 3 bedroom x 2 storey houses, 18 x 2 bedroom 2 storey houses, 15 x 3 bedroom apartments, 21 x 2 bedroom apartments, 13 x 1 bedroom apartments and a Crèche. The proposal includes two new estate entrances, one from R381 (to Oranmore) and one from the L7110.

The proposal is available to view at the planning office in Galway County Council or at the offices of An Bord Pleanála during relevant public office hours. It is also available electronically to view on Galway County Council's Consult portal. Submissions or observations are to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála by 4pm on 29th September 2023.

Elected members of Oranmore Athenry MD were appraised of the scheme with a presentation by Alan Brogan, Executive Engineer at their July meeting.

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### PART 8 CAISLEÁN RAITHIN, ARDRAHAN

On Monday 10th July, Eithne Murphy Senior Executive Engineer attended the Loughrea M.D. meeting to present an overview of the Chief Executive Report recommending that the proposal for 10 houses to the rear of the existing Caisleán Raithin estate should proceed as proposed in the Part 8 planning application lodged on 3rd March 2023.

Following consideration of the report, the elected members voted in favour of the proposed development to be carried out as recommended in the report, without any modifications. The project is now progressing to detailed design with a view to tendering for construction in Autumn 2023.

### Gort Na gCloch, Clifden

The final phase Gort Na gCloch was substantially completed in August 2023 and upon completion of Building Control Certification the units will be made available to be occupied.



### **Turnkey Acquisition of 32 Units at Eiscir Riada, Dunlo, Ballinasloe**

In July, the Housing Capital section successfully completed the turnkey acquisition of phase 1 of this development which consists of 25 units. Included in the 25 units are a mixture of 2, 3 and 4 bed units serving various categories including specific housing for persons with disabilities.



It is anticipated this development will be substantially complete by year end.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES

The two avenues of affordable delivery have continuously been advanced. Firstly, affordable housing delivery projects on GCC owned lands is advancing and as mentioned earlier an element of the Drum Na Gaoith project in Claregalway will include affordable delivery. Other affordable projects on GCC owned lands are at early stages with preliminary site studies been completed prior to preparation of a planning application.

The second affordable housing delivery mechanism is through advanced purchase agreements and GCC continue to engage with private land owners/developers in relation to affordable housing delivery. A second call for Expression of Interests for advance purchase agreements will be advertised in the coming weeks.

The cost of construction, lack of a comparative private housing market information and uncertainty of sales is proving to be challenging in delivery of affordable housing.

## INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE & FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Government Publish Speed Limit Review Report and the impact this will have on Galway County Councils own Speed Limit Review which is currently underway.



Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State Jack Chambers TD have announced the publication of the final report emerging from the recently finalised Speed Limit Review.

The Speed Limit Review is a significant piece of work which aims to address the fragmentation and inconsistency of speed limits on roads all over the country. Consistent and appropriate speed limits across the road network will contribute to increasing road safety.

The National Speed Limit Review, which is a high impact action under the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, makes a number of recommendations which include for the following:

- Default speed limit on national secondary roads to reduce from 100km/h to 80km/h.
- Default speed limit for the network of local and rural roads throughout the country to reduce from 80km/h to 60km/h.

- Default speed limit on urban roads, which include built up areas as well as housing estates and town centres, to reduce to 30km/h.

Arterial roads and radial routes around urban settings would be able to remain at 50km/h. There are no proposed changes to the default speed limits on motorways, national primary roads or regional roads contained in the review. The framework allows for some appropriate, upward variations where a road is deemed to be safe and good quality on assessment by local authorities.

There is no doubt that speeding is a significant contributing factor to many collisions. Implementing the recommendations from the Speed Limit Review will allow for a consistent approach to setting of speed limits across the country. The recommendations in the report will help the Council to achieve the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030 goal of halving fatalities and serious injuries by 2030 and advance towards Vision Zero.

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, Vision Zero states that any fatal or serious injuries that occur within the road system are unacceptable. It is considered best practice in road safety according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In best practice, Vision Zero is supported by time-limited targets and performance indicators to reduce deaths and serious injuries.

Changes to the default speed limits will require primary legislation and it is envisaged that the necessary legislation could be passed in Q1 2024. Statutory guidelines will also be updated such that implementation of the Review's recommendations can commence during 2024.

Reducing speed has been fundamentally proven to significantly reduce the risk of death or serious injury in road collisions. The World Health Organisation has estimated that a 5% reduction in average speed could result in a 30% reduction in fatal collisions. Furthermore, the evidence shows that 50% of pedestrians struck by a vehicle travelling at 60km/h will be killed, compared to 29% of pedestrians struck by a vehicle travelling at 50km/h and 5% of pedestrians struck by a vehicle travelling at 30km/h.

With this Government led initiative underway I am provisionally pausing the speed limit review process currently underway in Galway County Council. This is because the review currently under way locally will be undermined by legislative changes in the coming 12 months which will lead to additional costs. The members will be kept up to date with the national led initiative over the coming months.

Uisce Éireann assumes responsibility for delivery of Water and Wastewater Services.

Pursuant to the Water Services (No.2) Act 2013, Uisce Éireann became the company responsible by statute for owning, operating and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure and delivering water services and wastewater services in Ireland.



With effect from 00:01hrs last Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, (the “Effective date”), that responsibility passed to Uisce Éireann.

The Effective Date means the date upon which Uisce Éireann will take over Management and Direction of the Local Authority Water Services Staff.

Generally, there will be no changes on the ground to day-to-day operations and reporting lines for staff will remain unchanged.

“Water Services Staff” means Uisce Éireann Personnel and the Local Authority Water Services Staff and these staff will work together across Local Authority offices and Uisce Éireann sites in the delivery of water services.

All water staff of Uisce Éireann & Local Authorities will work together in delivery of water & wastewater services, during the transition. All water staff irrespective of employer will be under the management and direction of Uisce Éireann, from the Effective Date.

## ATHLONE TO GALWAY GREENWAY – UPDATE



Westmeath County Council, as the lead authority, last week released a press release which is inserted below for ease of reference:

*RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed to provide engineering, planning, environmental and other services on the above Cycleway, which forms part of the strategic Dublin Galway route in October 2019. Work has been ongoing since then and the Emerging Preferred Route has been identified and published. Work has also been undertaken on various other elements of the project, which will culminate in the submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála.*

*However, due to the complexity and scale of the 200km Preferred Route together with upward market pressures in recent years, RPS have advised Westmeath County Council that the project is no longer*

*financially viable for the company, having regard to the fixed price tender sum for the contract as signed in 2019 and have sought mutual termination under the contract with immediate effect.*

*To minimise any delay on the project and in particular the completion of the design and environmental evaluation phase of the scheme, the parties have agreed to now enter into a process to deal with the issues to hand.*

*As a result of this development, Westmeath County Council as the lead authority, on behalf of the participating local authorities and TII, is exploring various approaches to identify the most appropriate and effective mechanism for progressing and delivering the scheme through the design and environmental evaluation processes.*

*Please note that landowner liaison will continue and will not be impacted by this process.*

It is self-explanatory in that RPS, due to upward market pressures in recent years, has advised Westmeath County Council (Lead Authority) that the project is no longer financially viable for the company, having regard to the fixed price tender sum for the contract as signed in 2019 and have sought mutual termination under the contract with immediate effect.

I must emphasise that the ongoing and extensive public engagement and landowner liaison will continue during this period of flux between the termination of the commission of RPS and the appointment of new consultants to provide engineering, planning, environmental and other services for the Athlone to Galway Greenway.

In relation to an overall project update,

- The Project Team have continued to meet landowners to finalise the route in more detail.
- The PLOs are currently contacting Landowners to request access to carry out surveys
- Breeding bird surveys such as Barn Owl, Heron, Crane, and Raptor are almost complete.
- Ecological and cultural heritage surveys are required at all locations.
- A number of ecological walkover surveys have taken place at areas of interest.
- Draft EIA Screening and EIA Scoping reports are at review stage.
- Preliminary horizontal and vertical alignment design are at preparation stage.

The next steps are.

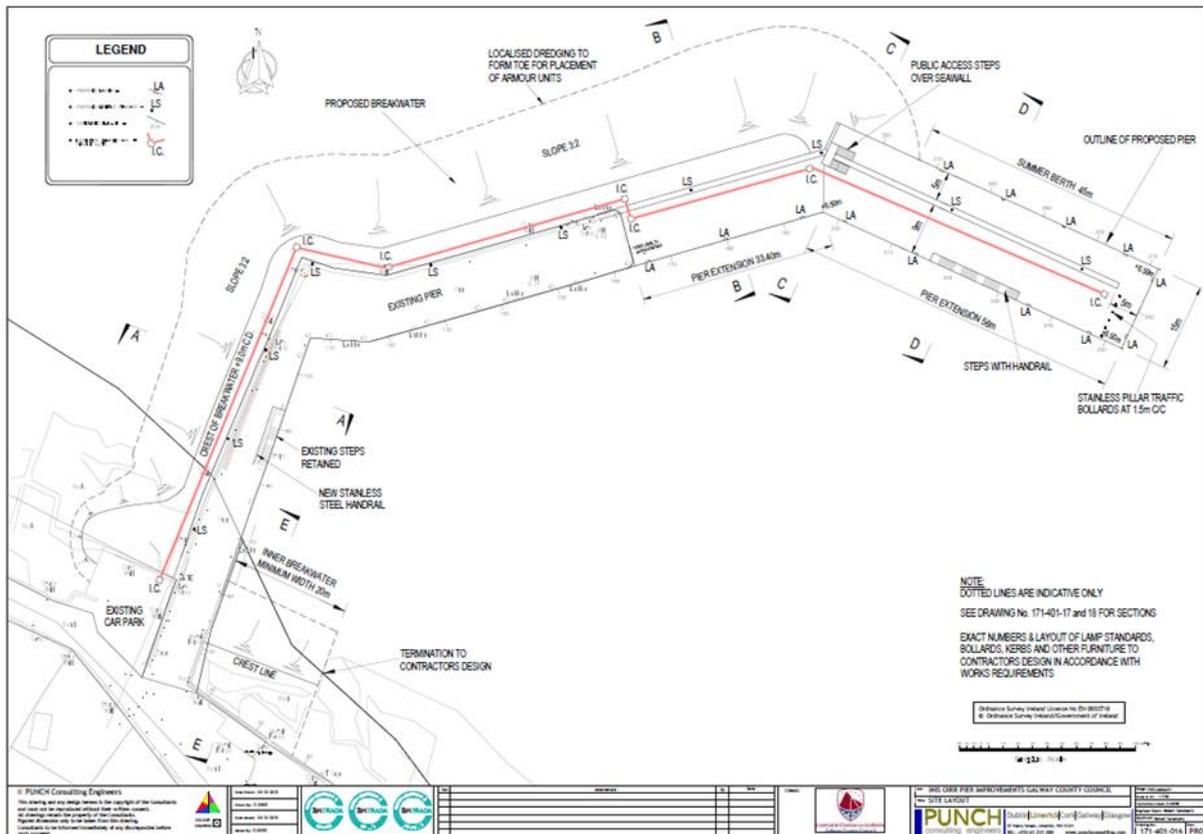
- Terminate, by mutual consent, the commission of RPS.
- Appoint new consultants to provide engineering, planning, environmental and other services.
- Environmental evaluation and preliminary design to be completed.
- Landowners to complete Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreements.
- Application to An Bord Pleanála
- Oral Hearing
- An Bord Pleanála Decision
- Construction of Greenway
- Collision Prevention Programme

- The Senior Engineer in Road Operations and the Divisional Roads Policing Inspector from An Garda Síochána met on 20th July to re-establish the Collision Prevention Programme after a hiatus due to Covid.
- While our Area Teams already link with AGS regularly in the course of their work; from September a regime of formal structured meetings will restart. The meetings will include members of AGS from the Roads Policing Unit, the local Sergeant, and the Area Engineer. The purpose of the meetings is to formally share knowledge and explore whether road factors are at issue in road collisions. This will further support our annual request for funding of works under the Low-Cost Accident scheme.
- This is linked to but separate from the Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure which takes place after every road fatality in Galway County – in those cases the Garda and the Area Engineer meet in person at the fatal collision site to record factual information pertaining to such collisions and quickly to establish if there are road factors which may have contributed to the collision and which need to be remedied.
- Céibh Inis Óírr Improvement and Extension Project
- Summary Scheme Description
- The proposed works comprise the construction of a protective breakwater along with a 90m long extension. This will provide a much better protection to vessels in the harbour than is currently afforded resulting in a total length of 35m of additional berthage.
- The completed scheme will ensure that wave heights within the harbour are greatly reduced increasing safety and extending the time period the pier is usable, contributing significantly to the island's commercial potential while ensuring enhanced quality of life.
- Progress Update
- The project to extend Inis Óírr pier has made significant progress towards a works contractor appointment. Following Departmental approval for the revised Business Case in late June, the tender documents to shortlist suitable contractors were published, and that tender period ended on the 12th of September. Assessment of submissions received will be complete by the end of this month, with publication of the Design & Build Works Tender Documents to follow in October.
- Allowing for the required procurement time periods, it is anticipated that a contractor appointment will be finalised towards the end of Q1 2023. On that basis the current programme indicates that the development will be substantially complete by the end of 2025 and fully operational for the 2026 summer season.
- The acquisition by Compulsory Purchase Order of the terrestrial and marine lands required to facilitate the scheme was completed earlier this year. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry will be served on relevant landowners in the coming weeks in preparation for the contract award.
- There has been significant engagement with pier users and the Island community over the past year in particular to prepare for the commencement of works. The aim is to carry out the development with the least disruption possible to island life and pier activity especially. The appointment of a permanent Harbour Master is being progressed and this resource will be in place in advance of the mobilisation of the appointed contractor. This will be of significant benefit in managing the pier and adjacent area over the duration of the contract and thereafter.



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PICTURES ABOVE SHOW THE PIER DURING STORM CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION BY WAY OF BREAKWATER AND INCREASED HEIGHT OF STORM WALL.



DRAWING ABOVE SHOWS THE LAYOUT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### RETAINED FIRE SERVICE INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Retained FireService industrial Action that was ongoing since the 6th June has been brought to a conclusion with the acceptances by both parties, the LGMA (on behalf on management) and SIPTU (on behalf of the retained fire fighters) of a WRC recommendation.

On 14th August, both parties were invited by the WRC to attend a mediation to find a resolution to the dispute. They met in the WRC on the 16th August and in the early hours of the 17th August was reached. As a result of the agreed recommendation the industrial Action was suspended and the recommendation was put to SIPTU members for ballot. On the 5th September, 63% of the returned ballots voted in favour of accepting the WRC recommendation.

The WRC recommendation contained all the elements of the Labour Court recommendation with some add-ons in terms of fixed elements of pay. There will be an increase in the Retainer of approximately €2,500 per fire fighter, 40 hours of the new 80 hours of community fire safety work will be incorporated into fixed pay and there is a floor number of calls (75 hours) for which all fire fighters will be paid, whether their station has that number of calls or not. The high rate of pay has changed from 10pm – 7am to 8pm – 8am and all drill hour will now be paid at the high rate. The number of fire fighters will increase in each station to a minimum of 12 personnel, providing the opportunity to

respond to calls on a week on / week off basis. The agreement is effective from the 1st July, and all the new elements of pay are to be backdated to then.

The agreement will have a significant impact on fire service and county council budgets for the remainder of this year and into the future, the effects of which are still being analysed

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

### LAUNCH OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCILS NEW INTERACTIVE ONLINE PRE-PLANNING SERVICE:

Galway County Council plan to launch a new interactive preplanning portal in the coming weeks which will allow users to select and outline the site of their prospective development and request a preplanning report in relation to that site.

Galway County Council is offering a new free interactive pre-planning service called [galway.preplanning.ie](http://galway.preplanning.ie) to prospective planning applicants to provide background information about their site. It is planned to launch the new site in the coming weeks. The system will allow users to select and outline the site of their prospective development and request a preplanning report in relation to that site. Many factors are used by the Council to determine if a site location is suitable for planning and the “pre-planning reports” available on this website highlight potential suitability based on several criteria. For example, if a site boundary is located within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), then it may impact the planning decision. These reports let you know if your proposed site is within an SAC as well as numerous other lookup layers of information, and you can decide from there if it is worthwhile to proceed with an application for planning permission.

It is quick and easy to create your free pre-planning report. You can use the [Create Report form](#) and use the map to highlight your proposed site boundary. Once you submit your request, it will take a few seconds to build your report. You will also receive an email with a link to your report so you can revisit the report at a later time.

It is anticipated that the advent of this portal enhance the experience of our customers in accessing and interpreting key planning data and assessment criteria.

### ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION ABP-317810-23

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), from EP Energy Developments Ltd. to develop an Open Cycle Gas Turbine power plant (350MW) and associated infrastructure on land to the north of Tynagh Power Station, Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

### Project Description:

The proposed development will include: Demolition of existing vacant shed structure on site; Installation of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) unit and associated plant

*[Including GT enclosure; air intake; stack (40m high) with Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS); circuit breaker; main, auxiliary and ancillary transformers; switchyard; acoustic barriers; electrical rooms; finfan coolers; skids (to include gas skid, distillate fuel skid, lube oil skid, CO2 fire-fighting skid); propane store; pump out kiosk; gantry; hardstanding maintenance area]; Lubrication oil and chemical stores [3 no. shed structures]; Secondary fuel storage area [1 no. bunded fuel oil storage tank; fuel treatment plant; fuel forwarding building; fuel unloading area]; Fuel pipe gantry; Demineralised water storage tank and pumphouse; Firewater storage tank and pumphouse; Emergency diesel generator; Above Ground Installation ('AGI') to facilitate connection to existing gas pipeline; A new 220 kV switchyard bay within the existing electricity substation; And all associated ancillary development, site works and services including underground pipework and cabling, upgraded wastewater treatment plant, drainage infrastructure, fencing, internal roadways, lighting, etc.*

### Industrial Emissions Directive, Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive Status:

The application relates to development for the purposes of an activity requiring a license from the Environmental Protection Agency under the Industrial Emissions Directive.

It also relates to a Lower Tier COMAH establishment and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations, 2015.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted with the application.

### Public Display of Application Documentation:

The planning application and EIAR may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on 22nd August 2023 at the following locations:

- The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902;
- The offices of Galway County Council, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX;

### Observations or Submissions:

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board"), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902; or via the Board's website, [www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/observations](http://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/observations), during the aforementioned period of seven weeks relating to:

- i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development; and
- ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- iii. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on 10th October 2023. Such submissions or observations must also include the following information: - The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent; and - The subject matter of the submission or observation; and - The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

#### The Planning Authority Report:

Section 37 E (4-7 inclusive) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires the Planning Authority to submit to the Board a report setting out the views of the authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area by 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

#### Next Steps:

It is intended in advance of the above deadline to submit the report to the members of the authority and seek their views on the proposed development. The members of the planning authority may, by resolution, decide to attach recommendations specified in the resolution to the report of the authority; where the members so decide those recommendations (together with the meetings administrator's record) shall be attached to the report submitted to the Board.

It is intended that ABP-317810-23 will be on the agenda for discussion at the upcoming Plenary Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

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#### PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT:

Galway County Council has granted planning permission to Production Equipment Inc, for an industrial development consisting of:

- The provision of a 2 no. storey Industrial Warehousing Unit and Ancillary Office Space (8826.3sqm.);
- The provision of a Service Yard Plant and Refuse Area, Distribution and Circulation Yard with 5 no. level access loading bays;
- The provision of Solar PV Panels;
- The provision of 163 no. car parking spaces and 163 no. bicycle parking spaces;
- The provision of internal roadways, pedestrian footpaths and associated site development works intended to facilitate the proposed development.

The planned facility is located at Moanbaun, Raheen & Culliarbaun, Athenry, within the Galway Strategic Economic Corridor and is projected to create in excess of 120 jobs in the SEC.

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Planning Enforcement have received 160 complaints to date 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. Files closed in this period are 111, 87 warning letters have been served and 50 Enforcement Notices.

There are 1,313 open enforcement files at various stage of investigation.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 1,459 planning applications were received ytd 12<sup>th</sup> of September of which 75% were e files.

### **Breakdown of Applications January – August 2023**

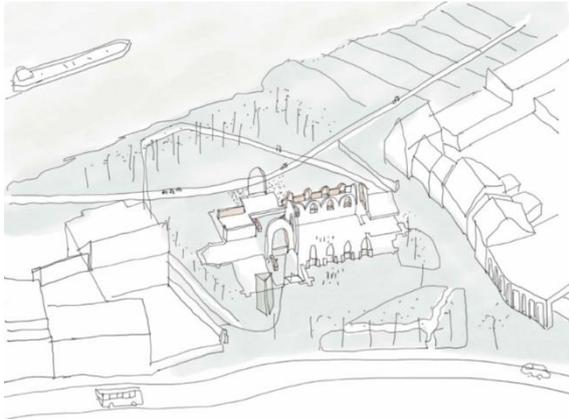
Planning Applications Received	1,389
Planning Applications Granted	837
Planning Applications Refused	243
Further Information Requested	575
Further Information Received	581
Invalid Applications	320

## FORWARD PLANNING

- The members of the Tuam Municipal District at their MD meeting on the 11th of September 2023 considered the Chief Executives Report on the submissions received on the Material Alterations to the Draft Tuam Local Area Plan 2023-2029. At this meeting the Members adopted the Tuam Local Area Plan, and this plan will come into effect in 6 weeks' time on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023;
- A report has been sent to the Office of Planning Regulator (OPR) in relation to the Elected Members decision on a number of recommendations that were made at the MD Meeting which were contrary to the recommendations of the OPR and Chief Executive;
- The Athenry Local Area Plan and was on display from the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. A total of 132 submissions were received. The Chief Executive Report was prepared and furnished to the Athenry/Oranmore MD Members on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. A workshop was held with MD Members on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. A special MD meeting is scheduled to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 to consider the Chief Executives Report;

- Work is ongoing with the National Transport Authority forecasting planning sheets and on the preparation of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy;
- Work is underway on the preparation of the Loughrea and Gort Local Area Plans and subsequent Local Transport Plans;
- Work is ongoing with Transport Consultants on the preparation of the Eastern Environs Local Transport Strategy and specifically the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) on Briarhill.

## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICE



### Architecture at the Edge Festival 29<sup>th</sup> September- 8 October 2023

Programme of events, lectures, workshops and visits throughout County Galway and County Mayo.

Booking online at <https://www.architectureattheedge.com/>

Ireland's exhibit at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale, *In Search of Hy-Brasil*, presents fieldwork from Ireland's remote islands, investigating their diverse cultures, communities, and experiences. Inis Meáin is featured, along with islands in Sceilg Mhichíl Kerry and Cliara in Mayo. The involvement of the architectural conservation office ensures that the exhibition and associated workshops and talks will return to County Galway to raise awareness of the issues raised.

***In Search of  
Hy-Brasil:  
Learning  
resilience***



La Biennale di Venezia

18. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura  
Partecipazioni Nazionali



# from Irish islander communities for a more sustainable future

Ireland at Venice at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition –  
La Biennale di Venezia

: [www.hy-brasil.ie/](http://www.hy-brasil.ie/).

[instagram.com/hy\\_brasil\\_irl/](https://instagram.com/hy_brasil_irl/) [twitter.com/Hy\\_Brasil\\_Irl](https://twitter.com/Hy_Brasil_Irl) [www.hy-brasil.ie/](http://www.hy-brasil.ie/)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

### FORMER AIRPORT SITE

Galway County Council have had a number of discussions in recent months with a music promoter in relation to the usage of the airport site for a music festival in 2024. Negotiations are ongoing and the proposal currently is to introduce the event to the market and keep the fees for artists (relatively) low. The promoter uses this model for the Trinity Summer Series in Dublin and in the first year of the Fairview Park series. A memorandum of understanding is in place whereby the commitment is for one year and any consideration for concerts beyond year one will only be if the site is still available for one off uses in the context of the master planning process being completed/bottomed out. The next step in relation to the discussions for a concert series in 2024 will be to draw up a licence agreement between Galway County Council, Galway City Council and the promoter.

### MASTERPLAN DEVELOPMENT

Galway County Council Forward Planning unit have began to progress the Masterplanning process for the former Airport site.

The input of the IDA into the procurement process for consultants has been sought with key areas of action required:

1. Infrastructural Survey work
2. Spatial Planning
3. Design Standards
4. Masterplan

It is proposed to present the masterplan framework to the SPC in the first instance, the Municipal District and to a joint City/County SPC meeting to be held in December 2023.

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

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### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

requirements. The Autumn schedule of Short Training Courses are now available to book online via the LEO website, including courses such as Marketing Techniques for your Business, AI tools for Business, Financials for Small Business and Online Revenue Returns.

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### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO Galway run SYOB programmes monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. Start dates for the upcoming programmes are as follows:

Sept 4th – evening course

Sept 27th – daytime course

Oct 2nd – evening course

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### LEAN FOR BUSINESS

LEO Galway delivers the Lean For Business programme twice a year with up to 12 participants on each programme. Lean for Business is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation.

LEO Galway are running a free online webinar on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 1pm for businesses to join and hear more about the upcoming Lean for Business Programme due to start in October. The webinar will include discussion with past participants regarding the opportunities and benefits gained from completing the Lean for Business Programme.

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### CREW – CREATIVE ENTERPRISE WEST

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

The CREW CEED (Creative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development) incubation programme will help turn a creative idea into a sustainable business in a variety of disciplines (TV & Film, Virtual Production, Games, Animation, Content Development, Digital Arts, Immersive Technologies, Digital Design, Creative Technologies & more). LEO Galway financially supports the CREW programme and are involved in recruitment, course delivery and follow up and assessment and any further interventions for the participants.

- Start date: mid-September 2023 and end date: May 2024\*
  - 14 participants
  - Duration: 30 Weeks, part-time In-person & online delivery:
  - Two online teaching sessions per week:

- Exclusive community and networking activities
- Professional, one-to-one mentorship

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## GREEN FOR BUSINESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT

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

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

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

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

To learn more about this new support small businesses can contact LEO Galway directly.

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## LEAN LAUNCH PROGRAMME

LEO Galway delivers the Lean Launch programme twice a year with up to 14 participants on each programme. Lean Launch is a 'hands-on' real world entrepreneurial start up situation where the individual has an idea and the purpose of this workshop is to immediately start testing the business model. With the guidance of the mentor, the entrepreneurs are taken through actual steps and get out of the classroom / training situation and physically do the market research. Entrepreneurs analyse their business model and how to cost their business. Fundamental to the programme, entrepreneurs look at their potential customers and conduct a number of real-world research interviews in the three month period. Lean Launch will allow participants to establish whether there is a real business in their idea. Entrepreneurs can sign up for the next Lean Launch programme commencing Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> via the LEO Galway website.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is holding a series of free events regionally for businesses which will highlight the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and decarbonisation. The Department invites all businesses in the West to a free event to help your business navigate the green journey and boost your business performance through digital transformation. This event will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm in the Ballina Arts Centre, Barrett Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo and includes:

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

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### STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

The Student Enterprise Programme is run by the national network of LEOs. It is the largest and most successful student enterprise programme with over 25,000 students taking part each year. It runs from September to May each year and students get to set up their own business and do everything a real life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing & writing a business plan. County Finals take place in February/March each year in each county. One student team goes forward to take part in the National Final in May 2024 to be named Student Enterprise of the Year. LEO Galway will be commencing our local SEP programme in September with over 30 schools expected to participate.

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### NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

**National Women's Enterprise Day**, Ireland's largest female enterprise event, promotes, encourages, and stimulates female entrepreneurship across Ireland. It is designed and led by women and is an annual high point in promoting entrepreneurship to women in Ireland. The Local Enterprise Office along with Enterprise Ireland provide a wide range of help, incentives, training, and development programmes to female entrepreneurs. LEO Galway in conjunction with LEO Mayo & LEO Roscommon are holding their West Region NWED event – Empowering Business Together - on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Kilronan Castle.

Speakers include:

- Mairead O' Shea - Communications Manager 'See Her Elected' an initiative which aims to empower women all over rural Ireland to run for local election by equipping them with skills, confidence, and knowledge.
- Eimear Noone – Award winning, Galway-born conductor, composer and entrepreneur.

Tickets are on sale for this upcoming event through the LEO Roscommon website or contact LEO Galway directly.

## LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR

Since 2012, the **Local Food and Craft Fair** has grown in popularity and reputation – featuring some of the best local crafts people and artisan food producers. Starting with a reception on the Friday evening, crowds throng to the Fair all throughout the weekend with a significant increase in footfall year-on-year. More than 50 local crafts people specialising in artisan food, drinks, art, jewellery and more will converge on the Black Box theatre Galway City for this year's event. This two day fair is great opportunity to find unique gifts before Christmas, along with a wide range of artisan jams, jellies, chutneys, cakes, cheeses, vegan foods, juices, and craft brews. Beautiful creations of local craft experts will be on show ranging from handmade ceramics, leather work, wooden carvings, household decorations, gifts, jewellery and more. The 2023 event takes place from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December at the Blackbox Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway. Free entry.

## SHOWCASE 2024 – 21-23 JANUARY

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

Enterprise Network has 105 stands and LEO Galway has six clients taking part. These include: Sketchico, Wild Atlantic Wicks, Orla Culligan Ceramics, Fiona Concannon Art, Socksociety and Galway Fairytales. LEO Galway work with these clients in advance to ensure the clients are fully prepared in terms of visual merchandising, pricing, supply chain logistics to maximise this opportunity with international buyers.



PHOTO: MARTHA BEGLEY FROM GALWAY FAIRYTALES

## REGENERATION SCHEMES

### ATHENRY

The Cross Street and Market Square enhancement design package which is being brought into the wider public realm is currently being finalised for the Part VIII with submission expected in early October. This will form part of Phase 1 of the Athenry Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. The below images give a before and after visualisation of the project. In addition, a proposal brief is being prepared to appoint consultants for the delivery of Town Centre First Plan for Athenry. The TRO will commence formal engagement including the establishment of a Town Team to help deliver the plan through 2024.



Cross Street - Current and Proposed General Arrangement





North Gate Street - Current and Proposed General Arrangement



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## LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

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

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## CLIFDEN

Design consultants LUC and members of the Regeneration team met with local councillors and members of the Connemara Chamber of Commerce and had a productive discussion regarding the public realm plans for Clifden. The Design team are now finalising the planning application with expected submission to An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year.

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## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE

The construction tender documents for the courthouse are now published on etenders with a tender return date of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Pursuant to tender review and analysis the team expects to appoint contractors before the end of the year with anticipated construction commencing on-site in 2024.

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## PORTUMNA

The regeneration team met with members of the Portumna Strategic Partnership at Portumna castle. The partnership works in collaboration to coordinate projects across the town of Portumna. Members include representatives from Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Failte Ireland, the OPW, Inland fisheries and the GCC Regen team.



The public realm and wayfinding plans for Portumna will be going on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of public consultation at the end of September. The Regeneration Team is exploring different sites across the town with a view to acquiring land for an additional public car park.

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## GORT

The Town regeneration Officer has been working closely with the Gort Town Team finalising the content of the pilot Town Centre First (TCF) plan for Gort. The plan is in its closing stages of completion with an expectation to have a formal launch of the final plan in November. The public realm project is in its final stages of detailed design in preparation for the submission of a planning application in quarter 4 of 2023. The Regeneration Team ran a design competition for students at Gort Community College for their design ideas for the new public realm in Gort and presented the winner's prize to her art teacher.



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## HEADFORD

The Regeneration Team were delighted to support the Headford Town team in the launch of their Reimagine Headford project. The launch was a great success and was well attended including by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Maria Walsh MEP.



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## TUAM

The Regeneration team is preparing for the funding call for a Category 1 application under the RRDF. It is expected a call for applications will be announced in November. The team are working towards resubmitting an application for the Tuam Town Hall which already has part VIII planning in place.

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## URDF

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

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### NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK 2023

#### OVERVIEW

National Heritage Week 2023 took place from Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th August 2023. The Heritage Council once again invited individuals, communities and organisations to develop Heritage Week projects. The theme for National Heritage Week was 'Living Heritage' which is defined as the practices, knowledge and skills that have been passed from one generation to the next, and are still in use today.

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#### WHO CO-ORDINATES AND MANAGES NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK?

National Heritage Week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Council as part of European Heritage Days – a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union in which more than 50 countries participate each year.

It is supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and run in association with Fáilte Ireland. At county level, National Heritage Week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Council and the County Heritage Officer. The Heritage Officer assisted numerous groups with programming, funding and assisting numerous groups around the county with their heritage week events. Events were also supported and ran by the Heritage Officer, other colleagues including the Biodiversity Officer, Environment Section and numerous local heritage groups and organisations.

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#### HERITAGE WEEK, COUNTY OF GALWAY 2023

A total of **1860** in person events were held nationwide and a total of **69** digital heritage projects were also hosted during heritage week. **100** in person events were held in Galway County and **7** digital projects were also hosted (excluding Galway City). Events were held in all parts of the county.

The following is the link to the 100 in person Galway County events:

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings?q=&where%5B%5D=galway-county#listings>

The following is the link to the 7 digital Galway County Heritage events:

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects?q=&where%5B%5D=galway-county#listings>

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#### LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE

The Tuam Herald, Connaught Tribune, Galway Advertiser, Connemara Community Radio, Radio na Gaeltachta and Galway Bay FM gave extensive cover to heritage week events in the county. The following is a flavour of this coverage:

# Private collections of film bring the past back to life

TRIP down memory lane a Tuam is on offer at a two-night event in the Mall Theatre, when *A History on Super8* will be screened on Tuesday August 15 and Wednesday August 16 as part of Heritage Week.

Footage from 1957 through the 1980s forms the basis of his incredible treasure trove of local memories of football, slivics, weddings, trips to the USA, as well as race meetings, the Galway Fleadh Ceoil, and much more.

The private collections of Frank Glynn, Milltown; Fr Patrick McHugh, Dunmore; and David Burke and Julie Loftus from Tuam form this amazing archive of local living history a never seen before.

The film footage was compiled and edited by Paul Murphy, while local historian Gary Burke was involved in the initial stages of the project.

She outlined: "Last year, my cousin John from Dunmore gave me four cine film reels belonging to my uncle, Rev. Patrick McHugh; the reels were among a box of mementos and papers belonging to him that were stored in the attic of his home house in Moynd largely forgotten about for his death in 2000."

Fr Paddy was an avid

traveller and photographer. He was ordained in 1957 and he ministered in the parish of Far Rockway in the borough of Queens. He bought his super 8 cine film movie camera in New York, and filmed family events and all of his world travels.

"With the help of filmmaker Paul Murphy, I got the films digitised, not having any idea at what they contained," said Mary.

"One reel had extraordinary footage of Hong Kong, Macau, and the Philippines from 1963. Another showed a Galway football match in New York's Gaelic Park and the 1964 World's Fair, also in New York."

"But it was the family footage that engendered the most emotion. Footage of my grandparents, my own parents and the many relatives who are no longer with us was shared with cousins in America and England."

**County Galway  
A History on Super8**

An Amazing treasure trove of recently restored Super8 Cinefilm from 4 Galway families, giving us a window into our recent history in County Galway from the 1950's to the 1980's. This archive cannot be seen anywhere else.

**Mall Theatre, Tuam  
Heritage Week 2023  
August 15th and 16th at 8:00pm**

Tickets on eventbrite.ie  
Contact Paul for more information at  
merchantspartymurphy@yahoo.co.uk or 086-4039378

Supported by Galway County Council and Creative Ireland

"Closer to home, there is filming of a sunny Sunday in Dublin city in the late 1960s, with families strolling along dressed in their best outfits," detailed Mary.

"Other people are peacefully reading their newspapers, sitting on a grassed area in the middle of O'Connell Street, scenes that bear witness to a city centre that is unrecognisably different from the present perception of our capital place today."

Delighted that some of her uncle's footage will feature in the special screening for Heritage Week, called *County Galway A History on Super8*, she noted that some of the local footage used in the screening at The Mall is very nostalgic, giving a small glimpse into another era.

"There are young Tuam lads racing out the school gates of the CBS on Dublin Road, some of these are very recognisable smiling faces, I could name many of them. The sheep and cattle market on Barrack Street in Dunmore was probably filmed in 1968, the same year he was home on holiday for his brother Jarlath's wedding."

"The Hermitage Hotel garden has disappeared under tarmac now, but Dunmore Church is largely unchanged. Like many photographers he rarely featured in his own films, but now and then the camera was handed over and turned around to film his laughing countenance and that is how his family remember him."

"He was always in unflinching good humour with a smile on his face. Thanks to my uncle and his enthusiasm for film, our family has uncovered a very welcome and treasured gift; that of seeing our family members live - and in glorious colour."

The two screenings take place at 8pm in the Mall Theatre on August 15 and 16 as part of Heritage Week.

Tickets are €7 through eventbrite.ie or contact Paul on 086-4039378.



ABBEYNOKKMOY Community Centre celebrated National Heritage Week. From left: Bernie Doherty (Galway Community Archaeologist); Marian Williams (Abbeynockmoy Cultural Heritage); Martin Curley (Soghain Genes); and Colm Murray.

## SUCCESSFUL HERITAGE WEEK

Skehana Heritage held successful events for heritage week which included the Galway Forged Gates Project, our Daoine agus Áit postcard project, our An Bhean Glúine midwifery project and our Bloomsday 2022 recording and by popular demand the display our Big Houses exhibition of over 400 images of the estate houses of county Galway with most dating from the 19th century.

The exhibition was staged, in indoor and in outdoor settings, from 11am each day at the Skehana Community Development on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to all who attended.



## THE HERITAGE COUNCIL'S NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARDS

The Heritage Council's National Heritage Awards celebrate the most engaging projects and events organised by National Heritage Week project organisers.

The National Heritage Week Award have been running since 2010 and aim to acknowledge the work done by hundreds of event organisers across the country. Events and digital projects can be nominated for consideration for an award each year. This year, there will be seven award categories (see below), together with the county awards. Reflecting the theme of National Heritage Week this year, the primary focus will be on projects which placed particular emphasis on living heritage. The National Heritage Awards will take place in Gloster House in Co. Offaly on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

This year's National Heritage Week Awards will comprise the county awards, as well as

several special categories, outlined below.

**National Heritage Hero Award:** Awarded to an individual or organisation that has demonstrated – over a substantial period of time – an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage. This award is based on nominations from the public.

**Living Heritage Award:** Awarded to the event or project that successfully encouraged a greater appreciation of an element of our Living Heritage- traditional crafts, skills, and practices.

**Wild Child Award:** Awarded to an event or project that successfully encouraged children and families to get outdoors and enjoy and explore the heritage and biodiversity in their locality; to look at the world around them differently; to open their eyes to the diverse beauty of the landscape in their area.

**Water Heritage Award:** Awarded to an event or project that best explored how a canal, river, lake or sea shaped the heritage of a locality or celebrates water as an integral part of our natural heritage, as well as being a vital part of our future, or reflects on what more we can do to conserve this valuable resource. The Water Heritage Award is in association with the Local Authority Water Programme.

**Inclusive Event Award:** Awarded to an event or project that made a special effort to share heritage with everyone in the community across age groups, including those who are; new to heritage; those who do not have local roots; those who have additional accessibility needs.

**Irish Language Award:** Awarded to an event or project that took place through the Irish Language and/or encouraged participation or activity in the Irish language.

**Sustainability and Climate Award:** Awarded to an event or project that made a special effort to incorporate environmentally friendly practices to reduce our carbon footprint and impact on the natural world OR an event that provided education on the impact of climate change and good sustainability practice.

**County Award:** Awarded to the best event or project in each Local Authority area based its ability to: maximise the involvement of a community in developing the project; include all age groups in your community in the project development / execution; grow awareness of an aspect of heritage in a community; or build on an existing heritage project, or heritage network in a community and consider the themes of Living Heritage.

**Heritage Week Events Held by Galway County Heritage Office and events held by the Heritage Office in partnership with community groups:**

**HOLY WELLS**  
OF THE  
MOYCULLEN  
AREA

A Free Heritage  
Week Event hosted by  
Moycullen Heritage  
5pm | Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
Aras Uilinn | Church Road, Maigh  
Cuilinn, Co. Galway H91 DHWO

A talk by Zena Hctor, Researcher with the  
Audit of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway  
and Hazel Morrison of Moycullen Heritage.

[galwayholywells@gmail.com](mailto:galwayholywells@gmail.com)

The Audit of the Holy Wells of the County of Galway is funded by Galway County Council and The Heritage Council and is being conducted by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council in partnership with Forum Connemara and Galway IFA.

Galway County Council | The Heritage Council | Forum Connemara | Galway IFA | An Chomhairle OilBranntaí | GALWAY

# TOBAR BEANNAITHE AN CHEANTAIR

Tá do chúnamh ag teastáil ó Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus ón gComhairle Oidhreachta i gcomhar le Fóram CLG Chonamara agus IFA na Gaillimhe.

Táimid ag bailiú eolais faoi thobreacha beannaithe i Chonamara Thuaidh.



- An bhfuil aon eolas agatsa faoi aon tobar beannaithe i do cheantarsa?
- An mbíonn lá pátrúin ar siúl gach bliain ag an tobar?
- Cén uair a dtugann daoine cuairt ar an tobar?
- An bhfuil aon seanchas agat faoin tobar?

Seolaigí bhur gcuid scéalta, taithí agus grianghraf ar ríomhphost chuig

[galwayholywells@gmail.com](mailto:galwayholywells@gmail.com)

Iníochadh ar Thobreacha Beannaithe i gContae na Gaillimhe  
Gníomh de chuid Phlean Oidhreachta agus Bithéagsúlachta Chontae na Gaillimhe 2017-2022




This event was held in partnership with Moycullen Heritage. Great to receive input from the audience with additional information to add to the Holy Wells survey and Moycullen Heritage gained some additional members to their group because of the event.

### The Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in East Galway

A Community Listening Event, showcasing interviews of memory and oral history recorded in the Abbey and East Galway area with local older people over many years.

The event featured a presentation on the County Galway Heritage Office 2023 Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings by oral historian Dr Tomás Mac Conamara. Sample audio from previous recordings will be played and discussed in a comfortable and enjoyable environment. The Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in East Galway is a project of Galway County Council Heritage Office.

### **Go Explore the heritage of Connemara & Lough Corrib! Bus & Boat Tour**

**This heritage week event was held in partnership with Oughterard Heritage & Galway County Council Heritage Office**





This event was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August and 49 people attend this event (max capacity). They visited Oughterard Courthouse and viewed the Garda Exhibition, then when on a boat trip to Inagoill island, had a walking tour of Cong given by Vincent Campbell, tour guide. This was followed by lunch in Burkes of Clonbur and a talk given by Michael Hegarty, Manager, Joyce Country, and Western Lakes Geopark who gave a talk on Joyce Country Geopark.



OVER 40,000 GRAVEYARD MEMORIAL RECORDS RELEASED AS PART OF GALWAY COUNTY DIGITAL MAPPING OF GRAVEYARDS PROJECT



Over 40,000 graveyard memorial records were released as part of Galway County Digital Mapping of Graveyards Project. The aim of the project is to support our communities and diaspora to connect with their past by unlocking valuable graveyard data sources and making them available as open-source data that will be free for all to use.

Galway County Council working with various community groups and organisations have been collecting and collating valuable data relating to those who are buried in various graveyards for several years. Galway County Council, with funding from the Heritage Council, the Open Data Engagement Fund and its own resources has developed and made available an app specifically for use by surveyors at the local level for memorial surveys, along with associated data management and validation processes. In addition to this Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Forum Connemara, and the Heritage Council has provided funding to local groups to employ experts to work with and train local communities on how to use this technology and to undertake drone mapping of graveyards. Through this funding and the hard work and dedication of community volunteers we now are in the position to make available these 40,000 records.

It is proposed to transfer and update more memorial records and also to map graveyards and record further memorial inscriptions in the coming months and years; subject to available resources. A Burial Search Application has been created to allow easy searching and display of the data.

The launch of this project took place in Ellis Hall, Letterfrack on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

This information will be made available through Galway County Council's Open Data Portal [galwaycoco.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html](http://galwaycoco.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html) and

<https://data.gov.ie/>

# Digitally mapping the past

High-tech analysis of Connemara's cemeteries allows descendants trace their roots

BY STEPHEN CORRIGAN

DIGITAL maps of seven Connemara graveyards were officially launched this week, offering the key to unlock the past for the residents and diaspora of Ballinakill Parish.

The project, which involved hundreds of hours of volunteer work, got underway in Covid as part of community development agency Connemara West's 50th anniversary celebrations.

And after two years of recording headstone inscriptions, digital maps of the seven graveyards in Ballinakill Parish are now available on Galway County Council's dedicated graveyard heritage website.

Janet O'Toole of Connemara West said the launch of the digitised maps was the result of dedicated volunteers giving over their time, and expert guidance delivered by the County Heritage Officer, Marie Mannon with her team in the County Council.

"We have mapped seven graveyards in this area and they are now part of this bigger project from the County Council. It's online and anybody can enter their surname to find where their ancestors are buried," she said.

The graveyards covered as part of this project are Remyyle, Tooreena, Salrock, Letterfrack Boys' Cemetery, Banogues, St Thomas' and Ballinakill.

The system works using information gathered by volunteers from headstones in the cemeteries combined with drone photos which allow users to pinpoint the exact plot they're looking for.

While there are many graves that are unmarked by a headstone, Ms O'Toole said by launching the digital maps this week, they hope some of those gaps may be filled in.

"At this stage of the project, Connemara West is holding a number of open days in the Connemara West Centre where the maps will be available. Local

people's knowledge and expertise is an essential component of the project and could help identify unknown graves," she said, adding that the maps would be available in Letterfrack daily until October 28 for people to call in and view.

Ms O'Toole said as Connemara West's 50th year came around during Covid, they were looking for a way to mark the occasion and graveyard mapping offered the perfect "Covid project".

As well as providing a window into the heritage of Ballinakill, it was a practical project during Covid restrictions as the work of gathering information could be done in the great outdoors.

"When we launched it, we knew it was something people in the area would be interested in. We had three talks on Zoom and around 120 people turned up to each one of them.

"The volunteers went out to gather the information from the headstones. We had some volunteers that were treating it like nearly a full-time job and others who were interested and helped out when they could," said Ms O'Toole.

"There was just great enthusiasm for it - people were out in graveyards in rain, hail or shine, dealing with midges and horseflies and trying to get through the ferns to gather the information we needed," she continued.

With the map now online, Ms O'Toole said it will offer a useful resource on a number of levels.

"On a very simple level, a person in Australia could look at a grandparent's grave back home."

"On another level, it will be a useful research tool for people looking for their roots in Connemara," she said.

The project is supported by the Council's Heritage Office and Forum Connemara through the Leader Programme.

To view the digital maps, visit [www.galway.ie/graveyards/map](http://www.galway.ie/graveyards/map)



Connemara West staff and graveyard mapping volunteers pictured at this week's launch in Ellis Hall, Letterfrack. From left, Breda Conroy, Colin Clarke, Dolores Walsh, Janet O'Toole, Carol Cronnelly, Fiona Lydon, Patricia Glynn, Ena Ruddy, Jeremy Madden and Desirée Flynn-O'Rourke.



Volunteers gathering information at Salrock Graveyard.

"Tracing your Galway Roots: Discover Your Family History" Uncover the Stories of Your Ancestors



This event was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway H91 H6KX.

Mapping Galway surnames" talk was given by John Grenham. It explored ways in which visualising the locations of households of particular surnames in Griffith's, census records and records of births,

marriages and deaths can help with genealogy and local history, providing vivid examples of just how local some names are and how impossibly widespread others can be. The talk gave some of the technical background involved in creating the maps but will mostly focus on the names.

This talk was followed by the interactive workshop where members of the public got one to one advice with regards to your genealogical research queries.





This event is being organised by the Heritage Office of Galway County Council in partnership with Galway County Council Archives, Local Studies, Galway Public Libraries, East Galway Family History Society, Galway Family History Society West (Limited), Western Family History Association, Ireland XO, Oughterard Heritage & Skehana and District Heritage Group.

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## ATHENRY WALLED TOWN DAY

Athenry Walled Towns Day 2023: An Unforgettable and Triumphant Journey to the Medieval Ages

The echoes of the past reverberated through the streets and ancient walls of Athenry as the town hosted its annual Walled Towns Day last Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> August. This year's Athenry Medieval Festival proved to be a resounding success, drawing an impressive crowd of seven and a half thousand attendees. Transported back in time to the medieval era, visitors of all ages were captivated by a mesmerising fusion of history, culture, and entertainment.

The day-long festival, a cherished tradition since its inception in 2006, unfolded across Athenry's iconic landmarks: the Athenry Community Park, the Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre, and Athenry Castle. With a diverse range of activities thoughtfully curated to illuminate the Anglo-Norman influences on the medieval town, Athenry Walled Town Day delivered an immersive experience like no other.

Eager participants were treated to an authentic voyage into the heart of medieval life, where the air resonated with the melodies of ancient instruments and the rhythmic beats of distant drums. Key highlights included spellbinding performances by talented jesters, musicians, dancers, and drummers. The Gliondar stilt walkers dazzled onlookers with their skill and charisma, leaving an indelible mark on the crowd.

The Galway Early Music group and acclaimed performers Carmel Dempsey, Mike Stewart, Brendan Curtin, Lisa Whelan, Úna Ní Fhlannagáin, along with Siobhán and Saoirse from the Hession School of Dance, transported attendees with captivating melodies and mesmerizing acts. The younger audience members were enthralled by Drumadore's captivating rhythms.

The 1316 Medieval Athenry Fight Club donned elaborate armour and engaged in exhilarating clashes of steel, leaving the audience breathless. Aspiring young knights seized the opportunity to hone their skills under the guidance of the Irish School of Historical Combat. The living history group Cláíomh reconstructed scenes from Ireland's medieval past, offering a genuine window into history. Scotia Living History Display further enriched the experience with interactive displays and skilled medieval re-enactors.



The festival also celebrated regional arts and crafts, providing a platform for artisans to showcase their masterpieces. Attendees marvelled at medieval bead-making demonstrations by Mags Mannion, intricate spinning and wool crafts by the Irish Fibre Crafters, and captivating basket weaving by Niall Murphy. Animal Magic showcased majestic birds of prey, while the Loughrea Craft Club engaged younger visitors with medieval arts and crafts. Children and adults alike enjoyed puppet shows by Custard Pie, and even a charming Flea Circus by PigNut. The Moth & Butterfly Storytelling held audiences spellbound with their ancient tales.





Participants of all ages had the unique opportunity to uncover treasures and a carefully reconstructed skeleton, guided by archaeologist Kat Thompson, creating an unforgettable hands-on experience. Food Historian Anna O'Donnell tantalized taste buds with a delectable array of medieval-inspired fare, providing a taste of the era's rich culinary traditions.

Athenry Community Park was enlivened by the towering presence of Gliondar stilt walkers, while Máire Daly skilfully painted the faces of eager children, transforming them into medieval Lords, Ladies, and mythical creatures.



The Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre showcased the ancient art of archery, inviting attendees to try their hand at this traditional skill. Additionally, the centre offered complimentary guided tours, unveiling Athenry's captivating medieval history. Local Failte Ireland Tour Guide Gerry Burke led two informative walking tours that were met with resounding success.



The Athenry Walled Town Day was made possible through funding from The Heritage Council and Galway County Council, with invaluable support from Athenry Community Council Trust Limited, Athenry Area Office of Galway County Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, and the vibrant local businesses.

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#### LOUGHREA MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL



The medieval spirit came alive at the highly successful Medieval Festival held at Loughrea.



This one-of-a-kind event captivated local people and visitors of all ages, offering a delightful blend of music, immersive walks, intricate crafts, engaging films, and a specially crafted children's activity book.



"I was delighted to attend the various events that Loughrea Medieval Festival had showcased over the weekend," said Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway. "The enthusiasm of the attendees, the dedication of the volunteers, heritage experts, reenactors, performers and magnificent demonstrations and works of the artisans at the craft fair coupled with the joy and excitement on the faces of the children made it truly memorable event".





The festival showcased a diverse range of activities and entertainment that delighted attendees. Music aficionados were treated to a mesmerizing fusion of traditional and contemporary music performed by the very talented Carmel Dempsey, Mike Stewart, Brenda Curtin (ex-Lord of the Dance Show) and Joe Higgins with special guests Padraig Connaughton and Ali Fleming in the Loughrea Hotel & Spa. World champions Evan O'Brien and Owen Gaughan from the Hession School Galway, with their amazing dexterity, grace and precision enchanted the audience with their intricate footwork. Lots of members of the audience got in on the act and dressed up as Medieval Lords and Ladies! While there was also a fantastic exhibition of photographs by Loughrea camera club members with magnificent poems from Baffle poetry society on display in the Loughrea Hotel & Spa over the weekend.

Cllr Michael Maher, Chairperson Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee said, 'the Festival was designed to appeal to people of all ages and was very much inter-generational and family focused'. He added that 'the committee is very pleased with the number of people attending the events both locals and visitors to the area and commended all who helped make the weekend an amazing free festival for all and the very positive impact it has had on the town and community of Loughrea.' He also extended sincere thanks to 'Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist, Ita Gordon, Clerical Officer, Anne Power, Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council, Martina Creaven, Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council, Gina O' Shaughnessy, Assistant Staff Officer, Galway County Council, Colman Shaughnessy and Joe Loughnane for all their hard work and dedication in making the festival a success.'

For eager explorers, captivating guided walks by expert guides Colman Shaughnessy and Joe Loughnane provided an immersive experience that took those who went on the walks back in time to the heart of a bygone era and showcased the rich heritage of Loughrea.

A highlight of the festival was launch of the specially crafted bi-lingual children's activity book, designed to entertain and educate the young ones. Packed with engaging puzzles, coloring pages, and historical trivia, the activity book was a perfect companion for children eager to delve into the

medieval world. It ensured that the festival became a family-friendly experience, igniting a love for history within the hearts of the next generation. The workbook produced by Loughrea Medieval Heritage Committee, Heritage Office, Galway County Council and Gaeilge Locha Riach and supported by Loughrea Public Library.

Movie buffs were treated to screenings of video shorts relating to various aspects of the rich heritage of Loughrea including the Deerpark, Our Lady of Gyór, the windows of the Carmelite Abbey and St Brendan’s Cathedral, the History of St Brigid’s Shoe, The Walks, St Mary’s Abbey and Clonfert Diocesan Museum.



On Sunday afternoon in the Loughrea Hotel & Spa artisans and craftsmen, skilled in age-old techniques, showcased their talents of weaving, carving and sculpting, where they transformed raw materials into works of art. There were intricate demonstrations of metalwork, beadmaking, spinning, weaving, pottery, basketwork, calligraphy, medieval brooch making, make and do, circus and lego craft and even bodhrán making! Attendees had the unique opportunity to witness the craftsmanship first hand and even try their hand at these ancient arts under the guidance of skilled artisans. The audience eagerly unleashed their creative talents with many taking home your very own medieval masterpiece!





Loughrea Medieval Festival was made possible by the work of Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee and the Heritage Office of Galway County Council. It was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

## BIODIVERSITY

### INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY WARDENS

The Community Warden Service assists with the mapping of invasive alien plant species on public lands across the county. In-house training was provided to Community Wardens in Tuam on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and included site visits to identify and document the infestations. 47 records have been submitted by the Warden Service over the last 2 months.



PHOTO: COMMUNITY WARDEN INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING

### PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION, HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY PLANS

Together with the Climate Office and the Heritage Office, submissions were sought from the public, to express their priorities for action in each area. This submission window is now closed, and the results are being processed.



## HERITAGE WEEK

National Heritage Week 2023 ran from 12-23<sup>rd</sup> August and the Biodiversity Office ran and collaborated on events around Co. Galway.

### Sustainable Gardening Workshop, Tuam, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

 Celebrating National Heritage Week in County Galway

**FREE EVENT**

**Sustainable Gardening Course**  
With Aoife Munn  
Horticulturist



**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 | 10am-4pm**  
Tuam, County Galway

Galway County Council is delighted to announce a free one-day Sustainable Gardening Course run by horticulturist Aoife Munn. This course will cover planting for pollinators, pond building, vegetable growing, dealing with pests organically and much more.

This course is suitable for adults who want to garden for biodiversity but especially Tidy Towns groups, Green School coordinators and allotment holders.

To secure your place:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-tuam-tickets-656527751177>  
 or for further details please email:  
[biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie)



 Celebrating National Heritage Week in County Galway

**IMEACHT SAOR IN AISCE**

Ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreachta i gContae na Gaillimhe

**Cúrsa Garraíodóireachta Inbhuanaithe**  
leis an nGairneoir  
Aoife Munn



**Dé Domhnaigh an 13 Lúnasa 2023 | 10am-4pm**  
Tuaim, Contae na Gaillimhe

Tá rímíleá ar Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe **Cúrsa Garraíodóireachta Inbhuanaithe** lae saor in aisce leis an nGairneoir Aoife Munn a fhógáirt.

I measc ábhar an chúrsa beidh plandaí le haghaidh pollneoirí, locháin a dhéanamh, glasaí a fhas, dal i ngleic le lotnaidí ar bhealach orgánach agus neart eile.

Tá an cúrsa seo feilínach do dhaoine fásta atá ag iarraidh tabhairt faoi gharráidóireacht ar mhalte leis an mbitheagsúlacht agus tá sé feilínach go háirithe do ghrúpaí Bailte Siachtmhara, comhordaitheoirí Scoileanna Glasa agus do dhaoine a bhfuil cúlchriann acu.

Cuir d'ait in áirithe anseo:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-tuam-tickets-656527751177>  
 nó is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil ach ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig:  
[biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie)



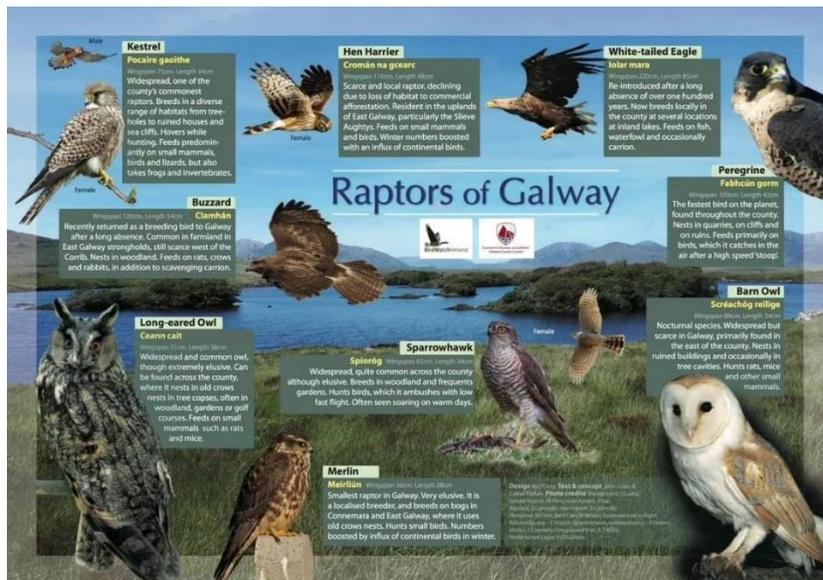
With the support of Tidy Towns Coordinator, Mary McGann, and the Tuam Area Office Staff, in particular, Frank Dolly, GSS Supervisor and Area Engineer Paul Connolly, the Biodiversity Office Heritage Week programme opened with a booked-out Sustainable Gardening Workshop by horticulturist, Aoife Munn. Members of Tuam Tidy Town, Tuam's Women's Shed Cairde Mná, and many other community groups around Northeast Galway were in attendance and learnt how to garden in a manner that supports biodiversity.



PHOTO: MEMBERS OF TUAM TIDY TOWNS AT THE SUSTAINABLE GARDENING COURSE AS PART OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL'S NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK PROGRAMME.

BARN OWL TALK AT COOLE PARK WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST.

The Biodiversity Office partnered a talk on Barn Owls by BirdWatch Ireland's John Lusby at Coole Park with Coole Park Nature Reserve. Copies of Golden Wings: A Tale of An Irish Barn Owl, which was printed by Galway County Council, (Heritage Stewardship Fund 2022 from the Heritage Council) were presented to the younger members of the audience. Galway County Council reproduced a poster highlighting the Raptors of Galway to celebrate Heritage Week and attendees also received a copy of this. Posters are available from the Biodiversity Office on request by emailing biodiversity@galwaycoco.ie



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## DISCOVER THE BEACH: AN TRÁ MHÓR FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST.

Together with the Environment Section, the Biodiversity Office was on the beach, uncovering and documenting the intertidal species on the shore. The clean waters of this Blue Flag Beach support a wide range of species and over the course of the two hours, together with the Galway Atlantaquarium, Leave No Trace and Clean Coasts, over 40 intertidal species were observed and recorded with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

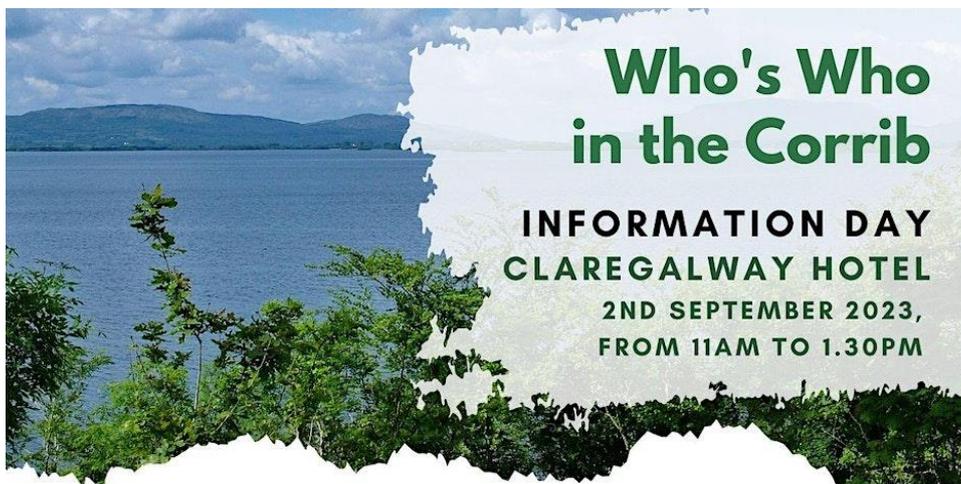


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PHOTO: LEAS CHATHAOIRLEACH, CLLR. EVELYN PARSONS, WITH STAFF FROM THE ENVIRONMENT SECTION AND BIODIVERSITY OFFICE AT THE DISCOVER THE BEACH EVENT AT AN TRÁ MHÓR, INDREABHÁN, AS PART OF NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK.

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## WHO'S WHO OF THE CORRIB



The Biodiversity Office participated in a stakeholder workshop on Working Together for Better Water Quality organised by LAWPRO and the Rivers Trust. This setting presented an excellent opportunity to engage with local representatives, the public, community groups, NGOs, and other state agencies to explore and develop the best way to work together to protect, monitor, and promote the Corrib.



PHOTO: TINA RYAN, CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR, ROSINA JOYCE, BIODIVERSITY OFFICER AND MARY MULLEN GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK COORDINATOR AT WHO'S WHO IN THE CORRIB INFORMATION DAY.

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## LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND (LBAF) PROJECT UPDATES

### Blue Dots of Connemara

Situated on Ireland's west coast, Connemara has long hosted some of our most pristine and sensitive waters. These waterbodies are a refuge for species which were once commonly found across Europe and Ireland but are now sadly in decline. Under European Union guidelines, Ireland must prevent the ecological deterioration of all surface waters; we, and our communities, have a vital role to play in achieving the aim that water bodies in healthy ecological condition or 'High Status' should not decline. The EPA have identified the waters in Ireland that should have a high-status objective, and these are more commonly known as Blue Dot waters or Blue Dots. Galway County Council has partnered with LAWPRO to develop a suite of measures to raise awareness about the Blue Dot sites of Connemara. These include a short documentary which was launched for Water Heritage Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. The 18-minute video on the Galway County Council YouTube Channel has been watched over 1,300 to date and showcases Connemara's beautiful habitats and nature. Ten primary schools across Connemara were selected for a half day workshop, which included kick-sampling and learning about the factors that influence the water quality in their local catchments. These workshops were delivered between the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September.

[\(1\) Connemara Blue Dots - YouTube](#)

## Coastal Amenity Planting for Communities Workshop: 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

This workshop was developed in response to a direct request made by a number of the coastal Tidy Town groups who wished to develop their amenity planting schemes in a more sustainable manner and resilient to the tough growing conditions experienced along our coasts. Through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund from the NPWS, a group of 12, including members of community groups, horticulturists and ecologists travelled to Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo and Falcarragh, Co. Donegal. Training was provided on native plant species that occur in dune and coastal habitats, how to document them in citizen science initiatives with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and which native species could be incorporated into amenity planting schemes. Seamus O'Donnell at Cluain na dTór Seaside Gardens and Nurseries demonstrated how the combination of native planting and ornamental planting can work together to survive the exposed conditions. This trip was particularly successful as it cultivated links within our own coastal communities from Kinvara to Inishbofin, together with groups in Mullaghmore and Cliffoney with Ruth Hanniffy, Sligo County Council Biodiversity Officer.



PHOTO: COMMUNITY GROUPS, GARDENERS AND ECOLOGISTS LEARNING ABOUT THE NATIVE PLANT SPECIES FOUND IN COASTAL HABITATS.

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## HEDGEROW WEEK 2023

On the 6<sup>th</sup> September, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer represented the Biodiversity Office and gave a talk on the value of hedgerows at Teagasc, Athenry as part of Teagasc & Heritage Council's Hedgerow Week nationwide workshop series. The event was well attended, with over 40 participants, mostly from a farming background, travelling from around the county and beyond, keen to engage, share their wisdom and learn about how to protect and manage hedgerows.



## ■ Connemara's clean waters celebrated from the skies in stunning new video

THEY'RE known to botanists and scientists as blue dots - a data base of the cleanest waters which provide a refuge for animal and plant life once commonplace but now in decline. And it turns out, Connemara is a hotspot for blue dots.

Because according to the experts, the region has long hosted some of our cleanest and most sensitive rivers, lakes and estuaries.

And these pristine waters form the scenic backdrop to a new video entitled "Connemara Blue Dots" made by Crow Crag Productions and released at the weekend by the Blue Dot Catchments Programme.

The initiative is supported by Galway County Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme.

Under the European Union Water Framework Directive, Ireland must prevent the ecological deterioration of all surface waters.

This means that water bodies that are in very healthy ecological condition or 'High Status' should not decline to 'Good Status' or worse.

The EPA has identified the waters in Ireland that should have a high-status objective, and these are more commonly known as Blue Dot waters or "Blue Dots". These Blue Dot Waters include rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters.

The Blue Dot Catchments Programme is a collaborative programme being delivered by a range of agencies, aimed at focusing resources towards the protection and restoration of our High Status Objective or Blue Dot Waterbodies," said Blue Dot Scientist Paul O'Callaghan.

The video, launched for Water Heritage Day last Sunday, marked the first of many engagements in the Connemara area promoting these waters and the sustainable management of these catchment for the communities living there and the abundance of biodiversity they support.

Schools' engagements across the Connemara region on Blue Dots will take place this September lead by outdoor education specialists Streamscapes and Veri, supported by Galway County

# PURE HEAVEN



An aerial view of one of Connemara's Blue Dot rivers.

Council, Blue Dots Catchment Programme & LAWPRO.

Funding is also available for communities' groups to un-

dertake projects on their local Blue Dot Waterbody.

Grants can be sourced for simple awareness raising ini-

tatives like signage, training, art installations, and murals to practical measures like fencing, trees planting or drain-

blocking to help protect these waterbodies. See [www.lawpro.ie](http://www.lawpro.ie) to find the Community Water Officer in your area.

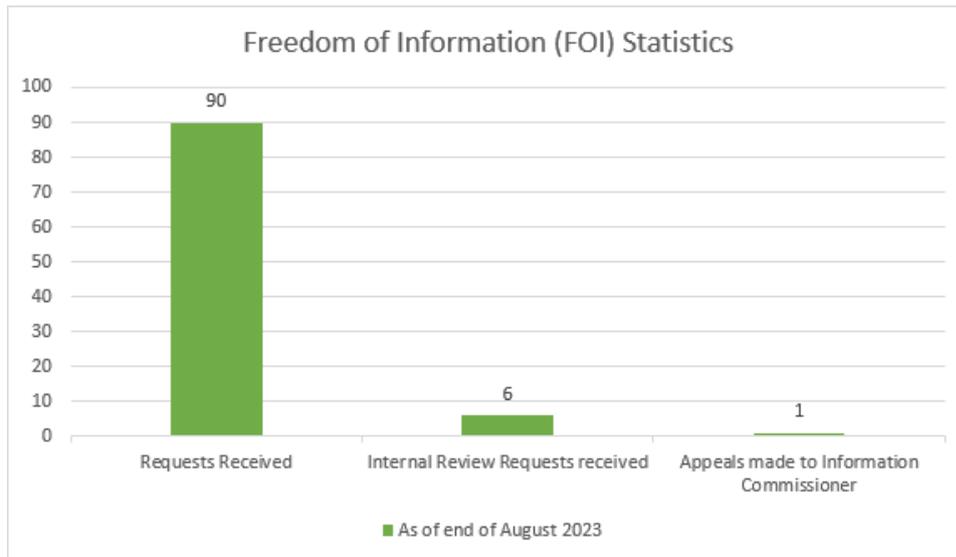
EXTRACT FROM THE CONNACHT TRIBUNE, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> 2023 ON THE LAUNCH OF THE CONNEMARA BLUE DOT VIDEO.

Due to the considerable number of events and interactions with the public, our social media platforms have been particularly active over the last two months, raising awareness of Co. Galway's biodiversity and highlighting measures the public can take to protect, manage, and restore nature around the county.

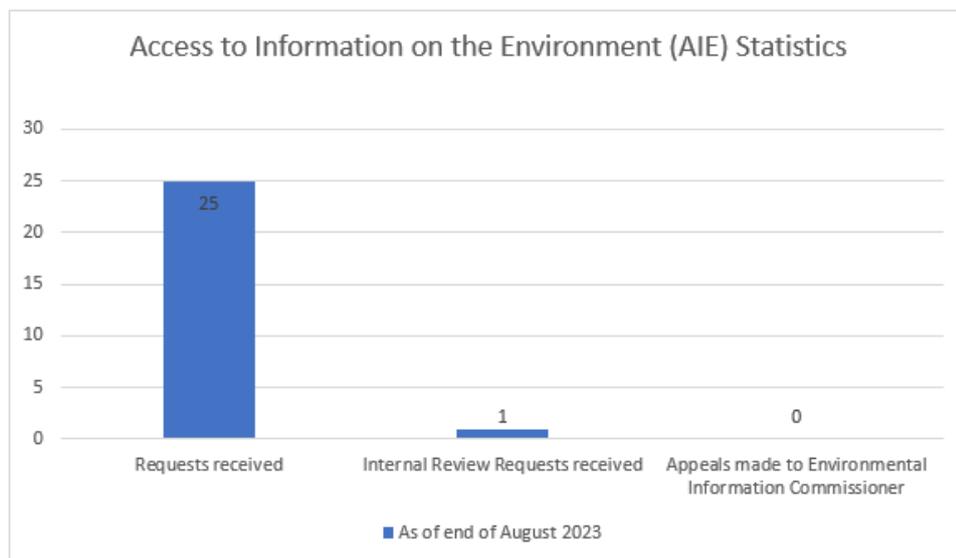
Metric	Facebook	Instagram
Reach	25,870	1,621
New Likes/Followers	99	161
Content	230	61

**2023 YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS TO 31.08.23**

**Freedom of Information**



**Access to Information on the Environment**



**Data Protection**

- **11 Data Access Requests**  
 6 Data Subject Access Requests -  
 1 Third Party Access Request, e.g., Gardaí
- **GDPR/Data Protection Training**  
 Online Induction Training & GDPR Staff Awareness Training issued to all new Staff.



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta  
an Duine agus Comhionannas  
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission wrote to the Chief Executive in April 2023 to note that Local Elections and subsequent new corporate planning cycle for local authorities will take place in 2024 and take the opportunity to highlight Galway County Council's statutory obligations under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 ("the Duty") which is to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and protect human rights; of all service users, policy beneficiaries and employees, across all function areas.

The correspondence advises that the Commission will develop and implement a strategic programme of work applicable to the local government sector during 2023/24 to support local authorities in meeting their obligations under the duty.



Section 42(2) (a) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires an organisation to set out in its strategic plan "an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of the body and the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address those issues."

In advance of the forthcoming corporate planning cycle Galway County Council is progressed an initiative to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty). A cross-organisational working group was established to create the conditions necessary for effectively and efficiently implementing the Duty. The core task for the working group is to create the conditions for implementation of the Duty. This involved working with an external consultant to develop key foundations of:

- An equality and human rights values statement to provide a frame and benchmarks for implementing the Duty;
- Assessment of equality and human rights issues relevant to the functions of Galway County Council, the first step required under the Duty; and
- Implementation Plan for the Duty in Galway County Council.

The initiative will ensure inclusive policies and practices continue while informing the implementation of the Duty in this new corporate planning cycle.



Comhairle Chontae na Galillimhe  
Galway County Council

The Management Team, on the 25th July 2023, adopted Galway County Council's Public Sector Duty Implementation Plan. Galway County Council will, once translated, publish, the plan on our website [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie). In addition, Galway County Council will publish its human rights and equality assessment, and the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address the issues identified in the assessment, in a manner that is accessible to the public in our strategic plan. We will also report, in a manner that is accessible to the public, on developments and achievements – in respect of the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address issues identified in our assessment - in our annual report.

## PROMOTION OF GALWAY COUNTY AS VISITOR DESTINATION AT MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST

The 42nd annual Milwaukee Irish Fest- the largest celebration of Irish culture and heritage in the United States took place in Wisconsin over four days from the 17th August to 20th August 2023 in the Henry Maier Festival Park. The festival has a huge attendance with more than 130,000 visitors every year. Galway County and City had a promotional stand located in the Irish destinations area of the festival which presented an ideal opportunity for the Galway County Delegation to spearhead the promotion of the County as a desirable visitor destination to the many prospective American visitors. The United States remains an extremely important market for tourism to Ireland as more than a million people visit from there each year delivering more that €1.5 billion for the economy.

At this year's Milwaukee Fest, Galway County was represented by Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll, Councillors Michael Moegie Maher and Seamus Walsh, Director of Services, Derek Pender, and the County Secretary Jean Brann. The Delegation also attended several stakeholder meetings over the course of a busy weekend including an official gathering at City Hall, Milwaukee.



EIMEAR MCALLISTER, TOURISM IRELAND; RUAIRI LEHMANN, TOURISM OFFICER GALWAY CITY COUNCIL, CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL, CLLR. MICHAEL MAHER, CLLR FRANK FAHY, GALWAY CITY COUNCIL; AND PAUL MCDONAGH, TOURISM IRELAND, AT THE GALWAY STAND.

The Galway County Delegation also travelled to Washington County our Sister County to meet with the Members and the Executive of Washington County, Wisconsin. The Delegation were introduced to a number of local projects and initiatives relating to housing, tourism, heritage, agricultural and community development across the region. The visit proved very beneficial and will assist our Counties building even further on those business, economic, political, community and cultural links that have been framed during the last twenty years.



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CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL WITH MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THEIR EXECUTIVE AT THE CIVIC OFFICES OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IN WESTBEND. GALWAY CO COUNCIL AND WASHINGTON COUNTY MARK 20 YEARS OF THE SISTER COUNTIES TWINNING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIES.



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL WERE DELIGHTED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL RECEPTION IN CITY HALL, MILWAUKEE, WITH SPECIAL GUESTS, CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND TO CHICAGO, KEVIN BYRNE AND MAYOR OF GALWAY CITY, EDWARD HOARE.

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## THE ESTONIAN AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO COUNTY HALL

On Monday 11th September 2023, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Councillor Liam Carroll, welcomed, the Ambassador of Estonia, Her Excellency Mrs. Kairi Künka, to Áras an Chontae.

Also in attendance were the Chief Executive, Liam Conneally, Senator Gerard P. Craughwell, Ms. Helena Kock, Consul, Diplomat and Liadhan Keady Administrative Officer.

The visit marks an important occasion to explore the potential of forging links to develop new connections and shared learning between Estonia and Galway County Council in many areas of common interest.



CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE LIAM CONNEALLY WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR OF ESTONIA, HER EXCELLENCY, MRS. KAIRI KÜNKA, TO ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

## FACILITIES

### SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – AUGUST 2023

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



[www.facebook.com/galwaycounty](https://www.facebook.com/galwaycounty)



[www.twitter.com/galwaycoco](https://www.twitter.com/galwaycoco)



[www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/galwaycountycouncil)

### Overview of Social Media Activity

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## FACEBOOK

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 205 posts to Galway County Council's Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function on Facebook this month sharing 3 stories with followers. Galway County Council's overall reach for the last month was 30,402.

### AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 69 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to 15,839.

Galway County Council's Audience ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.7% of this age group are women and 10.7% are men.

In total, 31.6% of Galway County Council's Facebook followers are male and 68.5% are female.

### August's Top Three Posts



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## AUDIENCE METRICS – TWITTER

During this period on Twitter, Galway County Council posted 152 tweets with 75.1k impressions.

Galway County Council's account was 'mentioned' 350 times and a total of 13 new followers were gained in this period, bringing the total following to 16,465.

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## AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

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

Galway County Council's Instagram Audience ages range between 18-65+, with 69.9% being female and 30.1% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 37% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 25.4% women and 11.6% men.

Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers by 8.68% bringing the total to 626.

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## AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 51 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,412.

Galway County Council shared 137 posts with 8.6k impressions this month.

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## AUDIENCE METRICS – YOUTUBE

During this period, Galway County Council utilised the YouTube platform and began uploading content again. Currently there are 24 subscribers, with 8 new subscribers in August. The channel received 1,500 views and the Connemara Blue Dot campaign received 88.4% of those views with a total of 1,337.

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

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## LIBRARY SERVICES

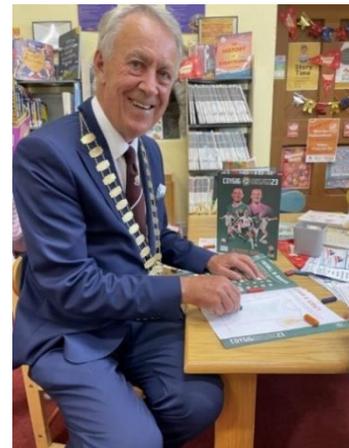
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### SUMMER STARS

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 12th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free!

LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL SUMMER STARS CHALLENGE took place in Oranmore Library with the Cathaoirleach of the County, Cllr Liam Carroll, and the C & C Librarian Jo Vahey in attendance.

At the launch the Cathaoirleach also initiated the rollout of the COTGIG Activity Book celebrating Ireland's women football team. The workbook was available in all Galway libraries.



## SUMMER STARS PRESENTATIONS 2023

The Summer Stars Reading programme that ran throughout the summer finishes with a presentation of certs and medals to the children who took part. Our Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach are very busy doing a tour of Galway Public Libraries this September. We even celebrated the Cathaoirleach's birthday on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>!





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## EMBL (EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LAB) TREC (TRAVERSING EUROPEAN COASTLINES)

In September the EMBL boat and testing teams arrived in Galway as part of their journey traversing European coastlines, studying ecosystems and their response to the environment. Galway Public Libraries were honored to officially welcome their community engagement officer Dr. Michele Fontana to Galway City and County. Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. De Evelyn Parsons along with County Librarian Jo Vahey kickstarted 5 days of library activities in Ballinasloe Library on Sept. 9. Across 5 days over 150 children and adults took part in workshops and open events in Ballinasloe, Westside, An Cheathrú Rua, Galway City and Oranmore Libraries. The Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach also took part in the fun and staff attended a training session in Westside.



## THE LIBRARY IS THE PLACE: INFORMATION, RECREATION INSPIRATION

### Launch of National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027 Portlaoise Library

The five-year National Public Library Strategy was launched on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the opening of the new Portlaoise Library by Heather Humphreys, T.D. Minister for Rural and Community Development. *The Library is the Place* is an ambitious forward-looking strategy which sets the direction of travel for the public library service and seeks to improve access, use and visibility of public libraries as an essential community service. It complements other government strategies such as *Our Rural Future*, the *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy* and the *Town Centre First Policy*.



## HERITAGE WEEK

Libraries across Galway celebrated several Heritage Week events.

Oranmore Heritage presented a photo exhibition of the Presentation Sisters in Oranmore, a lunchtime Heritage hour, a talk on the old medieval graveyard and on the restoration of St. Mary's Church which now houses our wonderful library and a Museum Box on the Bronze Age on loan from the National Museum of Ireland.



### ORANMORE LIBRARY

Oranmore Heritage



PRESENTATION SISTERS IN  
ORANMORE  
PHOTO EXHIBITION  
VENUE: ORANMORE LIBRARY  
HERITAGE WEEK 2023



## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY HOSTED TWO EVENTS FOR HERITAGE WEEK.

“On Our Doorstep” was an art show with original works inspired by the Battle of Aughrim which was launched by Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons.

The day concluded with a talk by Dr. Geraldine Curtin on the Ballinasloe Reformatory School which previously existed on the library site.



NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK was also supported in some of our smaller libraries with events supported by the Heritage Council. Kids in Portumna, Eyrecourt and Loughrea got to meet an archaeologist and discover the past through play with Community Archaeologist Bernie Doherty. Gort and Woodford children were enchanted with traditional storytelling sessions with Ruth Marshall while children in Oranmore learn all about marine mammals with Luana Jungmann.

**Loughrea Library**

**Launch of Children's Medieval Loughrea bi-lingual Workbook**  
**Journey Back in Time!**

**Date: Saturday 26th August**  
**Time: 12.30pm**

Bring along your little adventurers, parents, and friends for an unforgettable day of magical fun! Our Children's Medieval Activity Workbook is perfect for children aged 6-12, and the launch event promises excitement for all ages. Let the medieval magic begin!

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council





PORTUMNA LIBRARY

**Introduction to Marine Mammals with Luana Jungmann**  
**Friday August 25th 2pm-3:30pm**  
 Learn about marine mammals through interactive games  
**Age 8-13yrs - Booking Required**  
 Funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland's Heritage in Schools  
**Summer Stars** National Heritage Week  
 A Heritage Council programme

**Traditional storytelling with Ruth Marshall**

Funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland's Heritage in Schools.  
 @herinhschools @theheritagecouncil  
 www.ruthmarshallarts.weebly.com

Come to Gort and Woodford Libraries for a session of traditional storytelling with Ruth Marshall.

Ruth will tell traditional stories that celebrate the natural world. There could be bees, whales, eagles, wise women, shapeshifters ... who knows who may turn up on the day? Some of the story characters might need your help - so please be prepared to join in! There will be a chance to draw an image from the stories afterwards. Suitable for children aged 6-12

**Gort Library:**  
**Wed. 23rd August**  
**11.15am.**  
**[H91 F5P6]**  
**Tel: 091 631224**

**Woodford Library:**  
**Thurs. 24th August**  
**11.15am.**  
**[H62 EV62]**  
**Tel: 090 9749887**

INIS OIRR VISIT

Well done to staff members John, Sharleen and Padraic who braved the Atlantic to check out our library on the island. A good day's work was had by all.



## C-PENS

C-Pens were purchased through DRCD funding under Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities and are now available in 8 libraries across Galway. This tool helps to support reading, literacy and language learning.

**C-PENS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM THE FOLLOWING GALWAY LIBRARY BRANCHES**

- Westside
- Tuam
- Loughrea
- Portumna
- Clifden
- Ballinasloe
- Oranmore
- Ballybane

**C-Pen is a portable tool to support independent reading, literacy and language learning. Scan text on a page to have words read out loud with natural speaking voices.**



ciste na gcuntas diomhaoin  
the dormant accounts fund

An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuairisc arís Féilid  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

## ACTIVITIES ACROSS OUR LIBRARY BRANCHES

Galway city & county libraries were very busy through the Summer with booked out events across all our services.

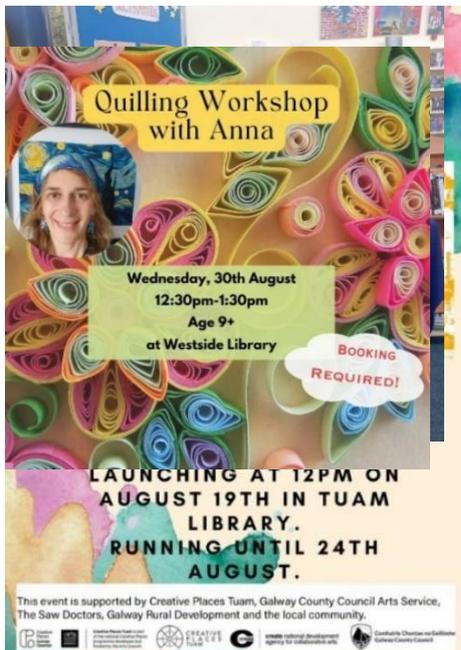
**Dogs Trust Workshops** were hosted in Killimor, Loughrea, Tuam, Oranmore, Ballinasloe, Portumna, Galway City Library and Ballybane this summer. Children and their parents enjoyed afternoons of fun, drama, and roleplay. Moth and Butterfly music and Storytelling sessions happened in our smaller branches.



## DOGS TRUST WORKSHOP BALLINASLOE LIBRARY

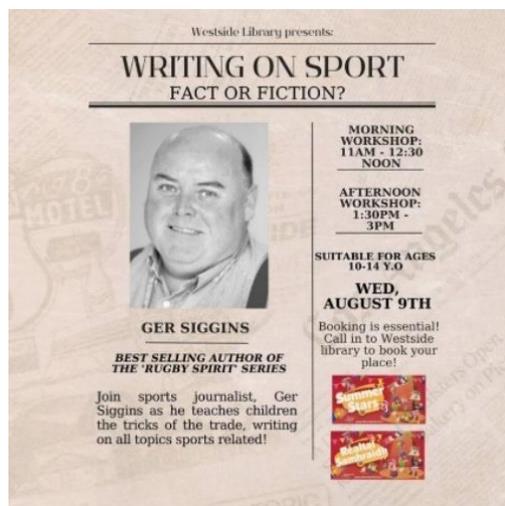
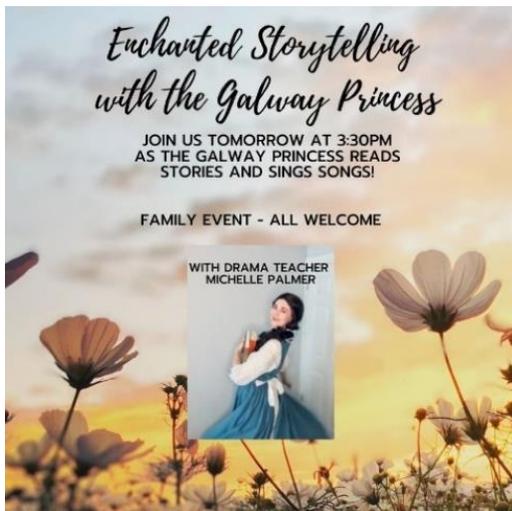


**MOTH AND BUTTERFLY,  
HEADFORD LIBRARY**



**Tuam Library** continues to host Soundbites Music Sessions attracting large number of happy locals and visitors. The library was also heavily involved in The West’s Awake community weekend and hosted an exhibition of textile tapestries by local teens.

**Westside Library** hosted writing, sand art and quilling workshops as well as enchanted storytelling sessions and much more. Library members from the Ukrainian community were delighted to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day through artwork created at the library.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Make the Link Showcase

Galway Public Libraries were delighted to take part in a number of outreach activities during September. **Make the Link** is an initiative of Galway Rural Development and GRETB with the aim of showcasing education and training courses available in local areas. This was a great opportunity to highlight library supports for job seekers, the Ukrainian community, young people, and families by

staff members who attended the fairs in Tuam, Ballinasloe, Clifden and Gort. Library staff also connected to library network partners such as representatives from the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme and the Galway Childcare Committee. Information about the Europe Direct Centre and what is available there was also disseminated at the events.



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## ALL SORTS VISIT AND JOIN OUR LIBRARIES.

Teddy sleepover in Ballinasloe Library

Ballinasloe teddies enjoyed a very exciting and busy sleepover in the library. They were caught on CCTV joining up, colouring, reading and playing with the outdoor musical instruments. Questions have been raised about their use of the Teams phone and their entry into the staff kitchen to have tea and chocolate biscuits. An investigation is undergoing.





BALLYBANE LIBRARY was ablaze with colour this Summer with staff member Kitty facilitating tie dying workshops, toddler Storytime on the ToverTafel, STEAM workshops in association with Foróige, glass painting and jewelry making workshops and much more.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



**Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025**

Adopted by Galway County Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Please Play Your Part – Keep County Galway Litter Free

Galway County Council has adopted the Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025 in accordance with Section 12 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 for the purpose of the prevention and eradication of litter throughout County Galway with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Plan recognises the need for emphasis on a multi-dimensional approach to preventing litter. Everyone must be involved in tackling the litter problem – Galway County Council, the public and the commercial sector. A key aim of the Plan is to raise the awareness of the negative effects of litter on the environment, targeting litter problem areas and promotion of best practices in relation to litter prevention and control.

SEASHORE EVENT –AN TRÁ MHÓR, INDREABHÁN

On Friday 18 August Galway County Council Environment Section hosted the inaugural Sea Shore Event at An Trá Mhór, Indreabhán. The event formed part of the National Heritage Week. The event included a Scavenger Hunt, Seashore Bio-Blitz, Litter Clean up, Sand Sculptor Challenge and Litter Study. Galway County were supported by Noirin Burke and Tara Noonan, Galway Atlantaquaria, National Aquarium of Ireland, Dara Dever, Clean Coasts, Miriam Byrne and Ed Aylward from Leave No Trace to deliver the event. Community Wardens Tomas O Sullivan and Martin Manion were in attendance.

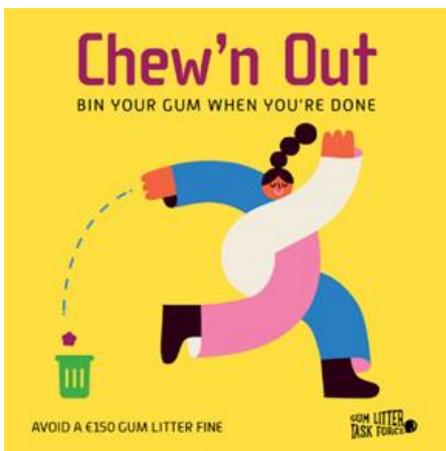


GLOBE IRELAND SCHOOL AIR QUALITY CAMPAIGN



All schools in the county were invited to take part in the Globe Ireland School Air Quality Campaign. GLOBE is an international science and education program, sponsored by NASA in the US and supported by the EPA in Ireland.

GUM LITTER TASK FORCE



Galway County Council continues to support the Gum Litter TaskForce which is a national campaign to encourage people to dispose of their gum properly.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LITTER FREE BEACHES



Galway County Council have begun an Anti-Litter campaign at beaches to



encourage people to enjoy the beaches, but to keep them Litter Free. This is part of our Blue Flag Beaches, Clean Coasts, and "Leave No Trace" campaigns.

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## BURIAL GROUNDS

### BURIAL GROUND DEVELOPMENTS

**Creagh, Ballinasloe:** The extension works to the existing burial grounds were completed in August. 2023. The new development will provide space for approximately 450 new plots and an area for the interment of urns.

**Ballyconnell:** The construction works will provide an additional 150 plots beside the existing Cemetery.

**Duniry:** The contractor has been appointed to commence work in September on a 60-plot extension.

**Moycullen, Columbarium:** The new columbarium facility for the interment of urns is now available to the public and charges are posted on our website. The columbarium is located within our Moycullen Burial Ground and contains 24 niches which can hold up to 4 urns in each.



**Archaeological Works:** Restoration works have been completed under NMS license to a retaining wall at Derrybrien Burial Ground and boundary wall at Creevaughbaun Burial Ground

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## HISTORIC LANDFILLS

**Proposed Amenity Development at  
Pollboy Landfill, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**

Comhairle Chontae na Gallinhe  
Galway County Council

**Inception Meeting**  
03/08/2023

BSM Brady Shipman Martin  
Built. Environment.  
FEHILY TIMONEY  
Tony O'Regan associates  
construction management

**Pollboy:** A team of consultants have been appointed to complete a Preliminary Report on the development of an amenity facility within the old landfill site at Pollboy. A meeting was held in August at our Ballinasloe Municipal District Offices with the local residents committee and

local representatives to outline the project program.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy Team

Preliminary work for the Pathfinder Projects for retrofit of GCC buildings is ongoing. A tender process was completed, and contracts were signed for Asbestos Surveys and Air Permeability Testing. A regional tender for an energy data management system (dms) to include reporting, monitoring and advisory support service for the 5 local authorities in the region was issued on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August.

### Climate Action Plan

Over the coming months, Galway County Council will be working with communities, businesses, public representatives and other stakeholders to develop a Climate Action Plan. A presentation was given to the Council Plenary Meeting and the consultation was launched to inform the plan on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July. There was significant media coverage of the launch. The consultation will close on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September.

8 NEWS

www.advertiser.ie

July 27 2023

## County Council launches survey as part of new climate action, heritage and biodiversity plans

Galway County Council has this week launched two public consultation processes which will help to inform the local authority's Climate Action Plan, and a Heritage and Biodiversity Plan for the county.

Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr Liam Carroll, launched the consultation process on Monday. The Cathaoirleach welcomed the consultation as "an important step in enabling the voice of all members of the community to be heard to ensure that they can play a part in developing a vision for a sustainable future".

Liam Conneally, chief executive of Galway County Council, is encouraging people across the county to get involved in the consultation process. "There are challenges

benefits," Mr Conneally said at the launch. "The preparation of the County Galway Climate Action Plan will assist our county in the identification of strategic climate action policies and the implementation of a roadmap towards net zero emissions. The feedback will help to shape Galway's future and I would encourage the public to participate so that Galway County Council can deliver the best plans for the people of Galway."

The consultation includes a survey that will help guide Galway County Council in co-creating the Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 and the Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030.

"The survey will enable citizens and businesses to identify the actions they would like to see in their towns, villages and communities and



From left: Tina Ryan, climate action coordinator; Liam Hanrahan, director of services; Marie Mannion, heritage officer; Cllr Alastair McKinstry, chair of Climate and Biodiversity SPG; Cllr Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach; Liam Conneally, chief executive; Rosina Joyce, biodiversity officer.

our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection.

"It is an opportunity for Galway County Council to engage with our communities, listen to their insights and incorporate their perspectives into the development of these plans," said Liam Hanrahan, director of services for economic development and planning. "I firmly believe that collaboration and inclusivity are key to achieving our shared vision of a sustainable and resilient environment."

The consultation period lasts until August 25. Hard copies of the survey will be available in libraries, and the council also plans to engage with interested groups and sectors as part of the process. Submissions can be

The consultation was promoted with stands at several events including Cruinniú na mBad, Dunmore Festival and Who's Who on the Corrib.



A Summary Report was prepared to accompany the consultation, and this is available on the GCC website at <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/environment/climatechange/>.

There have been various successful prosecutions in terms of enforcement in both areas of planning and environment in recent months, examples of which are outlined below and by way of copy news reports.

These include, among others, significant planning enforcement Court Orders and subsequent enforcement of the terms therein, as and when required, such as the following:

- Demolition of an unauthorised residential structure located at Rossadilisk, Co. Galway. The unauthorised structure was understood to have been used as a recreational rental property. The Defendant has been afforded a further period of time until October 2023 to demolish the structure, in its entirety, or face a term of imprisonment.
- Demolition of an unauthorised commercial shed at Caoran Beag, Co. Galway. The council made formal application for Attachment & Committal for failure to comply with the terms of a Court Order for demolition. The matter came before the court on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> September and has been adjourned peremptory against the Defendant to December 2023, thus affording him further time within which to complete the demolition works which have commenced on site.
- Demolition of an unauthorised residential structure located at Errislanen, Clifden, Co. Galway. The council have been successful in seeking a Court Order for the demolition of this unauthorised dwelling, for which planning permission for an agricultural storage unit had been granted previously.
- Successful prosecution for illegal burning of waste pursuant to the Waste Management Act, 1996. The Defendant has been ordered to pay a fine in the sum of €2,000.00, together with the legal costs of the council by the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

#### 1. Restoration Improvement – Contractor on Site

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

#### 2. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement

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

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

### 3. Safety Improvement Works

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction Preliminary Design Review complete design report ongoing
- b. Moyveela (Mother Hubbards) SW/PG Discussions with Landowner
- c. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross) Preliminary Design Phase
- d. Cregmore Bridge ESB Issue sorted switch on once sequence agreed with contractor.

### 4. Climate Change

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

### 5. Community Involvement Scheme

- a. CIS.86.21 L-31165 Curry Gurteen
- b. CIS.69.21 L-3112 Montpellier Athenry - Complete
- c. CIS.73.21 L-2119 Baunmore/ Gardenham – Design started RSA this week – discussions with Landowners- Tender this week.
- d. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Design agreed – Tendering complete.
- e. CIS.32.21 L-7119 Mirah Turloughmore – planned for this month.
- f. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Roanmore

### 6. Local Improvement Schemes

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

### 7. Other Items

- a. Belville Road realignment Issues resolving agreement Landowner Meeting with all landowners to convey Latest information
- b. Hydrological study Clarin River Funding Approved by OPW – historical information of flooding collected.
- c. Lavally Drainage District AA screening complete - works planned.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Dual carriageway Oranmore</li> <li>e. Coolarne Road Flooding Issue</li> <li>f. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore</li> <li>g. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd.</li> <li>h. Caheroyn Avenue Footpaths</li> <li>i. Cross St/Bridge St Sealing</li> </ul> | <p>Re-surfacing planned this year for section on Eastbound carriageway Traffic management plan being updated.</p> <p>Drone survey completed; CCTV completed Last week – awaiting full report.</p> <p>Cycling options included in Design, Road safety audit planned – NTA meeting requested updated design.</p> <p>Contractor planning to begin this quarter.</p> <p>Footpath Bay repairs Ongoing</p> <p>Line-marking to be completed this week.</p> |
|--|---|

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FIGURES AND PICTURES



FIG.1 – LIOS NA CROI ORANMORE WALL REPAIR



FIG.2 – OAKFIELD ESTATE – FOOTPATHS



FIG.3 – ANNAGHDOWN  
PIER ROAD



FIG.4 – ANNAGHDOWN  
FOOTPATH WORKS –  
COMPLETE

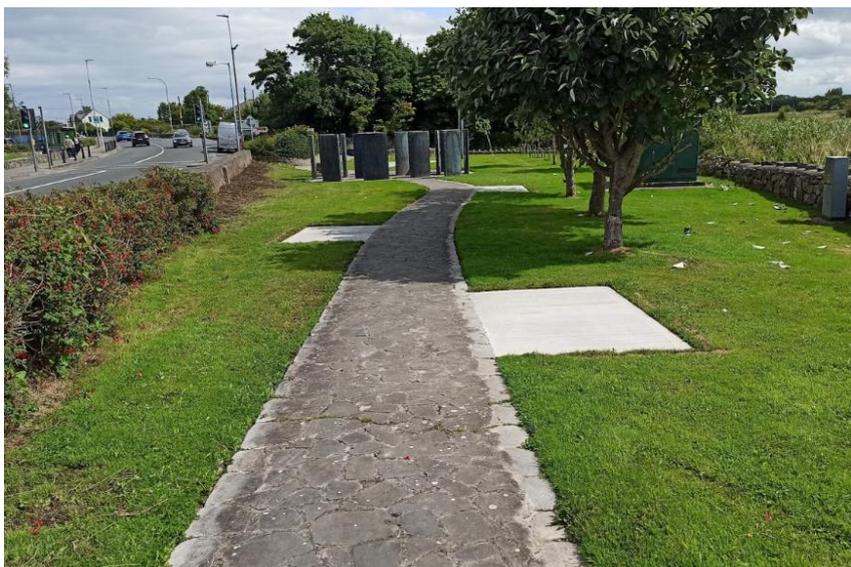


FIG.5 – BASES FOR  
BENCHES ORANMORE

**The Ballinasloe Horse Fair and Festival 2023** will be held from the Sunday 1st until Saturday the 7th of October 2023. The BHFF is a multi-faceted event that incorporates much of Ballinasloe's town centre. The Festival Co-Ordinating Committee includes representatives from:

- Galway County Council
- An Garda Síochána
- Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival Committee

This committee is involved in organising the festival and running the many events / activities that form part of it. While much of the October fair is centred on Equestrian activities there is also a range of other elements including markets, a street stage, Tug of war, pyro technical display and others. The fair is spread over 9 days and has varying levels of activities during this period, the weekends being the busiest. Event Overview and Location It is anticipated that up to 25,000 persons could potentially visit the horse fair per day. This figure would be a peak number. However, there are peak days and off-peak days.

The Horse fair is based around and in the fair green this is divided to provide separate areas for the following:

- Green Parking: This parking area is reserved for people who are displaying at the Fair rather than patrons in general.
- Food Vendor Area: This is a fenced area that separates the horses and animals from the food vendors and their associated back of house working areas.
- Church Hill: This is used for caravans who stay for the duration of the event.
- Lunging Arena; This is used for equine events and is part of a larger enclosure that includes facilities for administering the equine events as well as a spectator area.

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### THE TOWN CENTRE

The Town Centre is closed for general traffic on Sunday & Monday, October 1st & 2nd and on the following Saturday, October 7th as a number and variety of street traders are in the town as part of the event. There is a general road closure to include:

- Society Street
- Dunlo Street
- Main Street

This creates a pedestrian zone which includes the town square. A gig rig (40 ft truck trailer) is set up at the following locations:

- Friday 6th October @ Car Park behind County Council Buildings
- Saturday 7th October @ Junction of Dunlo Street and Society Street.

## THE SHOW SOCIETY

The Show Society will hold a show jumping event on Saturday the 23rd September; they will use the Fair Green as a parking area. The Show Society will operate their grounds as a parking site for the October fair events Site Location The event site is broadly divided into three areas, the Fair green, the street stalls and the funfair as illustrated below:



## MODULAR HOMES

The Ballinasloe MD received an update from the OPW and the Dept of Integration on plans to provide modular homes for the Ukrainian Response at Poolboy, Ballinasloe.

Throughout the remainder of 2023 site preparation works and investigation works will be developed, with supports services such as schools and health care developed. Further engagement with the MD and community will follow.



## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Connemara MD Roads Programme ongoing. Connemara North substantially complete. Connemara South projected finish date last week of September.

Mionoibreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 work has commenced. Projected substantial completion date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.



Mionoibreacha Caipitil ar na hOileáin 2023 (Inis Mór)



MIONOIBREACHA CAIPITIL AR NA HOILEÁIN 2023 (INIS MÓR)



MIONOIBREACHA CAIPITIL AR NA HOILEÁIN 2023 (INIS MÓR)

- The Strategic Infrastructure scheme at the Causeways is progressing through design.
- An application has been made to the Department of Transport for a Strategic Infrastructure scheme at Cuan na Loinge to address flooding of the main road into this area.
- Safety Improvement Works €115,000 (3 projects) 2 No. Completed.
- Climate Change Projects €150,000 (3 projects) have gone out for tender. 2 No Completed.
- Local Improvement Schemes (1 on Inis Bofin complete, 4 in Conamara North Eng Area mainland have been tendered and awarded to the contractor for completion shortly & 3 on Aran islands carried out by direct labour in September 2023)
- LIS Inis Oir complete. LIS Inis Mor starts Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- Main activities at moment for outdoor staff include road maintenance, town and village maintenance, preparation works for roads programme, ongoing roads programme works (surface dressing) & drainage works.
- Community Wardens – 3 positions, 1 vacant(advertised) - dealing with illegal dumping, parking enforcement, ringbuoy inspections.
- Town and Village Maintenance – substantially done by direct staff.
- Piers & Harbours- Direct labour projects ongoing under marine infrastructure scheme 2023 5 No. pier locations
- Operation & Maintenance of Public Beaches- Summer ready- provision of public toilets, bins at a number of beaches for June, July & August and early September now at an end for the season.
- Active Travel Projects- 2023 Project Carraroe Complete.

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The September Meeting of the Conamara Municipal District was held on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at Áras an Chontae. The meeting received an update on the Clifden Flood Relief Scheme, the proposed Pedestrian Bridge for Oughterard and considered the approach to verge trimming and hedge cutting and the benefit of developing a clear policy on the matter.

## CONNEMARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On 31 August 2023, a delegation from Galway County Council led by the Chief Executive, Liam Conneally and including Michael Owens, Liam Hanrahan and Alan Farrell, Directors of Services and TJ Redmond, Senior Executive Engineer, Conamara Municipal District with Cllrs. Eileen Mannion and

Gerry King met with a delegation from Connemara Chamber of Commerce in Clifden. The Chamber delegation led by John Sweeney – Director (Chair) included Damien Joyce – Director Terence O’Toole – Director and Dominic O’Morain – Member.

Topics discussed at length in a 3-hour meeting included residential & commercial planning permission issues for Connemara, the need for a large Remote Working Hub for Clifden & Connemara and how traffic congestion in Galway City affects both north and south Connemara.

## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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### ROADS PROGRAMME – CURRENT STATUS:

20 of 21 (95%) bound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.

38 of 42 (90%) unbound Restoration Improvement Grant (RIG) roads are now completed.

30 of 32 (94%) of the Restoration Maintenance Grant (RMG) roads are now completed.

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### SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS COMPLETED

**RMG** - 3kms of Surface Dressing on the R446 involving the provision of a new surface on both the existing surface and a newly laid AC base.

**Road Recycling** - 9 No. projects completed e.g. Earlsparck, Kilnadeema West, Roo, Fahymactibbot

**RIG** – L-4194 (2.4km), R446 (500m) and Shannon Park Housing Estate, Portumna

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### OTHER MINOR WORKS

Cleaning of Main Street Car Park, Loughrea

Installation of Bicycle Parking Infrastructure in Kinvara (GCC/CE Scheme)

Cleaning of R351 approach to Loughrea Town from the Long Point.

Waste removal and cleaning at bottle bank sites

Replanting of 7-tier planters Loughrea

Installation of rock armour and railing at Lacken, Abbey Village - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Project



BICYCLE PARKING  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN KINVARA  
(GCC/CE SCHEME)



RESURFACING AT SHANNON PARK HOUSING ESTATE, PORTUMNA

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ROAD RESURFACING AT KNOCKAWUDDY, MAREE



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ROAD RESURFACING AT KILLEENARAN, BALLINDERREEN



ROAD RECYCLING AT EARLSPARK, LOUGHREA.



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ROAD RECYCLING AT KILEENADEEMA WEST, LOUGHREA.



ROCK ARMOUR AND RAILING – LACKEN, ABBEY VILLAGE - CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE



L4194 - RIG OVERLAY ON KILREEKILL TO BULLAUN ROAD



SURFACE DRESSING ON L-85801 AT CASTLEGAR, KILCOLGAN



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PLANTERS IN BLOOM AT LOUGHREA CATHEDRAL



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REMOVAL OF VEGETATION AND WEEDS AT WEAVER'S CAR PARK, LOUGHREA



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CLEANING OF FOOTPATH AT THE GROVE, LOUGHREA



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REPLACING FLOWERS AT FITZY'S CORNER LOUGHREA



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R351 - LAKE ROAD CLEAN UP, LOUGHREA



BEFORE



AFTER



REGULAR CLEAN-UPS AT BOTTLE BANK SITES

HEADFORD NEWS

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Maria Walsh MEP hosted a public meeting titled Rural Roadmap to 2030 in The Anglers Rest Hotel, Headford on Thursday, August 10th. This meeting was an opportunity for community groups and businesses to share their vision with the Taoiseach on future developments in the Headford community and across rural Ireland.



CLLR. ANDREW REDDINGTON ALONGSIDE MARIA WALSH MEP AND TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR



IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ANGLERS REST HOTEL WERE SEAN CANNEY TD, CLLR MARY HOADE, CLLR PETER ROCHE, CLLR PJ MURPHY AND SENATOR AISHLING DOLAN.

Prior to this public meeting Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launched the Reimagine Headford Project in the refurbished former Credit Union Building on the Main Street. An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D. praised the community of Headford for their vision for their town which will benefit everyone in the community. He told local people that their ambitions for 'Vacant to Vibrant' can be supported by a €150m government fund.



Reimagine Headford is a community project run by Headford Town Team and the Irish Architecture Foundation. In 2021, the Town Team came together to apply for the project, with a shared aim – to make the town a more enjoyable place to be, and a better place to live, visit and work. Throughout this process, the voluntary commitment to this project shows Headford to be a town with significant potential, and the capacity to readily deliver projects with the support of other agencies and funders.



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#### TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR AT THE LAUNCH OF REIMAGINE HEADFORD



MAYOR LIAM CARROLL  
WELCOMING MARIA WALSH  
AND LEO VARADKAR TO  
HEADFORD

Further information for  
Reimagine Headford can be  
found at  
<https://reimagineheadford.ie/>

#### DUNMORE NEWS



The hugely successful Dunmore Market Day was held again this year on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. Dunmore Annual Festival has been putting on a fantastic programme of events for the community to enjoy for over 47 years making it one of the country's longest running festivals and it is still going strong. The festival's success can be attributed to the local

people and visitors who attend the events, the local businesses who generously support the festival and the dedicated committees who down through the years even in tough times, manage to organise a festival that the Parish of Dunmore can be proud of.

Locals and Visitors from all corners of the world look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones as well as many happy memories in Dunmore each year. Each year the committee brings you an action-packed programme of nearly 100 events to suit all ages. Highlights each year include the bank holiday Monday family Sports Day and the popular Traditional Market Day takes place on the Thursday of festival week. Featuring local crafts, traditional stalls with homemade produce, butter making, and a blacksmith demonstration in the square. A vintage display of thrashing, sheep shearing, wood turning, turf cutting will take place. This event was attended by Martin Cummins CW Gort and Pat Roche CW Tuam, during the pre-arranged times to review and manage the Market Day trading permits and traffic management.




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## STRAUBING NEWS

Partnerschaft Tag am Gäubodenfest - Twinning Day at the Gäubodenfest

On 16<sup>th</sup> August Councillor Donagh Kilillea along with members of the Tuam-Straubing Twinning committee and Senior Executive engineer John Coyle representing Tuam visited Straubing in Germany at the annual Twinning Day.



On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, the partnership day, which has now become a good tradition, took place. Mayor Markus Pannermayr and Mayor Werner Schäfer were pleased to welcome the delegations from the partner cities Wels and Tuam as well as numerous guests. The meeting at the Am Hagen Theater was festively framed by a delegation of the Straubinger City Kapelle led by Christian Janker.



THE OFFICIAL PARTY WAS JOINED BY THE OBLIGATORY GROUP PHOTO AND THE TRADITIONAL FERRIS WHEEL RIDE



Links between Tuam and Straubing were established through the contacts of Willi Kiefel, a native from the Straubing area living in Tuam in 1980's. In the mid 1980's a study done by the Tuam historian Dr. Tony Claffey suggested a twinning with the Bavarian town of Straubing. The main reasons were common heritage, religious and cultural connections from the early days of Irish Missionaries in Bavaria, common traits in character

By 1987 most of Tuam's Secondary Schools had introduced German as a subject. Consequently, both towns were interested in a pupil exchange programme. These exchanges have continued every year

since 1989. Furthermore, an increasing awareness of Germany as Ireland's second most important trading partner led to the establishment of a Twinning Committee within the Tuam Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Other successful relationships include:

- In 1991 Tuam Town Commissioners and Straubing City Council signed and ratified a formal partnership between the two towns.
- Theatre and Music groups from both towns have visited each other.
- Students from Tuam went to Straubing for the summers for holiday jobs while an increasing number of visitors from Straubing come to Tuam for holidays on private arrangements.
- A street in Straubing has been named after Tuam.

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## TUAM TOWN NEWS



The West's Awake Community Weekend took place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August, featuring home grown musicians, artists, crafters, performers, poets, filmmakers, singers, writers, storytellers, positive disrupters and more. Taking place over two days, across eight venues, in the streets and public spaces. From emerging talents to award winning voices, the weekend is a celebration of creative Tuam, by Tuam, for the west to enjoy.

With over 25 events including a live music stage, children's activities, film screenings, a craft market, exhibitions, poetry readings, tea ceremony, audio walking tours, street performance, Tuam Herald poster type print workshops, music sessions, dancing took place.

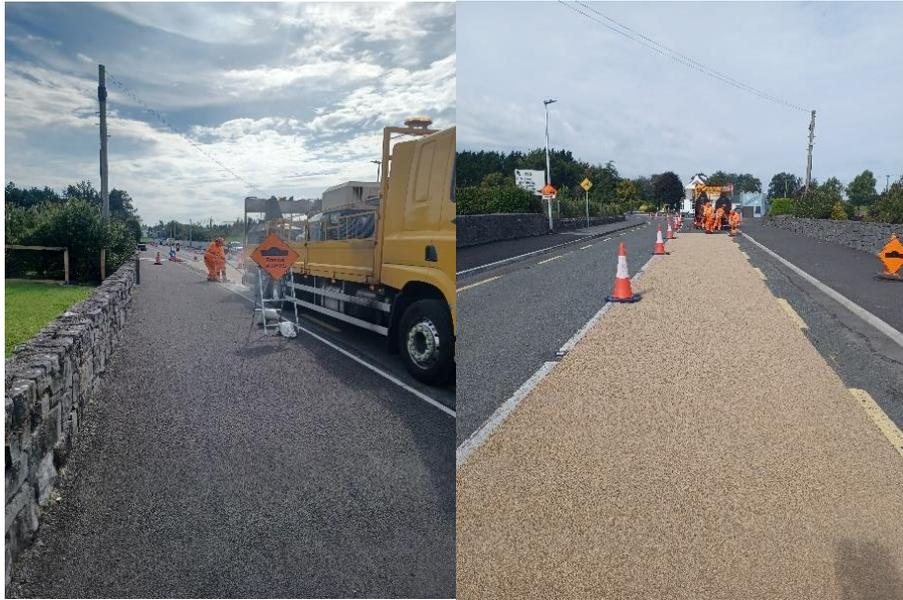
Initiated in response to The Saw Doctors homecoming gigs, supported by Creative Places Tuam, Galway County Council, The Saw Doctors and Galway Rural Development. This weekend is organised and produced by a local team, with contributions from Tuam's vibrant communities.

Initiated in response to The Saw



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TUAM MD WORKS CARRIED OUT IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER



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CAHERLISTRANE, INSTALLATION OF ANTI-SKID AND LINE MARKING AT NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT GAA GROUNDS.



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CIS AT BALLINDERRY, ATHENRY ROAD



NEW WALL COMPLETED AS PART OF A PULL IN BAY AT FAIRMILLS CIS.



CIS AT CAHERLISTRANE – ROAD WIDENING AND NEW BOUNDARY TREATMENT



TABLE BENCH AND BIKE STAND INSTALLED IN DUNMORE

ROAD OVERLAY WORKS ON THE R332 TUAM TO BALLINROBE ROAD BEING CARRIED OUT BY HARRINGTON QUARRIES LTD.



Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive  
Galway County Council**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**