



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# TURASCÁIL BAINISTÍOCHTA MANAGEMENT REPORT



Márta 2024

March 2024



## LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

### HEALTHY GALWAY

Adele Rankin has taken up the vacant post of Healthy Galway Coordinator and attended meetings with key stakeholders in preparation for the LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee Meeting in March to agree a Workplan and Communications Plan for 2024.

### HEALTHY ISLANDS

Galway County Council has received approval from the HSE, Age Friendly Ireland, and Healthy Ireland, for its proposals to allocate €28,746.18 towards a Healthy Islands project on the 4 offshore islands. The proposal is a 2-tier project involving an audit to increase the number and range of social & leisure activities on all 4 islands, in addition to the delivery of targeted health & wellbeing programmes on the 2 larger islands of Inis Oirr and Inis Mór. Further meetings will be held with key stakeholders in March with a view to visiting the islands in April as the project must be completed by end June 2024.

### LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Galway County LCDC received a total of 220 applications under the Local Enhancement Programme which must be assessed and approved by the LCDC Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee, with recommendations submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, by 28<sup>th</sup> March. Notifications to successful applicants will issue following formal announcement of the funding allocations by the Department in April 2024.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS

Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, formally launched the Cathaoirleach Awards for 2024 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The Awards are an annual initiative to acknowledge the commitment of individuals and groups who participate in community & voluntary activities in County Galway and recognise the significant impact their actions have on quality of life in their communities. Nominations are invited from the public under 7 Award Categories reflecting the breadth of community & voluntary activity, and there will be an additional 3 Award Category winners which are selected by the Cathaoirleach and Galway County Council. Galway County PPN (Public Participation Network) are key partners in the delivery of the Cathaoirleach Awards and will work with Galway County

Council in progressing the awards process and announcing the winners in due course at the Mayoral Charity Ball in May 2024.



LAUNCHING THE CATHAOIRLEACH AWARDS 2024, WITH L-R LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF GALWAY COUNTY, MARY MCGANN, COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LIADHAN KEADY CORPORATE SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL & VINCENT LYONS GALWAY COUNTY PPN,

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

### AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

A joint meeting of the City and County Older People’s Councils (OPC’s) took place on 1<sup>st</sup> March where training was delivered by the Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager on the role of the OPC. Mary McGann, Age Friendly Programme Manager for County Galway, also updated the members on the emerging issues from the public consultation with older people in November 2023, which will form the starting point for an Age Friendly Strategy to be developed in 2024. These consultations will also form the basis of discussions for the Age Friendly Alliance Meeting in March, to identify emerging priorities for the Age Friendly Strategy.

MARY MCGANN, AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME MANAGER, ADDRESSING A JOINT MEETING OF GALWAY CITY AND COUNTY OLDER PEOPLE’S COUNCILS ON 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH.



---

## TIDY TOWNS

In preparation for the National Tidy Towns Competition 2024, the Community Department surveyed all Tidy Towns Groups to identify key issues and challenges which will be discussed at a Tidy Towns Networking Event in Kinvara on Saturday 9th March, with other key staff from the local authority including the Biodiversity Officer, Community Climate Action Officer, Environmental Awareness Officer, and Heritage Officer. In response to the primary challenge identified by Tidy Towns Groups, i.e., getting and retaining volunteers, Galway Volunteer Centre will also attend the Networking Event. The event will also include a guided walk of the Burren Nature Sanctuary's Biodiversity Trails to showcase the local flora, fauna, sculptures, signage, and amenities developed in the area. It is hoped that the Networking Event will lead to opportunities for identification of further training, workshops, collaborations and networking, to enhance the invaluable work of Tidy Towns Groups across the County.



REPRESENTATIVES  
OF TIDY TOWNS  
GROUPS  
ATTENDING A TIDY  
TOWNS  
NETWORKING  
EVENT WITH STAFF  
OF GALWAY  
COUNTY COUNCIL.

---

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

---

### ACTING AS AN INFORMATION HUB

Submissions were invited from all Departments for the March PPN Newsletter, which was circulated on 2nd March, and the PPN also circulated information to all 1,308 member groups on funding schemes such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2024– Project Development Measure (PDM). PPN staff attended an online interagency meeting on 4th March, hosted by the HSE, on planning for 'Men's Health Week 2024', PPN will have an information sharing role, sharing the invitation for community groups to get involved and submit their events, and then sharing information about the event schedule for the week of 10th - 16th June.

---

## BUILDING CAPACITY:

The PPN workers have organised two trainings for PPN member groups in March - both workshops are online, covering highly popular topics as per the training needs analysis survey undertaken by PPN Member groups.

- Digital Marketing for Community Groups, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7-9pm.
- Website Design for Your Organisation, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7-9pm.

---

## PROMOTING REPRESENTATION:

The PPN welcomed two new members to its Secretariat, Maria Heneghan representing the Community and Voluntary Pillar and Maura Canning representing the Loughrea Municipal District. Both newly elected representatives will be given an induction session on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The Housing SPC meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and PPN workers will work with the PPN Reps on this SPC to gather their feedback from the meeting, report back to the wider PPN as appropriate, and PPN workers will be working on developing the capacity of the PPN Reps on the SPC, as well as the Housing Linkage Group.

## RURAL FUNDING SCHEMES

---

### TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MEASURES

This Project Development Measure (PDM) is one measure under the Town and Village Renewal Programme as part of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports announced by the Department of Community and Rural Development in February 2024.

The purpose of this Measure is to assist Local Authorities and Approved Applicants to contribute to a pipeline of significant, well-developed projects which might be subsequently progressed to construction stage subject to the availability of further funding. Galway County Council can put forward a maximum of three applications to the Department of Community and Rural Development for consideration and approval. Funding may be awarded for costs such as detailed design, planning, procurement, professional fees, assessments and other development costs.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now sought from Business Representative Groups, Community and Voluntary Groups for this PDM.

For counties in the Northwest Transition Region, including Co. Galway, grant aid of 95% of the project development costs up to a maximum value of €50,000 will apply with a minimum match funding rate of 5%.

The Project Development Measure (PDM) will place particular emphasis on projects that bring economic and social vibrancy to town centres and help bring vacant and derelict

buildings and sites back into use as community or multipurpose spaces to encourage more people to return confidently to town and village centres to work, shop and socialise.

EOI's can be submitted online only through

<https://galwaycountycouncil.tfaforms.net/f/townandvillage2023> and must be received by 5.00pm on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.

---

## LAMA AWARDS 2024

### **Triple success for Galway County Council at Local Authority 'Oscars'**

The recently opened BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry, the community-based 'Healthy Islands' initiative and a pilot scheme aimed at improving energy saving and management in County Galway's social housing stock have been named winners at the 2024 All-Ireland Community and Council Awards.

Galway County Council's triple success in what is regarded as the Oscars of the local government sector was revealed at a ceremony held at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre last night (Saturday, 17 February 2024).

Now in its 18th year, the award scheme hosted by LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) and IPB Insurance recognises and celebrates communities and the country's 31 local authorities working together.

Opened in January by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, the BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry is the first Centre of Excellence for the Irish food industry in the country and aims to drive regional and national growth in Ireland's agri-food sector. The facility, which was developed with the support of Galway County Council, was named overall winner of the **'National Impact Award'** after coming out on top in a shortlist that also included Dublin City Council (Connection Arts Centre), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Coastal Mobile Route) and Wicklow County Council (It Takes A Village & Tiglin and the Rise of the Cover).



L-R: CIARA MCDONAGH, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT, EITHNE MURPHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KEVIN MURPHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, VALERIE KELLY, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE, PETER FEENY, BIA INNOVATOR, KIERAN COYNE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GUS MCCARTHY, BIA INNOVATOR, ALAN FARRELL, FORMER DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Galway County Council also was named overall winner of the **'Best Energy Smart Initiative'** for its 'Heat Pump Remote Access' project, having beaten off competition from Wicklow County Council (Bray Bolt E-Bike Scheme), Mayo County Council (Castlebar Energy Clinics) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Carbon Neutral Street Lighting).

The pioneering approach to sustainable energy, which is currently is being piloted in a local authority estate, involves the installation of GSM modems on domestic heat pumps to enable technicians to remotely monitor for energy efficiency and any maintenance requirements ahead of any required callouts. Should the initial trial prove successful, Galway County Council says it will roll out the scheme across its full housing stock that contain heat pumps, including all new builds.





L-R: KEVIN MURPHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL, CIARA MCDONAGH, EXECUTIVE ARCHITECT & LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The 'Healthy Islands' project was named winner of the '**Best Community Health**' category in recognition of its efforts to promote health and well-being, to improve communication and enhance knowledge of available services amongst residents of The Aran Islands (Inis Meáin, Inis Mór and Inis Oírr) and Inisbofin. The project featured free activities and resources for more than 200 participating residents to promote health and wellbeing across all the islands, including pulse and blood pressure checks, healthy cooking demonstrations workshops, a community fun-run, yoga, relationship and sexual health education, citizen information advice, and exercise and fitness tips.



L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CATHAOIRLEACH LIAM CARROLL AND KIERAN COYNE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Meanwhile, Galway County Council's Garraí Ghuaire social housing development in Kinvara was shortlisted in the '**Best Housing Regeneration & Urban Planning**' category alongside entries from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Clare, Cork County and

Wexford. The development, comprising 10 detached and semi-detached homes, was completed in January 2023.

Corofin-based Heptagon Houses Ltd. also was shortlisted in the **‘Best Micro Start-Up’** category alongside The Smooth Company (South Dublin), Farmteam (Wicklow), Quickcropt (Sligo) and Nualach Automation (Cavan). The company, which has benefited from supports provided by Local Enterprise Office Galway, has been lauded for its innovative business approach that has seen the family-run enterprise thrive as Ireland’s sole manufacturer and installer of Timber Framed Greenhouses.



L-R: LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MIKE DEVANEY, HEPTAGONS HOUSES, LISA DEVANEY, HEPTAGONS HOUSES, VALERIE KELLY, HEAD OF ENTERPRISE

## ARTS OFFICE

This month we have two wonderful artists events to celebrate: ‘Triple Bill’ at Black Box curated by Galway County Dance Artist in Residence Magdalena Hylak and Selma Makela’s solo exhibition at RHA’s Ashford Gallery, Dublin.

Assessment processes are underway for our funding schemes that have closed, and artists and schools are being supported to make applications for our schemes that are still open. The team also led out on and were involved in several funding applications at a national and EU level this month. We hope that these ambitious projects come to fruition.

## GALWAY COUNTY DANCE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: TRIPLE BILL

Curated by Magdalena Hylak, the Galway Dance Artist in Residence, this event is without a doubt one of the best contemporary dance triple bills of the first quarter of the year. Three exceptional solos from three of the most experienced performers in the country. Three particular ways of approaching the music: from the fulfilled silence of Mary Nunan’s ‘Slant’ to the lyrical approach of John Scott’s ‘Heroes’, through the experimental proposition of

Magdalena Hylak's 'A Dance'. Saturday 23 March, 8pm at Black Box.

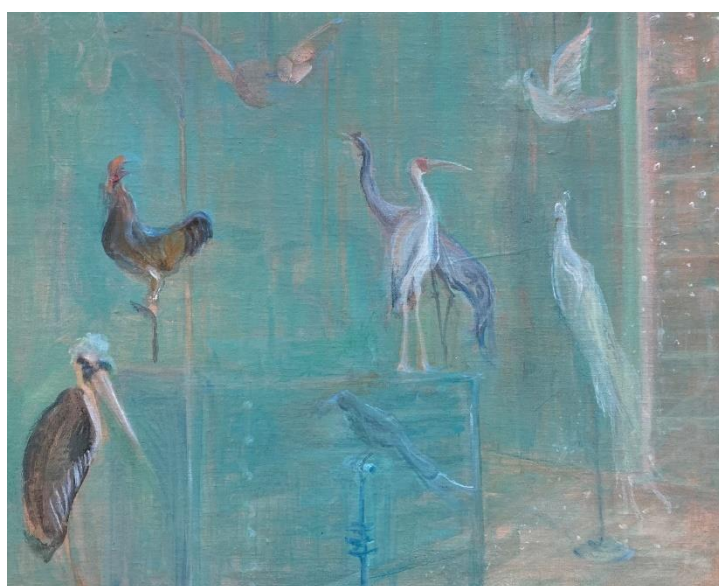
Tickets: <https://tht.ie/4182/triple-bill-magdalena-hylak-mary-nunan-john-scott>



MAGDALENA HYLAK, MARY NUNAN & JOHN SCOTT

### SELMA MAKELA AT RHA ASHFORD GALLERY

Artist Support Scheme and Centre Culturel Irlandais Residency recipient Selma Makela has an upcoming solo exhibition at the RHA's Ashford Gallery. Selma is a visual artist based in



Headford and was awarded funding in 2023 to research a new series of paintings informed by the climate emergency and environmental concerns.

'When the birds gather, you know there is something you must do' opens Thursday 28 March and runs until 25 April.

CONFERENCE ROOM BY SELMA MAKELA, 2024

### CÚIRT 2024

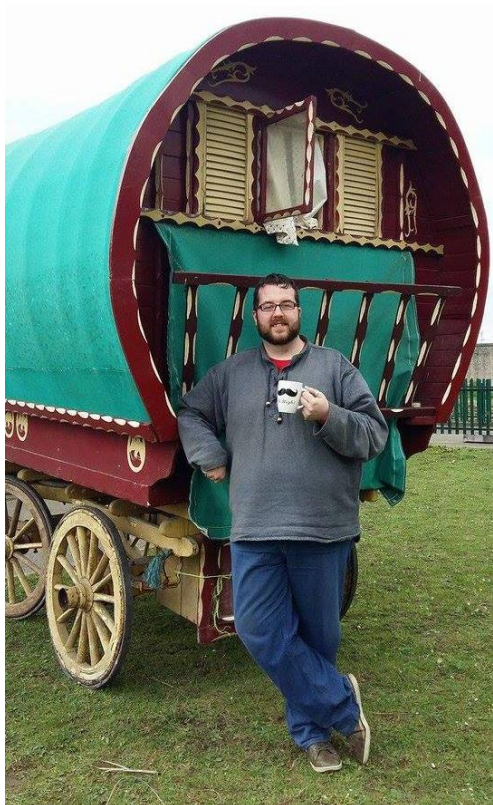
The Arts Office is working with Cúirt literature festival on a writing project with underserved communities in Tuam. Writer and Traveller advocate Oein DeBhairduin will work with people from the Traveller community and people who engage with Galway County Council's Refugee Resettlement Programme.

Oein will lead participants in a creative writing series of workshops called Tera na Nug. Tera na Nug is local Cant dialect describing that creative spark of storytelling and imagination. Oein will encourage participants with an interest in the creation of stories in a safe, respectful and fun environment, using props and supporting materials the workshops will initiate stories from participants. The project is also supported by Western Traveller &

Intercultural Development Centre, Brú Bríde's artist in resident Martina Passman and Three Rings.

Participants will be invited to take part in Cúirt's Open Mic event on Thursday 25 April. More details here: <https://www.cuirt.ie/whats-on/open-mic/>

The Cúirt programme launch was on Wednesday 06 March. The festival takes place between from 23-28 April.



OEIN DEBHARDUIN AND CÚIRT 2024 POSTER

---

## CYBERNATE RESIDENCY

Congratulations to Tuam visual artist Jennifer Cunningham who will take part in this year's Cybernate programme produced by Culture Works.

Cybernate is a research residency and is a collaboration between Ireland and France, supporting Irish and French artists by providing artists working in digital arts with the time and space to interrogate access to public space through artistic/digital means and seeks to explore what it means to create digital artworks in the public space in the current climate of societal change.

The first stage of the residency programme took place across Galway from 03 – 08 March.

Read about the artists and producers here: <https://galwayculturecompany.ie/.../cybernate-2024-meet.../>



JENNIFER  
CUNNINGHAM  
IN HER STUDIO

---

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We had great success using the platform Submit for our funding opportunities. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We received an unprecedented number of applications for our Artists Support Scheme from artists living and working in Galway County.

For the first time, we have partnered with Ealaíon na Gaeltachta on our Artists in Schools Scheme. This year two Galway County Gaeltacht schools will avail of time with artists who work in traditional arts and Irish language theatre as part of the scheme.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (ARTS GRANTS) 2024

Opened:	18 January
Information clinic:	06 February
Deadline:	20 February
Arts Act Grants:	71 applications received
€60,000 to be awarded	

## ARTIST SUPPORT SCHEME 2024

Opened: 22 January  
Information clinics: 15 & 22 February  
Deadline: 28 February  
Artists Support Scheme: 90 applications received  
€28,000 to be awarded

## ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS SCHEME & SCÉIM EALAÍONTÓIRÍ I SCOILEANNA GAELTACHTA

Opened: 15 February  
Information Clinics: 5 & 6 March  
Deadline: 21 March  
€15,400 to be awarded

## CREATIVE IRELAND

### 2024 CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES

The Creative Ireland Bursaries opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and ran until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Two online information sessions were held in February to explain the use of Submit.com and answer any questions. Similarly, to the Arts Office, the feedback on the usability and layout of Submit.com as a means of application was resoundingly positive.

This year saw a large volume of extremely high-quality applications with 52 applications from all over the country and a total ask of €369,728. A panel of experts met on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> to assess and score the applications. The panel returned a list of 12 successful awardees with a total spend of €57,680. This covers a wide variety of workshops and projects across many different forms of creative expression, including coding, painting, sculpture, theatre, music, dance, circus skills, and more. The geographical spread covers all areas of the County, and the age and socio-economic spread ensures access to creativity for people from all walks of life.



The poster features a light blue background with a row of colorful bunting flags at the top. A lightbulb icon is positioned above the main text. A speech bubble contains the text 'Apply via Submit.com https://galwaycoco.submit.com/'. The main text reads 'CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES NOW OPEN' in large, bold, black letters. Below this, it says 'Closing Date Wednesday Feb 28th at 4pm'. At the bottom, there are logos for the Galway County Council and the Creative Ireland Programme, along with contact information: 'For queries contact creativeireland@galwaycoco.ie'. A small graphic of a mug with 'BE CREATIVE' written on it is also present.

A project with 'The Living Bog' in Mountbellew is also being funded separately to the Bursaries. This has been assigned to Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer, who will take this on as her first project as part of the Galway County Council Culture Team

SOCIAL MEDIA POST FROM CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARY ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN



This year Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for children, will take place on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. As part of Galway County Council's Service Level Agreement with Creative Ireland, a fund of €30,000 is available to support events and projects taking place all across Galway County. Applications opened on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> and will run until Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## TOURISM

Pre-Tourism Networking event – Fáilte Ireland

The Tourism Officer attended and presented at a networking event held in the Wildlands, Maigh Cuilinn.

A large group of tourism businesses met in Maigh Cuilinn to explore opportunities for collaboration and to discuss the promotion of Connemara and the Islands as a tourist destination. There was a good mix of accommodation, visitor centres, activity providers, tour providers and members of the retail sector present on the day. The theme of the event was 'Stronger Together - Ní neart go cur le chéile.'

Keynote speaker on the day was Nuala Mulqueeney - Managing Director of Aillwee Burren Experience who gave an account of her experience on the benefits of collaboration and networking.

Representatives from Fáilte Ireland - Wild Atlantic Way Team, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council & CAITN also made contributions on the day. There was also ample time for the attendees to network with each other and make new connections.

This event was an opportunity for tourism businesses to get to know each other. We can expand the unique offerings of Connemara and the Islands through networking and collaboration, we look forward to helping to enhance the visitor experience and ensure sustainable growth for our businesses and communities.

The Tourism Team will continue to work together with our tourism partners to realise our shared vision for Tourism development.



---

L-R TERENCE O'TOOLE, LOVE CONAMARA, DAITHÍ GALLAGHER, MANAGER, WILD ATLANTIC WAY, JOHN NEARY, TOURISM OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, DOMINIC Ó MÓRÁIN, GENERAL MANAGER, LOUGH INAGH HOTEL



---

JOHN NEARY, TOURISM OFFICER



---

NETWORKING EVENT, WILDLANDS, MAIGH CUILINN

---

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

This year the applications and guidelines for the Community Support Scheme 2024 were available to apply for **online**.

We got very positive feedback in relation to our online system and as a result received a high volume of applications, in excess of last year. The Tourism team is currently accessing all Economic applications.



---

## 2024 ANNUAL SUCK VALLEY WAY CONFERENCE

The 2024 Annual Suck Valley Way Training Conference is an exciting event that celebrates the incredible talent and creativity found in rural Ireland. Taking place over two days in Hannon's Hotel, County Roscommon, this conference focuses on various aspects of rural life and creativity.

Distinguished experts spanning industries such as tourism, enterprise, business, manufacturing, recreation, and sport will convene to deliberate on the manifold opportunities within the expansive Suck Valley Way region.



Encompassing not only Roscommon but also portions of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, and Offaly, the region's potential for tourism development and post-pandemic employment and enterprise prospects will take centre stage during discussions spanning today and tomorrow.

The conference is spearheaded by the Suck Valley Way Development Co-op, under the stewardship of Roscommon

County Councillor Anthony Waldron.

The Tourism Officer attended and participation in this conference, for further details please see brochure below.

[2024 Annual Suck Valley Way Conference Brochure](#)

## GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

---

### FEDERATION OF IRISH SPORT – VOLUNTEER IN SPORTS AWARDS 2023

Galway Sports Partnership were delighted to attend the Volunteer in Sports Awards 2023 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The Federation of Irish Sport recognised the recipients of the 2023 Volunteers in Sports Awards, celebrating their dedication and giving freely of their time locally to play sports happen. Proudly supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships the committed volunteers from across the country were honoured at an awards ceremony with

special guest speaker Minister Thomas Byrne, Minister of State with responsibility for Sport and Physical Education presenting the 32 county awards.

The vital role of volunteers in advancing sports participation and community development cannot be underestimated or taken for granted. The economic significance of volunteering has an estimated value of €1.5 billion annually to the Irish economy. This figure underscores the immense social and economic benefits derived from the invaluable contributions of volunteers across the Irish sporting landscape.

The recipient of the award for County Galway is Tony Stephens, of Claregalway GAA Club. Over the course of three decades, Tony has made an enormous contribution to Claregalway GAA Club. Serving as the club's treasurer during a transformative period, helping to manage parking on busy match days, volunteering his time at numerous club fundraisers and occasions, and serving as a team manager during the 1990's and early 200's. In 2009 the club acquired its knockdoemore grounds and under Tony's stewardship, the club invested nearly 2.5 million in these facilities. The grounds now boast 4 grass pitches, a walkway, and a community centre. Under Tony's stewardship these grounds have been transformed into a hub, not just for the GAA Club but for the community as a whole.



ANDREW MC BRIDE,  
GALWAY SPORTS  
PARTNERSHIP  
COORDINATOR, TONY  
STEPHENS, AWARD RECIPIENT  
CLAREGALWAY GAA,  
KATHLEEN STEPHENS, CLLR  
GABE CRONNELLY,  
CHAIRPERSON GALWAY  
SPORTS PARTNERSHIP.

---

## NEW COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Galway Sports Partnership is delighted to welcome two new Community Sports Development Officers Lorraine Treacy and Thomas Peoples to the team.

The Community Sports Development Officer programme was first established in 2016 to support the delivery of the National Physical Activity Plan Action 46 'to strengthen and enhance capacity of the Local Sports Partnerships to further develop locally led plans and more long-term sustainable physical activity programmes'.

The aim of the programme is to foster and encourage a culture of active participation, supporting opportunities for and access to, sport and physical activity through Local Sports Partnerships.

Goals of the Community Sports Development Officer programme:

1. Support the development of exciting and dynamic opportunities to increase participation for people who are sedentary.
2. Capacity build smaller National Governing Bodies that do not currently have development officers and other stakeholders to deliver services to increase participation.
3. Develop sustainable local leadership for sport within communities.

We look forward to engaging communities across the county to deliver inclusive, impactful and sustainable opportunities tailored to local needs, getting people more physically active, involved in sport and improving the mental and physical health of the nation.

---

## WOMEN IN SPORT WEEK

As part of Women in Sport Week which took place from 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

The aim of Women in Sport Week is to:

- Celebrate every woman and girl who plays, coaches, officiates, volunteers, works in and leads out on Women in Sport.
- Promote and highlight the ongoing work of Sport Ireland, NGBs, LSPs and other stakeholders and clubs under the topic of Women in Sport.
- Highlight some of the programmes/initiatives funded by Sport Ireland Women in Sport Programme

Galway Sports Partnership ran several events to support Women in Sport.

---

## BUGGY BUDDIES TUAM



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March Galway Sports Partnership began a 6-week Buggy Buddies program in Tuam Stars GAA club. This program was run at a discounted rate to the participants through HSE funding. The venue has a hall for indoor classes and a track around the pitches for walking. There were 11 participants attending the first session and participants enjoyed a cup of tea and a

chat after the session.

---

## BUGGY BUDDIES ATHENRY

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Galway Sports Partnership began a 6-week Buggy Buddies program in Athenry Football Club. Like the Tuam venue there was also an indoor and outdoor space for use along with a cup of tea and a chat after the session. This program was

also run at a discounted rate to participants through HSE funding. There were 8 attendees at the first session.

## FAB & FIT OVER 40S

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March Galway Sports Partnership began a 3-week program for women over 40. This program was run in Oranmore Community Centre and there were 10 attendees at the first session.



As well as these programmes Galway Sports Partnership ran a campaign to highlight Galway Women who are champions of Sport and Physical Activity in Galway.

Cliona Darcy – Boxing

Mary Cronin – Athletics

Helen Daly – Galway Sports Partnership Tutor

Katie Codyre – Physical Education Teacher

Carmel Greely – Community Games

Richael Timothy – Para - Olympics

Sabrina Cassidy – Rowing

Aine Seoige – Yoga Instructor

Beibhinn Parson – Rugby

Máire Connolly – Special Olympics

**Galway Sports Partnership**  
2 d · 🌐

🌟 Celebrating Women in Sport Week! 🌟

As part of Women in Sport Week Galway Sports Partnership are putting a spotlight on Galway women who advocate for physical activity in Galway in a variety of ways!

Meet Cliona Darcy, a true inspiration both in and out of the ring. Her commitment to boxing is unmatched and her achievements are inspiring to many young women and girls in Galway! Swipe across the photo to see what Cliona had to say when we spoke with her about her passion - b...  
See more

**Women in Sport Week**  
4th-10th March 2024  
Name: Cliona Darcy  
Sport: Boxing

**Why have you got involved in sport?**  
I grew up in a family of fitness. My Dad was an avid runner, and I always looked up to him and admired everything that he did. I was always encouraged to play and I grew to love the sport. It has become a big part of my life. I have found my confidence with fitness and it's been a great journey to reach where I am today.

**What is your sporting role model?**  
I think every female boxer is my role model in general, but my idol is Katie Taylor. She has shown me that sport is achievable, but I think my current sporting role model is Kelly Harrison. She is an athlete, but her achievements are something that I can look up to. She has shown me that you can be a professional athlete and still be a woman. A very female role model.

**What is your personal achievement?**  
Winning a gold medal in the 2012 Trials World Series Championships. One of the best experiences of my life and I would be happy to go back and defend it.

**What advice would you give to young girls in sport?**  
Love what you do and don't let the bad days get to you. Remember you are strong and you can do it. There will be good and bad days but don't let the bad days get to you. Remember you are strong and you can do it.

Boost this post to reach up to 6550 more people daily if you spend \$56. **Boost post**

👍👎🗨️ 34 2 comments 28 shares

---

## AUTISM IN SPORT COURSE



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March Galway Sports Partnership hosted an Autism in Sport Online Training which is run by Active Disability Ireland (formerly Cara). This 2.5-hour training is for coaches, teachers, SNA's and students and anyone who may run activities with individuals with autism. This course was put on for the Galway Bay Rugby

club with 16 participants attending. Participants receive a certificate from Active Disability Ireland upon completion of the training.

---

## ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY – GAMES FOR ALL



This 7-week program in partnership with Atlantic Technological University Galway (ATU) is progressing well. Each week 9 second-year students design an adaptive physical activity session to deliver to adults with varying disabilities. Students have to think on their feet to adapt the

activity to the individuals' abilities, interests and needs. The sessions are due to end on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and students have learned and their self confidence in delivering to this target group has grown.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVITIES, NEW YORK

The Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach were invited by the Galway Association of New York to take part in the festivities in the run up to the St. Patrick's Day which concluded with them taking part in the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York.

IDA MEETING



L-R LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, SUZANNE LYNCH, IDA, CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY AND DAMIEN O'BRIEN, IDA

---

ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE IRISH CONSULATE, NEW YORK



---

L-R LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, JUSTICE MINISTER HELEN MCENTEE T.D. CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY



---

L-R CATHY HOGAN, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, GALWAY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, CLLR. LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY, JUSTICE MINISTER HELEN MCENTEE T.D., PAT LALLY, PRESIDENT GALWAY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND GARETH HARGADON, DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL



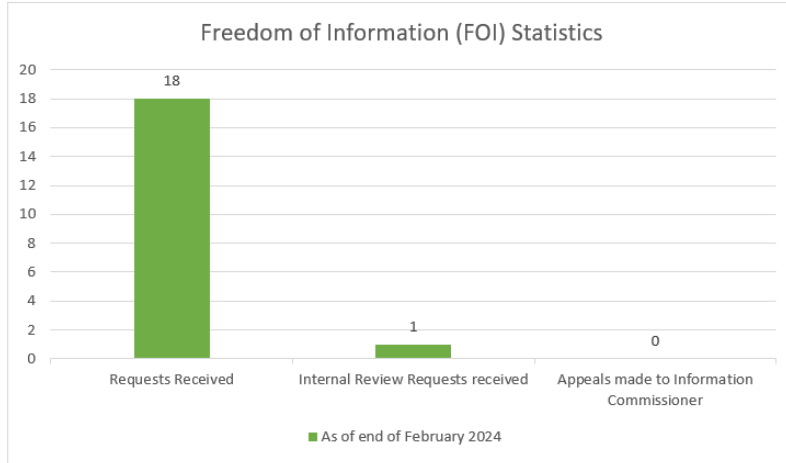
L-R: MICHAEL FLATLEY & CLLR LIAM CARROLL,  
CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY



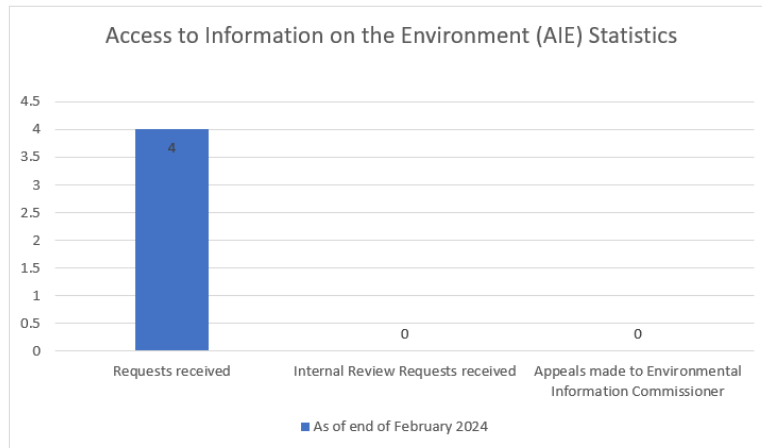
CLLR LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF  
COUNTY GALWAY ALONGSIDE FORMER  
ROSES OF TRALEE AT THE ROSE OF TRALEE  
NEW YORK RECEPTION



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT




DATA PROTECTION

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

---

## SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

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.

**35,199**  
 **0.46%**  
from 35,360  
**Fans & Followers**

**316**  
**Total Posts**  
**Irish 35.1%**  
(111 posts)



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



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



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

---

## OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY

---

### FACEBOOK



Over this period, Customer Services have posted 103 posts to Galway County Council’s Facebook page. Customer Services also utilised the ‘story’ function on Facebook 12 times this month with followers. Galway County Council’s overall reach for the last month was 46.1k.

---

### AUDIENCE METRICS – FACEBOOK

Last month Galway County Council gained 76 new Facebook followers, bringing the total followers as of February 29th, 2024, to 16,514 whose ages range between 18 – 65+ with the main audience being those aged between 35 and 44, when this is broken down further 23.4% of this age group are women and 10.6% are men. In total, 31.7% of Galway County Council’s Facebook followers are male and 68.3% are female.

## FEBRUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS




 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 09, 13:19</p> <p>A programme to highlight the need for greater diversity and gender equality in local government, will be delivered by the Galway County and City Women's Caucus in the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe on the 29th February 2024. The event is free of charge,</p> <p><b>12.14 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 02, 15:43</p> <p>(Post with no description)</p> <p><b>11.43 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 11, 16:00</p> <p>'Increasing the Participation of Women and Diversity in Local Government' – a Programme by the Galway County and City Women's Caucus. Venue: Shearwater Hotel Ballinasloe. Date and Time: 29th February 2024. 10am (registration from 9.30am). Cost: Free of Charge,</p> <p><b>11.14 %</b> engagement rate</p>
---	---	--

## AUDIENCE METRICS – X (PREVIOUSLY TWITTER)

During this period on X, Galway County Council posted a total of 64 tweets with 24.1k impressions.

Galway County Council's account gained a total of 19 new followers, bringing the total following as of the 29th of February 2024 to 16,570

## FEBRUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

 <p><b>@GalwayCoCo</b> Feb 02, 15:39</p> <p>Delighted to launch the Connemara Blue Dots booklet at @ScoilB today. Launched by Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll on #WorldWetlandsDay. View booklet: <a href="https://bit.ly/42fL4T0">https://bit.ly/42fL4T0</a> &amp; in Irish: <a href="https://bit.ly/3uHXRRO">https://bit.ly/3uHXRRO</a> Funded by @NPWSireland @GalwayCoCo &amp;</p> <p><b>8.02 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>@GalwayCoCo</b> Feb 07, 17:00</p> <p>Status Yellow - Snow-Ice warning for Galway Sleet and snow for a time leading to some accumulations, most significant on higher ground. Impacts: • Hazardous travelling conditions • Poor visibility • Ice on....<a href="https://ow.ly/FI6k50QyRz8">https://ow.ly/FI6k50QyRz8</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/GalwayCoC">https://twitter.com/GalwayCoC</a></p> <p><b>8 %</b> engagement rate</p>	 <p><b>@GalwayCoCo</b> Feb 27, 16:43</p> <p>Today, the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Councillor Liam Carroll, welcomed, the Ambassador of Latvia, His Excellency Mr. Juris Stālmeistars to Áras an Chontae. @LVinIreland...<a href="https://ow.ly/ufPu50QIluU">https://ow.ly/ufPu50QIluU</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1762518721">https://twitter.com/GalwayCoCo/status/1762518721</a></p> <p><b>6.69 %</b> engagement rate</p>
---	---	--

## INSTAGRAM

Over this period, Customer Services have posted 97 posts to Galway County Council's Instagram page. Customer Services also utilised the 'story' function 7 times this month with followers as well as sharing 9 reels. Galway County Council's overall reach for this period was 6.3k, an increase of 200% compared to the previous period.

## AUDIENCE METRICS – INSTAGRAM

Galway County Council's Instagram page has a similar audience base to the Council's Facebook page with audience ages range between 18-65+, with 69.8% being female and

30.2% being male. Overall, the main audience; with 36.2% in total, again is those aged between 35 and 44 years old, a closer breakdown shows that this consists of 25.7% women and 10.5% men. Over the last month Galway County Council have increased their followers from 938 in January 2024 to 988 followers by the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

## FEBRUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

 <p><b>galwaycountycouncil</b> Feb 27, 09:41</p> <p>Water Disruption 9:30am - 2:30pm</p> <p><b>227 reach</b></p>	 <p><b>galwaycountycouncil</b> Feb 26, 13:18</p> <p><b>178 reach</b></p>	 <p><b>galwaycountycouncil</b> Feb 26, 13:23</p> <p>PUBLIC CONSULTATION BALLINASLOE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME</p> <p><b>157 reach</b></p>
---	---	---

## AUDIENCE METRICS – LINKEDIN

During this period on LinkedIn, Galway County Council's account gained 46 new followers, bringing the total following to 1,686, an increase of 2.8%. Galway County Council shared 29 posts with 3,704 impressions this month.

## FEBRUARY'S TOP THREE POSTS

 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 13, 06:00</p> <p>Vacancy - Conservation Officer Closing Date: Thursday 22nd February 2024 <a href="https://lnkd.in/eF eAU6WD">https://lnkd.in/eF eAU6WD</a> #jobfairly #gaillimh #galway #YourCouncil</p> <p><b>10.66 % engagement rate</b></p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 03, 18:01</p> <p>Vacancy - Clerical Officer ((Panel)) Closing Date 4:00pm Thursday 8th February 2024 <a href="https://ow.ly/y2ti50QuL5g">https://ow.ly/y2ti50QuL5g</a> #jobfairly #gaillimh #galway #YourCouncil</p> <p><b>9.77 % engagement rate</b></p>	 <p><b>Galway County Council</b> Feb 16, 10:48</p> <p>The Local Authority Graduate Programme gives you the chance to use your skills and knowledge to make a real difference for your county and community. Find out more at: <a href="https://lnkd.in/eF DhDTTe">https://lnkd.in/eF DhDTTe</a> #MakeADifference #LocalGovJobs #Gaillimh #Galway</p> <p><b>8.55 % engagement rate</b></p>
---	---	--

IRELAND READS DAY



Ireland Reads Day is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It happens every February 24<sup>th</sup> and libraries across Galway hosted events and invited people to celebrate their love of reading and 'Get Lost' in a book. We all know that reading is fun, but studies have shown that reading relaxes your body and mind and that it can boost your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%.



Over 17 exciting events happened in libraries with events ranging from Sign language for tots, Circus Adventures, Raining Day Workshops, Town Talks and much more.

Galway Public Libraries were delighted to be the only library service to be featured on all the main news RTE news broadcasts in their reporting on Ireland Reads Day. Oranmore Library was delighted to welcome RTE to a performance by the Tallest Smallest Theatre Company who performed to a packed library. Amazing to hear interviews with the County Librarian Jo Vahey

and to very happy library members who all loved the Circus Adventures.



---

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

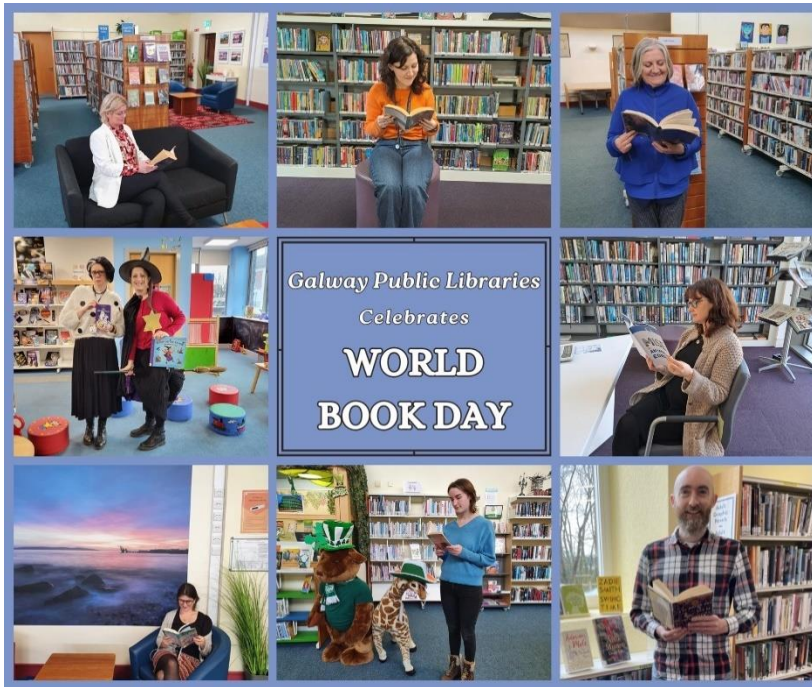


Shout out to our wonderful women library staff who celebrated World Book Day.



---

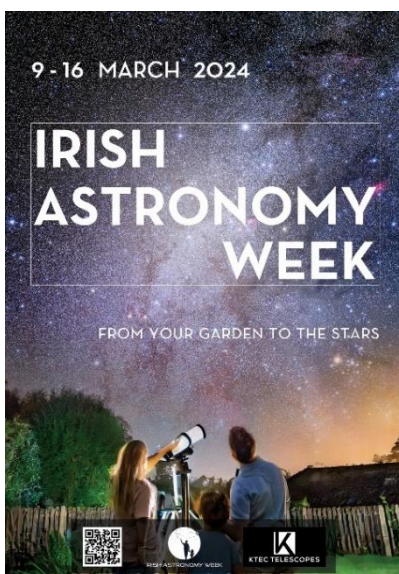
## WORLD BOOK DAY



To celebrate World Book Day library staff were caught reading some of their favourite book to their favourite library members.

---

## IRISH ASTRONOMY WEEK



This year the library network is hosting a series of events and programmes showcasing Irish Astronomy Week, which runs from March 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March Tuam Library held a space-themed storytime with astronomy-themed colouring sheets and word searches available, as well as astronomy book displays in both the children's and adult's Library. Younger members were encouraged to build a spaceship from LEGO in the library.

Saturday 9 March in Loughrea Library: Dave McDonald, who in 2007 discovered an asteroid, gave a talk titled "Of Planets And Asteroids".

Saturday 9 March in Ballybane Library: John Keady, Chairperson of Galway Astronomy Club, gave a talk entitled "The Wonders of the Night Sky".

Tuesday 12 March in Galway City Library: Felix Sproll, award-winning photographer, gave a talk entitled "Photographing The Night Sky" with the event fully booked.

Wednesday 13 March in Westside Library hosted a Sun, Moon and Stars Family Crafting Workshop in the MakerSpace. Followed by a LEGO Free-Play workshop on building your own rocket.

Closing out the celebrations is the event in Oranmore Library on Friday 15 March @ 11:00am with Dave McDonald will giving a talk titled "Of Planets And Asteroids".

## BALLINASLOE LIBRARY



“Town Talks” series from the Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society continued Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February and featured Seán Tully speaking about the history of Ballinasloe Town GAA.

There was a lot of interest in the memorabilia that Seán had on display and many reminiscences on the day.

This series of talks are very popular with the

community with the previous talk focusing on one of the most beloved leading men of the Golden Age of Hollywood in the late 1930s and 1940s- George Brent. In a special hour-long talk, which featured clips from his most remembered films, John Maguire took a comprehensive look at Brent’s life and career, his status as an Irish actor in America, and the timeless connection with Bette Davis that would secure his legend.



John, a native of Ballinasloe, is a national newspaper journalist and film critic with more than 20 years’ experience writing and talking about cinema in Ireland.





Love was in the air in Ballinasloe Library for the St. Valentine's Day Craft Event. Beautiful cards were created and filled with love.

Creagh NS and Garbally College attended workshops in Ballinasloe Library for engineer's week.

Sarah from the Rediscovery Centre and Laura from Medtronic gave a fantastic workshop before setting a

challenge for the children from Creagh NS- we can all agree there were plenty of interesting questions flying around the room!

After lunch Garbally College attended their workshop which consisted of a Kahoot quiz and yet more challenges!



## HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

The community outreach of the Spring programme of Healthy Ireland At Your Library saw workshops and programmes in Moylough Library. Becca Dorsett from Croí delivered an interesting talk about how to manage life after a stroke or cardiac event. The event was well attended.

This was part of a suite of talks from Croí on stroke and cardiac disease.

Dietitian Aisling Harris hosted an information session on healthy eating and eating habits for improved heart health as well as addressing cholesterol.



Sessions continue with Marie Hegarty and Pilates classes focusing on fall prevention strategies with the upcoming sessions fully booked. Carraroe Library drew big numbers for this event with many more locations interested in hosting these for the next season.

Storytimes in Ballybane Library have developed into a cultural celebration with multilingual activities, stories and song now taking place on a weekly basis. This is building on previous engagement within the community and now provides opportunity for all the community to celebrate their heritage.

Programming in the new MakerSpace also reflects the diversity of the community with everything from mask making to rock painting – there is something for everyone.

Baby Rhyme Time in partnership with Music Generation Galway City continues to gather big numbers and these sessions run in the three city libraries as part of the Early Years Programme.



**Ballybane Library** 091 509 244  
ballybane@galwaylibrary.ie

## Have you Recently Retired? What Next?

Join us as we showcase some of the groups and amenities available in the East side of Galway City. Come along and chat to various community groups and organisations that can help you get the most out of your retirement goals.

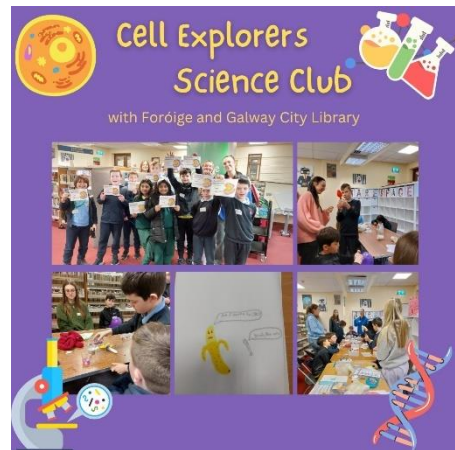
**Thursday 22nd February 10.30am**

- ✓ ARD Family Resource Centre
- ✓ Ballybane Active Retirement
- ✓ Ballybane Community Organic Garden
- ✓ Ballybane Men's Shed
- ✓ Ballybane Resource Centre
- ✓ Cumann na bhFear Galway
- ✓ MABS - Money Advice and Budgeting Service

Ballybane also developed and coordinated an information morning for those recently retired and showcased all the available activities and community groups that work in the area. This was a popular event and was well attended.

Staff of Ballybane Library are actively involved in outreach programming to encourage the community to join the library and avail of all the services, programming and events that are happening in their local library.

Since the introduction of the MakerSpace in Galway City Library and the partnership with Foróige, children from across the city are participating in events and programming exploring STEM. Recent activities included using the new badge maker machine. Children were invited to design and make their own badges and learn about the process in making them.



As part of Engineers Week, the space hosted several workshops with students from the Mercy Primary as well as St. Joseph's Patrician (The Bish).

A group of 2nd class students from St. Nicholas school, together with volunteers and teachers, visited Galway City Library as part of the Time to Read programme with Business in the Community Ireland. The visitors were treated to a Storytime and a library scavenger hunt.

Further activities in the City Library saw the launch of an Arts Exhibition by artist Maria Quinn. Maria took up painting just over ten years ago and shows that at 70, age is no barrier to creativity or starting a new career!



## LOUGHREA LIBRARY

Two workshops under Engineers Ireland Week on Wednesday 6th March, presented by Sarah Clear of the Rediscovery Centre, sponsored by Medtronic, with Kilnadeema NS and 3rd Year from St. Brigid's College.



## TUAM LIBRARY

Tuam Library Staff attended the Come and Try event with Galway Sports Partnership to find out more about ways to support older people and people with disabilities to be more active. They enjoyed a very competitive game of Boccia which they hope to introduce to Tuam Library!



Ireland Reads Day – 24th of February started with a great crowd of parents and babies and toddlers who along came along to our Clever Little Handies Baby Sign Language Rhyme Time.

This was followed by 2 Baboro workshops for children by artist Fernanda Ferrari. Children and their adults were invited to interact and be part of a colourful mix of storytelling, puppet making and playtime. This was an invitation for families to immerse themselves in a playful and magical world celebrating language and culture.



This month our multi-talented librarian Margaret Garvey gave our Community Connects group some tips on flower arranging using materials from her own garden and upcycling household objects.



## WESTSIDE LIBRARY

To mark Valentines Day the team offered the 'Blind Date' with a book session. This is an opportunity for members to try different authors/genres or explore the world of poetry which they normally wouldn't pick. The afternoon gave children a chance to make cards in the MakerSpace that involved plenty of glue and glitter! Much to the delight of Des, the caretaker!



**FREE WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS**

### IRISH BRIDEÓG and UKRAINIAN BIRDS OF SPRING

THE MISTE PROJECT (UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY) AND GALWAY CITY PARTNERSHIP INVITE YOU

**TO CELEBRATE IRISH AND UKRAINIAN CULTURES**

- WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO STORIES ABOUT THE IRISH BRIDEÓG AND UKRAINIAN BIRDS OF SPRING?
- DO YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR BRIDEÓG AND BIRD OF SPRING TO WELCOME IN SPRING?

**COME JOIN US**

**FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 3 PM - 4:45 PM**

**WESTSIDE LIBRARY, SEAMUS QUIRKE RD, H91 Y067**

**PLEASE REGISTER (FOR FREE) HERE: [IRYNA@GCP.IE](mailto:IRYNA@GCP.IE) +353 85 139 0574**

Riadas na Míreann Government of Ireland | Committed to an Europe of Excellence | Co-funded by the European Union | pobal | Galway City Partnership

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 - 2027

OLIVE HOUGHAN UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY | THE MISTE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY AS PART OF THE NORTH-SOUTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A workshop for adults was hosted in cooperation with the Miste Project (University of Galway) and the Galway City Partnership to teach the participants how to make an Irish Brideóg and a Ukrainian Bird of Spring.

This collaborative event showcased the cultural elements of both nations and encourages cross community engagement.

## HOUSING & UKRAINE RESPONSE

### VACANT HOMES GRANTS (CROÍ CÓNAITHE)

There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe Scheme). The number of applications submitted to date is 346 (100 in progress i.e., additional information has been requested, etc.), 175 applications have been finalised (153 approved, 22 rejected), and 71 Applications have been withdrawn).

## INFORMATION EVENING ON VACANT HOMES GRANTS & LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOANS

An information evening on the Croí Cónaithe and the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) Schemes was held in Kilcormán Hall, Clarinbridge on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).



**Energy Master Plan Kick-off Night**  
Kilcolgan-Clarinbridge Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is excited to announce the commencement of our Energy Master Plan. Come along to hear what this plan means for you and your community.

**Agenda**

- ☑ **Welcome**
- ☑ **Energy Master Plan Introduction**  
- Laurence O'Reilly, O'Reilly Energy Consultants.
- ☑ **SEAI Home Energy Grants** -  
Dr Orla Nic Suibhne SEAI
- ☑ **Local Authority Housing Grant** -  
Carmel Kilcoyne, Galway County Council
- ☑ **Free Business Energy Audits -**  
**€2,000 grant** - Kevin Martin, Greyfort Energy
- ☑ **Local Solar PV Case Study** - Aidan Byrne
- ☑ **Q & A** (pre-submit via email)

Follow us   
kilcolganclarinbridgesec@gmail.com

**When :** 21 February @19.30  
**Where :** Kilcormán Hall, H91 RW3Y

Further information evenings on the Croí Cónaithe and the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) Schemes in conjunction with the Public Participation Network (PPN) and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will be held throughout the County as follows:

- Thursday 04<sup>th</sup> April in The Mall Theatre & Cinema CLG (Tuam MD) 2.00pm - 4.00pm
- Thursday 04<sup>th</sup> April in Ballindereen Community Centre (Loughrea-Gort-Kinvara MD) 7.00pm - 9.00pm
- Friday 05<sup>th</sup> April in Lawrencetown Community Hall (Ballinasloe MD) 2.00pm - 4.00pm
- Friday 05<sup>th</sup> April in Lackagh Parish Centre (Athenry-Oranmore MD) 7.00pm - 9.00pm
- Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> April in Forbairt Pobail Maigh Cuilinn (Conamara MD) 2.00pm - 4.00pm

An information evening in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will also be held in St. Thomas' GAA Hall, Kilchreest on Monday 08<sup>th</sup> of April 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

## GEO-DIRECTORY VACANCY SURVEY

Under the *Housing for All Strategy Pathway 4 for "Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock"* Galway County Council, along with all other Local Authorities, has been requested, to complete a GeoDirectory Vacancy Data Survey. . The Survey has been developed to assist local authorities in identifying properties which may be recoverable into use.

The initial part of the survey whereby the properties identified on the APP were visited, to determine whether the property was vacant, began in September 2023 and was completed in early February 2024. 43 settlements were identified by the Department (DHLGH) to be surveyed within the urban settings of Galway County and a perimeter of 1km from a central hub point. 7 large towns, 11 major settlements and 25 minor settlements were selected.

The Survey was carried out by Vacant Homes staff with the assistance of the Community Wardens. In total 1,708 properties were visited by the surveyors. The survey enabled the visual assessment of these properties and completing several fields of information on the app such as the condition of the property, length of time the property has been vacant and the reason for vacancy, if known.

Of the 1708 properties surveyed, 817 properties were deemed vacant/derelict of which 44 were considered derelict. (773 deemed vacant). The condition of the properties which were considered vacant/derelict were categorised as follows:

- Good (habitable, requires only minor work or no work at all)
- Fair (habitable, requires moderate work)
- Poor (habitable, requires substantial work)
- Uninhabitable

Please see further breakdown of these figures in the tables below:

**Table 1 Summary Table**

<b>Number of Properties Surveyed</b>	<b>1,708</b>
<b>Number of Properties Vacant / Derelict</b>	<b>817 (773/44)</b>
<b>Condition of the Properties:</b>	
<b>Good Condition</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Fair Condition</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>Poor Condition</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Uninhabitable</b>	<b>74</b>



**Table 2 Breakdown of Properties by Municipal District:**

**Properties Surveyed = Vacant by MD**

<b>Total by MD</b>	<b>Total Survey</b>	<b>Total Vacant/Derelict</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	190	73
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	182	127
<b>Connemara</b>	422	174
<b>Loughrea</b>	594	240
<b>Tuam</b>	320	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>1708</b>	<b>817</b>

**Table 3 Number of Properties surveyed which were not Vacant by MD**

<b>N/A Not Vacant</b>	<b>Total per MD</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	117
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	55
<b>Connemara</b>	248
<b>Loughrea</b>	354
<b>Tuam</b>	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>891</b>

**Table 4 Number of Properties Surveyed which were vacant by condition and MD**

<b>1. Good (habitable, requires only minor work or no work at all)</b>	<b>Total per MD</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	10
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	23
<b>Connemara</b>	22
<b>Loughrea</b>	26
<b>Tuam</b>	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>

<b>2. Fair (habitable, requires moderate work)</b>	<b>Total per MD</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	19
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	22
<b>Connemara</b>	68
<b>Loughrea</b>	73
<b>Tuam</b>	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>

<b>3. Poor (habitable, requires substantial work)</b>	<b>Total per MD</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	34
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	71
<b>Connemara</b>	62
<b>Loughrea</b>	118
<b>Tuam</b>	90
<b>Total</b>	375

<b>4. Uninhabitable</b>	<b>Total per MD</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	10
<b>Ballinasloe</b>	11
<b>Connemara</b>	22
<b>Loughrea</b>	23
<b>Tuam</b>	8
<b>Total</b>	74

As the purpose of the survey is to bring vacant properties back into use, a leaflet was compiled to give the owner information on the Vacant Homes schemes available, including the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants (Croí Cónaithe scheme), Repair and Leasing and Buy and Renew Scheme. This was distributed to the vacant property owners through the letterboxes or under the doors of the properties where possible. The intention is to follow up with all the owners of these properties to try to bring these properties back into use.

Following the distribution of the Leaflets, property owners (81) and neighbours (8) contacted the Vacant Homes Office directly to provide information in relation to the vacant properties. Please see breakdown below of the information collected:

- Legal/family issues, for example probate: 11
- Financial Issues: 1
- Interest in VPRG/B&R/RLS: 30
- Occupied Part-time / Holiday Home: 6
- For sale: 14
- Construction/renovations will commence: 7
- Storage/Commercial Use: 6
- Not vacant/permanent home: 6
- Neighbours: 8

Therefore, there are 728 properties which will require follow up contact from the Vacant Homes Office with the property owners to try to bring them back into use as homes.

## MEETING WITH THE VACANT HOMES UNIT

A meeting was held with the Vacant Homes Unit from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in County Buildings on Monday 04<sup>th</sup> March. A presentation was delivered on the findings of the Geo-directory Vacancy Data Survey. As a result of the

success of the presentation, a member of Galway County Council's Vacant Homes Team has been invited to present the findings at the Vacant Homes Network Meeting in The Radisson Blu Hotel in Athlone on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

Additional initiatives undertaken by Galway County Council to address Vacancy and Dereliction were also presented to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. These initiatives included information leaflets, posters, Information Evenings and engagement initiated by property owners as a result of the leaflet distribution.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOANS

The Local Authority Home Loan was launched in January 2022 as part of *Housing for All*. It supports creditworthy borrowers who are unable to get finance from commercial banks to buy a home. It can be used for new, second hand or self-build homes. It means those on more moderate incomes are helped by the State to achieve homeownership. This Loan scheme replaced the previous Home Loan scheme under *Rebuilding Ireland*. Under the LAHL scheme, the prices of homes eligible for a Local Authority Home Loan and income limits of those eligible to apply for a loan were increased.

At the end of 2023, there was 0.5 of one *Rebuilding Ireland* loan outstanding to be drawn down. This refers to a self build which will be completed in 2024.

Under the *Local Authority Home Loan* Scheme, 72 applications were received in 2023, 33 were approved in principle and 20 were refused. The remainder were in progress at the end of 2023. There were also 16 (live) loans in 2023 which had been approved in principle in 2022. During 2023 a number of Approvals in Principle Loans were either drawn down or expired. Therefore, at the end of 2023, 14.8 loans in the amount of €2,621,204 which had been approved in principle in 2023 remained "live". In addition, 0.65 of a loan which had been approved in principle in 2022 also remains "live". Note: fractions of a loan refer to self builds which are being drawn down in stages. 11 loans which were approved in principle in 2022 and 6 loans approved in principle in 2023 expired during 2023 without being drawn down.

## CAPITAL BUILD PROGRAMME

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE (DHLGH) - STAGE 1 APPROVALS.

For social housing construction projects, the DHLGH has a streamlined process focusing on 4 mandatory steps comprising: Stage 1 Capital Appraisal, Stage 2 Pre-Statutory Approval, Stage 3 Pre-Tender Approval and Stage 4 Tender Approval.

The purpose of the Stage 1 submission is to make the business case for a proposal, to obtain Departmental approval-in principle, including a funding commitment for the next Pre-

Planning Approval work. Stage 1 comprises two parts: firstly, identifying the need, evaluating alternatives, and making a recommendation. The second part is the project brief which gives details of the proposal, its costs and justifies the value for money of the proposal.

The Capital team in housing successfully received a number of Stage 1 approvals further to proposals submitted seeking capital funding under the Housing Investment Programme.

These new projects to deliver housing includes proposals for:

- 63 No. new homes at Farranamartin in Tuam comprising 34 no. two storey units, 5 no. single storey units, 12 no. duplexes and 12 no. apartments at Farranamartin, on the Galway Road, Tuam.
- 30 new homes in Phase 2 of Gort Mhaoilir, Athenry comprising 8 no. 2 bed bungalows, 18 no. 2 bed two storey units and 9 no. 3 bed two storey units.
- 11 new homes at Cullairbaun, Athenry comprising one and two bed bungalows and a residential community facility (exact details tbc).
- 11 No. 2-bed universal design bungalows at St. Bridget's Road, Portumna.
- 24 new homes at St. Joseph's Rd., Portumna. Exact design and layout to be developed by an external design team. It is envisaged that the development will have a mix of unit types and sizes to meet the social housing demand in the area.
- 50 new homes at Cosmona, Loughrea. Exact design and layout to be developed by an external design team. Again, it is envisaged that the development will have a mix of unit types and sizes to meet the social housing demand in the area.

---

## CONTRACT SIGNING FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Galway County Council signed contracts with an Architect Led Integrated Design Team to deliver more than 65 new homes on local authority-owned sites in Loughrea and Tuam.

The two new housing developments will be delivered on a brownfield at High Street in Tuam and on a 3.3-hectare greenfield site at Cosmona, Loughrea.

Vincent Hannon Architects (VHA) were appointed as the lead Architects for the integrated design team. The team's work commences immediately and includes the delivery of preliminary designs, preparation of planning consent, detailed designs, and the preparation and evaluation of tenders for construction, including certification of works and compliance with building control regulations.

It is intended to lodge planning applications for the housing projects this summer and advertising construction tenders before the end of 2024.

---

#### APPOINTMENT OF VHA LEAD CONSULTANT FOR HIGH ST. TUAM



BACK ROW: CLLR. MARY HOADE (TUAM M.D.), JASON LAVELLE (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC), MICHAEL OWENS (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GCC). FRONT ROW: BRIAN FAHY (VHA), CLLR LIAM CARROLL (CATHAOIRLEACH GCC), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GCC) AND EITHNE MURPHY (SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC) PHOTO MIKE SHAUGHNESSY.

---

#### APPOINTMENT OF VHA LEAD CONSULTANT FOR COSMONA LOUGHREA.



BACK ROW: ALAN BROGAN (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GCC) AND MICHAEL OWENS (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GCC) FRONT ROW: BRIAN FAHY (VHA), CLLR LIAM CARROLL (CATHAOIRLEACH GCC), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GCC) AND EITHNE MURPHY (SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC) PHOTO MIKE SHAUGHNESSY.

---

## CONTRACT SIGNING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Galway County Council signed contracts for the construction of two new housing developments in Ardrahan and Ballinasloe.

A multi-disciplinary Design Team, led by OBFA Architects, were appointed to assist with delivering the housing projects and assessed the tenders for construction on behalf of Galway County Council.

The 10-unit housing development at Caisléan Raithin, Ardrahan is being constructed by Jada Construction and consists of 3 single storey two-bed dwellings, 1 two-storey three-bed dwelling and 6 two-storey two-bed dwellings.

Pat Loftus Construction Ltd. will construct an 8-unit housing development comprising 2 single storey two-bed houses and 6 two-storey two-bed houses at St. Joseph's Place in Ballinasloe.

The 18 houses are funded under the Government's 'Housing for All' Plan to 2030' and will be constructed at a cost of €4.8 million. Construction work will begin this month.

---

## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SIGNING FOR ST. JOSEPH'S PLACE, BALLINASLOE



---

BACK ROW: CATHAL LOFTUS (PAT LOFTUS CONSTRUCTION LTD), ALAN BROGAN (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GCC), CUALA MCGANN (OBFA ARCHITECTS) AND MICHAEL OWENS (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GCC), FRONT ROW: PAT LOFTUS (PAT LOFTUS CONSTRUCTION LTD.), CLLR LIAM CARROLL (CATHAOIRLEACH GCC), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GCC) AND EITHNE MURPHY (SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC). PHOTO MIKE SHAUGHNESSY.

---

PICTURED AT THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SIGNING FOR CAISLEÁN RAIHÍN,  
ARDRAHAN.



---

BACK ROW: JASON LAVELLE (EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC), MICHAEL OWENS (DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GCC), CUALA MCGANN (OBFA ARCHITECTS), FRONT ROW: DONAL MCINERNEY (JADA DEVELOPMENTS LTD.), CLLR LIAM CARROLL (CATHAOIRLEACH GCC), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GCC) AND EITHNE MURPHY (SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GCC). PHOTO MIKE SHAUGHNESSY.



---

CLLR LIAM CARROLL (CATHAOIRLEACH GCC), LIAM CONNEALLY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GCC) WITH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING AND CORPORATE SERVICES STAFF FOLLOWING RECENT CONTRACT SIGNINGS FOR THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME.

---

## PART 8 EXEMPTIONS (SECTION 179A) PUBLISHED

Two housing developments were published under S.I. No. 101/2023 – Planning and Development (Section 179A) Regulations which allows for accelerated delivery of social, affordable, and cost-rental housing by means of an exemption from the ‘Part 8’ process for Galway County Council own development housing on owned land.

The housing developments consist of a 3-unit infill development at Hillcrest Loughrea and a 4-unit infill development at Parkmore, Tuam.

The Loughrea and Tuam elected members were briefed on the developments at MD meetings on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> February respectively.

The advertisements were published in the Connacht Tribune newspaper on 8<sup>th</sup> March and development will not take place until 8 weeks after this date. The details will be available for viewing at Galway County Council planning office, the relevant MD office and online at [www.consult.ie](http://www.consult.ie) during this period.

---

## LAND ACQUISITION FUND APPLICATION.

An application form and business case was submitted to the Housing Agency for a Land Acquisition Fund to purchase development lands consisting of 1.58 Ha (0.86 acres) in Portumna.

These lands were deemed suitable for housing development further to a technical appraisal undertaken by the Capital Team in Housing.

The Housing Agency confirmed that the Housing for All Land Acquisition Fund Project Steering Group met on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and approved this site for acquisition using the fund, subject to a number of conditions.

Once finally approved, the Housing Agency will directly progress the purchase of these lands on behalf of Galway County Council.

---

## HDCO MEETING AND MAPPING OF AVAILABLE LANDS

The capital section of housing met with Ruth Hurley from the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office (HDCO) on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Items discussed included update on access to HDCO guidance and support on design & build, issues with developments lands owned by Galway County Council, state land enquiry options available under Circular 46/2022 and the land acquisition fund.

Further to a request at this meeting, the capital section undertook a land mapping review, to identify suitability and availability of land for housing development.

---

## CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Further to a commitment given at a recent Joint Policing Committee Meeting, the housing capital team engaged with Garda Crime Prevention Officer for Galway (Michael Walsh) and



requested him to give a crime prevention workshop and feedback on crime prevention for new housing schemes.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, a presentation was given by Michael Walsh to the housing team in the Council Chamber. Information was provided on promotion of crime prevention generally and feedback/advice was given on current LA Build schemes in a workshop after.

---

#### TOBAR MHUIRE, AHASCRAGH



Major rejuvenation works have been completed to an existing social housing development formerly known as Bridge Court, Ahascragh. The works included the demolition of 10no. existing units and construction of 11no. new two-bedroom dwellings on the same site; and 1no. one-bedroom dwelling. The proposed works also include the renovation of 6

no. existing dwellings and the construction of a single-story extension to the rear of one existing dwelling. Proposals further include car parking, hard & soft landscaping, site clearance works, roads, footways, amenity facilities, public lighting, signage, connections to existing services and all ancillary site development works.

---

#### LAKEVIEW, GLENAMADDY:

The advance purchase of a development at Lakeview, Glenamaddy was completed in this month. The development consists of 22 new social homes.



As you can see from the aerial photo this development is a continuation of an existing estate of 22 units (6 detached and 14 semi-detached unit) and completes the estate.

---

## SINGLE RURAL UNIT PROGRAMME

Practical completion of 6 No. Single Rural units were complete in March.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE & FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### NRPO

#### **Galway to Athlone Cycleway**

Since the mutual termination of the consultants on the project last December, TII and both local authorities (Westmeath and Galway County) have developed a plan to deliver the project. This involves the establishment of a Framework to procure new consultants to bring a development consent application to An Bord Pleanála. The project team are currently working on the framework documents which will be published on eTenders within the month. The project team are continuing to engage with landowners and over the past month have contacted the majority of them with an update.

#### **Active Travel – Kinvara Village**

The site investigations contract and ecology surveys are ongoing.

---

### N17 MILLTOWN TO GORTNAGUNNED

The advanced works Archaeological Investigations contract is ongoing with Stage 1 testing and building surveys.

## ROADS UPDATE

### ROADS PROGRAMME 2024

The roads programme was formally adopted on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and circulated to the members.

### R336 FEASIBILITY REPORT - BEARNA-SCRIB VIA ROS A MHÍL

In drafting and adopting the County Development Plan 2022 to 2028, the Council inserted a policy objective in relation to Priority Roads Projects, namely PRP 3 for the R336 Bearna-Scrib via Ros a Mhíl. This policy objective of Galway County Council is *“to support the preparation of a feasibility study in relation to the R336 within the lifetime of the plan”*.

The Executive, on many occasions, has stated its commitment to have this report prepared within the lifetime of the Plan. To that end, the Feasibility Study for the R336 Bearna-Scrib via Ros a Mhíl will commence in 2024.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

### ISO 45001 HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT

The NSAI ISO 45001 Health and Safety surveillance audit was completed on Friday February 09<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The following locations were audited on the day- Roads & Transportation (Athenry/Oranmore MD), Library (Athenry), Fire Service (Current fire station in Athenry and the new build fire station in Athenry).

A very positive audit, with no corrective actions raised.

## TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge target each year is to have 12 estates processed for Taking in Charge and/or for Bond Release. The Table A hereunder outlines out progress to date.

---

## TABLE A – TAKING IN CHARGE

Estates Taken in Charge	1
Estates pending Ratification of Minutes	1
Estates for consideration at next MD meeting	0
Bond Release (Estates not Taken in Charge)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

In addition to the above, the following is position@ 12/03/2024

Estates – advertised for Taking in Charge	3
Estates – Works Complete – Pending Uisce Éireann and/or GCC Water Services agreement	1
Estates – TIC Led Estates – Works in Hand This includes Bond Claim - Old Mill Road Estate, Ballinasloe	20
Estates – Developer led Estates – List of Remedials issued awaiting notification of completion	37
Bond Claims -	3

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

---

### ACTIVE TRAVEL WEBPAGE IS NOW LIVE.

The Active Travel webpage within the Roads and Transportation Section has been created and is now live. It provides some information and a selection of useful links for users which will be regularly updated. It also includes the new Galway Metropolitan Area Walking & Cycling Index 2023.

Webpage link: [Active Travel](#)

---

## 2024 ACTIVE TRAVEL ALLOCATION

2024 NTA funded Active Travel allocations for Galway County Council were announced by the NTA Active Travel Investment Team on Wed Feb 7, 2024. Galway County Council has been allocated €3m.

Additional information may be found on this webpage link: [Active Travel](#)

---

## GALWAY METROPOLITAN AREA WALKING & CYCLING INDEX 2023

The Active Travel team promoted on Galway County Council's social media the National Transport Authority's press release of the Galway Metropolitan Area Walking & Cycling Index 2023 on Tuesday 05/03/2024.



The press release was also advertised on the News and Events sections of Galway County Council's website.



## WATER SERVICES

### CAPITAL PROGRAMME

---

#### ATHENRY WASTEWATER NETWORK

Coffey Construction commenced works in January 2023 and the contract is expected to be completed in Q4 2024. The majority of pipelaying is complete, but some network construction and reinstatement is to be completed in the centre of town in March.

Reinstatement work in private lands and estates is ongoing. The new pumping station's mechanical and electrical fit-out is complete and awaiting connection to ESB.

Commissioning of the pumping station is expected to be completed in Q2 of this year.

The works consist of:

- Approx. 3.9km of gravity sewer, which includes 3 no. railway crossings and 4 no. river crossings.
- Decommissioning of the existing Caheroyn PS.

- New pumping station at Pairc na hAbhainn.
- Approx. 460m of rising main.
- Project will facilitate decommissioning of 9 no. DPIs.



PÁIRC NA  
HABHAINN  
PUMPING STATION  
UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

## FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### OPERATIONS

The information below is based on February data from West Regional Control Centre (WRCC). Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) had 146 turnouts to 114 Incidents. That is a decrease of 7 incidents on 121 the previous month. 42 were fire incidents, 70 were special service incidents (road traffic collision (RTC), Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's), flooding, storm damage, etc.) and 2 were standby in station. Of those incidents, 45.28% were attended by Fire Service resources within 10 minutes of alert, 36.79% were attended between 10 and 20 minutes and 17.92% were attended in over 20 minutes. The average turnout time for the Full-time station in Galway City was 2.05 minutes and for county retained stations was 5.86 minutes.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### ATHENRY FIRE STATION

Construction of the New Fire Station in Athenry continues with the project substantially complete and the building is now fully enclosed. Installation of services and remaining siteworks are underway. It is anticipated that the station will be completed by the end of April 2024.



FRONT  
ELEVATION OF  
NEW FIRE  
STATION  
ATHENRY

---

### LOUGHREA FIRE STATION

Part 8 Planning application is scheduled to be mentioned at the Loughrea Municipal District meeting in July 2024, subject to Senior Management approval.

---

### BRIGADE MECHANICS WORKSHOP ATHENRY

Tender for Design Team is due to be issued prior to month end March 2024.

---

### HEADQUARTERS AND GALWAY CITY FIRE STATION

Preferred site identified and awaiting Chief Executive approval. Capital appraisal 99% complete and will be submitted to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management once Chief Executive approval is available.

### PREVENTION

The information in the following is based on the February figures. The Fire Authority received 23 Fire Safety Certificate applications and issued decisions on 7 applications. 8 Disability Access Certificate applications were received, and decisions made on 5 applications. A total of 2 new licenses were issued and 29 inspections were conducted.

### GRANT AID FROM THE NDFEM

Capital approval has been received from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to procure hydraulic rescue equipment and a Hazmat unit, this will go to tender presently, combined value €900,000. In addition, approval has been received to procure two Class B appliances, value €1,300,000, the ordering process is underway. Finally,

the tendering process for a new high reach aerial appliance will begin presently, value €1,600,000.

## TRAINING

Four new firefighter recruits successfully completed their initial training Firefighting Skills course which commenced on 12th February and lasted three weeks. These newly trained firefighters will be stationed at Athenry, Mountbellew (2firefighters) and Clifden fire stations. There are another three recruit firefighters currently being trained and are due to complete their initial training on 16th March. These firefighters will be stationed at Carraroe, Tuam and Ballinasloe fire stations. It is planned to train a further four new recruit firefighters on a training course which will be commencing on the 8th April next.

Two firefighters successfully completed driving training for Class C vehicles.

Swift water rescue initial recertification training was conducted from 19th to 22nd February. The participants were predominantly from the full-time fire service. The training was conducted at various training locations in Galway City and Tuam.

One training place was allocated to Galway Fire Service on the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management's "Fire Services Management 1" training course which took place in February. The aim of this training course is to assist fire authorities in developing and updating their ability to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services. This module develops the skills, knowledge, and attributes necessary to effectively lead and manage people and teams in the fire service.

Effective Decision-Making training took place at the Hydra Suite training Centre in Clonmel fire station. The aim of this course is to enhance the ability of fire authorities to deliver efficient and effective fire and rescue services, by providing fire service officers with the opportunity to explore critical decision making relating to their role. There was one allocation to GFRS on this course.

## MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Several members of the West Region Major Emergency Management Working Group (WRMEMWG) met on the 7th of March to discuss a Voluntary Emergency Services (VES) Open Day which is planned for mid-May. This Voluntary Emergency Services Open Day will involve up to 20 voluntary services and will take place on a Saturday over a morning and afternoon.

Information Manager training took place on the 28th and 29th of February with 36 new Information Managers trained over the two days. Three personnel from Galway County Council took part and successfully completed this course.



PLANNING

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Complaints received to end of February 2024 were 43, a total of 16 Warning Letters and 8 Enforcement Notices were served. Files closed during this period were 46.

A total of 1,205 open enforcement files by Municipal District detailed in the table below:

Athenry/Oranmore	197	16%
Ballinasloe	89	7%
Connemara	456	38%
Loughrea	249	21%
Tuam	214	18%
Total	1,205	

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

A total of 288 planning applications were submitted to the end of February, of which 75% were e files. Valid applications received were 240 giving a valid application rate of 83%.

Bord Pleanala appealed decision notified between 01/01/2024 - 29/02/2024 was 15, 60% of appealed decisions were upheld, 33% were reversed and 7% were modified.

Bord Pleanala appeals notified between 01/01/2024 -29/02/2024 were 10.

FORWARD PLANNING

REACHING OUT TO THE EDUCATION SECTOR

A collaboration with students and lecturers from the University of Galway's MA in Planning and Development and second level students and Geography Teachers from the Presentation College in Athenry participated in a Retail Planning exercise with the Planners from the Forward Planning Section of Galway County Council over two days Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February and Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024.

The aim of this project was to link spatial planning as a statutory exercise conducted by local authorities to youth participants and engage them in shaping their places. The main vehicle

for contributing to spatial planning is through local authority plan-making, county plans, and local area plans. In this instance the focus was on retail planning.

Survey work and a participation workshop was undertaken in Athenry town on the Wednesday and students participated in a further workshop in the University on Thursday morning and presented their findings in the Council Chamber of Galway County Council on Thursday afternoon.



The Cathoirleach Liam Carroll, Cllr Albert Dolan, Cllr. David Collins and Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn attended the student's presentation, and all expressed their congratulations

to the students on their presentations. The Chief Executive of Galway County Council Mr. Liam Conneally opened the session in the Council Chamber and expressed his delight that the Planning Section were continuing their engagement with the University and the Presentation School in Athenry. He commented that the students were the future of the country, and he expressed his delight of the planning exercise that was undertaken as retail planning has changed significantly over the years and the students in their presentations illustrated this.



---

## DEVELOPMENT PLANS: ATHENRY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030 came into effect on 20/02/2024.

On 19/02/2024 – Minister of State for Local Government & Planning issued a “Notice of Intention to issue a Direction” on the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030. The Draft

Direction concerns the zoning of five parcels of land in the town. The particulars of this Direction is subject to public consultation from 29/02/2024 – 14/03/2024.

---

#### LOUGHREA DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

879 submissions were received on the Loughrea Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030

CE Report on submissions received on Loughrea Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 was circulated to Members on 26/02/2024.

Workshop for Members to be held at MD Meeting on 11/03/2024.

CE Report will be discussed at the Loughrea MD Meeting on 26/03/2024.

**Residential Zoned Land Tax:** Annual Draft Map was published in January 2024. Closing date for submissions on Annual Draft Map is 01/04/2024.

#### JOINT SPC MEETING GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL AND GALWAY CITY COUNCIL

Galway County Council and Galway City Council recently hosted the NWRA at a joint planning SPC meeting to discuss progressing the models of governance that could be developed for the Galway MASP.

A presentation by Sean O'Riordan provided a few discussion points and analysis of other similar approaches throughout Europe. The NWRA will be undertaking further research and discussion on the issue throughout 2024. The investment and commitment that a MASP provides will be key to further discussions.



### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE GALWAY

LEO Galway is the first stop shop for anyone seeking information or advice on starting, growing, or expanding a business in both Galway City and County.

This month LEO Galway continued to support small and micro businesses through their range of financial/soft supports and advisory services outlined below:

### TRAINING COURSES & PROGRAMMES:

---

#### SHORT TRAINING COURSES

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

---

#### MARCH SCHEDULE

March 14th & 21st	TikTok Comprehensive for Business
March 19th	Facebook For Business (intermediate)
March 21st	Start Your Own Business Bootcamp
March 26th & 27th	Search Engine Optimisation
April 2nd	How to Write a Business Plan
April 9th	How to Master your VAT Return

---

#### START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME (SYOB)

LEO GALWAY organise a SYOB programme monthly with up to 14 participants on each programme. The March programme started on 4th March and is an evening programme, this programme runs over two evenings per week for a month.

---

#### LEAN FOR BUSINESS PROGRAMME

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.

LEO Galway is running a free in-person event on the 27th March in the Menlo Park Hotel from 9.30am - 1pm for businesses to join in and hear more about the upcoming Lean for

Business Programme. The event will include discussions with past participants regarding the opportunities and benefits gained from completing the Lean for Business Programme.

## PAST EVENTS

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 4TH – 8TH MARCH

Local enterprise week is an annual event that showcases the achievements and opportunities of small businesses in the region. Each of the 31 LEO's featured workshops, seminars, awards, networking sessions, and exhibitions that aimed to inspire, inform, and support entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners. Local enterprise week is a chance to learn from experts, connect with peers, and discover new possibilities.

Locally, LEO Galway organised three main events, held five outreach one-to-one business advisory sessions in Tuam, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Gort and Clifden and held five online workshops covering areas such as Marketing, Canva and IP.

### MONDAY 4TH MARCH

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Galway held an online webinar on Cross Border Sales Funding, Support & Advice Webinar, hosted by LEO Galway, Denise Murphy, InterTrade Ireland Acumen Consultant and John O' Hara, Enterprise Europe Network.

Thirty-four businesses attended this webinar. There were introductions to Enterprise Europe Network and supports available and the practicalities of doing business in Northern Ireland. This webinar provided an overview of potential opportunities and highlighted the funding available to support Irish businesses in the Northern Ireland market.

### LAUNCH OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK GALWAY



L-R: LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY AND LIAM CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



The Lean Launch Event This was a dynamic gathering of over thirty visionaries, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. The event provided a unique platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and celebrating remarkable achievements.

Inspiring guest speakers included:

Ciara Daly (Conquer Digital): Ciara's expertise in the digital realm captivated the audience, leaving them with industry insights and renewed motivation.

Joanna Ciezka (Irish Sockscieety): Joanna's creative journey inspired the room, emphasising the power of passion and persistence.

The stage came alive with stories from past Lean Launch participants, each a testament to resilience and innovation:

Inspirational Lighting talks were given by:

- Eimhin Craddock - Drumadore
- Evan Costigan – Brainbox
- Lanette Weninger - Pilates Playroom
- Marie Dillon – Green Bean Cafe
- Alec Sandys - WakkaBall
- Lorraine Connell – Killbeg Organic Farm



Feeding Innovation | Navigating Food and Drink Industry Supports to Reach Full Potential and Drive Growth  
An event to celebrate and recognise Galway's Food Producers. To showcase the culinary scene in Galway.

The morning commenced with an inspiring guest speaker, Dara Loughnane, from Loughnanes of Galway. Following that, we had three engaging fireside speakers:

- Magaly Murray from Gran Gran Foods
- Lisa Kleiner of Nibbed
- Paul Connolly from Dough Bro's

Throughout the morning, discussions centered around the various support services provided by LEO Galway and the BIA Innovator Campus.

## LAUNCH OF GALWAY'S FOOD AND BEVERAGE FOOD PRODUCER DIRECTORY



Stephanie Colombani, pictured, launching Galway's Food and Beverage Food Producer Directory during Local Enterprise Week.

The directory was designed and developed by LEO Galway presenting a comprehensive guide of Galway's producers and the amazing variety of local

products that Galway has to offer. Whether you are looking for fresh seafood, artisan cheese, handmade chocolates, or craft beer you will find them all in this brochure. This is Galway's first edition that showcases the vibrant and evolving food scene that celebrates its rich culinary heritage and embraces innovation and creativity.

---

## WOMENS INTERNATIONAL DAY



Celebrating *Womens International Day* at the BIA Innovator Campus 8th March

---

## GALWAY LOCAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The Galway Local Enterprise Awards highlights the very best businesses that the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are working with across the country. LEO Galway have a portfolio of diverse and successful clients, across a range of sectors, that they have supported in many ways through mentoring, training, advisory or financial support. The competition allows us to showcase clients who have availed of a variety of supports from the LEOs and to publicise the many services that the LEOs have to offer. It also helps us demonstrate the diversity of businesses that we interact with and to share their personal and business success stories along with the challenges in growing and developing their business.

---

## WINNER BEST ENTERPRISE AWARD 2024 - GRÁ CHOCOLATES



L-R: VALERIE KELLY, LEO GALWAY, GRÁINNE MULLINS, GRÁ CHOCOLATES, AND CLLR LIAM CARROLL, CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The deserved winner of the Best Enterprise Award 2024 - Grá Chocolates - have shown outstanding entrepreneurship, determination, ambition, and resilience to get to where they are today.

LEO Galway looks forward to celebrating with them at the National Enterprise Awards on the 23rd of May in the Mansion House.



---

## 2024 CREATIVE IRELAND BURSARIES

The Creative Ireland Bursaries opened on the 22nd of January and ran until the 28th of February. This year saw a large volume of extremely high-quality applications. A total of 52 applications were received from all over the country, with a total ask of €369,728. Caroline McDonagh on behalf of the LEO and a panel of experts met on Monday March 4th to assess and score the applications.

---

## NEW CREATIVE ENTERPRISE WEST (CREW) INNOVATION HUB AND BUSINESS INCUBATOR

On Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> Valerie Kelly and Caroline McDonagh visited the new building. It is Ireland's first Innovation Hub and Business Incubator focused on accelerating the development of innovative entrepreneurs in the creative industries including film, tv, gaming, animation, immersive, virtual production, and creative technologies.

---

## STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME – 13TH MARCH

The Student Enterprise Programme is an Enterprise Education programme for second level students and is organised by each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices for the past 22 years. The programme runs from September to May. The students get to set up their own business and do everything a real-life entrepreneur would do, from coming up with the business idea to marketing and writing a business plan. The winning team from each 31 Local Enterprise Office goes forward to take part in the National Final which will take place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

This year 29 schools and over 1000 students in Galway took part in the programme, the Galway Student Enterprise Awards final was held in the Clayton Hotel on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the winning teams were as follows:

1st Place Senior	Corrib Pursuits	Scoil Iognáid (The Jez)
2nd Place Senior	Forge Athy Rí	Coláiste an Eachréidh
3rd Place Senior	CMC Window Cleaners	Holy Rosart College
1st Place Intermediate	Esker Timber Creations	Presentation College Athenry
2nd Place Intermediate	Yumtastique Confectionary	St. Eindes
3rd Place Intermediate	Cake & Bakes By Abbie	Presentation College Athenry
Junior My Entrepreneurial Journey	Zing Zap	Coláiste an Chreagáin
Intermediate My Entrepreneurial Journey	Moore Fresh	Presentation College Athenry
Junior Smart Business Award	Shop as you Drop	Coláiste an Chreagáin

Senior Smart Business Award	Clothes Rental	Presentation College Athenry
Innovation	Farrell Fabrication	Coláiste an Chreagáin
Business Report	Crepelicious	Ardscoil Mhuire
Research Driven Business	Lights Out	Dunmore Comm School
Website	Murphy-Clarke Protein Bars	Garbally College
Social Media	Sea Salt Hairspray	Scoil Iognáid (The Jez)
Sustainability	Rekindle Candles	Glenamaddy Community School
Best Stand	Les Filles Belles	Coláiste an Eachreidh
Design Award	Sol Design	Presentation College Athenry
Interview	DC Sweets	Holy Rosary College

The winners of the intermediate category Esker Timber from the Presentation College in Athenry and the senior category Corrib Pursuits from Scoil Iognáid (The Jez) will represent Galway at the National Final in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 9th May 2024.

## REGENERATION SCHEMES

### ATHENRY

Athenry Public Realm enhancement scheme along with the redevelopment of the vacant Somers House building on Burke's Lane as a community and economic hub, was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the RRDF category 1 scheme. It is expected the department will announce the funding awards towards the end of Q2 2024.

Minister for Heather Humphreys announced a funding award of €30,000 for the delivery of a Town Centre First plan for Athenry. The Town Regeneration Officer (TRO) is preparing a tender for consultant services to deliver County Galway's second Town Centre First Plan for Athenry. Following the appointment of Consultants, the TRO will announce an Expression Of Interest call in order to establish a formal Town Team of community members in accordance with the Town Centre First policy, to support delivery of the plan and the projects/proposals which emerge from the consultation process.

---

## LOUGHREA TOWN HALL

Tender Documents have been reviewed and edited and returned to Consultants for final amendments. It is anticipated to place the tender up on e-tenders next week. Fire Cert has been granted.

---

## CLIFDEN

Planning pack drawings have been reviewed by Regen team and recommendations referred back to LUC (Land Use Consultants) for implementation. Meetings scheduled for this week to advance.

---

## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE



Kelbuild Ltd have been appointed to carry out the regenerative works to the Courthouse. Preliminary environmental enabling works commenced on site.

---

## PORTUMNA COURTHOUSE CONTRACT SIGNING

BACK ROW (L TO R): CIARÁN WYNNE REGENERATION TEAM, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, J.P. O'CARROLL, REGENERATION TEAM, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM



CONNEALLY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, LIAM HANRAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, NIALL TYRRELL, KELBUILD LTD

FRONT ROW (L TO R): CLLR. LIAM CARROLL CATHAOIRLEACH OF COUNTY GALWAY MICHAEL KELLY, MANAGING DIRECTOR KELBUILD LTD.

---

## PORTUMNA

Public Realm drawings for the Part 8 application have been received by Regen and are under review.

Urban Design Framework documents have been received by Regen to edit and review.

---

## GORT



The Gort Town Centre First Plan was formally launched at the National launch in Adare Co. Limerick on the 29th of February. Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell met members of the Gort Town team including Chairperson Annie Rozario, Town Champion Bernice Forde Carolan, supported by TRO Hazel Fox and Liam Hanrahan

Director of Economic Development and Planning.

The Regeneration team secured funding under the Heritage Stewardship Fund to undertake project development with the Gort Town Hall Management Committee to appoint Conservation Consultants to help draw up their future plans for the repairs and maintenance of the Town Hall Building. This project is identified under the theme revitalising culture and the arts within the Gort Town Centre First Plan.

The public realm project for Gort is in its final stages of detailed design in preparation for the submission of a planning application, environmental surveys to support the Part 10 planning application are currently being undertaken. Negotiations with the Diocese are continuing regarding the future of Cannon Quinn Park.

---

## TUAM

The Regeneration Team submitted 2 applications under the recent RRDF call for Category 1 (shovel ready) projects, these included Tuam Town Hall and the Tuam Shambles project. It is expected the department will announce the funding awards towards the end of Q2 2024.

The Regeneration Team are preparing a strand 1 THRIVE application for the Tuam building on the projects identified within the Tuam Regeneration Masterplan, to create a pipeline of investment ready proposals. The Thrive programme offers 100% funding for the conservation and adaptive reuse of the built heritage.

The Regeneration Team are preparing a strand 1 THRIVE application for the Ballinasloe, to deliver an integrated urban strategy for the Town Centre, using the Town Centre First Framework. The Thrive programme offers 100% funding for the delivery of a Town Centre First Masterplan.

## PLANNING

## HERITAGE OFFICE

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### THE HERITAGE COUNCIL COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME NOW OPEN



The Heritage Council is now accepting applications from community groups and not for profit non-governmental organisations in Galway for its Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024. All relevant information is available from the Heritage Council's website [here](#).

A broad range of project types are eligible for funding under the scheme including:

- Conservation works to collections, objects, or places, including natural heritage projects e.g., control of invasive species or habitat restoration works; conservation works to buildings, including churches; stabilisation works to ruined structures.
- Surveys, reports, plans, and audits to inform the future management of buildings and monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.
- Accessibility projects that make heritage activities more accessible for people with disabilities e.g. building ramps, automatic doors, handrails, tactile interpretation
- Projects that help people engage more with their heritage e.g., interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, podcasts, websites.
- Purchase of specialised equipment e.g archival boxing for vulnerable documents, monitoring equipment for humidity or light, interpretation/multimedia equipment, specialised software
- Projects that address the heritage of minority groups e.g an oral history project documenting Traveller heritage
- Training in traditional skills and crafts e.g., workshops on skills such as roofing, thatch, dry stone walling etc.

- Citizen science projects on environmental conservation

Last year, 15 Galway-based projects were funded through the scheme, including the Kinvara Hockey Club who used the funding to design an accessible heritage and biodiversity trail within a new pitch development project, and Bullaun Cemetery Committee who used the funding to train community volunteers on how to map its graveyard For an overview of all projects funded under the scheme in previous years, see list of 2023 recipients [here](#) and 2022 recipients [here](#).

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

The Heritage Officer of Galway County Council and Galway Community Archaeologist is providing advice, guidance and letters of support to several groups in the county.

The closing date for applications is Monday, 25th of March 2024 at 5pm. Applications must be made via the Heritage Council's [online grants management system](#). Funded projects must be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. Full details are available [here](#)

## ORAL HERITAGE TRAINING COURSE

Galway County Council Heritage Office working with GK Media/Digital Training Hub has



developed a 6-week Oral Heritage Course for Heritage Groups and Heritage Practitioners working in the county of Galway. There are 25 people attending the course is being delivered online and is free of charge. The course outline is as follows:

**Week 1: Thursday 07th March:** Oral Heritage, Recording Techniques, Microphones & Equipment.

**Week 2: Thursday 14th March:** Interview Techniques, Narration, Consent, & Clearance.

**Week 3: Thursday 21st March:** Transcribing, Editing & A.I.

**Week 4: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April:** Advanced Editing Session

**Week 5: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Online Publishing and Promote Online

**Week 6: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** Publish 3 Edited Cases Studies

### Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum Meeting and Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030 Development



Galway County Council Heritage Officer & Galway County Biodiversity Officer held an inaugural meeting of Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Forum 2024 - 2030 in the Council Chamber on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. The Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Forum comprises sectoral interests including local government, state agencies, non-governmental organisations, farmers and other landowners, local and regional development agencies, the education and heritage sector, and the community and voluntary sector.

The Heritage and Biodiversity Forum provides advice and guidance regarding the development and implementation of Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan and develop and review annual programmes of work. The Forum has commenced the review of the previous plan as they embark on the creation of the new plan for the county.

---

### HERITAGE OFFICER- HERITAGE COUNCIL TRAINING



This training took place in Kells, Co Meath on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. It consisted of training relating to National Heritage Week 2024, Delivering for Built and Natural Heritage: The Traditional Farm Buildings Programme; Recent Research: Heritage sector funding; building awareness of the Heritage Council through local authority Programmes; Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and Nature Conservation – Environmental Legislation and Assessment.

## BIODIVERSITY

---

### FUNDING SUCCESS

The Biodiversity Office recently received notification that it was awarded the maximum allocation of €20,000 from the Heritage Council under the County Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme. This funding will provide the necessary financial support for the development of a comprehensive and holistic Heritage and Biodiversity Plan for the county that will guide and direct the associated work programmes up until 2030.

## STAFF WORKSHOP

The Biodiversity Office, in partnership with the GIS section, ran a workshop on the National Tree Map to mark National Tree Week 2024. The hybrid workshop was attended by 33 staff members from across the organisation. The discussions and presentations explored the potential uses of the dataset, which was acquired by Galway County Council through the Heritage Stewardship Fund from the Heritage Council in 2023.



The National Tree Map provides a comprehensive database of the location, height and canopy/crown extents for every single tree 3m and taller. In

total, there are over 9 million trees mapped in Co. Galway, providing ecosystem services and benefits to biodiversity throughout the county. The maps are created from high resolution national aerial photography, accurate terrain, and surface data, and colour infrared imagery, using innovative processing techniques.



Barry Doyle and the Galway County Council GIS Team have developed a [Tree Map Dashboard](#) to view the data which is accessible to all staff and the data is also available to view on the [Corporate Map Viewer](#). This is an excellent resource

which can guide the actions of staff in manage and protect these living assets.



## HEDGEROW PLANTING EVENT



The Biodiversity Office coordinated a collaborative tree planting event on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, in the Palace Grounds, Tuam. Nine hundred local provenance, native trees were planted, creating a new 180m hedgerow. Galway County Council Area Office staff and members of the Community Employment Scheme were joined by students from Archbishop McHale College, Highcross College

and St. Jarlath's College, as well as members of Tuam Women's Shed, Tuam Tidy Towns and Ability West. Galway County Council Climate Action Team were also there to assist with the planting.

Cathaoirleach Liam Carroll welcomed everyone to the event, and after planting some trees, launched the new Tree Management Guidelines for Communities, which was developed as part of Galway County Council's Heritage Stewardship Project funded by the Heritage Council in 2023. This resource will provide information and guidance on how to plan tree planting projects and also presents the information in an engaging and accessible format.



L-R: ROSINA JOYCE, BIODIVERSITY OFFICER, GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, CLLR. LIAM CARROLL CATHAOIRLEACH GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL, PAUL CONNOLLY, AREA ENGINEER PAUL CONNOLLY AND AT THE LAUNCH OF THE TREE GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITIES LAUNCH

---

## COMMUNITY GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOOL TALKS



PORTUMNA –  
COMMUNITY  
GROUPS MEETING  
WITH GALWAY  
COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
BIODIVERSITY  
OFFICE

The Biodiversity Office met with the local community groups of Portumna on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> February. A presentation was given on the work of the office along with opportunities for local groups for funding and biodiversity action. Resources were shared to guide Portumna Tidy Towns, Port Omna Beo, local TY coordinators, farmers, and environmental activists in the area.

Online presentations were also given to the Green Schools Committees of Archbishop McHale College, Tuam and Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar.

---

## HARE'S CORNER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BURRENBEO TRUST

**Are you a landowner, community group or school in Galway?**

**Do you want to do something meaningful for nature, climate and biodiversity?**

**Apply for support now to create one or more of the following on your site:**

- A mini-woodland - FREE native trees and advice
- A mini-orchard - FREE heritage apple trees and advice
- A pond - FREE hydrologist visit and construction costs
- A 'Plan for Nature' - FREE ecologist visit and advice
- A 'Peatland Plan' - FREE ecologist visit and advice

Visit [burrenbeo.com/the](https://burrenbeo.com/the) for info and application link  
Applications open 15 - 31 March 2024

The Hare's Corner is coordinated by Burrenbeo Trust in partnership with Galway County Biodiversity Office & funded by LBAF (supported by NPWS) and Greencoast Renewables PLC



NPWS

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



burrenbeo trust

connecting people and place



---

## LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION FUND PROJECT 2024

Galway County Council was selected as one of four local authorities for this year's Hare's Corner project in partnership with Burrenbeo Trust. This project will provide supports to landowners and community groups to take action for nature such as installing ponds, creating woodlands and mini-orchards, and developing a Plan for Nature or Plan for Peatland. The funding from the National Parks & Wildlife Service's Local Biodiversity Action Fund was confirmed this month and additional funding from GreenCoat Renewables have been secured. The window for applications is from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> March and is open to private landowners, community groups, clubs and schools. Further details can be found on [www.burrenbeo.com/thc](http://www.burrenbeo.com/thc)

---

## BIODIVERSITY OFFICER- HERITAGE COUNCIL TRAINING

This training took place in Kells on the 5th and 6th March. Galway County Council's Biodiversity Officer presented to the Biodiversity Officer Network on Reducing Pesticide Usage in Local Authorities. Other training provided related to Irish Mammals, Nature Conservation – Environmental Legislation and Assessment and Biodiversity Action by Local Authorities.

---

## MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

With the announcement of various funding streams and a significant number of public engagements the social media channels had good traffic over the last 28 days with traffic on Facebook up 162%. An interview was carried out on Connemara Community Radio on the evening of 14 March on the Great Outdoors Programme promoting the Hare's Corner Programme. There was also coverage on the Hare's Corner and the tree planting event in the local newspapers.

<b>Page overview</b>		Last 28 days
Followers: 1,261		
 Post reach 		12,544
 Post engagement 		3,143
 New Page likes 		19
 New followers 		58

---

GALWAY COUNTY  
BIODIVERSITY OFFICE  
FACEBOOK REVIEW  
FOR THE LAST 28 DAYS

# Hassle-free support to create more space for nature

A FUNDING scheme to support landowners and community groups across Galway in undertaking nature-positive measures on their lands will open to applications from this Friday.

The Hare's Corner, an innovative biodiversity initiative, coordinated by the Burren-based landscape charity Burrenbeo Trust in conjunction with the Biodiversity Office of Galway County Council, is being rolled out following the successful piloting of the non-profit initiative in Clare and Mayo which resulted in the creation of 125 ponds, 200 orchards, 175 native mini-woodlands and 97 plans for nature.

Inspired by the term 'The Hare's Corner' - an old farming expression for an awkward section of a field which wasn't intensively farmed and so was 'left to nature' - the aim of this project is to help create habitats that have proven benefits to biodiversity, climate-action as well as to

the wellbeing of participants.

The Hare's Corner project offers landowners 'hassle free' support to carry out simple but impactful actions for biodiversity such as creation of a wildlife pond, a native mini-woodland, a heritage mini-orchard with apple trees from Irish Seed-savers Association and/or a bespoke 'plan for nature' or 'peatland plan' for their site. This support is offered in the form of materials such as native and heritage apple trees, micro-funding (e.g. machinery costs for pond digging), professional services (such as a hydrologist's visit to help plan a pond, or an ecologist's visit to 'plan for nature', or for a 'peatland plan') and guidance.

Rosina Joyce, Biodiversity Officer with Galway County Council said they were delighted to partner with The Hare's Corner project.

"And we are delighted to see that initiative is now open to



Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan pictured with landowners and Dr. Brendan Dunford of the Burrenbeo Trust.

landowners and community groups throughout the county," she said.

"Often, we see that people want to do something to support nature, but they don't know where to start or how to do it.

"This partnership with Galway County Council and the Hare's Corner meets this need by providing the encouragement, advice, and micro-funding to do it," she added.

"Landowners can apply for one or more biodiversity actions and participation in the Hare's Corner involves no cost to, and minimal hassle for, the landowner," said Lee Worrell of Burrenbeo Trust.

Places will be limited by available budget so screening conditions such as suitability of the proposed site for the biodiversity measure may be used to select applications.

Preference is also given to community groups and schools, though to avoid double-funding, farmers who are AGRS or NPWS Farm Plan Scheme participants are currently not eligible to apply.

Applications are open at [www.burrenbeo.com/thc](http://www.burrenbeo.com/thc) for landowners in County Galway, Galway City, Mayo, Meath and Leitrim from this Friday and will close on Sunday, March 31.

EXTRACT  
FROM THE  
CONNACHT  
TRIBUNE 14  
MARCH 2024

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

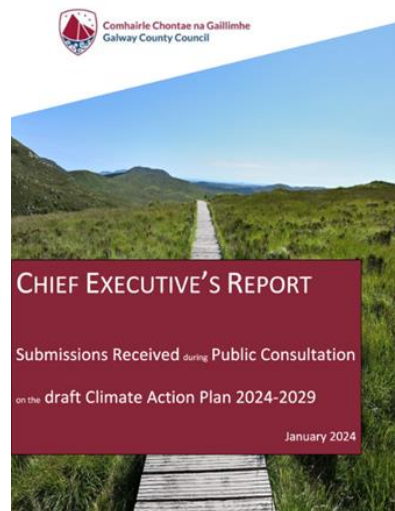
### ENVIRONMENT

#### CLIMATE ACTION UNIT

#### CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



A workshop was held with elected representatives on the draft Climate Action Plan on the 15th of February, and several potential amendments were identified. The plan was presented to the plenary on the 19th of February and adopted with amendments. The council is required to publish the final Plan within 30 days of adoption.



---

## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The Community Climate Action Fund closed on February 29<sup>th</sup> with a high level of applications received from the community and voluntary sector. There were 56 applications in total, including one application under the Shared Island Climate Action Fund. An internal evaluation committee will assess the applications in April and the recommended applications will then be sent to DECC for approval.

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



Presentation on Globe Traffic by Students from St. Brigid's College, Loughrea to the Loughrea Municipal District Meeting on Monday 11 February.

---

## NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2024



National Tree Week 2024 took place this year from 3<sup>rd</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This year's theme is 'Planting Trees for a Greener Future'.

In conjunction with the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte, Galway County Council distributed 600 tree saplings free of charge to community groups, schools and other voluntary organisations in its functional area.

---

## ANTI-LITTER POSTER COMPETITION 2024



Galway County Council is inviting residents/students in its functional area to participate in an Anti-Litter Poster competition. Closing date is 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Applications are available online

<https://www.galway.ie/en/news/name,47768,en.html>.



## SOCIAL MEDIA



### SCHOOLS BATTERY COMPETITION

Schools that request a collection by 12th April 2024 will be entered into the competition, and the schools that collect the most waste batteries will win one of six €2,000 sports vouchers!

## WEEE COLLECTION SERVICE UPDATES

### MOBILE WEEE (WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT) COLLECTIONS 2024

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, will hold a series of WEEE collections throughout County Galway starting **April 6th, 2024**.



These collections will allow people from towns and villages across the county to dispose of any household electrical equipment and batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) collections are scheduled for the following locations in Galway:

### TIMETABLE

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Oughterard – Oughterard GAA Car Park, Pier Road, Oughterard, Co. Galway	10am - 4pm
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Loughrea – Loughrea Mart, Station Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway	10am - 4pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Mountbellew – Mountbellew- Moylough GAA Club Mountbellew, Co. Galway	10am - 4pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Maam Cross – Maam Cross Mart, Mam Cross, Co. Galway	10am-4pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Gort – Gort Co - Operative Mart, Ballybawn, Gort, Co. Galway	10am - 4pm

---

## GREEN SCHOOL VISITS

Green school visits continue with assessments in Headford Presentation, Cregmore National School Clonberne NS, Letterfrack NS, Newcastle NS, Belmont NS, Ballaghlea NS, Seamount Secondary School, Kiltiernan NS, Abbey NS, St. Brigid's College, St. Cuan's Secondary, Carnmore NS, Gardenfield NS, Clifden Community School, Menlough NS, St. Brendans Boys NS Loughrea, Cahergal NS, Gaelscoil iarfhlaith Tuam, and Kilimor NS.



---

## NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2024

Registration for National Spring Clean 2024 has now opened. For full details go to An Taisce NSC at <https://nationalspringclean.org/>.

National Spring Clean, organised by An Taisce, encourages cleanup of local areas. This year Galway County Council will again participate in the An Taisce National Spring Clean initiative by providing support to communities involved in cleanups.

<https://www.galway.ie/en/services/environment/environmentalawarenessandcommunityinitiatives/communityinitiatives/nationalspringclean2024/>

---

## VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Galway County Council Dog Warden Service continues to be under severe pressure at present with high numbers of stray and unwanted dogs entering our dog shelter allied to a significant number of complaints received regarding the control of dogs in the county.

682 dog licences were purchased during the month of February. Of this figure, 454 were purchased in the Post Office (66%) with the remaining 228 licences purchased online. 15 of the 682 licences purchased during February were lifetime licences.

12 stray/abandoned dogs were picked up by the Dog Warden Service in May.

Six fines were issued to dog owners for offences under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 As Amended.

Three sheep worrying incidents were investigated by the Dog Warden Service in February. These areas in which the sheep worrying was reported were in Tonegurraun, Corrandulla, Ashfield Demesne Gort and Muckanagh North, Ballygar. The Dog Warden Service has followed up with responsible dog ownership campaigns in these areas following the complaints received as well as liaising with the relevant agencies such as An Garda Síochána and the Irish Farmers Association in respect of same. Galway County Council social media platforms were also utilised in informing farmers in these areas to be vigilant of dog attacks

and to remind members of the public to ensure that their dogs are always kept under effective control.

---

## FOOD SAFETY

Notification was received from the FSAI for an extension of Galway County Council's service contract for providing official controls on food safety in the City and County. The latest extension will run to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. Discussions on the implementation of the transfer of veterinary personnel to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) remain ongoing with a proposed date of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 for the transfer of the service.

---

## WATER QUALITY AND ENFORCEMENT

---

### RMCEI RETURNS AND PLAN FOR 2024

In February, staff completed and submitted to the EPA the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) returns for 2023 and the Plan for 2024. All activities in 2023 must be reported on in the Progress Report. For the water area, the following are the headings to be reported on:

- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)
- Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS) / Septic Tanks
- Discharge Licences / Misconnections
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Issues

---

## CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

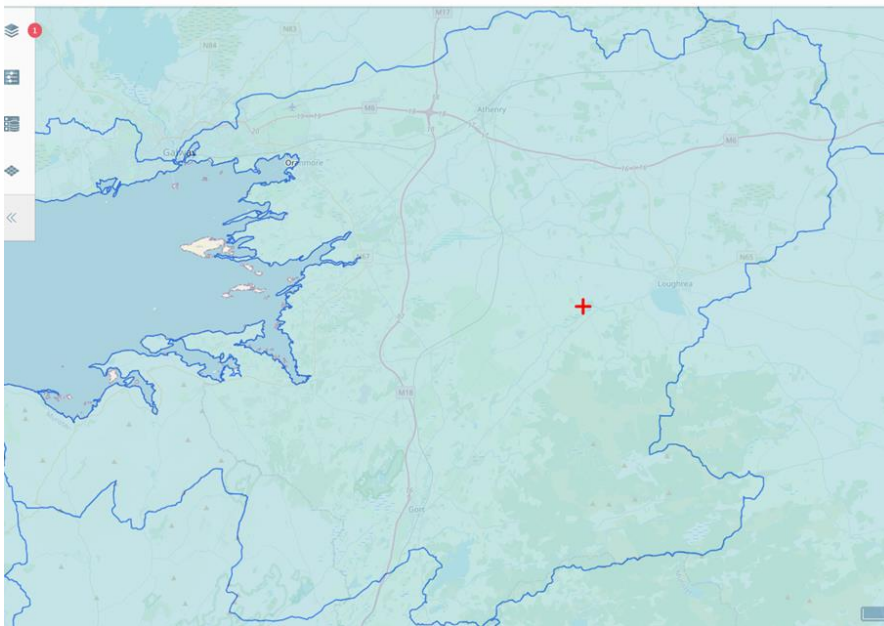
- The Western Regional Operational Committee meeting took place online on the 8th of February. Topics covered included:
  - The spread and establishment of Quagga mussel in Lough Key, County Roscommon, which is a new freshwater invasive species
  - New Forest programme
  - LAWPRO National update
  - DHLGH approval to recruit a further 36 LA staff to carry out farm inspections across the country
  - Updates from committee members





QUAGGA MUSSEL

- A meeting was held with LAWPRO in relation to poor water quality results in the Kilcrow river in east Galway. This area will be prioritised for investigation work this year. Also discussed were potential areas for septic tank inspections. One area for priority will be catchment 29 which is an area that stretches from Oranmore and Athenry to Gort in the south.



MAP 1 -  
CATCHMENT 29

---

## COMPLAINTS

Water complaints being investigated in February included forestry activity adjacent to Tynagh Mines and pollution of a stream near New Inn. One farm was inspected on foot of a pollution complaint.

---

## BATHING WATERS

A meeting took place with the EPA in relation to this year's bathing water season. The sampling programme has been finalised with 28 bathing areas in total being monitored. The 2023 bathing water results for both beaches in Spiddal were excellent and it is hoped that this will continue in 2024 now that the new public wastewater treatment plant is fully commissioned.

---

## WASTE/AIR MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

### RMCEI RETURNS AND PLAN FOR 2024

In February, staff completed and submitted to the EPA the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) returns for 2023 and the Plan for 2024. All activities in 2023 must be reported on in the Progress Report. For the waste area, the following are the headings to be reported on:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- Construction and Demolition Activity
- End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive & the Waste Metal Industry
- Waste Collection - Household & Commercial
- Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRIs) and additional local priorities

---

### FIXED PAYMENT NOTICES (FPN'S)

Following surveillance on authorised waste collectors moving C&D material, 15 FPN's were issued to one collector for various non-compliances with their waste collection permit.

---

### COURT FILES

One file for court proceedings was submitted to the law agent for Section 32, 39, 55 and 58 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. The site concerns a business storing and breaking cars without a waste facility permit in place.

---

### CCTV

Inspectors from the Data Commissioners Office visited 2 CCTV sites (bottle bank sites) to check compliance with their directions following the CCTV Audit. They found that Galway County Council was in full compliance with their directions.

We are now exploring the options for using CCTV going forward. There are a number of problem sites we intend to focus on at first.

---

### LITTER FINES

The Community Warden Service continues to implement the Litter Pollution Act across the County. 16 litter fines were issued for offences under the Act in February. 5 of these fines

have been paid to date with the remainder issued continuing to be processed through the system.

One file was sent to the Law Agents to initiate prosecution for non-payment of a litter fine during February.

## COURT ATTENDANCE



Two cases were presented at the District Court in Ballinasloe in respect of offences under the Litter Pollution Act. In a case heard on the 1st of February in Ballinasloe, see below, Judge Faughnan convicted and fined the Defendant the amount of €500 plus €120 costs with the

Defendant given six months to pay.

The second case was heard on 22nd of February, and the Defendant's solicitor indicated that his client was going to plead guilty and was also going to pay our legal costs. It was agreed that the clean-up and legal costs would total €450. The Judge then adjourned the matter to the 2nd of May 2024 at Ballinasloe District Court to facilitate our costs.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

## ATHENRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

## ROADS PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT – MARCH 2024

1. **Restoration Improvement – Ongoing**
  - a. Roanmore -- Complete
  - b. Annagh Hill -- Complete
  - c. Monivea – Complete
  - d. Bin – Emergency works, Complete
  - e. Ballydavid – Emergency works, Complete

## **2. 2024 out to tender on Supplygov.**

- a. Coast Road
- b. Carnmore East (Eastbound Lane)
- c. Old Church St, Athenry
- d. School Road, Carnmore
- e. Knockdoemore (Tinkers Lane)
- f. Polkeen
- g. Gurraun North
- h. Kiniska
- i. Caherteenmore (Coolarne)
- j. Carnaun (Baunmore NS road)
- k. Slievefinn
- l. Loughgeorge (Patches)
- m. Sheeaun

## **3. Restoration Maintenance/Improvement**

- a. Surface dressing – New plan being produced by Area team.
- b. Works completed by direct labour crews.
- c. New plan being produced by Area team.
- d. Recycling Contract – New plan being produced by Area team.

## **4. Safety Improvement Works**

- a. Derrydonnell Beg Junction      Funding received for upgrade works will need to Complete section 38 and procure contractor for works
- b. Oranbeg (Furey's Cross)      Funding received for upgrade works will need to Complete section 38 and procure contractor for works
- c. Climate Change
- d. L6214 Clogher – LO Discussions
- e. L7125 Ballydavid - Complete
- f. L3112 Gloves West - Complete
- g. L2117 Lisheenoran - Complete
- h. L3117 Cormachugh – Complete

## **5. Community Involvement Scheme**

- a. CIS.59.21 L-4101 Maree Road Oranmore – Cycle path placed ongoing.
- b. CIS.29.21 L-6202-1 Rooanmore planned – Complete.

## **6. Local Improvement Schemes**

- a. New application not received for 2024.

## 7. Other Items

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. Belville Road realignment         | Issues resolving agreement.<br>Landowner working towards part 8 planning.  |
| b. Hydrological study Clarin River   | Funding Approved by OPW –<br>Tender For preliminary assessment received looking for programme from available consultant. |
| c. Pedestrian Crossing Lidl Oranmore | Design with NTA/Active Travel, updated design to expect this week in conjunction with design consultant.                 |
| d. Pedestrian Crossing Maree rd.     | Contractor Started work. ESB connection completed.   |
| e. Monivea Pedestrian Crossing       | Contractor to start on the End of March delays getting electrical contractor and anti-skid to site.                      |
| f. Storm Debi Clean-up               | Flooding surveys ongoing and Hydrology assessment – temporary plan to secure coast road wall.                            |
| g. Raheen Woods Crossing             | Awaiting ESB connection, Line-marking and Anti-skid surfacing (April).   |

## FIGURES AND PICTURES



DUAL  
CARRIAGEWAY  
SAFETY BARRIER  
REPAIR



ROAUNMORE -



ROAUNMORE - OVERLAY  
WORKS



ORANMORE BOYS  
SCHOOL – COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT SCHEME



ANNAGH HILL –  
OVERLAY WORKS



LINE MARKING –  
ATHENRY



MONIVEA DRAINAGE



### MD MEETING

Cathaoirleach Declan Geraghty hosted the March 2024 Ballinasloe MD meeting in his home parish of Williamstown.

An introduction and welcome was provided by Leo Finnegan of Temple Togher Mill Project, John Neary, Tourism Officer brought the members up to speed on Just Transition Tourism projects and Gerry Costello gave an input on the role of Community Alert.



Ballinasloe MD staff have finalised preparation of the 2024 Annual Schedule of proposed works, to be considered and adopted by Councillors. This includes proposed restoration improvement, restoration maintenance, climate adaptation, low cost safety, bridge repair and maintenance projects for delivery under Department of Transport grant funding. Throughout February, drainage road maintenance works were ongoing, while seasonal hedge cutting/trimming maintenance works came to an end on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in accordance with Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976.

SEASONAL WINTER FLOODING AT POLLEAGH, WILLIAMSTOWN CURRENTLY BEING MONITORED IN ADVANCE OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS



HEDGE CUTTING/TRIMMING WORKS COMPLETED AT CAHER CROSS, R446, AUGHMIM TO BALLINASLOE. THIS WORK WAS COMPLETED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SIGHTLINES FOR ROAD USERS, WHICH WAS BEING OBSTRUCTED BY EXCESSIVE VEGETATION GROWTH.



DRAINAGE REPAIR WORKS RECENTLY COMPLETED ON THE R446 AT MACKNEY, BALLINASLOE

CYCLE STANDS AND CYCLE REPAIR STATIONS AT BALLINASLOE AND MOUNTBELLEW, RECENTLY INSTALLED BY BALLINASLOE MD STAFF, AS PART OF NTA ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING. FURTHER UNITS ARE TO BE INSTALLED SHORTLY THROUGHOUT THE MD.

 **Galway County Council**  
23h · 🌐

Seastáin rothar agus stáisiúin deisithe rothar ag Béal Átha na Sluaighe agus an Creagán, a chuir foireann CB Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe isteach le déanaí, mar chuid de mhaoiniú Taisteal Gníomhach an NTA.

[#galway](#) [#ballinalsoe](#) [#mountbellew](#) [#cycling](#) [#NTA](#) [#activetravel](#)





SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR UNDERTAKING SURFACE CLEANING WORKS AT DUNLO RUNNING TRACK IN BALLINASLOE. THIS WORK IS BEING COMPLETED IN ADVANCE OF RE-LINING OF ALL TRACK MARKINGS.



FOOTPATH REPAIR WORKS AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED RECENTLY BY BALLINASLOE MD STAFF AT THE MART ROAD IN MOUNTBELLEW.



## CONAMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT UPDATE

In February 2024 the Conamara Municipal District continued its main focus on road maintenance works. Priorities included road drainage works such as opening water tables, cleaning gullies and upsizing culverts where there were capacity issues. Other maintenance works include hedgetrimming, gritting roads during prolonged winter weather, sign maintenance.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the roads programme was passed by councillors at a Meeting of Municipal District of Conamara. The Conamara MD has now tendered for roads programme works with a closing date of later this month.

The Conamara MD will also focus on preparatory works on sections within the roads programme later this year. This will include road design based on several factors including traffic volumes. Improving drainage networks and traffic signage along the sections to be resurfaced.

Three councillors were in attendance with Conamara South Engineering Area Staff and locals to unveil the new Bus Shelter at Cashla recently. Pictured below were cllr. Dáithí Cualáin, Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, Cllr. Tomás Ó Curraoin



TRAFFIC COUNTS  
UNDERWAY PRIOR TO  
ROADS PROGRAMME



RECENT UNVEILING  
OF A NEW BUS  
SHELTER IN CASLA



EXAMPLE OF ILLEGAL  
DUMPING IN THE

## LOUGHREA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### FOCUS OF ACTIVITY

During the February period the focus in the Loughrea Municipal District continues to remain predominantly on the maintenance of ancillary items associated with the road network. Works on public park and tree maintenance, hedge trimming, opening of water tables, pothole repair, sign cleaning and replacement continue. However, over the last few weeks, significant road reconstruction works have once again commenced, including works at the “*Old Galway Road*” in Loughrea, Eyrecourt Village Carpark, Coscorríg Crescent Housing Estate and Coscorríg View Housing Estate. A sample of the on-going maintenance work and the more significant reconstruction projects is as follows:



RATHCOSGRY – FIRST ROAD PROJECT OF THE 2024 LOUGHREA MD ROADS PROGRAMME.



CLEANING SIGN ON APPROACH TO LOUGHREA TOWN



REMOVAL OF DEAD TREE AT THE LONG POINT, LOUGHREA AND PLANTING OF NEW TREES



WALKWAY  
MAINTENANCE WORKS  
AT CORRY'S FIELD,  
LOUGHREA



---

### PLANTING OF DECORATIVE HEDGING ALONG EDGE OF FOOTPATH AT MOUNTPLEASANT CEMETERY



The new hedging will discourage illegal parking of vehicles on this new footpath near Mount Pleasant cemetery while providing a decorative feature at the Town entrance against the backdrop of a natural stone wall.







---

ROAD DRAINAGE WORKS AT ALLINTUBBER/NEW INN TO REMOVE FLOODING FROM ROAD



---

DRAINAGE WORKS AT BENMORE, BULLAUN TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING

OPW MINOR WORKS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME AT BAUNYKNAV ON THE R351



BEFORE IMAGES



WORKS ON-GOING IMAGES



NEW SURFACE INLAY COMPLETED AT COSCORRIG  
CRESENT, LOUGHREA



NEW SURFACE INLAY COMPLETED  
AT COSCORRIG VIEW, LOUGHREA



COMBI UNIT IN OPERATION AT SHANCLOUGH,  
KINVARA



RESURFACING OF EYRECOURT CARPARK



ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AT CAMUS, EYRECOURT



TEMPORARY ROAD SIGNAGE ERECTED AT BALLYARHA SOUTH/CAHERNAGARRY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES TO PROTECT FROGS AND NEWTS DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Common Frog and Common (Smooth) Newt are protected species under the Wildlife Act 1976 (Protection of Wild Animals) Regulations, 1980 (S.I. No. 282/1980). Following a request from the National Parks and Wildlife, the Loughrea

Municipal District Team erected road signage at Ballyarha South/Cahernagarry for the months of February and March.

SLIPWAY WARNING SIGNAGE ERECTED AT LOUGHREA DISTRICT OFFICE



WORKS CARRIED DURING THE MONTH IN TUAM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

During the month of February Tuam MD staff were involved in the following Projects  
Footpath Replacement at Weir Road  
Crossroads in Tuam Town This work was funded by General Maintenance budget allocation.



MAINTENANCE WORKS IN MILLTOWN VILLAGE

Tuam MD road works crew carrying out drainage maintenance works in Milltown village; a new drainage channel was installed on the N17.





---

ANTI SKID SURFACE WAS INSTALLED AT THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE FRANK STOCKWELL ROAD

---

NEW VEHICLE ACTIVATED WARNING SIGNAGE HAS BEEN INSTALLED ON THE APPROACH TO THE JUNCTION AT KNOCKATEE OUTSIDE OF DUNMORE



---

## KILLUNEY CLIMATE ADAPTION WORKS



## PALACE GROUNDS IN TUAM



Works continued in the Palace Grounds in Tuam over the past month with significant works being carried out on upgrading the walks and trails within the park.







Our Biodiversity officer in GCC, council team, the secondary students of the Tuam Schools, women's shed, and volunteers planted hundreds of new trees in the Park recently to mark national Tree week. Over the last few years some trees had been removed from the park for safety reasons and to remove non-native species. The new trees are all native species, and they will mature beautifully over the coming years and decades.



A new Fit Stick Walking and exercise station was installed recently in the Palace Grounds

---

## SENSORY GARDEN IN TUAM

The proposed Sensory Garden has been given a final design to stimulate the five senses. The garden will be a refuge for everyone to enjoy, particularly for those with impaired senses. The continuous development of the garden has been co-ordinated by Tuam Women's Shed (lead group for project), Tuam Tidy Towns, Tuam Men's shed, local schools and other

members of the public to get to this stage. Tuam MD Staff will commence digging out the pathway through the garden in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Completion of the pathway is the priority as this will be the spine of the project, everything else can then be planned off that, in different stages, depending on funding and staff resources. The spoil from excavation of the pathway will be used to make the 'Hillocks in Lawn' (small mounds used for kids to run up and down on or roll down in summertime). Much of the works will be carried out by the Tuam Town crew and gardener has agreed to take on much of the planting, we also have had a commitment from the Women's Shed to help with planting and from the Mens Shed regarding helping with timbers frames, trellises, and other small timber items required in the garden. There are however some areas that will need to be installed by specialists, including the paved area in the centre and the water features.

The garden will have many key features: -



Planters are dedicated to each of our senses; sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. For example, herb plants of lavender, oregano, chives and lots more to stimulate our sense of smell.

The Meandering Path consists of tactile materials of various textures, which people can walk on, feeling the various surfaces, thus stimulating the sense of touch.

The garden will also feature a play area, quiet space, learn and grow vegetable plots, and a mediation area.

Mise, le meas,

**Chief Executive  
Galway County Council**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**